



SC suspends LHC order on poll tribunals

- Asks LHC's chief justice and CEC for 'meaningful consultation' to settle row
- CJP says no to continued contempt of judiciary
- PTI's objection to presence of CJP rejected
- Case based on whether ECP or LHC has primacy in tribunal's appointment

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday suspended the Lahore High Court's June 12 notification of constituting eight election tribunals in Punjab as well as the LHC's determination that its chief justice has the final say in the appointment of tribunals to settle poll disputes.

Headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, a five-judge Supreme Court bench suspended the notification to pave the way for meaningful consultation between the recently elevated chief justice of LHC Asad Nadeem and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja for the formation of tribunals.

The CJP's order came in the request of Sikandar Rashid Muhammad, who represented the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The apex court was seized with an appeal by the ECP seeking the final determination whether the commission or the LHC has the primacy in the appointment of tribunals.

Moved through senior counsel Muhammad, the appeal seeks to overturn the LHC's pronouncement that under article 219(3), read with article 222(1) of the Constitution, the LHC chief justice has pre-eminence or dominance in matters of appointment of election tribunals under Section 140 of the Elections Act 2017.

"We are confident that the meeting will take place immediately after the

notification regarding appointment of Justice Asad Nadeem as CJ-LHC as well as taking oath of his office," said the SC's order. "The court did not want to encroach upon the domain of the Parliamentary Committee which will have to approve the Judicial Commission of Pakistan's recommendation for the elevation of Justice Asad Nadeem as CJ-LHC."

The CJP expressed the hope that ECP would not be unreasonable during the meeting between the CEC and LHC's CJ.

Ruckus in Senate as govt gets approval for changes to election law: Page 3

and would conduct it in a manner so that people should have confidence in the institution.

"Do things in a transparent manner [and] not to face allegation of pick and choose or undermine any institution," the CJP observed.

Under the LHC's June 12 notification, eight tribunals were set up for the disposal of petitions pertaining to the general election 2024.

According to the notification, Justice Shahid Karim was appointed head of the tribunal to decide disputes regarding districts of Gujranwala, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahaudin and Narowal. Justice Chaudhry Muhammad

Continued on Page 5



ASTANA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addresses the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit, on Thursday. Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif are also seen.—APP

Pakistan seeks joint front against terrorism at SCO

- PM urges Kabul to prevent cross-border terrorism, asks world to engage with Afghanistan
- Calls out Israeli aggression in Gaza, demands accountability
- Minister refutes 'rumours' of multi-party conference

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday asked the interim Afghan government to prevent the use of its soil for terrorism against other countries, as he called for putting up a collective front against terrorism and extremism, in line with the 'Shanghai spirit'.

The prime minister made these remarks at the 24th summit of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.

His address encompassed all major regional and international issues including terrorism and extremism, Islamophobia, intolerance in Afghanistan, poverty, climate change, regional cooper-

ativity, and resolution of disputes. Titled 'Strengthening Multilateral Dialogue Striving Towards a Sustainable Peace and Prosperity', the summit is being

Pakistan to host SCO leaders in October: Page 3

Trade cooperation: Editorial on Page 6

Putin and Xi advance anti-West alliance at SCO summit: Page 11

attended by leaders from Pakistan, China, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, India, and others.

During his address, PM Shehbaz said peace and stability in Afghanistan were the linchpin

to achieving the SCO objective, urging the international community to meaningfully engage with the Afghan government to help meet their economic needs. Similarly, the Taliban government must take effective measures to prevent the use of its soil for terrorism against any other state, he stressed.

"Recent terror activities have been a matter of great concern for all of us. Terrorism and extremism by individuals, groups or states must be fought collectively in a comprehensive fashion. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including state terrorism, must be condemned in clear and unambiguous terms. There can neither be any justification for killing innocent people nor should the legacy of terrorism

Continued on Page 11

Maryam vows no quarter for 'vigilantism'

By Zulqarnain Tahir

LAHORE: As she admitted that blasphemous allegations were also used to settle scores, Punjab's Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Thursday said the government would not spare anyone if a mob took the law into their own hands over such an allegation.

Addressing a meeting of religious scholars of different schools of thought in the provincial capital, the

No proceedings started under Defamation Act, LHC told: Page 3

CM said there had been an increase in the dissemination of Holy Quran incidents but such allegations were also used for settling personal scores. "Sometimes to settle some other score these allegations are levelled," the CM said, adding, "I want all of us to sit together to prevent such incidents and see what is the reason behind this increase."

"Many times, these allegations are used to settle scores. If a mob gathers and takes the law into its

Continued on Page 5

Petroleum dealers split over strike amid govt manoeuvres

- Dealers from Karachi say pumps nationwide to shut from 6am today
- One PPDA group accuses Karachi chapter of prioritising OMCs' interests
- Govt hints at higher commission, passing on tax impact to consumers

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The official machinery appeared to have formalised a split among the protesting petroleum dealers, including some of them with hints for higher commission on sales of petroleum products to pass on the impact of turnover tax to consumers.

Meanwhile, oil marketing companies (OMCs) have called for a 50 per cent increase in their profit margins.

Abdul Sami Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA), told Dawn from Karachi that pumps would be closed from 6am on Friday throughout the country although some people who he could not name were "resorting to intimidation".

On the other hand, the petroleum division kept on asking all the six chief secretaries of the four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan to allow "opera-

tion of oil tankers movement" during the day on July 5 to ensure uninterrupted supply of petroleum products to the open retail outlets "in case the strike becomes effective". In normal circumstances, the oil tanker movement is not allowed during day-time.

It also asked the provincial governments to "endeavour/facilitate the opening of maximum petrol pumps and nominate

Continued on Page 3

Punjab wants social media gagged for six days of Muharram

- Writes to interior ministry in bid to avoid spread of hate material
- Home Dept asks for recordings of all majalis, speeches by zaikirs

By Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: The Punjab government has requested the interior ministry to shut down social media apps on internet from Muharram 5 to 11 to control the dissemination of hate material and misinformation in a bid to avoid sectarian violence.

Sources close to the development said the provincial government had decided to go beyond the routine measures of internet suspension and mobile jamming

over Azad Jammu and Kashmir, after getting reports that 'external forces', including elements from across the border, were involved in the sharing of hate content and memes.

The Standing Committee of Cabinet on Law and Order (SCCLLO) as well as the Punjab Home Department were of the opinion that shutting down internet was causing problems for the general public, while most misinformation and hate material was disseminated through social media apps, which could be used even when internet services

remain suspended.

Following a meeting of the SCCLLO on Thursday, the Home Department wrote a letter to the interior ministry's secretary requesting that "social media platforms — Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, TikTok, etc. — be suspended across the province from Muharram 5 to 11 to control hate material, misinformation and to avoid sectarian violence".

Since the Punjab government

Continued on Page 5

ON OTHER PAGES



Labour awaits 'inevitable' UK poll landslide

As polls closed in the UK at 10pm on Thursday night, Keir Starmer's Labour party looked set to claim its biggest majority in the House of Commons since Tony Blair's 1997 rout of the Tories. Results will continue to trickle in overnight, with a clearer picture expected to emerge by midday on Friday. If his party is defeated, PM Rishi Sunak will visit King Charles III today to tender his resignation. Page 12

بزنس اور مالیاتی خیالات

HarFardKaKhayal

BOP - SETTING NEW STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

WINNING 4 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS AT ABF 2024

BOP BAGGED FOUR PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Across Investment Banking, Transaction Banking and SME verticals at the recent Asian Banking & Finance awards in Singapore.

BOP Phone Banking: 111-267-200

www.bop.com.pk

BOP
THE BANK OF PUNJAB

 **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
UNIT EDUCATION CITY PROJECT
INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT**
First Floor, Block A, Finance & Trade Centre,
Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi
Tel: 021-99251156, Fax: 021-99207515

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION
OF CONTRACTORS/FIRMS**

**"INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OF
EDUCATION CITY, KARACHI PHASE-I (4800 ACRES)"**

Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of Education City Project invites application from reputed national contractors/firms for pre-qualification to undertake package wise "Infrastructure Development of Education City Karachi, Phase-I (4800 Acres)".

Local Contractor(s)/ Firms(s) should apply individually, must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in category of C-A or above having atleast specialization codes CE-01, CE-02, CE-09, CE-10, CE-11, EC-01, EE-06 and EE-11

Interested Contractor(s)/ Firm(s) may obtain the Pre-Qualification Documents from the office of Project Implementation Unit situated at Block A, FTC Building, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi during office hours from 1st July, 2024 to 23rd July, 2024 upon payment of non-refundable fee in Pak Rs. 5,000 in shape of Pay-Order in favour of Education City Project.

Documents in sealed envelope duly filled and attached with requisite documents/information on specified format provided in Pre-Qualification documents must reach by hand or through registered mail on address mentioned above on or before 24th July, 2024 at 1400 hrs. Bids will be opened on same day at 1430 hrs.

Project Implementation Unit reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications according to SPPRA rules. This advertisement and Pre-Qualification Documents are also available on www.educationcity.gov.pk and SPPRA website.

Applicants will be informed in due course about result of the evaluation of applications. Only pre-qualified firms or contractors will be invited to bid.

(PROJECT DIRECTOR)

Ref: ECI/01/01/2023/04

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GROW.
ADVERTISE IN

DAWN INDUSTRY SUPPLEMENTS

Chief Manager, Supplements in
Kardore, Lahore or Islamabad
on: 0300-111-1111-1111

DAWN

55 YEARS OF YOUR TRUST

HARDON OILS LIMITED

Producers of
quality automotive
and industrial
lubricants.

Head Office: 551-5521-5500-5510 Regional Office: 042-35757118
email: hodon@hodon.com.pk | www.hodon.com.pk

Pakistan to host SCO leaders in October

FO rejects UN panel's report on Imran's detention

By Haqir Sajad Syed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) heads of governments' meeting in October, Foreign Office spokesperson Munir Zahra Baloch announced at her weekly media briefing on Thursday.

"Pakistan holds the rotating Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHOG), which is the SCO's second-highest decision-making forum. In this capacity, Pakistan will be hosting the SCO Heads of Government Meeting in October this year," Ms Baloch said.

The two-day meeting has been scheduled for Oct 15-16.

The October meeting of the leaders of the member countries will be preceded by a ministerial meeting and several rounds of senior officials' meetings focusing on financial, economic, socio-cultural, and humanitarian cooperation among the SCO member states.

Responding to a question, Ms Baloch confirmed that Pakistan will extend invitations to all heads of governments of SCO member states for the summit, which will be held in person.

"We hope and expect that all members of SCO will be represented at the Heads of Government meeting being held in October," she added.

UN report on Imran's detention rejected

Rejecting a recent UN body report labelling the detention of former prime minister Imran Khan as "arbitrary", the FO spokesperson said the report was "unwarranted" and based on an incomplete understanding of the country's legal system.

"I will not go into the motives of any

organisation or any country on the report or reports or statements they have made," Ms Baloch said.

"However, I would like to underline that a report on any particular case is unwarranted when it lacks objectivity and is based on incomplete and inaccurate understanding of Pakistan's legal and judicial system," she said.

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's report criticised the detention of former prime minister Imran Khan, suggesting that it violated international norms.

The report concluded that Mr Khan's detention lacked a legal basis and seemed intended to disqualify him from running for political office. It stated, "From the outset, that protection was not grounded in law and was reportedly instrumentalised for a political purpose".

The UN group called for Mr Khan's immediate release and urged reforms to ensure compliance with international human rights standards.

Mr Khan, who was ousted from power in 2022, has been entangled in multiple legal battles since his departure, facing charges ranging from corruption to incitement.

Ms Baloch emphasised that the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees the rights and freedoms of all its citizens, underwritten by an independent judiciary. "Pakistan is a vibrant democracy with robust institutions in place for dispensing justice and upholding the rule of law," she said.

The FO spokesperson defended Pakistan's legal processes, stating, "For anyone facing legal proceedings, there are adequate avenues and mechanisms in place to seek justice and for redressal of any grievances. The courts of Pakistan adjudicate questions of law as per Pakistani laws and they will determine the innocence or otherwise of any individual under trial".



MULTAN: A couple weaves traditional baskets at their workshop, near Vahani Chowk.—APP

Terrorist involved in Chilas bus attack killed in GB

• Four scouts among six injured • Region's interior minister claims situation in Diamer is 'normal'

By Jamil Nagee

GILGIT: Security forces claimed to have killed an alleged terrorist in an operation during which two civilians and four Gilgit-Baltistan Scout personnel were injured in Doral Valley of Diamer district on Thursday.

GB Interior Minister Shams Lorie said that security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation to arrest three wanted terrorists who were allegedly involved in the attack on a passenger in which nine people were killed in Diamer last year.

According to Faisalullah Farooq, the GB government spokesperson, the region's police, GB Scouts, and Pakistan Army soldiers jointly conducted the operation at a house in Doral Valley.

A force closed in on the suspected location, an exchange of fire with the alleged terrorists ensued, Mr Lorie added.

In the gun battle, a local terrorist commander, Shah Faizal, who was also the alleged man-

aged in the Diamer attack,

was killed. His accomplice, Zahidullah, was injured, along with two civilians — a young girl and an elderly man — and four GB Scouts members.

Mr Lorie added that a third terrorist was still at large, and the forces were combing the area for his arrest.

The injured have been shifted to a government hospital in Doral, Diamer, and they are said to be out of danger.

Following the attack, the GB health department imposed an emergency in all health facilities across the district.

A notification issued by the health department directed all medical superintendents of the Chilas Regional Headquarters Hospital, Tangi Tehsil Headquarters Hospital as well as the Diamer District Health Office, to remain at their stations and not leave without seeking permission.

Situation normal in GB

"The horrifying shooting led to a very tense situation in the district," Mr Lorie told Dawn.

He, however, added that the situation was now normal across the region and all roads, including the Karakoram Highway (KHH) and Babusar Top road, are open for traffic.

Earlier, Mr Farooq, the GB government spokesperson, had told Dawn that KKH and Babusar Road had been closed as "preventative measures".

Following the operation, security has also been intensified across the region as part of Moharram, he added.

Mr Farooq told Dawn that over half a dozen extremists were nominated in last year's bus attack after three facilitators arrested by police identified them.

The GB government and security agencies have repeatedly approached Diamer elders and other stakeholders for their handover to security forces, but no progress was made.

He clarified that Thursday's operation was against the suspected terrorists, not the locals of Diamer, whom he called "peaceful and patriotic".

He said that all 12 suspects involved should be handed over to the police.

IHC seeks replies on Imran's allegations of meddling by agencies in prison affairs

Ex-PM's petition claimed a major and colonel are 'virtually controlling' Adiala Jail

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday sought replies from the superintendent of Adiala Jail, Punjab home secretary and secretary of defence on a petition filed by former prime minister Imran Khan against meddling of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in the jail administration.

IHC Chief Justice Asim Farooq heard the petition and, after a preliminary hearing,

issued notices to the three government officials. The hearing was adjourned until next week.

In his petition filed through his counsel Shoaib Shaheen, Mr Khan said that a major and a colonel of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) virtually controlled the Adiala Jail.

The petition said that despite IHC's clear orders, the superintendents of Adiala Jail did not allow him to consult with the PTI leadership as well as lawyers.

He cited the case recently decided by the IHC in which the court while referring to Rule 265 of the jail manual had observed that the inmate is entitled writing letters and interviews twice a week.

"It is clarified that this order is passed to remind, reiterate

and preserve the values and traditions of our legal system and it has little to do with the identity of the petitioner alone," the petition stated.

"These values and traditions must apply across the board irrespective of who the petitioner is, but, it goes without saying, they acquire greater prominence when the prisoner in question happens to be not only a political leader with substantial following but also the erstwhile holder of the highest executive office of the nation," it said.

It said that the IHC has time and again directed the superintendents of Adiala Jail to "revise the standard operating procedures that two days in a week are insufficient for a meeting purpose".

The petition pointed out that

No proceedings started under Defamation Act, LHC told

By Waqar Ahmad Sheikh

LAHORE: The Advocate General of Punjab (AGP), Khadim Ishaq, on Thursday told the Lahore High Court that no proceedings had so far been started under the Defamation Act 2024.

Opposing the petition against the law, he said the petitioners were merely speculating that something was about to happen, but no action had been taken under the law yet. He clarified that neither tribunals had been formed nor rules established under the law.

Justice Anwarul Haq asked the law officer what would happen if someone committed an offence from Sindh or other provinces.

AGP Ishaq said the answer to this question was under discussion in the Supreme Court. He further said that it would be a different matter if an aggrieved person moves the court to stop the proceedings. However, he said, no aggrieved party had so far filed a petition.

Justice Anwarul Haq observed that it was not necessary that only an aggrieved person could challenge a law made in violation of fundamental rights.

The judge remarked that serious questions had been raised by the petitioners on the defamation law.

The judge adjourned further proceedings on the petition till July 29.

Lahore Press Club President Arshad Armani, among others, has challenged the new law.

The judge also issued notices to the government on a fresh petition filed by journalists Benazir Shah and Munir Ali Khan.

After going through the petition by the two journalists, Justice Rafiq observed that there were good grounds to assess the constitutionality of the law.

The two journalists challenged the law mainly on the ground that the core subject matter of the legislation is communication or speech, which is beyond the legislative competence of provinces.

The petitioners also assailed the law on the grounds for being in violation of fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

The petitioners argued that the provisions of the law are extremely harsh and punitive in nature, which place unreasonable restrictions on freedom of speech and expression violating rights of due process and equality.

They asked the court to issue a stay order against the operation of the Defamation Act and declare that the law is void ab initio, of no legal effect and ultra vires of the Constitution.

Petroleum dealers split over strike

Continued from Page 1

local persons for close coordination".

The oil marketing companies have already been directed to keep their outlets operational during the strike and remain in contact with the Ministry of Energy's monitoring cell.

A joint statement by OGRA and the petroleum division said that there was sufficient availability of petroleum products in the country, and all OMCs had been advised to ensure adequate supplies at petrol pumps.

In Islamabad, some officials not belonging to the petroleum division, Federal Board of Revenue, finance ministry or OGRA were seen interacting with dealers to convince them to call off the strike.

Government representatives reportedly indicated a possible increase in dealer commissions to compensate for the 0.5pc turnover tax, suggesting an increase from the current commission of Rs8.64 per litre to at least Rs11.20.

A dealer said that a revision in commission and OMCs' margin had already become due in the new fiscal year and the government was just trying to divide them.

Sources said the government side did not make any commitment at this stage to avoid similar pressure

tactics from other sectors facing the threat of the additional tax burden, but the facilitators promised them a positive outcome in due course.

The dealers promised to keep their filling stations in Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Lahore fully operational on Friday.

OMCs seek higher margin

Meanwhile, the oil marketing companies have formally demanded an increase in their profit margin on petrol and diesel sales to Rs12.65 per litre from Rs7.87 at present, up by 60pc.

On behalf of OMCs, the Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC) has recommended that this increase was necessitated by "financing costs of maintaining a 20-day stock cover, turnover tax, handling losses, demurrage, financing cost of unmet sales tax and operating expenses incurred by OMCs".

At present, there are about 14,000 retail stations in the country, including about 4,000 owned or operated directly by the major oil marketing companies.

A dealers' group from Lahore and Rawalpindi, identifying as the Refiners Group of the PPDA, announced they would not participate in the July 5 strike. In a statement, they said their group would prefer detailed

negotiations with the authorities before opting for "extreme options" like an indefinite strike.

After giving the strike call, negotiations are under way, so petrol pumps will be kept open all over the country on July 5, as the country's economy cannot be paralysed at this critical juncture," it said.

Hanan Shah, the group's spokesperson, said a delegation led by PPDA Rawalpindi leader Noman Ali Razi met Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik and informed him that petroleum dealers might be charged either a fixed tax or revenue tax. A business couldn't be taxed both ways, and if it were to do so, it would be illegal, and the petrol pumps would be shut down, he explained.

The minister assured them that the FBR chairman would address the matter, the group said in a statement.

Mr Shah said that detailed discussions were ongoing. "If there is no success, then any decision will be taken after consultation with the organisation of each district of the country," he said.

"We reject the strike call by some dealers in Karachi because they are working for the interests of oil marketing companies and not concerned about their own community."

Ruckus in Senate as govt gets approval for changes to election law

Shibli claims new provision aimed at 'managing' poll tribunals; Naek says retired judges will expedite disposal of electoral disputes

By Ihtishar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: The upper house of parliament erupted in clamour on Thursday as a controversial bill to appoint retired high court judges to poll tribunals to settle electoral disputes was passed despite severe protest by the opposition.

Senators from the PTI tore copies of the legislation and flung them in the air as they termed the new law "a conspiracy".

The bill, already passed by the

National Assembly, empowers the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to appoint retired high court judges as election tribunals without the need to consult chief justices of the relevant apex courts.

Opposition Leader Syed Shibli Faraz started protesting even before Law Minister Aram Nadeem Tarar moved a motion for immediate consideration of the Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Mr Faraz pointed out that the PML-N was in power on Aug 5, 2023, when an amendment was introduced in Section 140 of the Elections Act 2017 to close the door for retired judges to be appointed as election tribunals.

Now, he wondered why the party felt the need to reverse its decision in less than a year, especially at a time when a number of petitions regarding general election disputes were pending before tribunals.

He regretted the strategy of leg-

islation for "political interests" and called the new amendment "legislative seizure".

This would make the concept of legislation lose its meaning and dignity, Mr Faraz said, adding that the move was instead aimed at "preventing the truth from coming out by managing the tribunals".

There all is being done as independent tribunals do not suit the government's political interests, Mr Faraz claimed and lamented that the parliament was being used for this purpose which was "dangerous for the political, democratic and economic future of the country".

He also slammed the ECP for organising what he called "the most controversial elections of the century" and added that the electoral watchdog "will had the guts" to find faults with PTI's intra-party elections conducted in 2023 and 2024.

While responding to the opposition leader's concerns, Law

Minister Tarar recalled that when PTI was in power, it once bulldozed 53 bills in 45 minutes through the parliament.

He said PTI leader Qasim Suri held the office of National Assembly deputy speaker from 2018 to 2022 while a stay order remained in place against ECP's decision to disqualify him over alleged election rigging.

The minister also alleged that the PTI had introduced the Remote Transmission System to steal the mandate.

He also said that the PTI had set a new example by "stealing" the 2023 election by rigging.

This was in reference to the poll held on the then National Assembly seat NA-75 following the demise of PML-N lawmaker Sahibzada Syed Ihtishar Hussain Shah.

The exercise was marred by widespread rigging and violence as two people were killed while 20 presiding officers were

"forcibly taken to some unknown places".

'Mandate of democracy'

As Mr Tarar moved a motion to immediately consider the bill, the opposition raised slogans of "shame, shame". PTI's Parliamentary Leader, Syed Ali Zafar, opposed the bill, calling it "against the Constitution and independence of the judiciary".

"If the bill is passed, it will threaten the integrity of the electoral process," he lamented minutes before the government managed to get the law approved owing to its superior numeric strength.

Mr Zafar said the law was a "violation of democracy" and the intention behind it was to "keep the power assumed through mass rigging".

"Let us expose this conspiracy. Enough is enough," he said, adding that the floor of the Senate was being misused for this conspiracy.

Former Senate chairman and

PPP Senator Farooq H. Naek challenged his colleague from PTI and said that Article 219 of the Constitution empowered the ECP and not high court chief justices to appoint election tribunals.

He said that high court judges were already overburdened and most of the time, don't hear election disputes.

The appointment of retired judges would help in early disposal of election petitions and the amendment would benefit PTI members, the PPP leader added.

JUI-F Senator Kamran Marriana said it was ECP's power to appoint tribunals, but the commission itself was an accused in the case.

Currently, the question is of the government's legitimacy, he said, adding that the house will pass a legislation without it being sent to the standing committee concerned.

"Everyone knows how easy it is to control retired judges," he said, adding that such judges were never answerable to anyone.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com



DAWN

Trade cooperation

AT their meeting on the side-lines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Plus summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to improve bilateral trade ties. They discussed the issues impeding financial and banking connectivity for easing bilateral trade flows as Mr Sharif called for reviving and expanding trade under a barrier system. Mr Putin responded positively, saying that ties between Moscow and Islamabad had recovered in recent years due to improvement in trade linkages. He was hopeful that both Russia and Pakistan would enhance their energy and agriculture cooperation. Mr Sharif also used his visit to renew calls for strengthening Pakistan's trade and economic cooperation with the Central Asian states, asking their leaders to establish road and rail connectivity and offering them transit rights through this country to trade with the rest of the world via the Karachi port. Speaking at the inaugural session of the trilateral summit of Pakistan, Türkiye and Azerbaijan, he proposed tripartite institutional mechanisms to strengthen commercial ties. He also mentioned plans to host a regional connectivity summit to provide trade corridors to Central Asia.

While rail and road connectivity with Central Asia is a long shot, Mr Sharif's meetings with regional leaders indicate his desire to end Pakistan's growing trade isolation by integrating the national economy with that of other countries in the region. That Pakistan remains the least integrated economy regionally, in spite of its geographical advantage and potential to become what Mr Sharif calls an "ideal trade corridor" in the region speaks volumes about our policymakers' "trade isolationist" mindset. In fact, Islamabad is not part of any effective regional trading bloc. The two regional economic blocs Pakistan is a part of — the Economic Cooperation Organisation and the South Asian Free Trade Area — have been dormant since their formation. While other members of these blocs have significantly boosted economic cooperation, our share of trade with ECO and the South Asian nations is negligible. Out of the four countries Pakistan has borders with, it is only with China with which we have significant trading linkages. With the other three — India, Iran and Afghanistan, our trade position is dismal.

Several factors have impeded Pakistan's economic integration within the region but political and territorial disputes with neighbouring countries, imagined and real security concerns, a narrow band of exportable products, and reliance on the West for both trade and aid are among the main reasons for our continued economic isolation. Trading blocs have helped their respective member states become competitive and have contributed greatly to their economic development. Will Mr Sharif be able to translate his dream of integrating Pakistan within the region by liberalising trade cooperation with South and Central Asia? That remains to be seen.

Creeping militancy

WHILE military personnel and LICAs have mostly been targeted in the current wave of militancy, the list of targets is by no means limited to security men. Politicians and public figures are also in the terrorists' cross hairs, as the tragic killing of former senator Hidayatullah Khan in Bajaur on Wednesday shows. Khan was killed, along with four others, in an IED blast while on his way to a campaign event in connection with a KP provincial by-election. Though no claims of responsibility have yet emerged, police officials have called the blast an act of terrorism. The grim fact is that Bajaur and other tribal parts of KP have witnessed steady militant activity over the last few years. On the day the former senator was targeted, the military said it had killed a "high-profile terrorist" in Bajaur. Terrorists in the past have also targeted political figures and events. In January, Rehman Zohi, a young politician contesting the general elections, was assassinated in Bajaur, while a massive bombing in July 2023 targeting a JUI-F rally in the same district resulted in over 50 fatalities. The latter atrocity was claimed by the ISKP terrorist group.

Considering that the plethora of militant groups that operate in the country are stridently opposed to democracy, Hidayatullah Khan's killing — and similar incidents before it — is perhaps designed to send a chilling message to political forces to steer clear of what the terrorists consider to be their stomping grounds. The culprits could include anyone — from ISKP and the TTP to any of the offshoots that have sprung from these deadly outfits. The names are, in fact, immaterial; what is important is for the state to ensure that no part of Pakistan is vulnerable to terrorist attacks. KP and Balochistan are particularly vulnerable in this respect. But the militants cannot be allowed to stifle political activity and prevent citizens from organising and expressing themselves. While local communities may not be in favour of full-scale military operations, the state needs to use all other tools at its disposal to secure those vulnerable areas and make sure that the lives and properties of citizens are safe. The administration recently launched its Aam-i-Beshukh campaign with great fanfare, ensuring security in areas worst hit by militancy must be the central plank of this campaign.

Dodging culpability

IT is high time the judiciary put an end to the culture of impunity that has allowed the missing persons crisis to persist. In a significant decision, the Islamabad High Court recently dismissed a set of appeals against fines imposed on the defence and interior secretaries, the Islamabad chief commissioner and several police officers for failing to recover three persons who have been missing for years. Before making its decision, the division bench asked if the government had, after the fine was imposed, succeeded in determining the whereabouts of the missing individuals, to which the additional attorney general, representing the errant officials, replied in the negative. Wondering whether the government was still "waiting for a miracle", the court observed that the authorities repeatedly seek time in such cases but then "do nothing" to recover the missing. This, in fact, is the long and short of the government's strategy to deal with the growing number of citizens going 'missing' each year.

It is a galling situation: it is no secret why citizens are routinely disappeared, and who most commonly does the disappearing. Yet, state representatives act oblivious or, worse, attempt to gaslight the grieving families. Meanwhile, fundamental rights are violated, families torn apart, and deep anti-state resentment grows, especially in communities that are routinely targeted. Then, when officials are held responsible for their obvious failures, they hide behind extensive legal defences and technicalities of the law to avoid accountability for their complicity. Perpetrators and their protectors' ability to leverage power and state resources to seek legal protections even as they abuse the law themselves makes it all the more imperative for the superior judiciary to say "enough" and refuse to become a part of this vicious cycle. Unless senior officials are held to account for failing in their responsibilities, it is unlikely that they will work sincerely to end the practice of disappearing citizens.

OPINION



BY FAISAL BARI

Taxing the taxed

How can the government justify such taxes when its expenditure priorities are so anti-people?

FOR all the rhetoric of this government and its banker finance minister, the budget has been a huge disappointment. It is the same old story of taxing those who are already in the net while appeasing those who are strong and giving them opportunities for looting the country or keeping their loot. Commenting on the situation, an editorial in this paper, published on July 2, states: "Speaking at a news conference on Sunday, Mr Aaragzadeh could only express his condolences to the salaried class on the higher taxes he had imposed on them." The condolences should be offered to the finance minister and this government. Form 47 or not, people do not and will not forget.

This government has again taken the easy route. It has raised taxes for those who are already in the tax net, especially the salaried class, but has not been able to tax powerful interests who have always evaded taxation: retailers, agriculturists, real estate owners and speculators, and service providers who are not in the net. The salaried class will pay 35 per cent in taxes and those with an income of Rs10 million or more a year will pay an additional 'super tax' of 3.5pc. The inequity of the system has only increased and the minister and this government have played their part in further eroding its legitimacy.

A friend in need of an emergency operation had to deposit Rs1m in cash in a private hospital under an fearing documentation and evading taxes the hospital did not want to get money through a cash machine. They were reluctant to give a receipt. Most doctors in the private sector that I have been to have similar protocols. Where are the initiatives to bring such people into the net?

A low tax rate has been imposed on real estate but then defence forces personnel and the employees of federal and provincial governments have been exempted from these taxes. Are private citizens of this country not citizens? Dubai Looka talked of thousands who have

money and assets in Dubai. Has the government even bothered to look into whether this money was legitimate and if it was sent to Dubai through the proper channels? Is the state not supposed to look after the interests of its citizens? The punishment for tax evasion has been raised, the powers of FBR officers have been increased when everyone knows that, along with the police, FBR is one of the most corrupt institutions around. The state has clearly turned predatory.

The inequity does not end here. The government has made no effort in the budget to cut its expenses. In fact, most non-productive expenditures have increased. Hundreds of billions of rupees in subsidies are given to privileged sectors and groups, government employees are given free electricity and petrol, hundreds of billions of rupees' worth of perks and privileges, including cars, houses, subsidised travel and club fees, are given to the privileged. All the while the poor struggle even to pay their electricity bill. A colleague who runs the kitchen in our office and has two fans, some lights and a refrigerator at home has a bill of Rs22,000 from Lases. The gardener at our place received a bill of Rs23,000. And the government is celebrating having given the citizens a 'people-friendly' budget?

The net runs deeper. The salaried and those in the tax — direct and indirect — net, pay about half or more than half of their income in taxes. And what do they get in return? Nothing at all. They have to send their children to private schools, they have to go to private hospitals if they fall sick. If they want safe drinking water, they have to buy bottled water. Law and order is poor, justice is hard to even access, and the police and the army act as if citizens are criminals. Despite paying through their nose, citizens get head-shedding and lectures from the government about the virtue of sacrifice. What a country!

If the poor and needy were being provided a decent education, healthcare and other basic

necessities by the state, one could still argue that though the salaried and those in the net were being taxed excessively, the money was being used well. Instead, 26m children are out of schools in Pakistan. Pakistan is the only country, other than Afghanistan, which has not been able to eradicate polio. Forty per cent of our children are malnourished, and we continue to have one of the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in the region. We are near the bottom of the ladder in terms of gender parity, when compared to other countries. Think of any statistic, especially pertaining to human well-being, and we will see that we are amongst the worst performers. How can the government justify such taxation when its expenditure priorities are so anti-people?

It is true that the economy is in a bad shape and the government needs to raise more revenue. But the economy will not be in a better place if we keep taxing those who are already in the tax net while giving specific interest groups all the breaks they can have, and the economy will not improve if expenditure priorities are not changed to make more investment in people.

If the people of Pakistan do not have education and skills, if they do not enjoy decent healthcare, and if they do not have access to safe drinking water and proper waste disposal facilities, how can the economy be taken on a sustainable high-growth path? Sadly, this budget clearly shows that the government has chosen the short-term path rather than the longer-term, more sustainable one. The economy will improve for a year or so, if at all, but this is not the path to sustainability. The budget has also confirmed, for once, that this government, like the ones before it, does not have the stomach for working out and implementing the needed reforms. ■

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

TUG-OF-WAR LEAVES PAC IN LIMBO



BY BASIL NABI MALIK

Appointing a chief justice

ON July 2, 2024, the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) nominated Justice Shah Siddiqi and Justice Aalia Noor to be the next chief justices of their respective high courts.

The decision to appoint Justice Shah Siddiqi, who is known for his vast knowledge base and swift disposals, has been widely hailed in Sindh, whereas that of Justice Aalia Noor, who was not the senior most judge in the Lahore High Court, has also been met with relative positivity.

However, prior to July 2, the Sindh High Court Bar Association had pointed out that the JCP was seeking to consider the three senior-most judges of each high court as chief justice. As per the bar association, the senior most judge should be appointed as chief justice; the consideration of others would be "against the principles of natural justice, seniority, and the doctrine of legitimacy".

In relying on the concept of merit trumping any form of seniority, many might disagree with the bar association's opposition to the elevation of a junior judge as chief justice. However, although there appears to be no devil in this principle, what qualifies as 'merit' is the question that has been plaguing the institution for some time now.

In fact, upon his appointment as chief justice of Pakistan, Chief Justice Qazi Faez has had been seen to make efforts to finalise a formula or criteria for appointing judges. These rules, which may presumably have also included details regarding the appointment of the province's chief justice, were to be placed before the JCP on May 3, 2024. However, at the meeting, this agenda item was deferred on account of the statement of the federal law minister that the government was "considering" amending Article 175A of the Constitution. It was also decided that, in the meanwhile, the appointment process of judges would continue on the basis of the existing rules.

The 'existing rules' are the Judicial Commission of Pakistan Rules, 2010, which, ironically, do not disclose any criterion for appointment. In fact, prior to Justice Ijaz's elevation to the position of chief justice of the Supreme Court, the lack of declared criteria was one of

the reasons for the opposition to the elevation of junior judges to the Supreme Court, within the bench as well as in the bar.

However, not only has such criteria not evolved since then, it also appears that the practice of elevating a junior judge over a senior one has been extended to the post of 'chief justice' in the high courts. This is a matter of concern for several reasons.

Firstly, without declared and established criteria for appointing a chief justice, whispers of manipulation or favouritism may follow, no matter how unfair they may be. There will always remain questions as to why one judge was preferred over the other, what the superseded judge

a bad decision look even worse.

Also, being superseded is extremely demoralising, and can potentially lead to suspicions being cast on the conduct and credibility of the judges who were superseded. It raises several questions. For example, would a superseded judge, who is technically senior, be expected to report to his or her junior in matters of administration, or would he or she be expected to resign? Would the supersession be seen as a vote of no-confidence against his or her abilities, or just an administrative necessity? If the judge resigns, would that not be a loss to the judiciary? If the judge chooses to stay, would that not impede his or her ability to deliver justice?

On the other hand, would the junior judge be better able to command the confidence of his or her court, or less likely, if appointed by superseding others? And finally, would such a move create polarisation and division within the high courts, thereby impairing effective administration, or would it tend to resolve these?

The answers are unsettling, and that is perhaps why the Supreme Court had held in the *Al Jafar* case, as far back as 1996, that the most senior judge of a high court has a legitimate expectation to be considered for appointment as chief justice, and in the absence of any concrete and valid reasons to be recorded, he or she will be appointed in the court concerned.

The rationale for this observation still resonates with many today, and will continue to do so until the appointment process is made more transparent, open, and criteria-based. Doing so will not only be a service to the public, who are direct stakeholders in the dispensation of justice, but also to the judges themselves, who deserve better than the probing questions raised, the doubts created, and the misgivings left unaddressed on account of the current manner of appointments. It is often said that justice should not only be done, but also be seen to be done. In this case, perhaps, justice should not only be done, but be done with the justices themselves. ■

The writer is a Karachi-based lawyer.
✉: @basinabi
basinabi@gmail.com

OPINION

BY GHULAM SHABIR

Islamic social justice

WITH the rare exception of India and China on its eastern peripheries the 'heart of the earth', ie, Rome and Persia, was riddled with wars and was profusely bleeding. Conditions in Europe were also far from satisfactory when, to ensure the world social fabric, Islam emerged onto the scene of history in Arabia.

Human history had come full circle. Judaism and Christianity were either addressing human problems on a limited basis or igniting sectarian wars, while old tribal nations were fast losing their sheen, and hence were unable to address the malaise. The times were fraught with tragedy when, in the words of Shah Waliullah, Islam appeared as a moral necessity for destroying the corrupt socio-economic structures of Persia and Byzantium to build anew.

Avoiding profound chaos, a man disenchanted with the human plight would occasionally go to a cave in Hira to get respite from the tragedy around him in the excessively mercantile Makkah — a city of stark socioeconomic disparities, which had relegated the disenfranchised segments of society to a destitute existence. Then, a window opened from the *gharb* (Unseen) which brought new life into this desert city, and indeed far beyond its environs. The entire Quran dawned on the heart of the Prophet (PRH) and sorted right and wrong with wisdom from God.

The religious experience of the Prophet emerged as a synthesis of monotheism and socioeconomic justice. So local and civil was Hazrat Muhammad's first address to his community that the religio-political and mercantile elites took it as a warning. Pointing to the socioeconomic thrust of his message, H.A.R. Gills writes that the darkest side in the prosperity of Makkah, ie socioeconomic inequality, was one of the deep inner causes of the Holy Prophet's mission, which instead of turning into a movement for social revolution, was transformed into a religious movement under the impact of a civil and immediate experience of a unique God.

Gills's remark reflects the West's obsession with the so-called duality of spiritual and material, which he grafted onto Islam. Otherwise, to the Quran, from the very beginning monotheism and social justice organically include each other; the rejection of one implies the rejection of the other. This was what became the moral social order demonstrated by the first monotheism-based 'republic' of Madinah.

Later, dictatorship, orthodoxy and Self-theology challenged the purpose

of Islam as a social proposition and focused more on ritualism in religion, substituting its collectivism and snatching its moral initiative. Social justice is neither a one-off principle nor does it have Judaic-Christian or Muslim traits; it is directly proportional to the intellectual, scientific, and moral cognition of man as an ever-developing phenomenon. The 19th-century reformer Jamaluddin Afghani also arrived at the same conclusion that socioeconomic reforms, instead of materialistic metaphysics or the medieval idea of religion, should be based on monotheistic principles.

He propounded into action an illustrious class of intellectuals who produced a vast literature on Islamic social justice, but on the realm of policy goals and directives this initiative fell prey to Marxism. There was an attempt to graft communist policies onto religion. Thus, Islamic socialism co-evolved with communism, its fate tied up with its surrogate mother — Marxism — and with the fall of Soviet

Russia, Islamic socialism turned out to be a damp squib.

The pristine Islam planted socioeconomic egalitarianism in the fertile soil of monotheism, which proved to be a seedbed of socioeconomic equality and human egalitarianism, while communism sowed economic egalitarianism in the barren soil of materialism, and soon withered away. In the Pakistani context, Iqbal inspired by Afghani's thought dreamed of a land free of the master-slave relationship. Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan committed allegiance to Islamic socialism and Z.A. Bhutto swept to power on the tide of Islamic socialism. History depicts the clergy and secular elite as Islamists twins indulged in a cutthroat war, but on removal of the thin veneer of hypocrisy both are found to be bedfellows. On this plane, Iqbal rejected orthodoxy and termed secularism positively harmful for mankind.

Deep down, the orthodoxy's 'minimal' Islam accepts secularism. Modernism and its spin-offs have rendered our planet unlivable for the lonely, hence the golden 'best community' of the Quran is duty-bound to formulate Islam as a social proposition of socioeconomic justice and translate it into reality to prove that Islam can best resolve the socioeconomic and political crises of man. ■

Islam appeared as a moral necessity.

The writer is an academician.



BY AASIM SAJJAD AKHTAR

Patrons vs people

ON Feb 8, a significant number of Pakistan's people, mostly the young, threw out the selector's script and cast their vote for the PTI. Most knew that their mandate would not be respected, but chose to rebel against the establishment and its hangover anyway.

The vote-rebellion not only targeted our self-proclaimed holy guardians but also put paid to a large number of seasoned politicians known as 'establishers'. These historically powerful influential may possess large amounts of agricultural land, real estate, industry or other economic capital. Their repeated appointments as MNAs and MPs reflect deep entrenchment in daily life, especially as mediators between working people and everyday state institutions like the *chaos*, *hancher* and *patron*.

By voting against these entrenched patrons, many young people demonstrated that politics can transcend the drudgery of life, and can, instead, be informed by ideological commitments. One need not agree with the premise that Imran Khan is a saviour or that the PTI is a genuinely anti-establishment force to recognise that those who made this choice on Feb 8 voted for an idea over entrenched forms of patronage.

One election does not signify an overhaul of our patronage-based order, nor does it displace the establishment that heads the political food chain. But it is important to consider how the vote-rebellion might be a stepping stone towards something more substantial. If there is to be a pathway out of the rapid downward spiral of state and society, we should recognise the historical roots of our predicament.

1. Today's patronage-based system was institutionalised during Zia's dictatorship. Prior to the 1977 coup, mainstream politics here — like much of the world — was largely organised along ideological lines. The political left espoused socialism, anti-imperialism and ethnic-national claims, while the political right projected an Islamic ideology. The left was winning until Zia turned organised politics, student and trade unions, and reintroduced patronage as the name of the political game. I have previously called this the 'politics of common sense'.

2. By sponsoring religious ideology and fusing it with a cynical form of patronage, Zia set the stage for mainstream political parties to become more agglutinated of first-past-the-post constituency-level politicians who were more interested in sustaining themselves as patrons and less in debating ideas and policy.

3. This 'politics of common sense' was reinforced in the global arena by the neoliberal offensive, spearheaded by IFIs and

Wall Street investors. So if local-level politics was reduced to *chaos*, *hancher* and *patron*, with an 'Islamic touch', government policy was largely determined by IMF conditionality on the one hand, and discretionary funds to MNAs and MPs to facilitate private accumulation on the other.

4. The predominant conception to this 'politics of common sense', largely facilitated by the deep state, was the militant right wing. Entities like the local Taliban and TLP are symbolically linked to parliamentary Islamists, and thus patronage with an 'Islamic touch' survives. Ethno-nationalism and an emasculated left have continued to keep their flags flying but the local and global political economy has remained stifling.

5. Imran Khan and PTI emerged on the political scene claiming to be opposed to the established order. But in 2013 and 2008, the PTI acquired governmental power largely by mobilising unscrupulous electables. During this period, the party and its leader were also on the 'same page' as the establishment.

6. When relations soured after April 2022, many elections jumped ship. The party faced repression, but demographic change — two-thirds of Pakistanis are very young

— and the PTI's unscrupulous social media reach meant that its wider support base was not seriously eroded. And on Feb 8, a number of young people came out to defy the 'politics of common sense'.

What happens from hereon is undetermined. Feb 8 only showed us that ordinary Pakistanis can swim against the prevalent tide. Remember that young people in the Baloch and other ethnic provinces have been swimming against this tide for long. Left progressives have also been challenging the IMF's neoliberal dictates and various forms of class power. A genuine anti-establishment and ideological politics cannot simply be based on the adulation of messiah-like figures. It must articulate a genuine political and economic alternative to the status quo. It certainly cannot be based on a slightly modified version of state ideology in which religion is used as a political weapon against the oppressed. A new ideological politics demands a new common sense that unites Pakistan's youthful majority around the principle of collective liberation. ■

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

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Positive approach

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan is prepared to make an effort jointly with the Government of Bangladesh to resolve the ticklish issue relating to apportionment of assets and liabilities between the two countries and the question of non-Bengalis in Bangladesh. Official sources in Islamabad believe that, given ... understanding on both sides, these problems could be resolved. ... Unfortunately, a section of the Press in Bangladesh and India as well as in some other countries has tried to give the impression that the recent talks between the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Bangladesh ... had ended in a deadlock. ... These newspapers have failed to take note of the fact that Mr Bhutto's visit ... was a goodwill visit and was not undertaken with the hope that it would result in settlement of all problems. — *Islamabad Bureau*

[Mossaddeq, as reported by news agencies from Beirut,] Haji Syed Muhammad Amin al-Basouini, Grand Mufti of Palestine, died in hospital today [July 4] at the age of 76. ... [The Mufti] left Jerusalem in 1937 after disagreement with the British mandate authorities over its policy of establishing a national Jewish home in Palestine.

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

Anti-League propaganda

KARACHI: Quasi Mohammad Iqbal, Chief Adviser to the AGC, Baluchistan, issued the following statement on Sunday [July 3] ... : "Certain representatives of news agencies in Baluchistan have taken a very keen and unbecomingly interested in finding mischievous news, especially when they tend to be anti-League. They have ... tried to make a mountain of a mole hill."

"It is through this propaganda that people outside Baluchistan are made to believe that the Tribes Federation is really a party worth recognising, while no such party exists there in the real sense. It might be in the imagination of a certain interested few who are still living in the old order and believe that God has created human beings for their exploitation and that they are at liberty to treat them as chattel."

"An overwhelming majority of the tribes were already in the Muslim League and a great deal more have joined ever since the formation of the Baluchistan Council. For example, the Sardar of Narjari along with his 15,000 followers on the Pakistan-Iran Afghanistan border, has declared his loyalty to Pakistan and joined the Muslim League and has ridiculed the existence of the so-called Tribes Federation. ..."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@dawn.com

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

Charge of digital terrorism is risky



THIS is with reference to the report — 'Digital terrorism' to be modified, declares commander' (May 31), which was based on a press statement issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) after the 84th Formation Commanders Conference in Rawalpindi. The statement targeted the main opposition party in strong words and used the term 'digital terrorism' to describe the activities of the party and its social media activists.

Digital terrorism can be defined as the use of digital technologies, such as the internet, social media and other digital platforms, to spread fear, incite violence, or promote ideologies that aim at achieving political, religious or ideological goals through intimidation, coercion or violence. It includes cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, dissemination of extremist propaganda online, recruitment and radicalisation through social media, and coordination of terrorist activities using digital communication channels.

While criticism of the government, its institutions and departments is considered a vital part of democratic discourse and is protected under free speech principles, the activity crosses into digital terrorism when it includes threats, incites violence, or targets individuals or groups.

Technically, the qualification of lies, fake news and propaganda can be termed digital terrorism if these are used with the wrong intent, but the mere act of spreading falsehood does not fall under the domain of digital terrorism.

The strongly worded ISPR statement and subsequent media campaign around it in the digital and traditional media were successful in setting a clear position of the army against those who were allegedly driving a wedge between the army and the people of Pakistan.

However, the statement was not free of risks either. It had the potential to reinforce the perception of bias against a single party, potentially deepening political divisions and eroding trust between the military and party activists.

Further, whipping up such a narrative could evoke strong emotional responses that might rally some segments of the population around the establishment, while simultaneously causing scepticism and decreased confidence among those who feel targeted. While promoting the noble cause of national unity, such strong words could have been avoided.

Qasim Rashed
Islamabad

Exploitation by KE

I AM a single-occupant residential consumer of K-Electric (KE) in Karachi's Defence Housing Authority (DHA) area. It is shocking to receive the KE bills over last three months from the exploitative elements occupying its management and administrative control.

In essence, the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC) had been privatised with two major conditions: to inject \$1,100 million to install all new turbines, and to improve the transmission and distribution network. Instead, KE chose to get involved in exploitative policies.

I have been out of Pakistan since the last week of May, and my electricity bills for the last three months are nothing but mind-boggling. According to KE, in April, I consumed 209 units and it cost me a bill for Rs8,846. In May, I was charged Rs10,448 for using 251 units, and, to my utter shock, I have been asked to pay Rs17,558 for June against a consumption of 142 units.

Any sane person reading this would be intrigued as to what rules of business have been applied to calculate electricity consumed when the consumer is not even in the country, and what is the yardstick for generating such bills. Apparently, KE has been given a free hand to apply any formula to fleece the consumer.

Ali Ashraf Khan
London, UK

Critical councils

THIS is with reference to the letter 'Tribal councils are hurting life at QAU' (May 16) which criticised the student councils of the Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) in Islamabad, but failed to recognise the essential role the councils play in representing the body of students, facilitating communication, and advocating for students' needs and rights.

The councils are not merely administrative bodies; they are a crucial conduit for student voices. They serve as a bridge between the students and the university administration, ensuring that the valid concerns of the students are heard and addressed. The councils' representatives are elected by the students, reflecting a

democratic process that underscores their legitimacy and accountability.

Besides, the councils are instrumental in organising events and activities that enrich the university experience of the students. From academic seminars and cultural festivals to sports competitions and social awareness campaigns, the councils foster a vibrant campus life that contributes to students' personal and professional development.

Moreover, the councils play a vital role in advocating students' rights as well as welfare. By negotiating with the administration, the councils work tirelessly to improve the conditions and resources available to the students, striving for a better academic environment.

Critics often overlook the challenges faced by the councils, including limited resources and bureaucratic hurdles. Despite these obstacles, the councils remain resilient and dedicated advocates for the body of students. Discounting the councils' efforts undermines the hard work and commitment of those who strive to make QAU a better place for all students.

The student councils represent an indispensable institution that embodies the collective voice of the students. They deserve recognition and support for their playing a pivotal role in enhancing the university experience and effectively advocating for students' rights.

Muhammad Shafiq
Karachi

A sign of times

I WAS writing a research paper recently when unexpectedly a notification popped up on my phone. Many thoughts crossed my mind. Perhaps, it could be my PhD work group or maybe a new assignment from my office. But I felt saddened when I read the message. Surprisingly, it was a threatening message from one of my students, asking me to set an 'easy' paper for the examination.

Being a teacher, I usually receive calls for recommendations, but this time, I was amazed to see a gift certificate to meet such a nasty message to her teacher. Clearly, her message was more of a threat than a demand. It was certainly not a request.

Nowadays, students seem interested in free attendance, free marks and free assignments without learning from their lectures. As a PhD student, I do not get a single free mark, and that is how it should be.

This raises a perplexing question: why do other students expect such things? They want their examination paper to be 'easy' so that they may pass it with the clichéd flying colours without any hard work. They do not hesitate using abusive language in their interaction with their teachers. This new generation, with the exception, has no manners at all. Teachers

put their heart and soul in the performance of their duties, and in return they deserve to receive respect from their students.

Maria Khushk
Hyderabad

Road safety education



ROAD traffic injuries and fatalities represent a silent crisis in Pakistan that is often overshadowed by other pressing issues. Globally, 1.19 million lives are lost each year, with road accidents being the leading cause of death for young people. Shockingly, low and middle-income countries (LMICs), like Pakistan, bear 92 per cent of these fatalities. These statistics are not mere numbers; they are shattered families, unfulfilled dreams, and a collective failure to protect our most vulnerable citizens — our children.

Given this context, several factors make young children uniquely vulnerable in traffic. Their smaller stature limits their field of vision, making it harder to see oncoming vehicles, and for the drivers to spot them. Their developing cognitive and sensory skills hinder their ability to judge speed, distance and potential hazards. Impulsivity and distractions further increase the risk.

While we cannot change children's physical limitations, we can equip them with the knowledge and skills to navigate traffic safely. Comprehensive road safety education should be a fundamental part of every child's curriculum.

Parents and caregivers play a crucial role in reinforcing such lessons and practising safe behaviour to be the role models for their children. Practical exercises, such as supervised road crossing practice, can be invaluable.

As such, Pakistan must make road safety a national priority. This means investing in infrastructure that should prioritise pedestrians and cyclists, stricter enforcement of traffic laws, and, crucially, a sustained commitment to road safety education for children of all ages.

Dr Malik Samad Riaz
Rawalpindi

► **PAINTFUL CONDITIONS:** The residential area around Radar Commercial in Karachi's Defence Housing Authority (DHA) used to be a posh locality, but over the last few years, conditions have gone from bad to worse. The entire area is littered with all sorts of garbage, and shabby garbage pickers constantly roam around unbacked by police. DHA vigilance teams or wardens of the Clifton Cantonment Board (CCB). These garbage-pickers are usually drug addicts who keep getting away with minor thefts. The roads are in a bad shape, and most of streetlights have stopped working. Despite several complaints to the CCB, no positive response has been received. *Talib Masood Karachi*

► **DEATH OF AN ACTIVIST:** Ishaque Mangrio, who died last month (June 16), was a professional journalist who showed qualities of courage, compassion and integrity. From a young age, he was deeply rooted in his community, and became a passionate political activist as well as literary activist during the 1980s. However, his commitment to social justice knew no bounds. He raised his voice for marginalised and once he visited Nagarparikar and met Mirzaan Jahan Khan Khoso, a social worker in Tharparkar who tirelessly advocated for the rights of the marginalised. Ishaque's legacy will continue to inspire young journalists and activists in Sindh. *Dr Khattamud Mithi*

► **WOULDED PARENTS:** The burden of summer vacation fee is too much for low-income families, making it difficult for them to take a break from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Students do not receive education during vacations, but the parents are required to pay the fee for those months as well. This is an unnecessary and illogical burden on those who struggle to provide three meals a day. The teachers receive their pay even without having to do anything, while the parents are constantly worried about their children's fee. The government must provide some relief to such parents. *Saba Aslam Turbat*

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

PHC summons chief secretary, former health secretary over contempt pleas

Petitioners claim MTI BoGs chairman replaced contrary to court order

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court on Thursday summoned Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief secretary and a recently transferred health secretary in contempt pleas accusing them of replacing chairman and members of the board of governors (BoG) of some medical teaching institutions in the province.

A bench consisting of Justice Ijaz Awan and Justice Saeed Anwar directed that the two officers should appear in person today (Thursday) for explaining their position.

The court had earlier on June 26 suspended a notification of provincial government of

appointing chairman of BoG of MTI Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) Peshawar despite issuance of a stay order by the court.

The bench was hearing different contempt of court petitions filed by some former chairman and members of BoG of KTH and Ayub Teaching Hospital, who stated that the high court had issued clear order on June 13 to restrain government from taking any adverse action against them and also not to pass any final order on the matter regarding the expected removal of petitioners and appointment of new chairmen and members of BoG on the recommendation of search and selection committee.

However, they stated that after the order was issued, provincial government issued backdated notification purportedly of June 11 through which the petitioners were removed from the said post.

One of the contempt petition is filed by KTH BoG chairman Dr Umar Ayub Khan, requesting the court to initiate proceedings

against the officers, who had violated the said order.

Barrister Babar Shahid Imran, Rahmanshah Shah and Habib Awan appeared for the petitioners and stated that on June 13 the bench had in clear terms stopped the government from issuing any final order.

They said that the order of the court had been violated as a backdated notification of June 11 was issued whereby the petitioners were removed from the post of BoG chairman/member of KTH.

They stated that provincial government issued another notification on June 26 through which one Tahmeem Shah was appointed the chairman of the said BoG by the chief minister under section 5 of MTI Reform Act, 2015.

The lawyers contended that that one was also a backdated notification aimed at frustrating the order of the high court.

"By issuing the said notification, prima facie the order of this court dated 13.6.2024 has been violated and has thereby under-

mined the authority of this court," the bench had observed during previous hearing.

On Thursday, when the bench ordered that the chief secretary and the health secretary should appear in person, an additional advocate general pointed out that the said health secretary had been transferred. The bench directed that the transferred secretary should appear in the matter.

Justice Ijaz Awan observed that on June 13 the advocate general present in the court had informed the bench that so far no order adverse to the interest of the petitioners had been passed and the petition was premature. However, the judge observed the said notifications were subsequently made public.

The bench wondered how it could be possible that the advocate general was unaware of the said development, if the notifications were issued prior to the court order, and had not informed the bench about it.

It added that no development schemes involving the creation of posts or the purchase of vehicles, machinery, equipment, or furniture would be considered without prior clearance.

"All autonomous bodies, medical teaching institutions, other institutions, and authorities under the provincial government will adopt these austerity measures within their respective organisations with the approval of competent forums," it said in the order.

The finance department said the planning and development department would initiate district and sectoral plans spread over the next three years as part of the mid-term development framework for the purpose of improved planning and eliminating wasteful expenditure.

KP govt bans depts from creating posts, buying vehicles

Notifies austerity measures, budget guidelines for all depts

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa finance department has banned all departments from creating posts, purchasing vehicles, and building seminars and workshops in five-star hotels.

The ban is part of the austerity measures and budget guidelines notified by the finance department for the current fiscal year.

The measures approved by the provincial cabinet on May 24 have been circulated to all government departments, according to a document of the finance department.

It revealed that there would be a complete ban on the creation of posts but development projects would be an exception. However, the chief minister could relax the ban on the case-to-case basis in the case of emergency.

The finance department also said the purchase of vehicles would be banned with the exception of ambulances, earthmoving machinery, fire trucks, tractor trucks, buses, passenger vans, prisoners vans, motorcycles, bomber trucks, recovery and rescue vehicles, and rescue and lifesaving boats.

It also stopped all departments from participating in foreign workshops, seminars and training programmes involving the provincial government's funds.

Also, there will be a ban on holding seminars and workshops in five-star hotels involving provincial funds as well as on overseas treatment at the government's expense.

The document read that the cabinet also banned extra time in the contractual period of project employees unless it was justified by the relevant administrative department and decided in consultation with the finance department.

"All administrative secretaries and heads of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies, being principal accounting officers, shall conduct meetings of the departmental accounts committee regularly so as to ensure internal audit of their respective departments and organisations. Expenditure shall be restricted to the funds released and the administrative departments shall not incur expenditure in anticipation of additional or supplementary grants," it said.

The department said in order to improve efficiency in revenue collection, the provincial revenue review committee would meet regularly under the chairmanship of the finance minister to review the performance of all revenue collecting entities of the provincial government and to propose structural changes, performance indicators, legal reforms, and other recommendations in the procedures.

It added that contingent workers would be hired in 2024-25 only after the approval of the finance department.

"No appointments will be made to 'leave vacancies' without the finance department's prior approval, while there won't be any appointments to vacancies, except by promotion, without the issuance of the No Objection Certificate by the relevant surplus pool," it said.

The department said the principal accounting officers would ensure that no appointment is made in vacant posts of "lying" cadres and disciplinary proceedings were taken over such past appointments.

Notice of Pre-qualification for Bidding

FOR SPOT COAL PROCUREMENT FOR THE JAMMUW COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT, PORT QASIM, KARACHI

M/s Port Qasim Electric Power Company (Private) Limited (the "Purchaser") invites pre-qualification applications from coal supply companies registered in Pakistan, for spot coal procurement for the JAMMUW coal-fired power plant, Port Qasim, Karachi, Pakistan.

Minimum eligibility required:

- Minimum experience of 2 years in coal commodity trading.
- Never has been on the any of official blacklists.

1. Pre-qualification doesn't guarantee that a successful bidder will be awarded a contract anytime. The aim of this pre-qualification is to shortlist a pool of suppliers who will be invited to participate in the future bidding process for the next 3-6 months.

2. To obtain the pre-qualification document, an email must be sent to pppp@ppra.gov.pk.

3. The submission deadline is 5:00 PM on 11 July 2024. Contact Person: (1) Mr. Muhammad Bilal (2) Mr. Li Jinyan 0333-4602977 0375-1173111

CORRECTION#2

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR USE OF SOLAR ENERGY AND HYDROPOWER FROM PIPELINE IN THE OPERATION OF CONVEYANCE MAIN FROM MANGI DAM TO QUITTA

With reference to the above cited tender updated at BPPRA site vide TSE No. 150-23/04/06/0454, and Published in the daily newspapers vide AB No. 581/2024 dated 21-06-2024. Wharum: Date of opening which was fixed on 5th July 2024 has now been extended to be submit at 2.30 pm and opened 3.30pm on 12th July 2024 due to non uploading bids from Consultants, after repeated times, as well as continuous contact with BPPRA by the office but all in vain. Therefore, on the requisition of consultants/bidders the date of opening will be extended on 12-07-2024. All other terms and condition will remain same.

PROJECT DIRECTOR MANGI DAM PROJECT

AB No. 15/04-07-2024

"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

(GILGIT-BALTISTAN REGION)

TENDER NO. EM-GB-NHA-N-35-2023-24-11

INVITATION TO BIDS

01x EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE WORK ON KKH (N-35)

1. National Highway Authority (NHA) invites bids from the Contractors, registered with Income Tax Department and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue (where applicable) having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council for the following Maintenance Work:-

Sr. #	TENDER NO./ CONTRACT NO.	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATE (PKR)	PEC CATEGORY
1	EM-GB-NHA-N-35-2023-24-11	EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE WORK FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DAMAGED ROAD AT KM 502+800 & 527+800 ON KKH (N-35)	1,825,125/-	C-3 & Above with Specialization Codes (CE-01 & CE-10)

2. Bidding documents, containing method of procurement (Single Stage – Two Envelopes), detailed terms and conditions etc. will be available on the website mentioned below from **July 11, 2024** for downloading free of cost. Prospective bidders are also advised to follow the said website for updates of schedule and attendance(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 25, 2024 at 11:00 Hours**. Technical Bids will be opened on the same day at **11:30 Hours**.

4. This Advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk.

DIRECTOR (MAINTENANCE) GILGIT-BALTISTAN REGION

National Highway Authority

NHA Complex, Hall Chowk, Jafal Cantt, Gilgit

Phone: 03511-922315 & Email: gm.kkh.nha@gmail.com

Website: www.ebidding.nha.gov.pk

PEC (B) No. 83/24

FBR

Federal Board of Revenue

OPTIMAL UTILIZATION OF FBR PROPERTIES IN PPP MODE (LOCATED IN ISLAMABAD, KARACHI, AND LAHORE)

FBR hereby invites the Bidders, single entity or JV, who meet the Eligibility Criteria stipulated in the Bidding Data Sheet, to submit their Bids for the project(s) to construct the multi-story buildings on FBR land and carry out O&M of the project(s) in accordance with the terms of the RFP and the Concession Agreement. For more details of the projects, please refer to the Bidding Documents which will be issued by FBR on 18th July 2024.

The proposed implementation model for the Projects is Design, Build, Finance, Maintain, Operate & Transfer (DBFMO), wherein the private party will be responsible to (a) Construct the Project from its own resources; (b) Maintain and operate the Project for a pre-defined concession/ operations period on rental model basis, and; (c) Transfer it back to FBR at the end of the proposed concession period of 30 years.

The primary objective is to provide FBR officials' housing needs by commercially utilizing four (4) FBR properties located in Islamabad, Karachi & Lahore on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. This will optimize land usage while offering attractive returns to the investor.

The interested Bidders shall submit their bids in accordance with the requirements of the RFP by **September 4, 2024**. Bids shall be opened on the same date at 2.0 pm. Pre-bid meeting shall be held on **August 5, 2024** to obtain feedback of the bidders on the bidding documents. The projects' procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the PPRA, using single stage two envelope procedure.

A bidder can submit its proposal for any one of the four (4) projects or may submit proposals for multiple projects (up to all of the four properties).

The bidding documents shall be uploaded on the websites of FBR (<https://www.fbr.gov.pk/bidders>) and PPRA (<https://www.ppra.org.pk/b>) on 18th July 2024. However, interested bidders must submit an application on original letterhead along with a non-refundable tender processing fee of PKR 10,000 in cash. Original receipts of tender fee should be submitted along with the proposal otherwise same may be rejected. Bidders are required to provide Bid Security amounting to PKR 10 million for each project in the form of a Bank guarantee from the scheduled Bank as per State Bank of Pakistan requirements in favor of Chief Projects FBR Headquarter Islamabad.

CHIEF PROJECTS

FEDERAL BOARD OF REVENUE ISLAMABAD

ROOM NO. 713, 7th FLOOR, PHONE- 951 9209459

031 111 772 772

Gandapur orders provision of funds for Muharram security

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Aftab Khan Gandapur on Thursday ordered the release of the funds required for security measures during Muharram, saying maintaining law and order in the province is the top priority of his government.

Chairing a meeting here, the chief minister said that authorities should pay special attention to sensitive districts for footproof security measures in Muharram.

He also asked them to contact religious leaders of different sects and elected public representatives to promote religious harmony and tolerance, according to an official statement by the chief minister's secretary.

Mr Gandapur issued orders for the installation of tents on the routes of morning processions in view of the heat wave and said that officials should contact the Peshawar and tribal areas electric supply companies to ensure uninterrupted power supply to Muharram processions and majalis.

He ordered the introduction of an effective mechanism of coordination among the relevant departments and agencies at provincial, divisional and district levels.

Mr Gandapur urged religious leaders and people to play their proactive role in maintaining law and order and promoting sectarian harmony during Muharram.

He also examined the security plan and arrangements for Muharram during the meeting.

The participants included the provincial chief secretary, additional chief secretary home, police chief and administrative secretaries. The dis-

sional commissioners, regional police officers, deputy commissioners and district police officers attended the meeting via video link.

Officials briefed the meeting about Muharram's security plan and said that the morning processions and gatherings would be held in 14 districts with eight districts declared as the most sensitive and six sensitive in light of the law and order situation.

They also said that around 40,000 security personnel would be deployed across the province in Muharram, whereas special contingents of Frontier Corps and Pakistan Army would be engaged for protecting morning processions and majalis.

The officials said the meeting that a central control room with representatives of all relevant departments and law-enforcement agencies was being set up at the home department.

They also said that special arrangements would be made for the security of sensitive districts and places across the province.

The officials said that morning processions and majalis would be monitored through closed circuit television cameras, whereas a ban had been slapped on the display of arms, pillow riding, and harmful wall-chalking.

They said that special initiatives were proposed to constantly monitor social media pages to control harmful contents and negative propaganda during the month of Muharram.

The officials also said that mobile phone service would be suspended in sensitive districts, while staff of health and rescue departments would be assigned special duties with the purpose to effectively deal with any untoward situation.

Capital Development Authority

PLANNING WING, (Directorate of Regional Planning)

PUBLIC NOTICE

CONSTRUCTION OF ILLEGAL/UNAUTHORIZED BUILDINGS/ STRUCTURES/HOUSING SOCIETIES IN NORTH OF MARGALLAH AVENUE, ZONE-III, ISLAMABAD

It has come to the notice of this office that construction of illegal/unauthorized buildings/ Structures/Housing societies is being carried out in North of Margallah Avenue, Zone-III, Islamabad, in contravention of the relevant provisions of CDA Ordinance, 1988, the Pakistan Capital Regulations (MLR) 1982, Building Control Regulations-2020, Islamabad and provisions of Clause (c)(i) & (ii) Chapter IV of ICT Zoning Regulations 1992 read with section 49-C, 46-B & 46-C of CDA Ordinance 1980.

2. General Public accordingly, through this public notice, is **Conditioned and Warned** in their own interest to refrain from indulging in any sale/purchase activities in Zone-III, Islamabad.

3. The Sponsors, Sellers, Builders, Developers, Advertisers, Promoters, Estate Agents, etc. of illegal/unauthorized buildings/ Structures/Housing societies are also warned through this Public Notice to refrain from carrying out such illegal activities. The concerned Directorate of CDA are already engaged in taking action against illegal construction/ development in Zone-III, Islamabad.

DC CDA has been asked to initiate punitive action against the violators including sentence of imprisonment or fine or demolition of structures or all.

PEC (C) No. 100/24

(IAJAZ-UL-KASSAB)

Director Regional Planning, Phone: 951-9252407

PAKISTAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL

PEC GOVERNING BODY ELECTIONS (2024-27)

1. Under the provision of PEC Act, 1976 (amended upto 1st December 2016), and PEC Bye-laws, 1976 (amended upto 31st March 2016), Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) is conducting Elections for the office of Chairman, Senior Vice Chairman, Four (04) Vice Chairmen (Province based) and Forty (40) Members of Governing Body for the term 2024-27.

2. All Professional Engineers (PEs) and Registered Engineers (REs) possessing valid registration as on 30th June 2024, are eligible to participate in PEC Elections 2024. Engineers registered with PEC must check their eligibility for the Elections at <https://verification.pec.org.pk>, to ensure inclusion of their names in the Valid Voters List. In case of any correction/ update, an Engineer can submit "Public Correction" request at <https://portal.pec.org.pk/Legis> latest by 15th July 2024. For any other query, please email at info@pec.org.pk.

3. Nominations are invited from "Professional Engineers" accompanied by attested copy of domicile certificate, CNIC and affidavit by the Candidate contesting Elections for the office of Chairman and Senior Vice-Chairman, from any discipline, having twenty-five years standing on at Pakistan basis; Four (04) Vice-Chairmen from any discipline, having twenty-five years standing (one from each province); and Forty (40) Members with twenty years standing as per Table-I below.

4. Nomination papers complete in all respect must reach the "Registrar, Pakistan Engineering Council, Markazi Avenue (East), G-6/2, Islamabad" not later than 1700 hours on 18th July 2024. Nomination Papers received after due date and time for whatsoever reason(s) will not be accepted.

5. Allocation of seats to Provinces and Disciplines/Groups for Member Governing Body (40 seats) is given in Table-I below:

Sr.	DISCIPLINES/GROUPS	PUNJAB	SIINDH	BAJAWAN	BALUCHISTAN	TOTAL
1	Civil/Architectural/Geotechnical/Transport/ Environmental/ Ocean/Defence/Mineral/ Basic	3	3	2	1	
2	Mechanical	3				
3	Electrical/Electronics/Instrumentation/Telecommunication	1	2	1		
4	Water/Agricultural/Mining/Fisheries	3	1			
5	Chemical/Polymers/Food	2				40
6	Computer	1	2	1		
7	Biotechnology/Biochemicals	1				
8	Environmental/Egg Science	1	2			1
9	Chemical/Bio-Medical/Bioenergy	1	2	2		
	Total	18	12	6	3	

Table-I

6. Nomination Papers are available on PEC website <https://pec.org.pk/elections2024>. Before submitting Nomination Papers, the candidate, proposer and seconder must read PEC Bye-laws, 1976 (Part IV, Bye-laws-23-32) and instructions to the candidates/ proposer and seconder available at PEC website.

7. Schedule of PEC Governing Body Elections (2024-27) is given in Table-II below:

Sr.	ACTIVITY	DATE
1	Public Notice for Nominations	July 5, 2024
2	Nominations to be received (by 1700 hrs)	July 5-15, 2024
3	Sending of Nomination Papers by Election Committee	July 16-21, 2024
4	Intimation of Acceptance/ Rejection	July 22-24, 2024
5	Appeal against Rejection of Nomination Papers (by 1700 hrs.)	July 25, 2024
6	Withdrawal of Nomination Papers (by 1700 hrs.)	July 26, 2024 (Friday)
7	Decision on Appeal against Rejection of Nomination Papers (by 1700 hrs.)	July 27-27, 2024
8	Finalisation and Dissemination of Candidates List	July 28, 2024
9	Holding of Physical Balloting (0800 to 1700 hrs.)	August 10, 2024 (Sunday) (Polling Day)
10	Counting of votes at each polling station	
11	Results Declaration at PEC HQ, Islamabad	August 19-20, 2024
12	Public Notice for Result Declaration	August 21, 2024
13	Withdrawal from more than one office (by 1700 hrs.) if any	August 23-25, 2024
14	Installation of the Governing Body Members	August 30, 2024

Table-II

8. Physical Balloting shall be held at the designated polling stations (list will be shared on PEC website). All voters must bring their original CNIC and PEC Registration Card to polling day.

9. For further details, please visit PEC website: <https://www.pec.org.pk/Elections2024>

CONVENOR, ELECTION COMMITTEE

Pakistan Engineering Council

Markazi Avenue (East), G-6/2, Islamabad, Ph: 951-9215222, elections2024@pec.org.pk

PEC/01/09/24

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

Hurricane heads for Mexico after striking Jamaica

KINGSTON: Hurricane Beryl rumbled towards the Cayman Islands and Mexico on Thursday, after pummeling Jamaica with winds and rain that caused floods and widespread power outages and leaving a deadly trail of destruction in several smaller Caribbean islands.

Beryl has so far left at least 50 people dead but that number was widely expected to rise as communications are restored on islands devastated by flooding and powerful winds.

Beryl's eyewall skirted Jamaica's southern coast, pummeling communities as a powerful Category 4 storm on the five-step Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, as emergency workers evacuated people from flood-prone areas.

"It's terrible. Everything's gone. I'm in my house and scared," said Amy Wellington, a 54-year-old cashier who lives in Top Hill, a rural farming community in southern St. Elizabeth parish. "It's a disaster." Beryl moved away from Jamaica early on Thursday. At around 1200 GMT, the Category 3 hurricane was 50 miles from Grand Cayman and about 185 miles off Tehuam, Mexico, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

Beryl was carrying top winds of 130 mph (209 kph), and was expected to dump 4-6 inches (10-15 cm) of rain on the Cayman Islands, where life-threatening surf and rip currents were possible, the NHC said. A hurricane warning was in force for the Cayman Islands east coast of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula.

Mexico's tourist centres of Cancun and the wider Yucatan peninsula lie in Beryl's predicted path. Cancun's airport was thronged with tourists hoping to catch last flights out before the storm arrives. Workers filled bags with sand and boarded up doors and windows of businesses for protection.—Reuters

Oslo Pride shooter handed maximum sentence

OSLO: The gunman who killed two people at Oslo's 2022 Pride festival was handed decades behind bars on Thursday after the attack that the court said aimed to "instill fear in LGBTQ people".

Zanfir Matasov, who pledged allegiance to the militant Islamic State group, was found guilty of opening fire on June 25, 2022 outside two bars in central Oslo, including a famous gay club, just hours before the Pride Parade. Nine other people were wounded.

Norway handed the 45-year-old Norwegian of Iranian origin the maximum penalty of 20 years behind bars — with possible extensions — for committing an "aggravated

act of terror." "The attack undoubtedly targeted gay people," the Oslo court said in its verdict. "The goal was both to kill as many gay people as possible and to instill fear in LGBTQ people more broadly." The perpetrator was ordered to pay more than 100 million kroner (\$9.5 million) in damages to the plaintiffs.

Matasov, who was restrained by passersby after the shooting, has never revealed his motives. He has pleaded not guilty.

Psychiatric experts have been divided over his mental health, and thereby his legal responsibility, as the accused has previously been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia.—AFP



A WOMAN looks at a beach littered with trash at Bull Bay, Jamaica, in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.—AFP

Six Chinese nationals killed in DR Congo attack

Beijing says some citizens missing after the attack that also claims lives of two soldiers

BEIJING: Militia fighters attacked a Chinese-linked mining site in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday, killing six Chinese nationals and at least two Congolese soldiers, local officials said.

China condemned the attack, which took place in Djugu territory, in the gold-rich Ituri province. Djugu administrator Raphael Mapela said it was carried out by the CODECO (Cooperative for the Development of the Congo) militia. It is mainly made up of fighters from the Lendu ethnic group, which they claim to defend.

Six Chinese nationals and two Congolese soldiers guarding the site were killed, Mapela said. The Red Cross representative for Djugu, Diekane Ernest, said the CODECO fighters had come across the Chinese digging for gold.

"They entered their camp, killed six Chinese nationals and three sol-

diers. The victims were killed with bullets," he said, adding that the corpses were taken to the city of Beni.

A spokesperson for the army in the region confirmed the toll and added that a Congolese national and six militia fighters were killed.

Beijing condemns attack

In Beijing, the Chinese foreign ministry said an attack on a Chinese-funded private enterprise led to the death and disappearance of several Chinese citizens.

China is in close communication with DR Congo authorities in the search for those missing, ministry spokesman Mao Ning told a press briefing.

"We urge the DR Congo to pursue and punish the perpetrators in accordance with the law as soon as possible," Mao said, while calling for measures to boost up security and protection for Chinese citizens and enterprises there.

"Those already in high-risk areas should be evacuated as soon as possible," she said.

The name of the mine and the company were not immediately available.

In eastern Congo mining concessions, many private Chinese operators partner with local license

holders, sometimes providing funding and machinery to operate. They also bring in Chinese workers.

Wednesday's was the latest deadly militia attack in a region where the violence is linked to long-running competition for influence and rich mineral resources.

CODECO is one of a myriad of militias fighting over land and resources in east Congo. It has been accused in the past by the United Nations of attacks against other communities that could constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Attacks on mining sites and convoys are common in the DR Congo, as are conflicts over gold between Congolese residents and Chinese miners.

Some of the local sources attributed Wednesday's incident to a militia group, which claims to defend the interests of the Lendu tribe against the rival Hema tribe. "We have a first provisional toll of four Chinese killed and two FARDC (Congolese army) members wounded," he added.

Other local sources put the death toll at six Chinese nationals, along with three bodyguards, two Congolese soldiers and two civilians.—Agencies

Six arrested over India stampede disaster

NEW DELHI: Indian police said on Thursday they had arrested six people over a stampede at a Hindu religious event in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh this week in which 121 people were killed.

The incident occurred on Tuesday in the village of Phulsi Mughal Garhi in Hathras district where about 250,000 people had gathered to listen to preacher Saraj Pal Singh, also known as "Blade Baba".

Organisers of the event had obtained permission for a gathering of only 80,000 people, an initial police report said. Baba blamed the stampede on "anti-social elements", but did not elaborate.

The four men and two women arrested were aides to Baba who were involved in organising the event but had when the stampede broke out, police said. Aaked about Baba's role, a senior police officer said the preacher was not named in the case they had registered.

"If there is a need, we will question (him) ... It is too early to say whether he had a role," Uttar Pradesh police Inspector-General Shalabh Mathur said. A. P. Singh, Baba's lawyer, said he would also represent the six people who were arrested.

"Police are doing their job but the people they have arrested are people whose family members are victims of the stampede," Singh said. "Those who actually caused the stampede have run away." The stampede broke out on Tuesday afternoon when attendees were exiting the crowded ground by a highway where the event was held, police said.

Several people ran towards the preacher's vehicle but were stopped by his aides, leading to commotion during which some of them fell to the ground and were trampled, officials said. Others who tried to run to open fields to escape slipped on the uneven ground and fell in the path of the rest of the crowd.

Singh said Baba never asked anyone to touch his feet or gave anyone the dust touched by his feet, countering media reports that cited them as reasons for people running towards his vehicle.—Reuters

British teacher jailed for 'abusing' schoolboys

LONDON: A British teacher who had sex with two teenage students and had a baby with one of them was sentenced on Thursday to six and a half years in jail.

Rebecca Jaynes, 30, was on police bail for sexual activity with one victim, identified as Boy A, when she began having sex with the second, Boy B, by whom she became pregnant.

Rebecca Jaynes, a judge said she had been a "high achiever" who had thrown her career away and had her baby taken away from her through her own actions. Jaynes groomed the schoolboys from the age of 15, exchanging messages on social media before engaging in sexual activity, prosecutors told the court.

She was found guilty by

a jury of six counts of engaging in sexual activity with a child, including two while being in a position of trust. Neither of the boys can be identified by name.

Pending sentence at Manchester Crown Court in northwestern England, Judge Kate Corbett told the former teacher she had behaved with "intestinating arrogance".

"You were the person in control, the person who should have known better," she said.

"Instead, you abused that position of trust and exploited the privileged role for your own sexual gratification." In a statement to the court, Boy B said he had been "coerced and controlled, manipulated, sexually abused, and mentally abused" by Jaynes.—AFP

French far right hopeful of election triumph despite centre-left pacts

PARIS: The French far-right National Rally (RN) insisted on Thursday that it could still win an absolute majority in parliament, after the centre and the left made local pacts aimed at thwarting its rise to power.

Three days before the run-off stage of France's most critical legislative elections in recent history, a poll projected that the RN would fall short of total victory despite its success in the June 30 first round.

Tensions are growing as the clock ticks down to Sunday, with several physical assaults reported on candidates. Interior Minister Gerald

Darmann said 30,000 police officers would be deployed nationwide on voting day.

The outcome of the election will determine if postwar France elects its first far-right government or embarks on an era of potentially paralyzing coalition politics. The centrist forces of President Emmanuel Macron and a broad-left wing coalition have between them withdrawn more than 200 candidates from the runoff on Sunday, in a joint effort to ensure the far right is defeated.

"I think there is still the capacity to have an absolute majority, with the electorate turning out in a final effort

to get what they want," the RN's three-time presidential candidate Marine Le Pen told BFM television.

"I'll say turn out no vote as it's a really important moment to get a change in politics in all the areas that are making you suffer right now," she said. If the RN wins an absolute majority of 289 seats in the 577-member National Assembly, it would be able to form a government with Le Pen's 28-year-old protégé Jordan Bardella as prime minister. But she acknowledged that Macron's centrists and the New Popular Front (NFP) coalition had made her party's task tougher with their "operation"

to withdraw candidates to unite the anti-RN vote.

The move has sparked speculation that a right-centre-left coalition could emerge after the election to prevent the RN from taking power.

"No place in our society"

Le Pen alleged that Macron was decimating a "single party" comprising groups from the hard-left France Unlibérée (LFI) to the right-wing Republicans (LR), but excluding the RN.

Macron, however, made clear at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday that there was "no question" of the LFI

being part of any coalition, according to a participant. Le Pen, who is expected to make a fourth attempt to win the Elysee Palace in 2027, acknowledged that there had been problems with a handful of RN candidates, one of whom had to withdraw after a picture of her emerged wearing a Nazi-era Luftwaffe cap.

"There are statements that have been inadmissible and will involve sanctions and there are also statements that are just crazy," Le Pen said.

Four people, including three minors, were detained after government spokeswoman Prisca Thevenot

and her team were attacked while they were staking up campaign posters in Marolles outside Paris, prosecutors said.

Thevenot, who is of Mauritian origin, was not harmed but a colleague and a supporter were wounded and taken to hospital after the attack by around 20 people. "Violence and intimidations have no place in our society," Prime Minister Gabriel Attal wrote on X.

Of the 10,000 police to be deployed nationwide Sunday, 5,000 would be on duty in Paris so that the "far right does not create disorder", Darmann said.—AFP



SIMI VALLEY: Air support drops water on burning vegetation after a wildfire in California's Ventura county. A heatwave has sent temperatures soaring throughout the US state over the past fortnight.—AFP



JAKARTA: Participants fly their kites during the Jakarta International Kite Festival, on Thursday.—AFP

NEWSMAKERS



ASTRONOMER Agapio Efta uses a telescope in Troodos astronomical observatory in Agria village, Cyprus.—Reuters

'Spaceship' observatory allows stargazers a peek at final frontier

AGRIA: A new space observatory in Cyprus looks like it just straddled itself on the rim of a sci-fi movie and is ready for takeoff.

Perched high on the Troodos mountains in the centre of the island and with an unobstructed view of the skies, the 1.77 million euro (\$1.94 million) publicly funded Troodos Observatory was inaugurated in May. Paragoras hopes the project will encourage visitors to areas increasingly affected by urbanisation and broaden a depth of celestial knowledge.

Designed by sci-fi enthusiasts, architects and artists Elena, Nicos Demetriou and Cassandra Tsolakis, the similarity to a spaceship wasn't intentional but the nature of the project instinctively and perceptively lends to that impression, says Elena Tsolakis.

"Yes, from some angles the building

might look like a spaceship. Was that the intention? No, but that's what came out," said Elena Tsolakis. Blink and you could miss it.

Reflective cladding means that the angular structure overlooking the hamlet of Agria could be hiding in plain sight, merging seamlessly either with the terrain or the skies, depending on the angle of vision. "Part of our brief and our main objective was to create an iconic building for the area and we think that has been achieved," said Nicos Demetriou Tsolakis.

The observatory, part of the EU-backed Gnostars project to regenerate isolated rural areas in parts of Cyprus and Greece, is equipped with a 20-inch reflective telescope, the biggest on the island, under a rotating 5.6m wide dome and a solar telescope beneath a hydraulic roof.—Reuters



LUSHAN (Jiangxi province, China): The temple and pagoda along Lushan Island are partially submerged as water levels at a nearby lake are nearing historic highs following heavy rainfall in the region.—Reuters



NANTES (France): Artist Jean-Francois Fourtou poses beside his art piece, 'Hybridus family'. The work has been included selected for exhibition at an art festival, which begins on July 6.—AFP

Protesters clear pro-Palestine encampment at Toronto varsity

Structures dismantled after police urge activists to leave voluntarily to avoid action

By Qurat ul Ain Siddiqui

TORONTO: Protesters dismantled a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of Toronto (UofT) ahead of a time deadline on Wednesday following a court injunction obtained by the university, which mandated the clearance of the site.

Throughout the day, protesters dismantled their structures from the encampment as Toronto police urged them to leave voluntarily to avoid enforcement action.

The encampment, established on the university's St. George campus on May 2, was set up to protest against the ongoing conflict in Palestine and to call for the university to divest from companies profiting from Israel's offensive in Gaza, as well as to end partnerships with Israeli academic institutions that activists say are complicit in the conflict.

Addressing a news conference just before the deadline, encampment organizer and recent graduate Mohammad Yassin said that the decision to leave was made to avoid police violence.

"We refuse to give the Toronto Police Service any opportunity to brutalize us," Yassin said. "We are leaving on our own terms to protect our community from the violence the University of Toronto is clearly eager to unleash upon us."

Despite the end of the encampment, Yassin stated it was still a victory for the demonstrators. "Our encampment may be leaving this physical space, but our fight will continue in the hearts and minds of everyone who believes in human dignity and justice," he said.

Meanwhile, UofT President Meric Gertler expressed relief that the protesters had ended the encampment peacefully. "Members of our community continue to be free to exercise their right to free speech and lawful protest at the University of Toronto," Gertler said.

Moreover, a statement from the university said: "We support the right to peaceful protest, but it must be conducted in a manner that does not disrupt the university's primary functions or pose safety risks." The protest has sparked a broader conversation about the role of universities in political activism and their investments. While the encampment has been cleared, the protesters have vowed to continue their advocacy through other means, ensuring that their voices remain heard in the ongoing discourse on Palestine.

When asked if discussions with the university were ongoing, Yassin said negotiations had been stalled for some time. Protesters had sent a settlement offer to the court, but the university responded with a counter-offer that was less favourable than previous proposals, he added. "Let us be clear — the university will disclose its investments, divest from companies profiting from Palestinian suffering and deaths, and cut ties with academic institutions linked to the Israeli war machine."

UK voters concerned about Gaza, but worry more about inflation

Analyst says pro-Palestine independent candidates are targeting safe Labour constituencies

By Atika Rahman

LONDON: For the residents of East London, a microcosm of the UK's rich diversity, July 4 was a regular day. Although some were too busy to vote, many of those who voted managed to do so after dropping children to school, during a lunch break, or very early in the morning.

From Redbridge in Waltham Forest, Newham toarking and Dagenham, one sentiment was clear: a Labour government is coming. But despite the party's controversial policy on Gaza and many pro-Palestinian voices' strong criticism of Israel's relentless bombardment, voters are deeply concerned about their economic hardships.

Though prominent Muslim Labour leaders in the past year have publicly challenged party leader Keir Starmer on his Gaza policy, calling for a ceasefire and an end to arms sales to Israel, the rise of independent candidates with pro-Palestinian campaigns have attempted to lure disappointed Labour voters.

Still, despite expressing solidarity with the Palestinian cause, many British Pakistanis have similar concerns: how will they pay rising food and energy bills? Which party will lower taxes and give employees more spending power? Will NHS wait times improve under Labour?

Aysha Malik, a 34-year-old teacher, voiced a sentiment shared by many. "The cost of living is becoming unbearable. The next government has to address the skyrocketing food prices and provide relief on taxes."

For Imran Qureshi, a 45-year-old small business owner, the focus was equally clear. "Lower taxes and curbing inflation are critical for me. Of course the [Conservative] government's stance on Gaza and increasing Islamophobia worry me, but I am drowning under rising costs. I can barely make ends meet after paying rent."

The anecdotes highlight a community grappling with the everyday



REFORM UK Party leader Nigel Farage poses for a selfie with a woman in Clacton-on-Sea, on Thursday.—Reuters

challenges of rising costs and strained public services. Fatima A, a 26-year-old nurse, emphasized the urgency of addressing domestic concerns. "Everyday expenses are out of control. My current focus is on ensuring my children's daycare costs are manageable."

Last week, a video of a prominent imam, Syed Muhammad Hussain Shah, made the rounds on social media, in which he was seen endorsing a vote for Labour in Blackburn over a pro-Palestine independent. He said, "We are in the middle of a storm. We are working people. We have always been Labour and we are now. The independent candidate speaks well but he is alone."

It is hardly surprising that many British Pakistani voters are worried about month-on-month expenses as they vote. Several studies show how ethnic minorities, especially Pakistanis, have serious disadvantages when it comes to economic outcomes.

One study highlights the "unexplained disparity" between the median hourly pay of ethnic minority workers and White British workers. This disparity is higher for ethnic minorities born outside of the UK but is nonetheless significant for ethnic minorities born in the UK.

The same study found that Indian graduates have higher median earnings than White graduates, and that Pakistani graduates have the lowest out of all ethnic

groups analysed.

Post-pandemic studies also showed that ethnic minorities face high poverty rates in the UK, and that poverty rates were highest for people in households where the head of the household is from the Pakistani or Bangladeshi ethnic groups.

But even with these challenges, concern for Palestinians undergoing daily bombardment, starvation and denial of medical assistance resonates with both candidates and voters.

In June, former Labour candidate Faiza Shahzad was de-selected as Labour's candidate for the target seat of Chingford and Woodford Green and later resigned from the party over what she said was her "being silenced over Gaza".

Analyst Shabbir Khan in an opinion piece summed the predicament for pro-Palestinian voters who traditionally vote Labour up well.

"A number of independent candidates are standing on a Gaza platform targeting safe Labour constituencies. Seats in London, Birmingham, Luton and Bradford are all worth keeping an eye on as the results come in through the early hours of Friday morning."

Although the loss of a seat or two would mean very little to Labour if the polls are correct, it would serve as an interesting story about the state of the party's relationship with the Muslim community, and about how politically active British Muslims are.

US says Hamas made 'adjustment' over prisoner deal

WASHINGTON: Hamas made a "proportionate" adjustment in its position over a potential prisoner release deal with Israel, a senior US administration official said on Thursday, expressing hope that it would lead to a pact that would be a step to a permanent ceasefire.

"We've had a breakthrough," the official told reporters at a conference call, adding there were still outstanding issues related to implementation of the agreement and that a deal was not expected to be closed in a period of days.

(Israel) Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told US President Joe Biden on Thursday he has decided to send a delegation to resume stalled negotiations on a prisoner release deal with Hamas.

The US official said Biden was encouraged that Netanyahu was authorizing his team to join the talks.

"We do believe there is a pretty significant opening here, and we welcome the prime minister's readiness to try to bring that opening by empowering his negotiating team to engage directly," he said. (Doha) hours over the coming days, the official said.—Reuters

Pakistan seeks

Continued from Page 1

to be used for political point-scoring," he said.

Gaza appeal

He also urged the SCO member states to put in their collective efforts against terrorism, poverty alleviation and dispute resolution, particularly the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Palestine.

PM Shehbaz said that Israel was involved in the genocide of Palestinians and demanded accountability for Israeli forces' actions.

The International Court of Justice, he said, had also declared Israel's actions as genocide of the Palestinians. "Israel is wreaking havoc in Gaza and committing war crimes," the prime minister said, adding that the international community should speed up its efforts for an immediate ceasefire and access to humanitarian aid in Gaza.

"Pakistan is in favour of a two-state solution to the Palestinian issue on the lines of pre-1967 borders with the establishment of a Palestinian state with Al-Quds as its capital," he added.

"Effective transregional organisation"

Addressing the SCO summit, the PM said that over the past 23 years, SCO had established itself as a credible and effective transregional organisation. "It reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to working together to strengthen SCO as an active and integrated regional forum to achieve the common objective of peace and prosperity in line with the Shanghai spirit," he added.

The prime minister said that Astana held significance for Pakistan where the country had formally joined the SCO in 2017 and congratulated Belarus for being the newest member. He also felicitated Chinese President Xi Jinping on assuming the SCO chairmanship for 2024-25 and expressed confidence that under his leadership, the SCO would continue to grow and prosper. He told the international meet that Pakistan aligned itself with the economic and security objectives of the SCO.

"SCO leaders have repeatedly underscored the importance of investing in connectivity in the SCO region through transport corridors and reliable supply chains... Promoting the use of national currencies within the SCO can help avoid international financial shock. Pakistan supports the proposal of an SCO alternate development fund mechanism to give impetus to various small initiatives," he remarked.

Highlighting Pakistan's ideal geostrategic location, the premier said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) also supplemented the SCO's vision of regional connectivity and economic integration.

PM Shehbaz, while calling effective multilateralism a key to addressing regional and global challenges, reiterated Pakistan's commitment to just and peaceful resolution of outstanding and ongoing disputes, opposing unilateral and illegal use of threats or force, and combating terrorism.

Multi-party conference?

As the PM landed back in Pakistan on Thursday evening, media reports suggested that he had decided to convene a multi-party conference (MPC) to take political stakeholders into confidence over Aam-i-Jamhoori, the government's new counterterrorism 'vision'.

However, a member of the federal cabinet was part of the PM's entourage told Dawn that this was merely a rumour, and no such decision had been taken as yet.

Putin and Xi advance anti-West alliance at SCO summit

ASTANA: The leaders of China and Russia on Thursday urged their allies and partners to resist major external influences, advancing their shared anti-Western agenda at a regional summit in Central Asia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping were in the Kazakh capital of Astana for a gathering of leaders from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a regional bloc that Moscow and Beijing see as a counterweight to US "hegemony" on the world stage.

Xi called on the countries to "resist external interference" while Putin claimed "new centres" of political and economic might were on the rise.

"We should join hands to resist external interference, firmly support each other, take care of each other's concerns, and firmly control the future and destiny of our countries and regional peace and development in our own hands," Xi told the summit.

"It is of vital importance to the world that the SCO be on the right side of history and on the side of fairness and justice," he added.

In a joint declaration, published by the Kremlin, the group noted "tectonic shifts in global politics" and called for the bloc to play an enhanced role in global and regional security.

"The use of force is increasing, the norms of international law are systematically being violated, geopolitical confrontation and conflicts are growing, and risks to stability in the world and the SCO region are multiplying," it stated.

It did not refer to Russia's invasion of Ukraine or China's dispute with Taiwan but said the group had "mutual respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states".

Both Russia and China regularly rail against what they say is the US dominance of global affairs and are seeking to boost their influence and control, particularly in regions close to their borders.

"The multipolar world has become a reality," Xi said in remarks at the summit.

He also lauded the accession of Russia's close ally Belarus to the bloc, becoming its tenth member.

"The circle of states that stand for a just world order and are ready to resolutely defend their legitimate rights and protect traditional values is expanding," Putin said.

"New centres of power and economic growth are strengthening," he added.

Putin said Russia would not declare a ceasefire in Ukraine until Kyiv takes steps that are "irreversible" and acceptable to Moscow.

He also said Russia considers Afghanistan's Taliban movement an ally in the fight against terrorism.

Despite the trade for influence, at the summit on Thursday, the SCO's common anti-Western agenda was on clear display.—Agencies

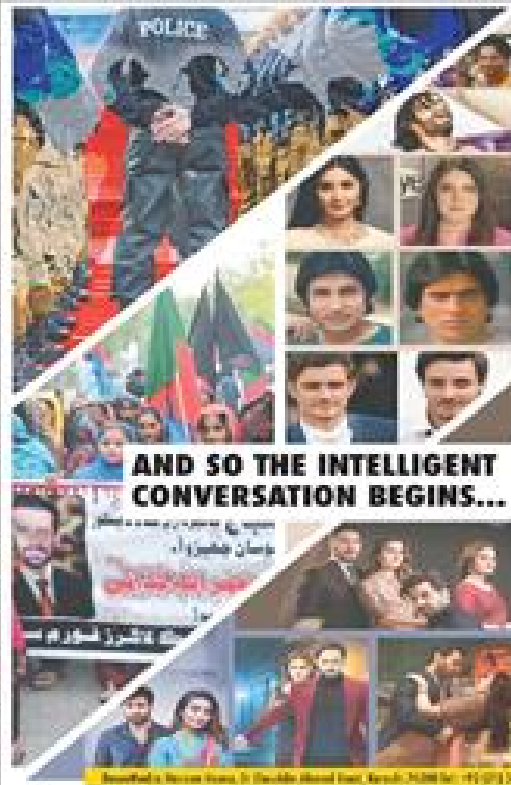
Russia says missiles could be deployed in Cuba

MOSCOW: A Russian lawmaker said on Thursday that the Russian deployment of missiles on Cuba was one option being looked at in response to what he said was a US escalation over Ukraine and an accelerating arms race among major nuclear powers.

President Vladimir Putin said last week that Russia should resume production of intermediate and shorter range nuclear-capable missiles and then consider where to deploy them after the United States brought similar missiles to Europe and Asia.

Sergei Mironov, the leader of the "Just Russia-Patriots - For Truth" party in the lower house of the Russian parliament, said that Washington had embarked on an arms race that could lead to "devastating consequences" for the United States.

"The possible use of a base in Cuba, which was recently visited by Russian ships carrying hypersonic weapons abroad, is just one of many options," Mironov said.—Reuters



THIS SUNDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS: EOS

PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIETY, CULTURE, IDEAS

COVER: THE PROBLEM WITH PAKISTAN'S POLICE

The people of Pakistan generally have either been used by the police and the police's high-handedness in dealing with the public is regular fodder for stories in the media. But is the issue only the politicisation of the force and political interference, or many high-ranking police officers will have you believe? A serving police officer offers a different perspective, focusing on the root of the problem.

MEDIA: TARGETING THE JOURNALISTS

This has been the deadliest year for Pakistani media in a decade, with more journalists murdered in the first six months. But what is the likelihood of victims' families receiving justice?

SOCIETY: THE CASE FOR MANDATORY SERVICE

Can mandatory community service for the youth help Pakistan combat its many local and social ills?

BOOKS/ARTS: Sindh's Resilient Author

Robina Dawar's depiction of resilience: the fight for life in Pakistan, and Dr Farooq Azmi's book 'Munir: A South Asian Story' — Bookish Pakistan by Ghazala Ghazal; ALSO: Crime Questions on Jinnah Chughtai's debut

PLUS: Roshan T. Paracha on The Will of the People, Durrain Kazi on Chagay, The Different Mindsets of India and Pakistan, Tahir, Sara Agorwal's 'Sanskrit' on Chughtai's Art, Malika Dawar's 'Roughness' on the film, Dr. Waqar Ali Shahid's 'Sovereignty', Justice Agni and Ujala Chag

ICON

INSIGHT INTO ENTERTAINMENT, PERFORMING ARTS, STYLE, CELEBRITY

PRIME TIME: ROMANCING THE BRAIN

Does reality have really made the world of Pakistani TV drama go round? Industry veterans weigh in on what they think it is about reality have on screen that makes dramas more popular with audiences.

FLASHBACK: LOOKS JUST LIKE...

We need to be flustered by Bollywood on Hollywood stars and, over the years, Pakistani media has picked quite a few actors as their counterparts.

PLUS: Review of Jinnah Ali's 'Super Woman', Shabana Azmi's 'Jinnah' and 'Jinnah', Shabana Azmi's 'Jinnah' at 30, Why This Friday's 'Jinnah' Matters to the US, The Grooming, The Take and Specify's Top Pakistani Music

DAWN

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (FE&PT)

SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited for vacant post of Chairman in the Federal Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education. Information on following terms and conditions for a period of 03 years extendable for a 2nd year not exceeding 03 years as per following eligibility criteria:

Sr #	Name of Post with BPS	No. Posts & Quota	Age Limit	Eligibility Criteria
01	Chairman (BPS-23)	01 Post (Male)	For Private Candidates: 45 years plus 03 years general age relaxation (to upper age limit) For Govt. Servants: As per Rules	1. 10 Years Formal Education / 4 Years Bachelor Degree or Equivalent in Educational Sciences (Pedagogical, Educational, Public Administration) / Public Policy from a university / institution established by the HEC, and 2. 17 years work qualification relevant work experience in public or private sector out of which at least 03 years should be in senior management position.

Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible candidates should submit their applications in the prescribed form along with attested copies of documents.
- Submission of original documents shall be mandatory at the time of interview.
- Applicants already in Government services should apply through proper channel and produce NOC at the time of interview.
- Candidates from the Govt. Sector if selected, would be taken on deputation/ transfer basis while Private Sector candidates, if selected, would be taken on contract basis.
- Preference shall be given to those who have previous experience in education examination/ assessment bodies.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in test / interview.
- Application must reach the undersigned within 15-days of publication of the advertisement through courier/ LMS / Registered Post.
- Application received after due date or incomplete applications will not be entertained.

APPLICATION FORM

Post Applied For: _____

Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Years: _____
Month: _____
Days: _____

Computerized CNIC No: _____

Qualification: _____

Experience: _____

Gender: _____
Marital Status: _____
Religion: _____

Disability (Yes/No): _____ Armed Forces: _____

Already Govt. Servant: _____

Postal Address: _____

Mobile No: _____
E-mail Address: _____

(Khaizur Khan)

Secretary

Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training

Room # 2432, 2nd Floor, Block D

P.O. Sec-1, Islamabad 051-9222345

Despite denials, Biden being pushed towards 'historic exit'

President to face scrutiny in coming days, Democrats 'leave door open' for Kamala Harris

Monitoring Desk / Agencies

WASHINGTON: As President Joe Biden resists pressure to abandon his re-election campaign after a poor showing in his debate with Donald Trump, he will face close scrutiny in public events in coming days that could determine his political future.

With calls growing from some of his own Democrats to step aside, and support coalescing around the idea of Vice President Kamala Harris taking his place in the November election, Biden's allies believe he can demonstrate stamina and mental acuity to voters and donors.

Biden will host families at the annual July 4 Independence Day festivities at the White House on Thursday, and he is interviewed on ABC News on Friday.

Dozens of House Democrats are watching closely, prepared to ask Biden to step aside if he falters in the ABC interview.

In an interview on "The Earl Ingram Show" radio programme, Biden said he would fight on. "I screwed up, I made a mistake. That's 90 minutes on stage. Look what I've done for the last three and a half years," he said.

The president also met a group of Democratic governors on Wednesday at the White House to make his case. Some told reporters afterward they were sticking by him.

Biden is 81 and would be 86 when his second term ends. He is being asked by some former supporters to step aside to preserve his legacy and lessen the chances of a second Trump presidency. With just four months to go

before the election, a decision needs to be made soon, they say. Democrats, including top allies, have left the door open to having Harris at the top of the Democratic ticket.

Amur Iqbal adds from Washington: Even The New York Times reported this week that Biden might step down if he did not perform well in his upcoming public engagements.

Although the White House has clarified that Biden is not quitting, NYT has not retracted its report, which has since been highlighted by other US media outlets.

An aggregate of national opinion polls conducted this week shows that 45 per cent of Democratic voters want Biden out to run.

New polls by NYT and the Wall Street Journal show Trump leading Biden. The New York Times and Siena College polls show Trump building a 5-percentage-point lead — 49pc to 43pc.

A CNN poll shows that three-quarters of US voters believe the Democrats would have a better shot at holding the presidency in 2024 with someone other than Biden at the top of the ticket.

Second president in history
If Joe Biden were to step aside, he would become only the second elected president in US history to be denied re-nomination by his party.

The first was Franklin Pierce in 1856, who lost Democratic support due to his endorsement of a pro-slavery act, leading to the nomination of James Buchanan instead.

Lyndon B. Johnson, in 1968, also chose not to seek a second term, becoming the only president in living memory to do so.

L.B.J. (as he was popularly known) was elected vice president in 1960 on the ticket with John F. Kennedy, and succeeded him in the presidency following Kennedy's assassination in 1963.

Rivals face off in Iran presidential run-off today

TEHRAN: In a bustling Tehran prayer hall, ultrasonic Saeed Jalili has rallied fervent supporters ahead of Friday's run-off presidential vote, while his reformist rival Masoud Pezeshkian stirred up a crowd in a nearby stadium.

The two candidates held their final campaign rallies here Wednesday, after leading the first-round vote in snap elections to succeed president Ebrahim Raisi who died in a May helicopter crash.

Chairs of "All Iran" says Jalili" echoed at thousands of supporters of the hardline former nuclear negotiator gathered at the Grand Mosalla mosque in central Tehran, baying with excitement.

Jalili promised "strength and progress" if elected, as posters of the late ultrasonic Raisi adorned the walls, bearing the slogan "A



A WOMAN stands in front of a wall with posters of presidential candidate Saeed Jalili on a street in Tehran.—Reuters

world of opportunities, Iran looks forward."

At the prayer hall, women draped in black chadors sat in a designated section, separated from the men. But all burst into rapturous applause

as Jalili made his entrance. "We are at a historical moment," he told the cheering crowd, urging voters to head to the polls on Friday.

Only 40 per cent of Iran's 61 million eligible voters turned up at the polls last week — representing the

lowest turnout in any presidential election since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

A 35-year-old housewife who declined to give her name said he "is honest and will follow Raisi's path".

Jalili, known for his uncompromising anti-West stance, has staunchly opposed moves to restore a landmark 2015 deal with world powers which imposed curbs on Iran's nuclear activity in return for sanctions relief.

He has argued that the deal, which collapsed in 2018 when the United States withdrew from it, had violated all of Iran's "red lines" by allowing inspections of nuclear sites.

Pezeshkian, who has called for "constructive relations" with Western governments and Iran's "isolation", has won endorsements from the moderate Roshani and from

reformist figures including ex-president Khatami.

"We can manage our country with unity and cohesion," Pezeshkian told his cheering supporters.

"I will resolve internal disputes to the best of my ability," he said.

Pezeshkian, who has vowed to "fully" oppose police patrols enforcing the mandatory headscarf and called to ease long-standing internet restrictions, was speaking before a crowd of women in colourful hijabs, mingled with others, draped in traditional black chadors, alongside men.

The high issue has become particularly contentious following mass protests following the 2022 death in custody of Mahsa Amini, detained for an alleged breach of the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women.—AFP

UK's Labour hopes for historic sweep

Election results expected to trickle in overnight; full picture to become clear today

LONDON: Britain voted Thursday in a general election that polls predict will hand the opposition Labour party a landslide win and end nearly a decade and a half of Conservative rule.

The first national ballot since Boris Johnson won the Tories a decisive victory in

2019 follows Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's surprise call to hold an election six months earlier than required.

His gamble looks set to backfire spectacularly, with polls throughout the six-week campaign — and for the last two years — pointing to a heavy defeat for his right-wing party.

That would almost certainly put Labour leader Keir Starmer, 51, in Downing Street, as leader of the largest party in parliament.

But Starmer was taking nothing for granted as he urged voters not to stay at home. "Britain's future is on the ballot," he said. "But

change will only happen if you vote for it."

Voting began at 7:00 am (0400 GMT) in more than 40,000 polling stations across the country, from church halls, community centres and schools to more unusual venues such as pubs and even a ship.

Sunak was among the early birds, casting his ballot at his Richmond and Northallerton constituency in Yorkshire, northern England.

Starmer voted around two hours later in his north London seat, shortly before Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey.

Many voters told AFP they were disillusioned, but still planned to exercise their democratic right to vote.

Voting closed at 10pm GMT. Broadcasters then announced exit polls, which typically provide an accurate picture of how the main parties have performed.

Results from the UK's 650 constituencies trickle in overnight, with the winning party expected to hit 326 seats — the threshold for a parliamentary majority — as dawn breaks Friday.

Polls suggest voters will punish the Tories after 14

years of often chaotic rule and could want a string of government ministers, with talk that even Sunak's seat might not be safe.

That would make him the first sitting prime minister not to retain his seat in a general election.

"I appreciate people have frustrations with our party," he conceded on Wednesday. "But tomorrow's vote, is a vote about the future."

In fresh moves, The Sun newspaper switched allegiance to Labour, a key endorsement given the tabloid has backed the winner at every election for several decades.

In addition, The Financial Times, The Economist and The Sunday Times as well as traditionally left-leaning papers The Guardian and The Daily Mirror, also endorsing the party.

Meanwhile, three large-scale surveys indicated Labour was on the brink of a record victory, with the Tories set for their worst-ever result and the current Liberal Democrat partner in third.

Yeti, Pezeshkian and More in Common all projected Labour would secure at least 400 seats.—AFP

India, China agree to work on border issues

NEW DELHI: Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Thursday in Kazakhstan, where the two agreed to step up talks to resolve issues along their border, New Delhi said in a statement.

India and China share a long Himalayan border, much of it poorly demarcated, and bilateral ties have been sour since a military standoff in July 2020 when at least 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops were killed.

India said Jaishankar met Wang on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Astana where they agreed that "prolongation of the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side".

The two agreed to enhance meetings between their diplomatic and military officials "to resolve the remaining issues at the earliest," the Indian foreign ministry said in a statement.

China and India should properly handle their differences and ensure relations advance on a stable track, a Chinese foreign ministry statement quoted Wang as saying during the talks. "We must maintain a positive mindset, properly handle and control the situation in the border areas on the one hand, and actively resume normal exchanges on the other hand," Wang said.

He (Jaishankar) reaffirmed the importance of fully abiding by relevant bilateral agreements, protocols, and understandings reached between the two governments in the past," New Delhi's statement said.—Reuters

Hezbollah rains 200 rockets on Israeli military sites

• Sonic booms rattle Beirut, other parts of Lebanon • Five killed in Israeli strike at a Gaza City school

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah launched a big rocket and drone attack at Israel on Thursday and threatened to hit new targets in retaliation for the killing of a top commander, in the latest surge of violence in the steadily worsening conflict across the border.

Sparked by the Gaza war, the conflict between Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel has been gradually intensifying for months, raising fears of a full-scale war, which both sides have indicated they want to avoid and diplomats are working to prevent.

At the latest violence played

out in areas at or near the frontier — in keeping with the pattern of the last nine months — the sound of sonic booms rattled nerves for the second successive day in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon.

Israeli jets broke the sound barrier over several areas of the country, Lebanon's National News Agency reported.

Hezbollah said it launched more than 200 rockets and a swarm of drones at 10 Israeli military sites in retaliation for Israel's killing of Hezbollah commander Mohammed Nasser in the south on Wednesday. Nasser is one of the most senior Hezbollah

commanders, to be killed by Israel during the conflict.

The Israeli military said around "200 projectiles and over 20 suspicious aerial targets were identified crossing from Lebanon into Israeli territory", a number of which were intercepted by Israeli air defenses and fighter jets.

Senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine, speaking at an event in Beirut commemorating Nasser, indicated his group would widen its targeting. "The series of responses continues in succession, and this series will continue to target new sites that the enemy did not imagine would be hit,"

Safieddine said.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Wednesday Israeli forces were hitting Hezbollah "very hard every day" and will be ready to take any action necessary against the group, though the preference is to reach a negotiated arrangement.

Gaza war rages

The Gaza war at the heart of the tensions has meanwhile raged on, and gun battles, air strikes and shelling rocked Gaza City for an eight day on Thursday.

Israeli troops "destroyed tunnel routes in the area and

eliminated dozens of fighters in close-quarters combat with tank fire, and in aerial strikes," the military said.

Gaza's civil defence agency said at least five people were killed in a strike that hit a Gaza City school.

Diplomatic push

The United States has been leading diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the fighting. Hezbollah has said it will not cease fire as long as Israel continues its offensive in the Gaza Strip.

The hostilities have inflicted a heavy toll on both sides of the frontier, forcing tens of thou-

sands of people to flee their homes.

Anton Hoshstein, a senior US official at the heart of the diplomacy, discussed French and American efforts to restore calm in meetings with French officials on Wednesday, a White House official said.

"France and the United States share the goal of resolving the current conflict across the Blue Line by diplomatic means, allowing Israeli and Lebanese civilians to return home with long-term assurances of safety and security," the official said, referring to the demarcation line between the two neighbours.—Agencies

Secure the Future with Safe Investment and Guaranteed Profit

FGEHA

OPEN AUCTION

3 Mixed Use (Commercial) Plots

Sector G-13, Islamabad

August 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Venue: AURA GRANDE EVENT COMPLEX E-11, ISLAMABAD

Location Suitable For

- Multi Use Business
- Residential Flats
- Shopping Centre
- Corporate Offices & Banks

Ideal Location

- Main Srinagar Highway
- Adjacent to Metro Stations, GT Road & N-5
- 8 minute drive from Motorway M-1 and M-2
- 12 minute distance from new Islamabad International Airport

Affordable Price

Modern Facilities

10 Percent Rebate on Advance LUMP-SUM PAYMENT

Brochure Price Rs. 10,000

Brochure will be available from **MONDAY 08-07-2024 (FGEHA Office)**

Brochures containing detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from our Office: FGEHA, RTN: 22802048

Federal Government Employees Housing Authority

Ministry of Housing & Works, Government of Pakistan

18 Maave Area G-10/4 Islamabad

051-9106042

www.fgeha.gov.pk

Full, General Public & Overseas Pakistanis or their authorized attorneys are eligible to participate in the open auction.

Delivered to the site at every step

Scan the QR Code

<https://auction.fgeha.gov.pk/>

FID01108-D24

SPORT

1,578-run county match ends in tie

LONDON: Gloucestershire and Glamorgan battled themselves to a standstill in a staggering 1,578-run County Championship Division Two match on Wednesday, with the game ending in the most improbable way of all — a tie — after Glamorgan nearly completed a world-record setting run chase.

Gloucestershire had posted scores of 179 and a thumping 610.5 declared, with James Bracey scoring an unbeaten 204 and Cameron Bancroft adding 184.

In response, Glamorgan scored 197 in their first innings and then came within a run of breaking a world record in their second innings chase, racking up 592, including huge contributions from Sam Northeast (187) and Marcus Trescothick (117).

The runfest came down to the final over with Glamorgan needing just two to win. Gloucestershire bowler Naveen Singh Dale kept it tight, however, conceding only a single run — putting the two sides on exactly the same total — before taking Glamorgan's final wicket with his last ball.

"The boys are pretty down after getting so close, but what an extraordinary game of cricket, it's special to be a part of it and a good advert for the county championships," Glamorgan captain Sam Northeast told BBC. "We'd gone so far trying to chase it down that we had to go for it nine wickets down — and it was nearly an incredible win."

Gloucestershire's near miss means West Zone's 541-7 in India's domestic league in 2019 officially remains the highest winning run chase in first-class cricket history.—AFP

Pakistan into Asian team snooker semis

RIYADH: Pakistan's snooker duo, Asjad Iqbal and Asimullah Munir, produced a sensational performance to defeat India 3-0 in the quarter-finals of the ACBS Asian 15-Rod Team Snooker Championship on Thursday.

The Pakistani pair dominated the match from the start, winning the first frame 61-15 against Indian cousins Naveen Kumar and Hussain Khan. Asjad and Asimullah, 30, continued their impressive form, taking the second frame 75-22. The Indian team struggled to find their footing, and Pakistan sealed the victory with a convincing 70-06 win in the third frame.

With this win, Pakistan has stormed into the semi-finals, where they will face Hong Kong. By reaching the last-four stage Pakistan have secured at least the bronze medal in the team championship.

In the Asian team championship, 18 teams have been divided into six groups.—Agencies



TEAM Jayco AlUla's team's Dutch rider Dylán Groenewegen (N) sprints to the finish line to win the sixth stage of the Tour de France, a 163.5km distance between Macon and Dijon, on Thursday.—AFP

Groenewegen sprints to Tour de France sixth stage win

DIJON: Dutch sprinter Dylán Groenewegen won stage six of the Tour de France on Thursday after an eye-catching run through Burgundy ended in a mass dash for the finish line in Dijon.

Overnight leader Tadej Pogacar retained the yellow jersey by 41sec from Belgian Remco Evenepoel while defending champion Jonas Vingegaard is third.

Rounding out the top five are Spaniard Juan Ayuso and Pogacar's Slovenian compatriot Primož Roglič.

Jasper Philipsen was second in Dijon after being well set up by Mathieu van der Poel while green sprinters' jersey wearer Elia Viviani was third.

The two previous sprints on

the Tour were record breakers with the 29-year-old Mark Cavendish winning his 35th career stage on the Grand Besançon on Wednesday.

On stage three Eritrean Geremey became the first black African to win a stage on the race.

In 2020, Groenewegen, 31, was banned for nine months for his role in a near-fatal crash that sent Fabio Jakobsen over a safety barrier and into a metal post at the Tour of Poland.

Jayco-AlUla's Groenewegen claimed his sixth Tour victory less than three weeks after winning the Dutch national road race title.

"The feeling is so amazing. The team worked so hard yesterday and I was a bit disappointed

in myself," Groenewegen said.

"In the final kilometres we stayed calm and I went in the right moment, I was fighting for my position. I love these sprints next to each other."

The sprint field is really strong. I'm so proud of what we did today and hopefully we can do it again," added Groenewegen, who won his first Tour stage since 2021.

Intermittent showers with temperatures of around 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit) spared the extreme heat of the opening days but Vingegaard's team Visma frequently upped the tempo when the roads narrowed, causing stressful gaps in the peloton.

There was also a single hill on the 163km route, just outside of Macon, in a category four climb taken by poles d'or climber's jersey wearer Jonas Abrahamsen.

Friday's seventh stage is a 216km individual time trial from Nuits-Saint-Georges to Gevrey-Chambertin through open countryside and vineyards just to the south of Dijon.

"Tomorrow is a crucial day for the GC (general classification) guys. I cannot wait to test my legs and see how it goes," said Pogacar.

Although these 25.3km are raced on largely flat terrain the nature of the exercise guarantees a shake up of the overall standings.

Evenepoel is the reigning time-trial world champion and could put pressure on Pogacar's lead.—Agencies

Neeraj Chopra: Indian farmer's son who made Olympic history

NEW DELHI: Neeraj Chopra returned home to India a national hero after winning Olympic javelin gold in 2021 but the farmer's son has never forgotten his humble roots.

The 26-year-old will defend his title in Paris, having made history in Tokyo three years ago with India's first Olympic track and field gold ever.

In a nation that usually only holds cricket players as heroes, boys and girls in rural India were seen hurling wooden sticks as javelins in the aftermath.

Chopra then added the world title to his Olympic feat, and he is also a two-time Asian Games champion and a Commonwealth Games gold medalist.

"Every moment you train is an opportunity to surpass the greatest you've been," he wrote this year on social media, detailing his grueling preparation schedule for the Paris Games, which start on July 26.

"There is a saying that throwers have no finish line. The best thing is that we have one javelin. We can always push ourselves," Chopra said after winning world championship gold in 2023. "I may have won a lot of medals but the motivation is to throw further and further."

"I am hungry for more."

Chopra's personal best is 89.94m, made in 2022, but he has been eyeing a throw of over 90m.

He may need that if he is to retain his Olympic title. Of his rivals, Germany's Max Heuberth threw 90.20m in February.

The world record remains the massive 98.48m by legendary Czech athlete Jan Zelezny in 1996.

Much is expected of Chopra's back home.

After his 2021 gold he was soon swamped with million-dollar endorsements and a rush of TV advertisements looking to bank in on his success.

India's only previous medals in Olympic track and field were before independence — two silvers won by Norman Pritchard in the 200 metres and the 200-metre hurdles at Paris in 1900.

But the village boy has remained modest, say people who know him well.

"Being an Olympic champion has not got into his head," Chopra's biographer Norris Pritam told AFP. "He is one superior from the sports world in India who is down to earth, he is a man of the people."

'SUPER, SUPERSTAR'

Chopra played cricket and volleyball in his previous years before he took to javelin. His father and uncle bought him his first steel javelin.

"He started javelin because he thought it flew like a plane," Pritam said, adding that he was at heart unchanged from that boy hurling his javelin across the farming fields at home.

"He hails from a modest village family where he did not have access to luxury cars," he said. "Now he has cars and a luxury house, but that modesty is ingrained in his blood," Pritam added.

"He is already a superstar, but if he wins again he will be a super, superstar — and he knows it. That's why he keeps training."

Chopra built on his breakout success in Tokyo by winning world championship gold.

He began this year with a second-placed finish at the Doha Diamond League after a throw of 88.34m, just two centimetres behind winner Jakob Vadlejch.

The Czech athlete took silver behind Chopra in Tokyo and will be one of his main rivals once more in the French capital.

Most recently Chopra triumphed at a meeting in Turku, Finland, where Vadlejch did not compete. Heuberth and his fellow German Julian Weber, and Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan, are also strong contenders in Paris.—AFP

More Saudi football clubs to go private: ministry

RIYADH: Four more Saudi Pro League football clubs are up for privatisation, the sports ministry said, after last year's sale of four top teams sparked a billion-dollar spending spree on foreign stars.

Al Okhlood, Al Oudaba and Al Khudair are available for privatisation in August, plus another three clubs from the second and third tiers, a statement said late on Wednesday.

Pro League outfit Al Riyadh and seven lower-division clubs will follow "at a later stage", the ministry said, for a total of 14 teams going private.

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), the top oil exporter's sovereign wealth vehicle, took a majority stake in Al Hilal, Al Nassr, Al Ahli and Al Ittihad last year.

The four Pro League clubs have signed superstars including Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and Neymar on eye-watering contracts.

Saudi clubs, led by the four owned by PIF, spent \$557 million in last year's summer transfer window, second only to the English Premier League.

However, it resulted in a big red ink season highlighted by Al Hilal's top-flight world record of 34 straight wins in all competitions.

Al Okhlood, Al Oudaba and Al Khudair, all in the 18-team Pro League next season, and Al Zuhri, Al Naba and Al Anwar were selected for the next round based on their "operational readiness, financial health, administrative capabilities, and athletic facilities", the ministry said.

It said the initial privatisation had prompted "significant commercial revenue growth" for the Pro League, with the target now raised to 1.8 billion Saudi riyals (\$480 million) a year.

"This (privatisation) initiative showcases the commitment to accelerating the transformation of the sports sector," the statement said.—AFP

Cash, luxury cars and land grants, Paris Games a gold mine for Arab medallists

CAIRO: Tareq Hamodi went from being a hard-working student athlete to a national hero and millionaire after landing Saudi Arabia's second ever Olympic silver medal in the karate competition in Tokyo three years ago.

Olympic medals remain a rarity for athletes from the Arab world but those who do manage to get onto the podium can expect lavish rewards, from luxury cars to land grants as well as a healthy boost to their bank balances.

Even as the sporting world debates the decision by World Athletics to award \$50,000 to track and field gold medalists at the Paris Olympics, athletes from the region can be sure of much bigger paydays if they can secure a title in France.

In Tokyo, Hamodi missed out on claiming his country's first gold medal in controversial circumstances when he was knocked out by an opponent with an illegal high kick in the

final and was disqualified.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told Hamodi he was a gold medalist in his country's eyes and the fighter was rewarded with the full 5 million riyal (\$1.31 million) prize promised to Olympic title winners.

Offering huge financial incentives to medal winners is not unknown elsewhere — Hong Kong fencer Cheung Ka Long banked HK\$5 million (\$640,311) for his Tokyo gold — but few other athletes on a region has a long history in the Arab world.

Olympic medallists can expect streets, schools and bridges to be named after them and it is not just oil-rich Gulf nations that offer lavish gifts and monetary rewards.

In Algeria, it is customary for the country's president to honour Olympic champions with gifts from ranging from luxury cars to apartments.

The winner of a gold medal in Morocco receives two million dirhams (\$200,000)

while Egypt's National Olympic Committee, in agreement with sponsors, has raised the value of a gold medal to five million Egyptian pounds (\$105,218) for Paris.

The entire Iraqi national football team that qualified for Paris Olympics recently received plots of land and financial bonuses from the prime minister.

Qatar has long used financial incentives to attract athletes from other countries to compete for the petrich state and the rewards for medal success are thought to be generous, even if they are not publicly disclosed.

Egypt-born weightlifter Paros Brashim Hassanov switched allegiance to win Qatar's first Olympic gold medal in Tokyo in 2021 in a move that did not go down well with the Egyptian Weightlifting Federation.

"They splash money on him just as football clubs do on players," federation chief Mahmoud Mahgoub said at the time.—Reuters

Seine water quality improves ahead of Paris Olympics: tests

PARIS: The water quality of the Seine has improved, test results showed on Thursday, three weeks ahead of the start of the Paris Olympics when the river is set to host outdoor swimming events.

Results published by the Paris mayor's office showed that E.Coli bacteria levels at an Olympic swimming spot in central Paris had fallen to within acceptable limits for four days in a row following warm and sunny weather in the French capital.

"This positive development is a consequence of the return of sunshine and warmth as well as the effects of the work done as part of the strategy to improve the quality of the Seine's waters," a statement from the mayor's office said.

The previous week, levels of

E.Coli — a bacterium indicating the presence of faecal matter — had been above the upper limits used by sports federations every day at the Alexandre III bridge in central Paris, which is set to be the jumping-off point for the swimming.

At one point, E.Coli levels were 10 times the upper limit of 1,000 colony-forming units per 100 millilitres (cfu/100), with heavy rain in previous days blamed for a spike in untreated sewage in the waterway.

The Seine is set to be used for the swimming leg of the triathlon on July 30-31 and Aug 5, as well as the open-water swimming on Aug 8-9.

The readings for enterococci bacteria last week — a second key measurement of

water quality — also improved markedly and were within acceptable limits every day at the Alexandre III bridge.

Sports Minister Amelie Gaudin-Castorel hailed a "clear improvement in the water of the Seine's waters" and said the readings "bode us to envisage the competitions going ahead serenely".

French authorities have spent 1.4 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) in the last decade trying to clean up the river by improving the Paris sewerage system, as well as building new water treatment and storage facilities.

But major storms still overwhelm the capital's waste water network, some of which dates back to the 19th century, leading to discharges of effluents directly into the Seine.

The period for the latest results covered June 24-July 2 and the mayor's office said that the river was "excellent" for six out of the nine days in total over the period "at almost all" of the four spots it took samples from.

Since the start of the year, Paris has had 415 mm (16 inches) of rainfall, around 40 per cent above the long-term average, according to the French weather office.

Frequent rain storms in May and June have led to pollution problems, but have also increased the flow and height of the river, causing different problems for organisers.

Rehearsals for the waterborne opening ceremony, which is set to take place on the river Seine on July 26, have had to be repeatedly

postponed because of the strength of the currents.

The Seine's flow last week ranged between 400-600 m³/second — many times above the usual level for this time of year of around 100-150 m³/s.

"What we need to avoid is it going above 500 m³/s," the director in charge of Paris Olympic ceremonies, Thierry Robert, told AFP on Thursday.

Currents at these power levels could also lead to the cancellation of the swimming for safety reasons.

If the weather improves "it's possible to return to the usual flow for this time of year quite quickly," the organisation in charge of managing upstream reservoirs on the Seine, Seine Grands Lacs, told AFP.

The flow could fall by 50 m³/s per day in sustained dry



A PARIS police (DOPC) boat (bottom left) makes its way past a cruise boat along the Seine River on Thursday.—AFP

weather, and there is also a possibility to divert more than their maximum capacity water into the reservoirs, then.—AFP

Stadiums' upgradation for Champions Trophy is PCB's initiative, not ICC's requirement: official

By Our Sports Reporter

LAHORE: The refurbishment and construction of portions of three stadiums by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi were not requirements of the International Cricket Council (ICC) to host next year's Champions Trophy; rather, it was the PCB's own decision, an official has learnt.

With costs amounting to billions, refurbishment and construction of the three stadiums had already begun just seven months before hosting the Champions Trophy, scheduled for Feb-March 2025.

Initially, there was a common perception in the media and sports circles that the construction of these stadiums was planned in accordance with the requirements of the international governing body of the game.

However, a PCB spokesman clarified to Dawn that the ICC's delegation had visited all three stadiums — Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, National Stadium in Karachi, and Pindi Stadium in Rawalpindi — and declared them fit to host the matches of the eight-team tournament.

"We need to upgrade our stadiums to match international standards, although the ICC's delegation, which inspected the facilities in Pakistan, confirmed that all stadiums were suitable for hosting matches," the spokesman said on Thursday.

It should be noted that new pavilions were constructed at Gaddafi Stadium last year, while the stadium was generally in good shape with its historic entrance intact.

However, the main portion of Gaddafi Stadium's structure had been demolished for reconstruction, and demolition at National Stadium is set to begin in the next few days.

Similarly, work on Pindi Stadium is also set to commence. The estimated cost of these three projects is around three to four billion rupees. In 2016-17, the National Stadium underwent refurbishment at a cost of a billion rupees during Najam Sethi's tenure as PCB chairman.

There is also a public perception that the current PCB chairman, Mohsin Naqvi, has a penchant for construction work, whether necessary or not. Mohsin, during his tenure as caretaker chief minister of Punjab, initiated numerous construction projects at hospitals, police stations, universities, and Lahore Zoo, despite his mandate being solely to ensure smooth general elections.

All PCB officials' offices have been relocated to the National Cricket Academy. Additionally, the PCB faces a time crunch as it awaits the design for the new construction of the three stadiums from a UK-based company.

Pakistani companies will execute the construction according to the design provided by this offshore company. Completing all the work before the start of the Champions Trophy presents a significant challenge.

During this period, Bangladesh (in August) and England (in October) are also scheduled to visit Pakistan to play Test series against the national team.



BRITAIN'S Katie Boulter in action during the Wimbledon second-round match against compatriot Harriet Dart at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club on Thursday.—Reuters

Djokovic survives rookie test, Pegula bows out

LONDON: Novak Djokovic came through a testing Wimbledon workout to stay on course for a record-equalling eighth men's title on Thursday, while Jessica Pegula became the highest-ranked player to exit the tournament so far, dumped out by China's Wang Xinyu in the second round.

Seventime champion Djokovic did not have it all his own way against British wild card Jacob Peralta but came through 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5 in a second-round match lasting three hours.

It appeared to be business as usual for the Serbian as he coasted into a two-set lead on Centre Court but the 27th-ranked Peralta broke his Australian opponent twice in the third set to reduce the deficit.

Peralta, playing in his first Grand Slam, carved out two break points in the sixth game of the fourth set but missed his chance and Djokovic broke in the 11th game before serving out for the win.

Fifth-ranked Pegula went down 6-4, 6-7 (7-6), 6-1 to Wang, who celebrated her first win against a top-10 player. The American battled back after losing the first set, saving a match point in the second-set tie-break, before leveling the match.

But China's 43rd-ranked Wang moved into a 5-0 lead in the decider. She will face Britain's Harriet Dart, who defeated Nottingham champion Katie Boulter, for a spot in the last 16.

SWISSMEN EXCEL

Women's world number one Iga Swiatek underlined her status as the world's top player with an efficient 6-4, 6-3 victory over Croatian Petra Martić, her 21st match win in a row.

Swiatek, who has won five Grand Slams but has never progressed beyond the quarter-finals here, looked comfortable on the Centre Court grass, though she was tested at times by Martić's hefty serve and groundstrokes.

Martić, 10 years Swiatek's senior and ranked 85th in the world, fell and needed treatment after the seventh game of the first set but remained apparently unimpaired.

Swiatek clinched the first set on her first break point with an

attacking forehand that Martić could only dump into the net.

She broke Martić's serve in the eighth game of the second set, earned match point with a big forehand winner and finished the contest with a serve that Martić netted.

Twotime finalist Ons Jabeur beat US qualifier Robin Montgomery in straight sets while Elena Rybakina, the 2022 women's champion, faced Germany's Laura Siegemund.

On the men's side, 10th seed Grigor Dimitrov came back from two sets down to beat China's Shang Juncheng while Swiss veteran Stan Wawrinka exited at the hands of Gael Monfils.

Denmark's Holger Rune recovered from a slow start against Brazil's Thiago Seyboth Wild to win an entertaining tussle and book his place in the third round.

The 21-year-old 15th seed dropped serve early on the way to losing the opening set but raised his game impressively after that to win 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Rune, who reached the quarter-finals last year, will face French qualifier Quentin Halys next after he knocked out 21st seed Karen Khachanov in five sets.

But on Wednesday, world number one Jannik Sinner survived an all-Italian Centre Court daylight against Matteo Berrettini to book his place in the third round.

Sinner edged the opening two sets on tiebreaks under the closed roof but was rocked on his heels by a Berrettini fight-back before prevailing 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 2-6, 7-6 (4).

Top seed Sinner was wobbling when some sloppy groundstroke errors meant he went a break down early in the fourth set, but he managed to scramble back control in the nick of time.

Berrettini saved a match point when serving at 5-6 in the fourth set and belted away a forehand to set up the third tie-break of an absorbing tussle.

The law of averages suggested the big-serving Berrettini would come out on top this time but once again Sinner was as cool as a cucumber when it mattered to get the job done shortly before Wimbledon's 11pm curtain.—Agencies

No decision yet over Babar's future as captain, says Mohsin

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said no decision has been made on Babar Azam's future as captain yet, and the future course of action will be taken after consultation with former players and head coach Gary Kirsten.

Mohsin said he would meet coach Kirsten and his assistant Ashar Mahmood here soon to discuss the national team's T20 World Cup debacle, but refrained from taking any decision in haste.

Mohsin had earlier criticised Pakistan team and suggested an overhaul of the side, saying it needs a "major surgery" following its ouster in the Super 8 stage of the recently-concluded T20 World Cup, after humiliating losses against India and the United States.

"I have asked them (Kirsten and Mahmood) to come here as I want to talk to them in person and in detail based on Kirsten's report on the World Cup," he told reporters here. "Kirsten has given a very detailed report on the team and it will help us a lot to chalk out our future course of action."

"No decision taken so far related to Babar Azam. One former player has submitted a very comprehensive report on what needs to be done to improve cricket. But I will take no decisions out of anger or based on what is being said on social media."

"Decisions taken out of haste and anger generally lead to more complications and I don't want that in our cricket."

Mohsin also said that he was in touch with some former players and was seeking suggestions from them but made it clear that he was only in touch with those players who sincerely want betterment of Pakistan cricket.

"I have been in the board for four months and I am looking at everything and believe me there is a lot to be done to improve things within the PCB besides the team. But I don't want to jump to conclusions and make hasty decisions."—Agencies

Skipper meets renowned Australian power-hitting coach

LAHORE: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has sought the help of Shannon Young, the renowned Australian power-hitting coach, to reinvent his T20 skills after an underwhelming campaign in the just-concluded World Cup, the Press Trust of India news agency reported on Thursday.

Babar made 120 runs from five matches at a strike rate of 101, as Pakistan bowed out of the ICC tournament even without entering the Super Eight.

Babar met Young, who coached Australia's Glenn Maxwell and Jake Fraser-McGurk, and discussed with him the essential skills required to ensure power shots successfully in T20 format.

The meeting took place in Lahore where Young is on a private visit.

Young has been credited with mentoring a number of Australian players and improving their power-hitting skills.

The young batting sensation McGurk had set the 2024 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) alight with his range-hitting while playing for the Delhi Capitals.

Babar has often been criticised for his low strike-rate and inability to regularly hit sixes in the shortest format and after 123 T20s he has a strike rate of 129.

The 29-year-old was removed as captain of all formats last year after Pakistan failed to qualify for the semi-finals of the 50-over World Cup in India.

But he was reinstated as captain in the white ball formats ahead of the T20 World Cup in place of Shabheen Shah Afridi.—Agencies

India's World Cup winners return to PM Modi praise, victory parade

NEW DELHI: India's T20 World Cup winners returned home to a heroes' welcome Thursday, greeted by huge crowds of euphoric fans and praised by a grinning Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a private reception.

Frenzied crowds shouted "India, India" after the team landed at Delhi airport from the Caribbean, having been delayed for days by Hurricane Beryl.

The team waved to the crowds and danced to drums and live music at their hotel before heading off to meet Modi at his residence.

Rohit and his team wore Indian jerseys emblazoned with "Champions", as broadcast screens showed images of them posing with their trophy and the premier.

"An excellent meeting with our Champions!" Modi wrote on social media platform X afterwards.

Evening saw the team paraded in an open-topped bus through the financial capital



MUMBAI: Indian cricketers gesture during an open bus roadshow on Thursday.—AFP

Mumbai, the birthplace of India's cricket obsession, along a seafront route thronging with jubilation crowds.

They took a victory lap in front of thousands more fans at Wankhede Stadium, the site of India's last World Cup win for the 50-over edition of the tournament in 2011.

"This is surreal, watching my team with the World Cup," emotional fan Rohan Khanna told AFP before the team landed.

"I saw the 2011 triumph, but this is a moment I will never forget."

Despite monsoon rain, crowds gathered outside New Delhi's airport long before dawn, waiting for a glimpse of their idols, who had beaten South Africa on Saturday in a thrilling final in Barbados.

Whistles and wild cheers greeted the players as they walked out from the arrivals area with gold medals around their necks, some giving a thumbs-up to their fans.

It was vice-captain Hardik Pandya who emerged first, wearing a Caribbean hat, and the crowd erupted when captain Rohit came out carrying the glittering trophy, which he

hoisted into the air.

Star batsman Virat Kohli, whose hometown is Delhi, was given some of the loudest cheers as he waved to hundreds of fans.

"It's a dream for me to witness India return home from a World Cup," said a shirtless fan with a Kohli tattoo on his chest.

Last weekend's victory ended an 11-year global cricket trophy drought for India following their 2013 Champions Trophy win.

The final was the last match in charge for coach Rahul Dravid, 51, who was honoured in the air by the team during the post-match celebrations.

Rohit, Kohli and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja all announced their retirement from T20 international cricket after the final.

Plane tracking website Flightradar24 said the special Air India charter had been the "most tracked flight for much of the last 15 hours", as excited fans followed the team's journey back from the Caribbean.—AFP

Germany out to snap 36-year winless run against Spain

BERLIN: Germany take on fellow title contenders Spain in their mouth-watering Euro 2024 quarter-final clash on Friday, hoping to end a winless run at tournaments against them that stretches back to 1988.

While France and Portugal will hope that their forward lines start firing up in the other quarter-final at the Volksparkstadion in Hamburg later on Friday, where every little advantage will likely be crucial in a tight contest.

Meanwhile, England face Switzerland on Saturday while the Netherlands face a fresh up-Turkey side in the last quarter-final.

The Germans are enjoying their best international tournament in eight years with home fans desperate for their first title in a decade but their match against the Spaniards is also seen as a premature final between two of the best teams in the competition.

Spain cruised through their group with winners Lamine Yamal, who is the youngest player to feature at a Euros at 16, and Nico Williams quickly establishing a superb partnership that has terrorised opposing defences with their speed and creative play.

With Fabian Ritsch directing their game, often called "possession with a purpose",

there is a constant drive forward instead of merely holding out to the ball.

Their 4-1 victory over Georgia in the round-of-16 confirmed their good form with their fourth win in four matches as they look for a record fourth European title.

The Germans, who have also won the tournament three times, had to dig deep to top their group with a stoppage-time equaliser against Switzerland before their 2-0 knockout stage win over Denmark.

But it is how their defensive organisation copes with Spain's lethal attacking football that is likely to decide the outcome.

"We should not be looking against Spain," said captain Ilkay Gundogan. "As a team we can more than keep up with them. We also have extreme qualities."

"I think the Spaniards have more respect for us than they tend to admit in public."

The Germans are also up against a 36-year winless run at tournaments against Spain with their last win dating back to Euro 1988.

They lost the 2010 World Cup semi-final to them as well as the 2008 Euro final while also suffering a 6-0 demolition in the Nations League four years ago.

"I don't want to offend anyone but we have

the best team at this tournament," said Spain coach Luis de la Fuente. "We are going to fight for it and we know what we have ahead of us, which is Germany. It is the well-known German machine. It will be a very close match, but we are very confident of our game."

In Friday's other quarter-final, France and Portugal clash in a third meeting in as many Euro tournaments, this time chasing a semi-final slot against either Germany or Spain in Munich next week.

France have not scored in open play in their last five internationals, while Portugal have failed to find the net in their past two outings at Euros, needing the team-fied streams of a penalty shootout to win a last eight place.

There is no doubting the quality on both sides, with Kylian Mbappe containing the French and Cristiano Ronaldo bringing record-breaking achievement to Portugal.

But Mbappe is battling with a broken nose in Germany and at the age of 39 Ronaldo's powers are on the wane.

It is not as if he has not tried. Ronaldo has taken more shots than any other at Euro 2024 (20 to Mbappe's 15) but has not scored in his last eight tournament matches.

Mbappe has a tournament goal to his name, a penalty in his comeback against Poland after breaking his nose in their opening clash with Austria.

France's other two goals at Euro 2024 have come courtesy of the opposition, even goals from Austria and then Belgium in Monday's round-of-16 clash in Dusseldorf.

The margins will likely be fine again and the outcome possibly determined by a moment of genius. For that, Portugal are likely to keep Ronaldo in place while French eyes will be firmly fixed on Mbappe finally delivering.

NETHERLANDS FACE TOUGH TEST AGAINST TURKEY

On Saturday, Netherlands face Turkey in Berlin aiming for a spot in the semi-finals against England or Switzerland.

A routine 3-0 win for Netherlands over Romania was overshadowed hours later by a sensation Turkish victory over Austria to set up an enthralling quarter-final Turkish fans in Germany are in a frenzy at the thought of a repeat of Euro 2008, where they made the semi-finals.



DONAUESCHINGEN: Spain's Lamine Yamal (C) along with team-mates attend a training session at the team's base camp on Thursday.—AFP



HAFISEWINKEL: Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (L) vies for the ball with team-mate Joao Cancelo (R) during a practice session on Thursday.—AFP

"We've got huge following. There's passion and the love is really visceral back home in Turkey, so I'm very happy to have finished Turkey a bit of pride," coach Vincenzo Montella said of his side's progress so far.

Turkey will be without the suspended Okan Kocuk and Ismail Yildirim, but they receive a major boost with the return of captain Hakan Calhanoglu who was banned from the Austria game.

Euro 2008 was also the last time the Dutch made the quarter-finals, and they have come through the ignominy of a 1-2 loss to the Austrians that left them third in their group.

"We learned our lessons from the Austria game. We had a lot of conversations last week. I think we did very well, especially in the pressing, especially in ball possession," Dutch defender Densel Dumfries said.

England will take on in-form Switzerland in Dusseldorf, and the Swiss underlined their credentials by beating defending champions Italy in the last 16.

A couple of weeks ago, England would have relished facing Switzerland — a team they have lost to only three times in their 27

meetings and most recently in 1981.

Murat Yakin's team, however, have played with a consistency and confidence that has eluded England.

Son Heung-min has been criticised for not making many changes to his team but that could be about to change as they practice a back three in training, with Kyle Walker moved to the right of centre-back and Bukayo Saka potentially playing as wing-back.

Of concern to Southgate is the fact that defender Marc Guehi, who has been solid on his major tournament debut, is suspended for Saturday's match. John Stones has been training with his leg heavily bandaged and Luke Shaw has not played since February due to injury.

While England have not played with three at the back since finishing runners-up to Italy at Euro 2020, it would allow Southgate to employ his wing backs higher up the pitch.

Yakin, meanwhile, will rely on the experience of Manchester City's Manuel Akanji and Newcastle United's Fabian Schuster to anchor the back line, with Granit Xhaka acting as the midfield playmaker.—Agencies

KARACHI

Rainfall 07:26 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:47 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 30°C
Maximum 35°C
Humidity 67%
Outlook Mostly Cloudy

METRO South



Djokovic survives rookie test, Pegula bows out

Pg.20 SPORT



ROAD users are stuck in a traffic jam near Empress Market after police beefed up security by placing containers on several downtown streets leading to Taher Masjid in Saddar on Thursday. — Shahid Agha/White Star

Woman killed, daughter wounded in 'crossfire' between police, fleeing suspects

Controversy arises after bereaved family says police fired straight at the victims' car, mistaking them for 'dacoits'

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: A 40-year-old woman traveling in a car was shot dead while her 15-year-old daughter critically wounded in suspicious circumstances on National Highway near Gulshan-e-Hadeed on Thursday evening. The police claimed that the family was caught in the crossfire between police and fleeing suspects during an 'encounter' and they were shot by the suspects. However, the relatives disputed this version and blamed the police for opening straight fire on the car carrying the family by "mistaking them as dacoits". Steel Town police said that one citizen

informed a patrolling police party about the presence of suspects in a white Corolla. The citizen also informed the police that the 'Corolla gang' used to loot citizens coming out from banks.

The police after receiving information chased the suspects when they resorted to firing. As a result, members of a family traveling in a private car were injured because of the firing carried out by the criminals, the police claimed.

The injured women were taken to a nearby hospital immediately where one of them was pronounced dead on arrival.

The police said the suspects were armed with sophisticated weapons who fired a volley of bullets at the police.

The Steel Town police SROs were leading a police team in adjoining areas in search of the 'Corolla gang' while raids were being conducted on intelligence information.

The police have also informed other police posts on the National Highway and other areas.

An Edhi Foundation spokesperson identified the deceased woman as Sara Ibrahim, 40, and her wounded daughter

as Ghazwa Ibrahim, 15.

The dead and the injured were taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre.

Police Surgeon Dr. Summaya Syed said that the mother was brought dead to the hospital. She said the condition of the injured teenager was 'serious'.

A rickshaw in which several women with children were traveling remained unharmed during the firing.

The CCTV footage of the Corolla shared by the police showed that they stopped on National Highway and also paid toll tax at Saeed toll plaza.

Relative alleges police shot at car

Disputing the version of the police, Mohammed Usman, a maternal nephew of the victim woman told media that they originally hailed from Koti Bander in Thatta.

The family had come to a Karachi hospital for treatment. When they were returning, policemen opened straight fire on the car carrying the family at Gulshan-e-Hadeed.

The relative said that the police did

not attempt to stop the car or indicate them to stop, but they opened straight fire on the car.

He disputed the police version that the family was caught in crossfire and they were shot by the suspects.

The relative also alleged that the police were trying to "destroy evidence now".

According to witnesses, the suspects' car was traveling in front of the car of the victims. The pictures of the family's car being shared on social media showed that it was hit from behind.

Home minister takes notice

Meanwhile, Sindh Home Minister Zia Langer while taking notice of the incident sought immediate and detailed report from SSP Malir. In a statement, he said that the government would not "spare those who're involved in the tragic incident."

"The police have been asked to use all available resources, including latest technology, to identify those who are behind the incident," he added.



Bohra community leader Syedna Mufaddal arrives in Karachi

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, the spiritual leader of the Bohra community, arrived in the metropolis on Thursday evening.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Chief Minister Syed Muneer As Shah and other high-ranking officers, along with a large number of Bohra community members, received him at the airport's old terminal.

According to a press release, Syedna will deliver a series of seminars in Karachi over nine days, starting from July 8 at Taher Masjid in Saddar.

There will be a live telecast to over 21 centres in other parts of Karachi as well as the neighbouring city of Hyderabad, it added.

Following an invitation extended by the government and the local Bohra community, Syedna has chosen Karachi to host the 'Ashura Mubarak' congregations this year, it said, adding that over 80,000 Dawoodi Bohras from Pakistan and around the world are expected to attend the events.

Shabbir Hashimwala, media coordinator for the Dawoodi Bohras, said that various committees had been set up to handle accommodation, transport, food, and provide other necessary facilities to ensure that visitors coming from all parts of the world were able to participate fully and in the best possible manner.

"We're grateful to the government and local authorities for their support and assistance in hosting thousands of attendees, and ensuring that they have a comfortable stay in the city," he added.

SBCA demolishes building that 'tilted dangerously'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) on Thursday demolished a residential building in Balia Town that was "facing threat of collapse" after a pillar of the multi-storey structure "tilted dangerously".

On the instruction of SBCA director general Abdul Raheem Solangi, a FIR was also lodged against the owner and contractor of the building for the substandard designing of the property by using low-quality material in the construction.

"SBCA DG Solangi himself visited the affected building in Gulshan-e-Masoor of Balia Town after receiving complaints about the vulnerable structure," said a statement. It said the DG based on a report submitted by the technical committee ordered the demolition of the building to prevent any further risk to the residents.

Two senior most engineers removed over damage to Sukkur Barrage

Technical inquiry team yet to finalise its report seven days after given deadline

By Mohammad Hussain Khan

HYDERABAD: Aso has fallen on the executive engineer and assistant executive engineer of the Sukkur Barrage over the June 20 incident in which its seven gates were damaged and one of them had washed away.

The NEN, AEN, and AEN, Ammar Bux Mahar, have been removed by the Irrigation

department. Farhan Waqar has been posted as the NEN and Abdul Samad as the AEN, it was learnt on Thursday.

The action has been taken while the technical inquiry committee investigating the incident is yet to finalise its probe and reach a conclusion.

The inquiry was supposed to be completed within five days after it was notified on June 22 by the irrigation secretary.

Headed by Mohiuddin Mughal, chief of the Sindh Barrages.

Improvement Programme (SIMP), the committee started its work late because its chairman and other members — Chief Engineer Manager Meron (chief of the

Development Region-II, Pratik Das (Managing Director of the Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority), Mohiuddin Mughal (Chief Engineer Right Bank Canal of the Barrage), and Haseeb Sheikh (Director of the Salinity Control and Reclamation Project) — were busy in restoration work at the barrage.

The committee started the inquiry after coffinment was established downstream and caisson gate (a water-tight structure) was installed upstream gate No 47 to ensure pond level at barrage to continue supplies of irrigation water to seven channels in peak Kharif season, currently under way.

Irrigation sources said that team members interviewed NEN Farhan Waqar and AEN Abdul Samad. Some record relating to barrage's annual maintenance, closure and operation was obtained and examined by the members.

Sources privy to the team are of the view that technical team members formed their opinion as to where things had gone wrong. The committee's report is yet to be prepared.

The probe team is not mandated to 'fix responsibility' of negligence and delinquency. It is tasked with examining the barrage operations over the last two months in relation to the standard operating procedures

(SOPs), determine in detail the causes leading to the damage to gate No 44 and 47, and prepare a detailed technical enquiry report.

Experts' committee proposed

Sindh Abadgar Ibrahim (SAD) has called for appointment of an inquiry committee under supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge. It suggests that such a committee should comprise experts from the Mohan University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, and NED University, Karachi.

Sindh Chamber of Continued on Page 15

A safe haven planned for children of the desert

- SOS Children's Village will be first-ever orphanage in Tharparkar
- Plaque unveiled at Napa ceremony

By Shazlin Hassan

KARACHI: Former caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh retired Justice MacBoob Bazar has hailed the initiative to establish the SOS Children's Village in Premnagar, Islamabad, saying that the care centre will be the first-ever in the arid region of Tharparkar for education and upbringing of both natural and social orphans belonging from Muslim and Hindu communities, which are the two main communities residing in the entire district.

He said this at the unveiling ceremony of

a plaque for the new SOS Children's Village in Premnagar, Islamabad, which was held at the Zia Molyodis Theatre at Napa here on Wednesday evening.

Justice Bazar, who was chief guest at the event, appreciated the services of women who serve as mothers of the deprived children and help nurture them as brothers and sisters in the "unique SOS way of loving care for children".

The event was attended by prominent citizens of Karachi, and donors to SOS from Islamabad, Karachi and elsewhere and by children, teachers, staff, youth and volunteer members of SOS units in Sindh.

Justice Bazar appreciated the presence in the gathering of the children and women from Tharparkar, who had specially travelled from remote villages to mark the launch of the construction.

He referred to the talent and spontaneous energy of the children from the SOS Children's Villages in Karachi who presented three short, entertaining musical segments celebrating Pakistan and its people. Brief duration videos of SOS units were

also screened.

Justice Bazar said that an incident in her school of the existing SOS Children's Villages in Karachi, Jamshoro and Khairpur became educated and self-reliant citizens, so too in Tharparkar as well, disadvantaged children would soon surely be able to achieve significant self-empowerment through the love, security and guidance provided by the SOS.

Tariq Hassan, the architect of the new SOS Village, who has also designed the SOS Villages in Jamshoro and Khairpur, explained as to how a distinctive and innovative approach is being used to create the structures in eco-friendly and culture-friendly ways.

Dr. Ramesh Varikwari, former MNA, chairman of the Sital Das Premnagar Trust, which has donated 11 acres of land near Islamabad for the construction of the new SOS Village narrated how the Premnagar multi-sectoral welfare project spread over 110 acres is modelled on Rashidabad near Tando Allah Yar and will help advance social development in the area.

Yaqub Zaminar, Chairman Emeritus, SOS Sindh, recalled how the Vardwani family's visits to SOS Villages in Jamshoro and Karachi inspired them to request the cooperation of SOS to help introduce the network to Tharparkar and wished the project timely completion.

Former senator Javed Jabbar, Chairman, SOS Children's Villages of Sindh, thanked Justice Bazar for his "compassionate leadership" which enabled the government of Sindh to provide a substantive grant in aid of Rs435 million to meet a large part of the cost.

He said Tharparkar represented a model for the whole country of communal peace and harmony.

He was confident that the new village will stimulate the region's progress to improve its very low rank in the 170 districts of Pakistan in terms of human development.

Nasreen Hamid, secretary, SOS Sindh, read out the special message of felicitations sent for the occasion from their national office in Lahore by Saadia Ammar, founder and president of SOS Pakistan and presi-

dent-elect Shahid Hamid, both of whom conveyed their appreciation for the vital support provided by the Government of Sindh, and by the Vardwani family to help bring SOS services to the vast region of Tharparkar.

She traced the growth of SOS Sindh over the previous 39 years.

Dr. Bhaskar Lal, President, Bazarin Bell, who led the participants from Tharparkar, recounted how Bazarin Bell, which has been serving in Tharparkar since 1985, worked together with the SOS Sindh and NEDPC, the research centre, in 2022 to conduct a comprehensive survey in order to identify the scope and need for the first-ever orphan centre for the 1.5 million poor people who reside there.

Zahida Hashmi, Regional Director, SOS Sindh delivered the vote of thanks on behalf of the children, mothers, staff and volunteers of the organisation.

The event was ably moderated by Hina Mir, a resident of the SOS Village in Karachi and a student of class 12 of the SOS Karachi High School.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

Youth wearing earphones run over by train at Kotri

By Our Correspondent

DADU: A man died after he came under the wheels of a train in Bahar Colony, Kotri SITE, late on Thursday night.

Crowd-witnesses said that Amir, 27, was listening on the railway track with earphones in his ears when he was hit by the Zekana Express coming from Karachi. Apparently, he was so engrossed in whatever he was listening to that he could not notice the coming train, they said.

They said the train severed both of his legs but he was still alive when he was brought to Kotri district headquarters hospital and died soon afterwards.

Kotri SITE, SHO Khair Muhammad Malik said that Amir worked as a labourer in a factory in SITE area.

Radio Pakistan Larkana goes off air over default on power dues

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA: Transmission of Radio Pakistan, Larkana station, remains off the air for two days as electricity connection to the Pakistan Broadcasting House has been cut over non-payment of outstanding dues, according to sources.

The sources told this reporter on Thursday that Station Director Syed Abid Abbas Kazmi informed Director Programme, PBC Headquarters Islamabad, through a letter on July 3 about the situation. The broadcasts had been suspended since then. The total dues came to Rs940,000, said the sources.

No payments had been made for 10 and four months, respectively, for the two power supply lines, and the department concerned had been informed about it through two communications sent on June 13, and July 3, said the sources.

Two teenage boys killed as truck hits motorcycle

By Our Correspondent

DADU: Two teenage boys, students of class tenth, were killed when a truck laden with dry fodder ran over their motorcycle near a filling station on National Highway in Kotri town on Thursday.

Jawad, 15, and Ahsan, 16, were hit by the fast-moving truck when they were going from Sikandarabad to Kotri, said Kotri DSP Shuhrawaz Jodhio.

He said that the truck driver escaped after the accident and police impounded the damaged motorcycle and the truck.

The bodies were shifted to Kotri district headquarters hospital and were later handed over to relatives after post mortem examination.

Power utility workers observe 'Youm-i-Shuhada', seek fair treatment

Dawn Report

HYDERABAD/LARKANA: Power utility workers on Thursday observed 'Youm-i-Shuhada' at their workplaces in different cities and towns of Sindh to remember those colleagues who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Speaking to them, their leaders also expressed sympathy with those workers who have suffered disabilities. They urged the government and managements of power distribution companies to take due care of all affected families of deceased and injured workers by extending them financial and other support as per the relevant laws, rules and regulations.

In Hyderabad, workers of Wapda and other power utilities took out a rally from Labour Hall to the local press club. It was organised by the All Pakistan Wapda Hyderabad Electric Workers Union.

Addressing the participants, Wapda CRA President Abdul Latif Nizamani said that as many as 66 line staff members lost their lives while performing their duties last year. A large number of other workers suffered different disabilities, he said, adding that such incidents did not stop this year.

The managements of Wapda the power utilities concerned

were not ready to take any action against the officials responsible for these fatal incidents, he regretted.

Mr Nizamani pointed out that these deaths and injuries had created a shortage of manpower but instead of making recruitment, the managements burdened other employees with extra workload. Many employees were performing their duties on their day off, he noted.

"In some instances, one employee is handling jobs of 10 workers," he revealed.

The CRA leader claimed that it was due to pressure of workload and irresponsible attitude of their officers, that employees were facing depression and mental stress and ultimately facing risk of death and injuries.

Mr Nizamani deplored that many employees were not being paid bonus after it was approved.

He mentioned that in the new budget, a 25pc raise in salaries and 15pc in pension was given but 45pc raise was effected in taxes. Privileges also remained beyond control and now increased electricity and gas tariffs coupled with overstaffing was badly affecting workers and their families.

CRA's Sindh Secretary Iqbal Ahmed Khan, Azam Khan, Sarwat Jahan, Abdul Akbar and others also spoke.

In Larkana, a rally was taken out from the superintendent engi-



WAPDA CRA President Abdul Latif Nizamani speaks at the Youm-i-Shuhada gathering in Hyderabad on Thursday. —Dawn

neer's office.

CRA's Larkana region Chairman Nisar Shakh led the rally which marched through various roads before reaching the Abdul Latif Nizamani Labour Hall. Later, the participants held a demonstration outside the local press club where their leaders spoke to them.

Mr Shakh and other union lead-

ers noted with grief that their seven colleagues had lost their lives and 15 others suffered injuries while performing their duties in the region over the last two years.

They criticised power utility companies' managements for their indifferent attitude towards workers who, they said, were performing their duties in odd hours and many even without safety

gears.

Workers were denied off-day allowance, TA, DA bills, Prime Minister Package, medical bills, marriage grants and other due benefits, they deplored, and noted with concern that for the last 10 years, no recruitment was made in those companies which had heavily increased workload on workers.

SUP asks govt to halt process of allotting coastal land to DHA

Says thousands of people will be evicted from their 'ancestral land'

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: The Sindh United Party (SUP) on Wednesday demanded from the provincial government to immediately halt the process of allotting 5,000 to 6,000 acres of land near Hawkebay to the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) and warned that the party would launch a strong protest if the land was allotted.

Addressing a press conference along with party leaders and residents of dif-

ferent villages on the coastal line, SUP Central President Syed Zeen Shakh said that the provincial government had decided to allot the land in Hawkebay to the DHA, which was a sheer injustice to the local people who had been living there for over 100 years.

He said that on Dec 18, 2023, Administrator of DHA Brigadier Rana Shahzad Shafi had written to the then caretaker chief minister Maqbool Bager, stating that DHA should be allotted 5,000 to 6,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Hawkebay for further expansion of its scheme.

He said that the then caretaker government, by exceeding its constitutional authority, started the process of giving land to the DHA, although it should have

been delayed until the elected government was established.

The SUP chief said that the process of giving the land to DHA was further geared up by the 1994 provincial government as the land utilisation department issued a letter to the deputy commissioner of Keamari to send survey report with map of the land which was located on the sea shore within 7 days.

He said that over 45 villages established in Doh Allah Barn, Doh Mondhari and Doh Chitnara in district Keamari would be affected as thousands of people belonging to Bhundi, Kalamani, Khoskhoti and Bhodi communities, whose livelihood was linked to the sea, would be evicted from their ancestral lands.

"It is clear that the land is being

taken away from the poor people and given to the rich, and the government that calls itself the people's government is also involved in this anti-people plan," he said, adding that almost two-third of Karachi's land was already under the control of the cementation boards.

He said that coastal belt belonged primarily to the fishermen and labouring families who had settled there centuries ago.

"Instead of providing all basic facilities, ownership rights and employment to thousands of families, their lands are being grabbed," he said.

He said that the party had decided to launch a protest movement on July 10 along with the people who were likely to be evicted from their land.

Sukkur Barrage

Continued from Page 12

Agriculture (SAD), the oldest organisation of farmers, has already rejected the technical inquiry committee, and urged the Sindh government to order a high-level inquiry.

Meanwhile, work for the removal of remainder of gate No 47 is under way.

The gate is being dewatered. Gate No. 7, one of the 10 permanently closed ones, is also being repaired as an additional gate in case availability of a new one to replace gate No 47 has delay.

The new gate is being manufactured by the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works (KSEW) and, according to Irrigation Secretary Zarif Khori, parts of it have started arriving the Barrage.

Majalis Ashra Muharram ul Haram Masjid Imambargah Yasrab DHA

Saturday 6 July to 9 Muharram ul Haram After Namaz Maghribain

Topic: Qayam e Hussain (A.S) Ar Zaban e Hussain (A.S)

ADDRESS BY **MOLANA HAFIZ SYED MUHAMMAD HAIDER NAQVI**

Majlis Sham e Ghoreiban 10 Muharram
Majlis Roqiem 11 Muharram
After Namaz Maghribain

📍 Masjid e Imambargah Yasrab Official
📞 @masjidimambargahyasrabofficial

Ladies Majalis 4:00 PM

1 to 12 Muharram ul Haram

address by **Moharama Aalima Tahira Jafar Sahiba**

Zoom Link: <https://us02zoom.us/j/9227625843>
Zoom ID: *922 762 5843*

* No Tobacco, smoking, drinks allowed for distribution.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
4th BARSI



Mr. Mohammed Hussain Khan (Shaheed)
Director, Southwest Asia Shipping Agency
Relations with Maersk Lines spanned 50 years.

December 10, 1929 - July 5, 2020

Never mind how much time goes by, Papa, its sadness that we'll always feel because you're no longer with us. And all our memories, though there are many and amazing, aren't going to be much of a comfort.

We love you so much.

May you be in Jannatul Firdos, Ameen- where you deserve to be.

Kindly recite Fatheha for our father.

Bereaved

Lubna Hussain Khan (Daughter)
Uzma Hussain Khan (Daughter)
KHAN FAMILY
TEL: 0303893438

OPEN SESSION CHAMAN MASTER PLAN

Balochistan Public Private Partnership Authority is pleased to invite interested bidders to participate in an open session regarding our upcoming project "Outsourcing of the operations, management and maintenance of the Chaman Master Plan (Jointly constituted urban market) under Public Private Partnership model". This session aims to gather diverse perspectives and innovative ideas to ensure the success of our initiative.

Event Overview: Join us for an engaging and collaborative open session where we will discuss the objectives, challenges, and opportunities of the project. This is a unique opportunity for bidders to present their insights, ask questions, and network with other professionals.

Date: 1st July 2024, Time: 10:00 am to 02:00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 87584785256, Password: 534669

Contact Number: 081-8202648 Mobile No: 03139944497, E-mail address: proc@pppa.gov.pk

Venue: Pegasus Club, Blue Venue Quetta opposite trend village Quetta

AB No: 1065-07-2024

DIRECTOR PROCUREMENT
PPPA

**GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

ADDENDUM TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
REHABILITATION, MANAGEMENT, & OPERATION OF DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER UNDER PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODE

Reference: Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) bearing reference number PPPM/SWD/PROC/SPPR1/2023-24 dated 0th June 2023, issued by Social Welfare Department (SWD) to participate in the Bidding Process and to submit their bids for the Project in accordance with the requirements of the request for proposals document (RFP) including Applicable Evaluation Documents (PPMs ID NO. 101763-23-0003).

Capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall have the meaning given to them in the RFP.

It is for the information of all concerned that the SWD, pursuant to the queries/clarification received from prospective bidders in respect to RFP, shall issue an addendum to RFP (Addendum Document No. 1) and responses to prospective bidders queries document (Responses Document No. 1) in accordance with the Applicable Evaluation Documents.

The prospective bidders may seek further information by obtaining the RFP together with Addendum Document No. 1 and Responses Document No. 1 (collectively the "RFP Documents") either: (a) physically, by submitting a written application during office hours at the Authority's address given below; or (b) electronically, by sending a request at the Authority's e-mail address given below or downloading from the websites mentioned above as per the extended schedule given below.

Bid Submission Date: 12th July 2024 - no later than 14:00 hours (PST)

Opening of Technical Proposals: 12th July 2024 - 15:00 hours (PST)

All the other terms & conditions set out in the RFP, except those mentioned in the above documents, shall remain for the same.

Authority: Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh
Address: P.O. Box 23423, Block G, South Railway, Karachi
Phone: +92 21 355 82011 Fax: +92 21 355 17500 Email: info.sindh@pppa.gov.pk info.sindh@pppa.gov.pk
Website: <http://www.pppa.gov.pk> / <http://www.sindh.gov.pk> / <http://www.sindh.gov.pk> / <http://www.sindh.gov.pk> / <http://www.sindh.gov.pk>

PPR REF: 2 285/24

MISCELLANEOUS

GOVERNMENT OF SINDH ENQUIRIES & ANTI-CORRUPTION ESTABLISHMENT SERVICES GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION DEPARTMENT **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for general information that certain individuals with mala fide intentions are making phone calls through different cell phone numbers impersonating the Chairman, Enquiries & Anti-Corruption Establishment Sindh. Some of the miscreants also display picture of the Chairman on their profiles. These deceptive calls are being made for frauds and extortion of money from various Government officers/officials as well as private persons.

In order to make public aware of such fraudulent activities, the general public is requested not to entertain such calls from cell phones/WhatsApp etc in which the culprits introduce themselves as Chairman or officers of Anti-Corruption Establishment.

They are further requested to immediately report such suspicious numbers on the following numbers.

(IN-CHARGE)
COMPLAINT CELL, EACE SINDH
Ph: 021-9211391, 021-99211291
WhatsApp: 0329-2111291

SPF-KHY 2158/24

REQUEST FOR CANCELLATION OF TENDER NOTICE FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF (SERVER & RELATED EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE LICENSES, HARDWARE, NETWORK & OTHER RELATED TECHNICAL SERVICES) OF CALL CENTER MADADGAR-15 AIRPORT, KARACHI.

The Notice No. TNF-KHY 1200/2024 published in different newspapers i.e. Dawn on 02-05-2024, Daily Har Lamha on 01-05-2024 & Daily Kawish on 03-05-2024, regarding "Procurement of Support and Maintenance of (Server & Related Equipment, Software Licenses, Hardware, Network & Other Related Technical Services)" of Call Center Madadgar-15 Airport, Karachi is hereby cancelled as per SPPRA Rule-25.

(Dr. Qamar Rizvi), PSP
Senior Superintendent of Police
Secretary Procurement Committee
Muhafiz Force / Madadgar-15
Karachi

SPF-KHY 2157/24

KARACHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

CANCELLATION OF NIT

With the approval of the competent authority and in exercise of power conferred according to Rule-25 sub-section (1) SPPRA Rules-2010 (amended 2013) the bidding process of NIT No. KDA/MDVT/1800024/2024 Karachi, Dated: 30-03-2024 published on SPPRA / PMPS website ID: T02022-23-0011, Dated: 04-06-2024, KDA's website www.kda.gov.pk vide No. KDA/MDVT/1800024 & print media vide No. SP/KHY 1445/2024 is hereby cancelled with immediate effect due to the cost composite schedule of rates 2012 adopted in the said schemes and now the new composite schedule of rates 2024 adopted from year 2024 and to avoid obsolescence raised by the SPPRA authority / from the bidders or any other bidders.

The offered cost tenders will be re-forecasted in due course of time, this is for information for all concerned.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
KARACHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY /
CHAIRMAN PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

No. KDA/MDVT/1800024

SPF-KHY 2156/24

QUAID-E-AWAM UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING COLLEGE KARACHI PROCUREMENT OFFICE

No. QUES/ENH/PROC/006 Dated: 30-06-2024

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the NIT QUES/ENH/PROC/180 dated: 10.06.2024 (appeared on SPPRA PMPS under ID: SPPRA: (i) T02022-23-0037 dated: 14.06.2024, (ii) T02022-23-0030 dated: 16.06.2024 (iii) T02022-23-0029 dated: 14.06.2024 and in three widely daily newspapers i.e., Daily Jang, Dawn and Awwam Awaaz on 13.06.2024, it is hereby informed to all interested that the following corrections are to be noted.

- The procurement procedure is: Single Stage Two Envelope
- For Work description 02 & 03 in Bid Document may be read as the following:

Single Stage Two Envelope

- The submission and opening date for works of serial number 01 02 & 0 is hereby extended as following: 23.07.2024 and the time and place remains same.

All other terms and conditions remain same. This Corrigendum is issued with the approval of the competent authority.

PROPOS/00024

Procurement Manager,
QUEST Nawabshah



**LIAQUAT UNIVERSITY
OF MEDICAL & HEALTH SCIENCES, JAMSHORO, SINDH-PAKISTAN**
URL: www.lumhs.edu.pk — Tel: 92-22-9213405
E-mail: pmu@lumhs.edu.pk

Issue Date: 02-07-2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences Jamshoro, Sindh invites sealed bids / tenders on "Single Stage — Two Envelopes Procedure" from interested bidders under PPMRA Phase 2010 (Amended upto date) to carry out the following work(s):

S. #	Name of Work	Date of Purchase / Issue	Bid Submission Date	Tender Opening Date & Time	Tender Fee
1	Procurement of Equipment for Institute of Cybersecurity LUMHS, Jamshoro	02-07-2024 to 04-07-2024	25-07-2024 up to 11:00 A.M	25-07-2024 at 11:30 A.M	Rs. 1000/-

Eligibility:

- Valid Income Tax Certificate (ITR).
- Valid CNIC Registration Certificate.
- Detailed Portfolio of company profile.
- Minimum 05 years' Experience.
- Details of turnover (including in terms of rupees) at least last three years that average turnover should not be less than 50.0 million per year as per annual returns.
- Certified copy of Authorized Manufacturing Certificate.
- Undertaking or Affidavit that the firm is not involved in any litigation or abandoned any procurement in the department.
- Affidavit to the effect that the firm/supplier has not been blacklisted previously by any executing agency.

Method of Procurement: Single Stage — Two Envelopes Procedure.

Bidding / Tender Documents:

Issuance: Tender Documents can be downloaded from PPMRA Website i.e. <https://www.ppra.gov.pk> & Website i.e. www.lumhs.edu.pk & purchased from Project Management Unit (PMU) LUMHS, Jamshoro as mentioned above on payment of a Tender Fee of Rs. 1000/- in shape of Pay Order / Demand Draft (Non-refundable) in favor of Vice-Chancellor LUMHS, Jamshoro during office hours, within due date & time along with the required documents / Eligibility Criteria.

Submission: Bids completed in all respects in sealed envelopes mentioning name of work and marked as "Technical and Financial" must be accompanied by a bid security 2% of bid price in shape of Pay Order / Demand Draft in favour of Vice-Chancellor LUMHS, Jamshoro.

Opening:

- Technical Proposal(s) will be opened on 25-07-2024 (Thursday) at 11:30 a.m. in presence of Committee Members and representatives of bidders who wish to attend, whereas the Financial Proposal will be retained with Tender Opening Committee.
- The Technical Proposal submitted by the bidders will be evaluated by Technical Committee and thereafter Financial Proposal of only technically qualified bidders will be opened by the committee on the date and time to be communicated to the bidders.
- The Financial Proposal of the bids found technically disqualified shall be returned unopened in the respective bidders.
- In case of unusual circumstances, bidders will be opened on the next working day at the same time.

Unresponsive tenders will be again issued / submitted / opened on the following dates:-

2nd Attempt:

S. #	Name of Work	Date of Purchase / Issue	Date of Submission of Bid	Opening Date & Time of Tender
1	Procurement of Equipment for Institute of Cybersecurity LUMHS, Jamshoro	05-07-2024 to 12-08-2024	19-07-2024 up to 11:00 A.M	19-08-2024 at 11:30 A.M

Place of Issuance, Submission, Inquiries & Opening: Office of the Project Management Unit (PMU), 3rd Floor, Institute of Cybersecurity, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, Sindh.

Telephone Numbers: 92-02-9213405

Email Address: pmu@lumhs.edu.pk

Terms & Conditions:

Under the following conditions the bid will be rejected:

- Conditional and telegraphic bids / tenders.
- Bids not accompanied by bid security of required amount and form.

(i) Bids received after specified bidding date and time.

(ii) Bids submitted by blacklisted firms.

(iii) Incomplete bids as per instructions given in the Bidding Documents.

Bid validity period: Ninety (90) days.

Procuring Agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids subject to the relevant provisions of Public Procurement Rules (PPRA) (Amended upto date).

**DIRECTOR
Works & Services LUMHS
Jamshoro**

SPF-KHY No. 2163/24

For getting details go to www.ppra.gov.pk

CANTONMENT BOARD MALIR

Office No. 021-9211391 / 021-99211291
WhatsApp: 0329-2111291

QUOTATION / TENDER NOTICE

The Cantonment Board Malir invites electronic bids for Repair / maintenance of lift at CB Health Centre, Malir Canton in accordance with PPMRA Rules 2024 (As amended upto date) from the eligible firms / contractors registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue and also registered with Cantonment Board Malir being procuring entity for electronic bidding.

Sr.	Description	Qty	Unit	Estimate
1	Repair / maintenance of lift at CB Health Centre, Malir Canton.	01	lot	1.000000
2	Material work ground / 1.			
3	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
4	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
5	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
6	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
7	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
8	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
9	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
10	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
11	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
12	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
13	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
14	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
15	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
16	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
17	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
18	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
19	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
20	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
21	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
22	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
23	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
24	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
25	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
26	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
27	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
28	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
29	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
30	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
31	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
32	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
33	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
34	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
35	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
36	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
37	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
38	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
39	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
40	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
41	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
42	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
43	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
44	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
45	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
46	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
47	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
48	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
49	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
50	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
51	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
52	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
53	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
54	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
55	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
56	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
57	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
58	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
59	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
60	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
61	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
62	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
63	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
64	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
65	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
66	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
67	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
68	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
69	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
70	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
71	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
72	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
73	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
74	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
75	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
76	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
77	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
78	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
79	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
80	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
81	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
82	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
83	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
84	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
85	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
86	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
87	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
88	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
89	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
90	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
91	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
92	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
93	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
94	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
95	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
96	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
97	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
98	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
99	Material M/S pipe PPH water			
100	Material M/S pipe PPH water			

Terms and Conditions:

- Bid documents, instruction and specification can be viewed / downloaded from E-Procurement portal at www.ppra.gov.pk.
- The bidders shall submit 5% bid security of the estimated cost stated in accordance to the shape of call request at (Original) by hand or through courier before closing date & time.
- The quotations / tenders should only be submitted electronically online, on or before 10 July 2024 at 02:00 p.m. through E-Procurement portal at www.ppra.gov.pk (Amended upto date) from the eligible firms / contractors registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue and also registered with Cantonment Board Malir being procuring entity for electronic bidding.
- No return tender shall be entertained.
- The bidder can register themselves with Cantonment Board Malir at www.ppra.gov.pk for online bidding one day prior to the last date of submission of the electronic bids.
- Any information regarding the E-tender can be obtained from the office of the Cantonment Board Malir during office hours. Furthermore, the Contractor User Manual regarding E-bidding has been uploaded in English and Urdu language on the E-tender portal at www.ppra.gov.pk.
- Who provides incorrect information shall stand disqualified and will be debarred under rule 10 of the PPMRA Rules, 2024 (As amended).
- Time allowed for completion of the work is as specified in the NIT which will start from the issuance of letter of acceptance.
- Electronic bids will be valid for 06 Months and same shall be subject to PPMRA Regulation.
- Advertisement is also available on the PPMRA website.
- The sealed bids shall be returned at all applicable Government Taxes.
- Cantonment Board / Cantonment Executive Officer reserves the right to reject all the quotations (bids) unacceptable as per PPMRA Rules.

Cantonment Executive Officer
Malir Cantonment

PROVINCIAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

TENDER NOTICE

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Rehabilitation Department, Karachi invites sealed bids (with all applicable duties/taxes such as income tax, GST, Sindh Sales Tax) from eligible bidders/firms, who must be "Active Taxpayer" and registered with FBR (Federal Board of Revenue) under the Goods & Services Tax (GST) 2018-20 in accordance with Sindh Public Procurement Rules (SPPRA) 2010 (amended 2023) date.

S. No.	Item	Qty	Specification
1	Chairs / Plastic Mat	40,000	As mentioned in the 'Section V' Technical Specification of the Bidding Document.
2	Seating Common Matress	30,000	
3	Seating House Fan	7,000	
4	Chairs / Plastic Mat (Which may be quoted as packages)	30,000	
5	Chairs / Plastic Mat (Which may be quoted as packages)	30,000	
6	Seating Common Matress	30,000	
7	Seating House Fan	7,000	
8	Chairs / Plastic Mat	30,000	
9	Chairs / Plastic Mat	30,000	
10	Seating Common Matress	30,000	
11	Seating House Fan	7,000	
12	Chairs / Plastic Mat	30,000	
13	Chairs / Plastic Mat	30,000	

ISLAMABAD

Sunset 07:24pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:05am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 22°C
Maximum 31°C
Outlook Th: Storms

METRO

North



Djokovic survives
rookie test, Pegula
bows out

Pg.18 SPORT



FATIMA Arjied with other artists perform classical dance at a fundraising event titled "Harmonies of Hope" in Islamabad on Thursday. The event was aimed at raising funds to provide artificial limbs and mobility devices to those most in need. It was arranged by Ilseena Hotels under the initiative of cultural diplomacy in collaboration with Chai Foundations. — Photo by Tanveer Shahzad

Three-day rain spell may swell drains of twin cities

Rain lashes Islamabad, Rawalpindi in early hours of Thursday, inundates low-lying areas of garrison city

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: A three-day spell of torrential rainfall from July 3 may cause flash floods in local nullahs and streams of Islamabad and Rawalpindi among other areas of the country, the Meteorological Department said on Thursday.

The heavy rainfall may cause urban flooding in Rawalpindi besides other cities of Punjab while also causing landslides at vulnerable points in the hilly areas of Murree, Gilgit, and Gilgit-Baltistan, as per the statement.

On Thursday, rain lashed parts of the twin cities in the small hours as well as on Wednesday night and caused inundation in low-lying parts of the garrison city. It however brought much-needed relief from scorching weather.

The Met office recorded 44 millimetres of rain in Chakdala, 35mm in Shamsabad, 16mm in Kotchery, 15mm in Saidpur, 12mm in Bokri, 24mm in Gula, 14mm at the Islamabad International Airport and 18mm at Zero Point in Islamabad. According to the Met Department, the relevant authorities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad should make arrangements in light of the rain forecast. A similar order was issued by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

Despite tall claims by sanitation agencies, the residents on Thursday com-

NDMA issues urban flooding alert

ISLAMABAD: NDMA's National Emergency Operation Center on Thursday warned that moderate to heavy rainfall until July 9 may cause urban flooding and induce rapid rises in water levels in streams, triggering flash flooding across the northern regions of Punjab (Ghatkot, KP and AJ&K).

The affected areas included northeastern parts of Punjab, particularly the eastern rivers' catchment areas, Pothohar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), northern Sindh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K), and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

In a statement issued here, National Disaster Management Authority said that additionally, this precipitation was expected to result in high discharge levels within the eastern rivers. Sutlej River was expected to experience a low flood stage with approximately 50,000 cusecs of water while Ravi River was expected to reach a medium flood level with approximately 95,000 cusecs.

NDMA said that these conditions were expected between until July 9. "Extreme rainfall may also lead to additional releases from Indian reservoirs, including Ravi, Beas, and Pong Dam, which could directly impact the Chenab and Sutlej rivers."

Moreover, NEOC has predicted moderate to heavy rainfall in Gilgit-Baltistan until July 8, which may trigger flash flooding in local drains. Areas such as Chigar and Khyber were at risk of flash flooding during heavy rains. Slight to heavy rain fall was expected in Gilgit-Baltistan, KP, northern parts of Balochistan, and AJ&K until July 8, 2024.

The persistent heavy to moderate rain may cause localised landslides at Karakoram Highway along Hanes and some of areas of District Nagai, Gilgit, Diamir, Kohistan, Baramulla, Muzaffargarh and Abbottabad, potentially disrupting traffic flows and causing off-lane driving areas from main roads.

NDMA urged all relevant authorities and the public to take necessary precautions to mitigate the potential impacts of flooding and landslides. Emergency response teams had been alerted, and resources were being mobilized to ensure a swift response to any arising situations. Tourists were advised to avoid traveling to these areas during the forecast period.

The public was also advised to remain vigilant and follow instructions from local authorities. NDMA has advised the public to stay informed and download 'Pak NDMA Disaster Alert' mobile app for timely alerts and closely monitor weather reports. — Staff Reporter

plained about inundation in the low-lying areas, with some in the Capital complaining that sanitation staff failed to clear the drains before the monsoon rain. The residents of Chakdala Scheme-1 complained that drains and gutters were choked in their locality.

"The situation at Jamia Masjid Road is becoming worse. Even the first spell of rain inundated the locality which has become a common feature," said Mohamud Malik, a resident of Barni Chowk.

Meanwhile, the water level in Loh

Nullah remained normal. Wasee spokesman Umar Farooq told Dawn that the rain occurred in the city areas and the Loh Nullah rose to 2.5 feet at Gharwalmandi Bridge and 4.5 feet at Katterian Bridge.

"The rainwater did not accumulate in the low-lying areas after the rain stopped," he claimed, adding that Wasee was fully prepared to tackle any kind of flooding in Loh. He said that heavy machinery and relevant machinery were transported to the low-lying areas to drain the water in case of emergency.

He said that the Loh Nullah was being cleaned and the work would likely be completed next week, adding that the main obstacles had been removed so the water level did not increase in the nullah on Thursday.

Speaking about Rawal Lake which supplies water to Rawalpindi, he said that the water level in the dam did not increase as the rain did not lash the catchment areas of the reservoir. He said that it was expected that the rain would increase the water level in the coming days.

Over Rs6.8bn surplus budget of RMC approved

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation (RMC) on Thursday approved a surplus budget of Rs6.8 billion for the fiscal year 2024-25 with the allocation of Rs4.724 billion for development schemes.

The budget was presented by Chief Municipal Officer Imran Ali and Municipal Officer Finance Khawaja Faisal Javed and approved by RMC Administrator Aamir Khattak.

According to the documents, the total outlay of the budget is Rs6.826 billion. An amount of Rs1.755 billion has been allocated for non-development expenditures while Rs4.724 billion will be spent on development works.

Moreover, Rs332.440 million have been set aside for salaries of the employees, Rs400 million for pension, Rs575.540 million for contingency/services and commodities and Rs47 million for miscellaneous.

On the direction of Punjab government, the RMC allocated two per cent of its budget for sports and youth development. When contacted, the chief municipal officer said the RMC planned to utilise the development funds on major schemes as roads and streets had already been improved.

He said a total of Rs1.960 billion would be spent on new development schemes while Rs2.090 billion would be utilised for repair and ongoing development schemes. He said Rs2.000 billion had been allocated for ongoing schemes of municipal infrastructure and Rs20 million for repair of streetlights. Rs35 million patchwork of roads and Rs25 million for building and structure repair.

According to the documents, the RMC expects to generate Rs150m from penalty compound fee, Rs1.85m from slaughterhouse lease and Rs20m from Pwidedul general bus stand entry fees.

The budget also anticipates income from various other sources, including Rs15m from car parking fees, Rs321.3m from PFC, Rs2.334m from general bus stand shop lease, Rs3.3m from city shop lease, Rs2.2m from the Suzuki stand, Rs2.5m from public washrooms, Rs60m from the rent of general bus stand shops and Rs280m from the rent of city shops.

On the other hand, a senior official of RMC said the commercialisation fee was less compared to last year's as a meeting of the divisional administration was not held to approve new areas for commercial purposes. However, he said the RMC was planning to further enhance its income and soon it would submit a plan to the administrator for approval.

In the absence of the elected local government, the administration will get suggestions for development work from the Punjab government and elected representatives of the city, he added. — Staff Reporter

IHC seeks report on ITP's strength to cope with traffic violations

Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb of Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday sought a report from Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on its strength to cope with violations on roads as the federal capital has become one of the most dangerous cities of the country in terms of accidents ever since its population and traffic volume increased manifold.

— Detailed story on Page 15.

CDA slashes deadline of protracted Expressway project

Deadline shortened to Aug 14 from Sept 30

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Expressway project which has already missed two deadlines has received a new deadline, as the Capital Development Authority (CDA) chief Muhammad Ali Randhawa asked the department concerned to wrap up the project by Aug 14 instead of Sept 30.

The CDA chairman visited the project site and asked the contractor to complete the ongoing work by Aug 14. "To make Expressway a signal-free corridor, the work should be completed for its inauguration on August 14," he told the contractor and CDA's engineering staff during the inspection.

According to a press release issued by the CDA, the chairman said that on the direction of

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, this project was significant progress in recent months.

The statement quoted the chairman as saying that there should be no compromise on the quality and that he was tasked to oversee the project by the interior minister. The original deadline for the project was March 2024, which was extended to September 30 this year.

However, the CDA chairman set a new deadline and asked the staff to complete the project by August 14.

CDA officials told Dawn that the Aug 14 inauguration was feasible because the project witnessed significant progress over the past few months due to constant checks on the contractor and the engineering wing by the chairman. They said that the work on several bridges — part of the project — has been completed whereas the rail work bridge has 70pc of its work finished.

The Bunder Bridge is under construction, however,

"...we are in a position to complete this project as soon as possible. The extended deadline of the project is September 30, but as per the direction of the CDA chairman, the project can be opened by August 14," said an official of CDA. The Expressway is one of the main roads in the federal capital and caters to both light and heavy traffic, particularly between Islamabad and Lahore.

The CDA had awarded a contract worth Rs10.9 billion to the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) for the rehabilitation and expansion of the seven-kilometre portion of the Expressway, from PWD Interchange to G.T. Road in Rawat on September 2022.

The road has only two lanes on each side and after the PWD, bottlenecks disrupt traffic on a daily basis.

On the other hand, due to ongoing work, motorists have been facing serious traffic congestion issues daily and they are desperate to see completion of work.



A VIEW of food street in Saddpur Village in Islamabad on Thursday. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

PRAYER	
Fajr	05:23
Zuhar	12:16
Asr	05:15
Maghrib	07:25
Isha	09:07
Starting time in Islamabad	

REFLECTIONS

IT IS WRONG TO A PERSON TO DISREGARD AND NEGLECT THE DUTY ENTRUSTED TO HIM AND TRY TO TAKE UP THE WORK ENTRUSTED TO SOMEONE ELSE. 33

— HAZRAT ALE (A.S.)

78A1427



CHILDREN play football in street area off F-6 in Islamabad on Thursday. — White Star

Army, Rangers to remain on standby for Muharram security

SSP says social media being monitored and action will be taken against anyone found spreading provocation

By Mohammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: In order to ensure peace in Muharram, a security plan has been formulated under which over 7,500 police personnel and two companies each of the Army and Rangers would be on standby to deal with any emergency situation in Rawalpindi.

Moreover, security bonds have been obtained from concerned people keeping in view 109 flash points and 75 violations which had been noticed previously by the Special Branch. As many as 355 Muharram processions and 1761 majlis have been categorised as A, B and C due to their level of sensitivity.

Officials said 40 processions have been categorised as "A", most sensitive, 64 placed in category "B", less sensitive, and 212 categorised as "C", normal. Of the 1761 majlis, 208 have been placed in category "A", 347 in category "B" and 1205 in category "C".

Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations) Hafiz Kamran Asghar told Dawn that social media was being strictly monitored and action would be taken against anyone found spreading provocation. "All the 31 individuals placed in the fourth schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 will be kept under observation," the SSP said.

A total of 1761 majlis and 216 processions, including the main procession of Ashura, will be organised in Rawalpindi. An additional force of 400 officers and officials of the Punjab Highway Patrol Police has been called to assist the local police.

Likewise, 15 reserve forces, each consisting of 20 personnel, will be on duty. The Punjab Constabulary's seven reserves equipped with riot shields and batons will be on the disposal of the

city police.

He said that two companies each of the Army and Rangers had also been called who will remain on a standby to assist the police in case of an emergency.

SSP Asghar said 13th Force, CTB, Special Branch, traffic police and Dolphin Force along with field formations will also perform duties in Muharram, adding strict implementation of the loudspeaker Act will be ensured.

He said that the movement of persons included in the fourth schedule was being closely monitored and the Home Department was keeping a close watch on the situation. CCTV cameras, metal detectors and walk-through gates will be used for checking of people at sensitive locations.

Traffic plan

A traffic plan has also been chalked out to ensure smooth flow of vehicles in the city. As many as 931 officers and wardens will perform special duties during the Muharram processions.

The routes leading to the venues of

majlis and processions will be closed for all types of traffic and alternative routes will be provided.

Under the traffic plan, 11 DSPs/circle in-charges, 110 senior wardens, 810 warden assistants will be deployed during Muharram.

The traffic police will direct traffic to alternative routes in collaboration with the district police during majlis and processions.

In this regard, Chief Traffic Officer Tahir Khan held a meeting with all DSPs/circle in-charges, sector in-charges and duty officers and issued them instructions. He said during processions and gatherings, vehicles will be parked at a distance of 500 yards from the venues.

Strict action will be taken against motorcycles and vehicles with black paper or without number plates. Such vehicles will be impounded in the police stations.

The CTO directed the officials to discharge their duties with commitment, adding negligence and omission will not be tolerated.

RDA rejects layout plan of housing society

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on Thursday claimed that it had rejected the request for approval of the layout plan of

an illegal housing scheme known as New Airport Town. RDA spokesman Hafiz Irfan said in a press release that RDA's Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engineering (MP&TE) branch had warned the public against investing in this unauthorised development located in Muzia Katra, Tehsil, and Rawalpindi districts.

He claimed that the New Airport Town was fraudulently enticing public to purchase plots, risking their life savings. As a result, the RDA has rejected and returned the file submitted by the scheme's owner. "Despite being directed to cease all development, marketing, and booking activities, the owner has continued with the development work," he said.

In a press release, RDA Director General Kinza

Mirza has cautioned the public against illegal housing schemes and emphasised not falling prey to unauthorised housing societies. It stated that the developers of New Airport Town are illegally advertising and selling plots without RDA approval, violating Rule 46(1) of the Punjab Development Authorities Private Housing Scheme Rules 2021.

The public is requested to avoid this scheme. "No one shall advertise the sale of plots or housing units in print, electronic media, or any other manner without prior approval from the authority," the press release said.

RDA has instructed the scheme's owner to halt all development activities, advertisements, events, and the sale/purchase of plots immediately. Failure to comply will result in legal action as per the rules. Additionally, RDA DG Kinza Mirza has directed the MP&TE branch to take immediate and strict action against illegal advertisements and marketing of unauthorised housing schemes.

TENDER NOTICE
No 0030-Transport/7-3/2024

OPEN AUCTION OF OLD USED OFFICIAL VEHICLES

Interested persons are invited to submit bids for the purchase of old used official vehicles of the Government of Punjab. The vehicles are listed in the table below.

S.No.	Make & Type	Model	Registration No.
01	Toyota Corolla Diesel Sedan	2007	025-1750 Landmark
02	Toyota Corolla Diesel Sedan	2008	025-1750 Landmark
03	Toyota Corolla Diesel Sedan	2008	025-1750 Landmark
04	Toyota Corolla Diesel Sedan	2008	025-1750 Landmark
05	Toyota Corolla Diesel Sedan	2008	025-1750 Landmark
06	Toyota Corolla Diesel Sedan	2008	025-1750 Landmark
07	Toyota Corolla Diesel Sedan	2008	025-1750 Landmark
08	Toyota Corolla Diesel Sedan	2008	025-1750 Landmark
09	Toyota Corolla Diesel Sedan	2008	025-1750 Landmark
10	Toyota Corolla Diesel Sedan	2008	025-1750 Landmark

The vehicles are to be sold as per the condition in which they are found. The bids will be accepted on the basis of the lowest price offered.

Terms of Auction:

- The bidder must submit a valid National Identity Card (NIC) and a valid driving license.
- The bidder must submit a cash deposit of Rs. 100,000/- (One Lakh Rupees) as a condition for participation in the bidding process.
- The bidder must submit a valid National Identity Card (NIC) and a valid driving license.
- The bidder must submit a valid National Identity Card (NIC) and a valid driving license.
- The bidder must submit a valid National Identity Card (NIC) and a valid driving license.
- The bidder must submit a valid National Identity Card (NIC) and a valid driving license.
- The bidder must submit a valid National Identity Card (NIC) and a valid driving license.
- The bidder must submit a valid National Identity Card (NIC) and a valid driving license.
- The bidder must submit a valid National Identity Card (NIC) and a valid driving license.
- The bidder must submit a valid National Identity Card (NIC) and a valid driving license.

General Manager
Tel: 030-90750007

CORRIGENDUM

This office Notice inviting E-Bidding inserted in News papers Daily Mashriq, Daily Waqt and Dawn dated 04/07/2024 at Terms & condition S.No.01 PDA website may be read as www.pda.kp.gov.pk instead of www.pda.gkp.pk.

DY: DIRECTOR ENGG-III
DE (ROADS), PDA

POWER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMPANY
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Bids are invited from potential dealing firms for "Procurement of Services of Social Media Management Cell for Distribution Companies (DSCs)".

Both Technical and Financial bids shall be received up to **23-07-2024 at 11:00 (AM)** and opened at **11:30 (AM)** on **23-07-2024** at PTC Office, Building-3 Lower Ground Avenue-A-Global Complex Edgerton Road, Lahore.

Tender Fee Rs. 5,000/- will be deposited in Room No. 401, PTC WAPDA House, Lahore.

Please download Tender Document with all details from www.ptc.com.pk and www.pptc.org.pk websites.

For any further clarification please contact Director General (DGS) Pn No. 042-9923266, 042-9923211 Ext. 2128 during office hours.

CEO PTC, 405-WAPDA House, Lahore

GOVERNMENT OF GILGIT-BALTISTAN
OFFICE OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR
26 MW SHAGHARTHANG HPP SKARDU

CORRIGENDUM

With the reference to advertisement published in newspapers (Daily Dawn, K2 and Bader) on 21-10-2023 and 31-01-2024 respectively regarding recruitment of security guards under the P30P project titled '26 MW Shagharthang Hydropower Power Project Skardu' in Water & Power Gilgit-Baltistan. The Competent Authority has revised the number of posts/positions and criteria for security guards which is as under:-

Name of Post	Original Number of Post	Revised Number of Post	Revised Criteria												
Security Guards	20	12	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Education Qualification</td> <td>Matric Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age</td> <td>Between 18-40 years (age will be relaxed upto 45 years in case of retired armed forces)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minimum Height</td> <td>5 feet 7 inches</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weight</td> <td>320 lbs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Running</td> <td>1.6 km in 7 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medical Fitness Certificate</td> <td>from authorized Medical Officer</td> </tr> </table>	Education Qualification	Matric Pass	Age	Between 18-40 years (age will be relaxed upto 45 years in case of retired armed forces)	Minimum Height	5 feet 7 inches	Weight	320 lbs	Running	1.6 km in 7 minutes	Medical Fitness Certificate	from authorized Medical Officer
Education Qualification	Matric Pass														
Age	Between 18-40 years (age will be relaxed upto 45 years in case of retired armed forces)														
Minimum Height	5 feet 7 inches														
Weight	320 lbs														
Running	1.6 km in 7 minutes														
Medical Fitness Certificate	from authorized Medical Officer														

Other terms and conditions of the advertisement shall remain the same.

PROJECT DIRECTOR
26 MW SHPP Skardu
Ph: 05815-550422

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DESPATCH COMPANY
INVITATION TO BIDS

Date: 01.07.2024 Ref Reference No: **PD-BM-19-2024**

1. National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC), "the Employer", intends to get the Works done for Tender No. **PD-BM-19-2024** through NTDC own resources. The Scope of work includes the following:

SUPPLY OF DIFFERENT NAC MATERIAL FOR UP GRADATION OF 132KV BUS BARS AT 500KV GRID STATION NTDC SHEKHUPURA

2. The Employer invites sealed bids through "Single Stage Single Envelope Procedure" on Local Competitive Bidding (LCB) basis from eligible firms as defined under R-3 of Instructions to Bidders of the Bidding Documents, registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments and who are on Active Tax Payers List of the Federal Board of Revenue as per NTDC specifications, details, types and quantities mentioned in the bidding documents.

3. The Employer invites sealed bids from eligible firms or persons licensed by the Pakistan Engineering Council in the appropriate category for the above scope of Works. National Competitive Bidding (NCB) will be conducted in accordance with PEC Single Stage Single Envelope (SSSE) procedure.

4. Bidding Documents, containing detailed terms and conditions, etc. can be purchased on or before July 22, 2024 at the following address during office hours:

Project Director (BM-3) NTDC,
34-Industrial Area Gurgaon-8 Lahore
Telephone No. +92-42-99232225, Fax No. +92-42-99232226
E-mail address: pdh@ntdc.com.pk

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by an interested Bidder on submission of a written application to the above office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only)** from the date of publication of PB. The method of payment will be by cash or bank draft from any scheduled bank of Pakistan in favor of Project Director (BM-3) NTDC Lahore.

6. The Bidder should have successfully completed at least 01 No. similar nature of supplying works at 22KV or higher rating substations within last 05-Years along with documentary evidence for which the contractor/bidder will submit completion certificates for the issuance of bidding documents.

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount not less than 2% of total bid price in Pk. Rupees in the form of Deposit at Call or a Bank Guarantee issued by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan in favor of the Employer valid for a period up to Twenty Eight (28) days beyond the bid validity date.

8. The bids prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents must be delivered to the above office on or before July 23, 2024 at 11:00 hours. Bids will be opened at 11:30 hours on the same day, in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the same address.

9. NTDC reserve all its rights regarding rejection of bids as defined in Rule 33.11 of PPPA Rules 2004.

PROJECT DIRECTOR (BM-3) NTDC LAHORE

ADVERTISER

TO ADVERTISE IN DAWN
For display advertisements please contact:
Landline: +92-01-2302701-5 Ext. 328
Mobile: +92-333-5483044
E-mail: mohammad.asif@ad.com
For classified advertisements please contact:
Landline: +92-01-2302701-5 Ext. 333
E-mail: shahid.ayub@ad.com

COURT NOTICE

DURBAN

In the Court of Honorable Justice Aftab Ahmad, District Judge, Durban, South Africa. In the matter of: **Shahid Ayub vs. Waqar Ahmad** (Civil Suit No. 1482 of 2023). The Court has ordered that the parties to the above suit shall appear before the Court on 11-07-2024 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of settling the matter. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in the absence of the party. Dated: 05-07-2024. Justice Aftab Ahmad.

ISLAMABAD

In the Lahore High Court Lahore, Punjab (Under Order V Rule 30 CPC, Case No. 1482 of 2023). **Muhammad Shahid Ayub vs. Waqar Ahmad** (Civil Suit No. 1482 of 2023). The Court has ordered that the parties to the above suit shall appear before the Court on 11-07-2024 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of settling the matter. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in the absence of the party. Dated: 05-07-2024. Justice Aftab Ahmad.

UK

In the Court of Honorable Justice Aftab Ahmad, District Judge, Durban, South Africa. In the matter of: **Shahid Ayub vs. Waqar Ahmad** (Civil Suit No. 1482 of 2023). The Court has ordered that the parties to the above suit shall appear before the Court on 11-07-2024 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of settling the matter. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in the absence of the party. Dated: 05-07-2024. Justice Aftab Ahmad.

USA

OFFICE of the Chairman, United States District Court for the District of Columbia. In the matter of: **Shahid Ayub vs. Waqar Ahmad** (Civil Suit No. 1482 of 2023). The Court has ordered that the parties to the above suit shall appear before the Court on 11-07-2024 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of settling the matter. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in the absence of the party. Dated: 05-07-2024. Justice Aftab Ahmad.

SWAZILAND

In the Court of Honorable Justice Aftab Ahmad, District Judge, Durban, South Africa. In the matter of: **Shahid Ayub vs. Waqar Ahmad** (Civil Suit No. 1482 of 2023). The Court has ordered that the parties to the above suit shall appear before the Court on 11-07-2024 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of settling the matter. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in the absence of the party. Dated: 05-07-2024. Justice Aftab Ahmad.

CHITRAL

In the Court of Honorable Justice Aftab Ahmad, District Judge, Durban, South Africa. In the matter of: **Shahid Ayub vs. Waqar Ahmad** (Civil Suit No. 1482 of 2023). The Court has ordered that the parties to the above suit shall appear before the Court on 11-07-2024 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of settling the matter. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in the absence of the party. Dated: 05-07-2024. Justice Aftab Ahmad.

NOVEMBER

In the Court of Honorable Justice Aftab Ahmad, District Judge, Durban, South Africa. In the matter of: **Shahid Ayub vs. Waqar Ahmad** (Civil Suit No. 1482 of 2023). The Court has ordered that the parties to the above suit shall appear before the Court on 11-07-2024 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of settling the matter. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in the absence of the party. Dated: 05-07-2024. Justice Aftab Ahmad.

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

ISLAMABAD

BAHARA TOWN

BAHARA Town Phase II over 5000 sq. ft. Residential plots for sale. Contact: +92-333-5483044.

POWER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMPANY
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Bids are invited from potential dealing firms for "Procurement of Services of Social Media Management Cell for Distribution Companies (DSCs)".

Both Technical and Financial bids shall be received up to **23-07-2024 at 11:00 (AM)** and opened at **11:30 (AM)** on **23-07-2024** at PTC Office, Building-3 Lower Ground Avenue-A-Global Complex Edgerton Road, Lahore.

Tender Fee Rs. 5,000/- will be deposited in Room No. 401, PTC WAPDA House, Lahore.

Please download Tender Document with all details from www.ptc.com.pk and www.pptc.org.pk websites.

For any further clarification please contact Director General (DGS) Pn No. 042-9923266, 042-9923211 Ext. 2128 during office hours.

CEO PTC, 405-WAPDA House, Lahore

Advanced metering infrastructure to eliminate power theft: Iesco

RAWALPINDI: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (Iesco) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ahsan Khan on Thursday said that with AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) technology implementation, not only will electricity theft be eliminated and accurate meter readings be obtained 100pc, but also there will be a significant reduction in overloading on the power distribution system, incidents of transformer and meter burn outs and line losses.

"In the initial phase, the old meters of more than 1.2 million consumers in Rawalpindi city, Rawalpindi cantt Circle, and Taxila division are being replaced with AMI meters free of charge. More than 40,000 old meters of various tariffs have been replaced with AMI meters in Rawalpindi city and Rawalpindi cantt circle so far," he stated.

In a press conference, he said that Iesco has always taken the lead in introducing modern technology in the power sector. As part of this commitment, the implementation of state-of-the-art AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) technology in the Iesco region has been made possible. Iesco has always focused on providing quality services to consumers, paying special attention to new technology and robust infrastructure to meet the demands of the present era, he said.

He further stated that the installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters is a revolutionary and commendable step by the government of Pakistan and the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) towards reforms in Pakistan's power sector and providing excellent services to concerned consumers.

He said that the implementation of this advanced and revolutionary technology was undoubtedly in the best interest of both Iesco and the consumers.

He said that more than 40,000 old meters of various tariffs have been replaced with AMI meters in Rawalpindi city and Rawalpindi cantt circle so far.

Iesco General Manager Development Faisal Sharif said that in case of any fault in electricity, the complaints will be automatically registered in Iesco's system, enabling the resolution of electricity related issues in a short time.

Additionally, he said the monitoring of electricity usage and potential faults will now be under the control of the consumers themselves. Project Director AMI Mohsin Raza Gilani briefed media representatives about the aims and objectives of the project.

He said in the initial phase, the old meters of more than 1.2 million consumers in Rawalpindi City, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, and Taxila Division are being replaced with AMI meters free of charge.

Undoubtedly, he said that AMI technology is a revolutionary step towards modern technology and excellent customer services in the power sector, and the role of the media is immensely crucial in delivering the positive benefits of this project to the consumers. — Staff Reporter

Margalla Avenue will be linked with motorway: minister

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said Margalla Avenue will be linked with Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway (M1).

Speaking at an event in connection with the rehabilitation of Margalla Hills, he said after completion of the project the distance between the motorway and the President House will be covered in about 15 to 18 minutes. He said some new projects that included Serna interchange/underpass and PTCL Chowk interchange/underpass at the merging point of Jinnah Avenue and 9th Avenue were also going to be launched. He said special forces were being paid an early completion of the ongoing projects, including Islamabad Expressway expansion, adding for the last 20 years work in provincial had continued on the expressway. However, he said, now efforts are underway for completing the project in August or September.

He said Margalla Hills' restoration work had also been started. Moreover, those involved in fire incidents on Margalla Hills have been arrested, he added.

CDA Chairman Mohammad Ali Randhawa said one million trees would be planted in Islamabad this season. He requested the citizens for planting saplings from July 22 in Margalla Hills in the name of their children, parents and other family members.

Meanwhile, the interior minister also inaugurated several projects of the CDA, including a complaint management, vehicle tracking system, e-office, call centre and human resource management system.

Out of the total 3.4 km portion from Margalla Avenue in M1, 1.8 km falls in Rawalpindi while 1.6 km is in Islamabad which will be constructed by the CDA. However, the acquisition of land has not yet started.

Last year, an official of the CDA said after approving PC-I the CDA had prequalified nine of the total 21 construction firms for the project. However, he said, the acquisition of land had not been started, which was a prerequisite for starting the construction. Another official, however, said the CDA was working to start land acquisition soon.

The project worth Rs5.45 billion (construction and land acquisition) was approved by the civic body in August last year. Since started, work on the project would be completed in eight months.

According to a working paper of the CDA, maximum benefit from Margalla Avenue cannot be achieved until the road was linked with M-1. The project comprises a six-lane road to provide an alternative to commuters travelling to Islamabad from G.T. Road (N-5) and vice versa.

In June 2023, the government had given the go-ahead to the National Highway Authority (NHA) to construct the road in the limits of Rawalpindi. — Staff Reporter



LIGHTNING illuminates sky in Rawalpindi and Islamabad during early morning rain on Thursday. — Online

Court seeks report on ITP's strength to cope with traffic violations

Petition says Islamabad has become one of most dangerous cities of Pakistan in terms of road accidents

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Hassan Aurangzeb of Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday sought a report from Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on its strength to cope with violations on roads as the federal capital has become one of the most dangerous cities of the country in terms of accidents ever since its population and traffic volume increased manifold.

Hearing a petition filed by M/s Lakki Foundation, Justice Aurangzeb directed the police authorities to "submit a report on the mechanism/SOPs that are adopted for determining as to whether a transport vehicle is worthy of being

issued a fitness certificate."

The report shall also indicate steps being taken to penalise those who violate traffic rules.

Justice Aurangzeb also directed the police to submit a report about the sanctioned strength of its staff and officers, and the number of officers assigned duty in night hours.

Conceding to the petitioner Kashif Ali Malik informed the court that the population of Islamabad was 800,000 in 1998 which increased to over 1.1 million while the traffic volume went up by almost seven times in the last 15 years. However, the strength of ITP has gradually decreased from 484 to 428 personnel, he said.

There are around 31 entry points to the federal capital which are not properly monitored by traffic police. Furthermore, there is no segregation of entities such as motorcycles, motorcars, heavy traffic etc., on the roads which is a major cause of accidents, said the petitioner.

It said the ITP was established on Jan 28, 2006, to make the traffic system in the capital a model of excellence for

other cities.

Citing a report of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the petition said Pakistan was ranked first in Asia and 48th in the world for deaths caused by traffic accidents.

The report said there were no national vehicle standards, no formal certification for prehospital providers, no testing carried out in case of a fatal crash. The design standards for the safety of pedestrians exist partially, seatbelt law is not applicable to the front, rear seat and child occupants. There are also no restraints on children sitting in the front seat.

According to police records, more than 60,000 people died in road accidents over the last 11 years in the federal capital. Some of the reasons for the accidents included failure of the traffic police in enforcing traffic laws, poor vehicle condition, lack of road marking, no traffic segregation, use of mobile phones, influence of drugs, speeding, wrong overtaking and bad road condition.

Advocate Malik argued before the court that as per data maintained by the

Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS), the total number of accidents in the capital territory in 2016-17 was 226. Reportedly, the fatality rate per 100,000 population was 6.1 — more than any other city in the country. This rate for Punjab was 3.1 and for Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir it was 2.1, 4.5, 3.2 and 4.3, respectively.

He said except for high profile scenarios, the traffic police were not deployed on major roads such as the Islamabad Expressway and Shingor Highway to control traffic resulting in severe jams during peak hours and major accidents.

The Islamabad Expressway and Shingor Highway are considered to be most vulnerable to accidents.

The so-called signal-free corridor is not fenced from either side and has several unplanned accesses for commercial projects such as wedding halls, man-spaces, plazas and fuel stations.

These unplanned accesses defeat the purpose of making the corridor as signal-free, he added.

The court would take up the matter on July 8.

Encroachments hinder Sector I-15 development: CDA

ISLAMABAD: The development work of sector I-15 is facing significant hurdles due to encroachments, with 10pc land still in adverse possession. While development work in the sector is nearing completion, the issue of encroachment still persists on 10pc of the land.

Deputy Director of Sector I-15 Mushtaq Pervez, through an official letter dated July 2, raised the issue of encroachment with director land, enforcement wing and other officers concerned of CDA.

The letter stated: "It has already been requested that encroachment and built-up property on different areas of sector still exist and local affected persons are creating hurdles in development activity, but it is unfortunate that any positive action from your side [land directorate] is still awaited."

It further said that the ongoing encroachments have halted development in several areas due to unavailability of land.

"The allottees have been reaching out to higher forums and courts against encroachments by the locals and the affected persons. This has adversely affected the reputation of the authority and some areas of land is still undeveloped due to encroachment," read the letter.

According to the letter, work on 50pc available land has been completed and CDA is planning to hand over possession of developed plots to allottees this week.

"Furthermore, the high-ups are pressing hard for early completion of development work on remaining 10pc encroached land too, which could only be possible if remaining land area gets cleared of the encroachments," the letter stated.

"Hence, it is once again requested to give possession of encroached land i.e. 10pc of the sector I-15 engaging Enforcement Directorate, CDA and with the help and collaboration of ICT administration so that the development activities could be resumed on the remaining/portion of I-15 sector to complete the project and subsequently hand over possession to the allottees," the letter emphasised.

Sector I-15, launched in 2005 was intended to provide affordable housing primarily for the middle and lower middle classes. Delays in development stemmed from CDA's negligence until recent years but the work is now near completion.

The sector comprises 10,280 plots of various sizes. "This sector will help add over 10,000 housing units to the city," said an official, adding that Islamabad faces affordability challenges due to shortage of new sectors. According to the official, development work in four other sectors including I-12, C-14 and C-15 is underway and expected to be completed within a year. — Staff Reporter

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION AND DESPATCH COMPANY LTD.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
XEN-PL-01/2024-2025

Sr.#	Name of Work	Estimated Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Documents (Rup)	Completion period
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION CHANNEL, AT 220/132 KV SUB STATION JALAMABAD	465,000/-	5,000/-	90 Days

Date and Time of tender receipt:- 23.07.2024 upto 12:00 noon

Date and Time of tender opening:- 23.07.2024 at 12:30 p.m.

Place of opening:- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CIVIL WORKS DIVISION NTDC LAHORE.

ELIGIBILITY OF CONTRACTORS:-

1. Registered with PEC in category qualifying estimated amount of the work and having record for the year 2024-2025.
2. Bank statement for last 6 months showing the financial position of the firm.
3. Must produce satisfactory completion certificate of at least two works of similar nature.
4. Successful bidder will submit 10% Performance Security (Bank Guarantee) of quoted bid from any scheduled bank in Pakistan.
5. Tender document may be obtained on production of above said documents and tendering over the enclosed money in the shape of Deposit Call in favor of Executive Engineer (CIVIL WORKS DIVISION) NTDC LAHORE, 34-INDUSTRIAL AREA GULBERG-II, LAHORE up to 22.07.2024 from the office of the undersigned during working hours. Relevant Design/Drawings may be seen during office hours in the Office of the undersigned.
6. Bid price must include all Federal and provincial taxes & duties i.e. income tax, general sales tax, provincial sales tax etc.
7. The bidders will submit undertaking that he has read & accept the NTDC GOF for blacklisting of firm.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CIVIL WORKS DIVISION
34-INDUSTRIAL AREA GULBERG-II, NTDC HOUSE, LAHORE.
Phone office 042-66261264, S.O.S. Cell 0334-0360463

PRD/LH41

Police arrest Islamabad PTI president

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police on Thursday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Inquilaf (PTI) Islamabad region's president Amir Maghal outside the Deputy Commissioner's office ahead of the party's planned protest in the federal capital.

PTI is scheduled to hold a power show on July 6 in the Tarnai area, constituency of Maghal who contested the last general election from there.

A PTI leader stated Maghal had gone to the DC office for a meeting with concerned officers regarding the party's power show in Tarnai.

However, he was arrested by Islamabad Police in day time. — Staff Reporter

Government of Gilgit-Baltistan
Chief Minister Secretariat
(Chief Minister's Reforms Unit GB)

No.50(B&A)-1300024 (Procurement)

Gilgit dated the 5th July, 2024

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed government registered firms / dealers / suppliers / contractors for procurement and supplying of items / goods / services in the following categories to Chief Minister's Reforms Unit (CMRU), Gilgit-Baltistan during financial year 2024-2025.

Category	Name of Item	Call Deposit (Pak Rupees)	Last Date of Submission
A	Edible Items	200,000	22 nd July, 2024
B	Non-Edible Items / Misc Store Items	200,000	22 nd July, 2024
C	Repair / Maintenance & Supply of Spare Parts of Govt. Vehicles	200,000	22 nd July, 2024

Notes:- Prescribed Form / Bidding Documents containing terms & conditions and details for each category may be obtained from the office of the undersigned from 8th July, 2024 during office hours.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:-

1. Sealed tenders may be submitted to the undersigned on or before the date mentioned against each category by 1200 hours, which will be opened on the same day at 1230 hours in presence of contractors / suppliers or their authorized representatives at Chinar Bagh, CM Secretariat Gilgit.
2. Contractors / suppliers may offer only the category of tender, in which he has complete set up (own shop / store / auto shop), technical experts / workers / staff, vast and past experience with documentary evidence.
3. The contractors / suppliers must be sole proprietor having their own complete set up (shop / store / auto shop) containing adequate supplies in Gilgit Town and he will be bound to supply demanded items to the Chief Minister's Reforms Unit, Chinar Bagh, Gilgit.
4. The bid must be accompanied a call deposit mentioned against each category of tender above.
5. The bid security / call deposit in shape of Bank Draft / Pay Order issued by the bank in the name of Secretary to Chief Minister GB / P&O may be attached with the bidding / tender documents. Tender without call deposit from the bank will not be accepted.
6. If any contractor / supplier intends to participate in more than one tenders, a separate bid for each separate category of tender must be offered, mentioning the name of category in bold letters on envelope.
7. The bidding documents of only registered firms / dealers / suppliers / contractors shall be entertained.
8. The rates of those items which are not included or covered after award of tender to a successful bidder in the Prescribed Form will be determined in accordance with the prevalent retail price in the open market at the time of supply / delivery.
9. All kinds of taxes, custom duties applicable (if any) may be included in the bid price and shall be borne by the firms / dealers / suppliers / contractors.
10. Conditional, ambiguous & incomplete tenders shall not be accepted.
11. Bank statement for the last 03 years, 03 years work experience in relevant field, registration certificate and non-blacklisting certificate and other supporting papers as mentioned in the bidding document must be attached with the sealed tender duly attested.
12. The Secretary to Chief Minister, GB / P&O reserves the right to accept or reject any one or all of the tenders as per relevant instructions / guidelines of GB PPRA.

(SHAHID IQBAL)
SECTION OFFICER (B&A)
Ph : 05811-932023

0308-47504

0581-02

LAHORE

Sunset 07:13 pm
 Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:01 am
NEXT 24 HRS
 Minimum 27.0°C
 Maximum 34.0°C
 Outlook Showers
AQI
 Maximum (Yesterday) 180

METRO Central



**Djokovic survives
 rookie test, Pegula
 bows out**

Pg.18 SPORT



LPG retailers gather at Shamsa Pahari Chowk to lodge a protest against a joint crackdown by the civil defence and the district government on illegal decanting. — White Star

Rs45bn boost for railway revamp

By Khalid Haanain

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways (PR) will receive Rs45 billion in investments starting from next month under the public sector development programme approved in the federal budget (2024-25) passed by parliament recently.

Under the PSDP allocation of Rs45 billion, the PR wants to implement three major track upgrade projects and various other schemes, Dawn has learned.

PR Chief Executive Officer Amir Baloch told Dawn on Tuesday that the three major projects the PR is set to launch include rehabilitation of various stretches of the track falling within the territorial jurisdiction of the PR's Karachi and Sukkur divisions (Main

Line 1 / ML-1). Moreover, the rehabilitation of various stretches of ML-2 (Shah/ Multan to Kandahar) is also set to be started. Similarly, the Jacobabad-Sukkur track stretches (ML-3) are also planned to be maintained, he added.

He said the PR management continues to focus on maintaining the rail tracks to ensure safe train operation on the railway system across the country.

Various portions of the existing ML-4, especially those falling under the jurisdiction of Karachi and Sukkur divisions, continue to require frequent repair as most accidents involving both passenger and freight trains often happen there.

The year 2019 was perhaps the worst, as the PR witnessed over 100 fatal and non-fatal accidents on various routes. The main accidents in 2019, among over

300 minor and major incidents, included the derailment of eight wagons of a freight/container train near Rahim Yar Khan (Faridkot) on April 1, the derailment of a goods/container train near Padohan Station (Sindh) on May 18, the derailment of Thal Express near Kandahar on May 21, the derailment of Jafar Express near Gujjar Khan on May 30, a fire incident in the running Jinnah Express during car near Harappa (Sahawal) on June 18, accidents involving Jinnah Express near Hyderabad on June 20, the parting of a running Pakistan Express train into two portions near Khamarval on July 11, an accident involving Allure Express and a goods train at Walker station on July 12, the derailment of Zakaria Express and a goods train near Kotri and Rahim station on July 23, the Tugayam train fire tragedy

on October 30, an accident involving Sangodha Express and a dumper truck on December 10, and the derailment of Jinnah Express near Lahore Railway Station on December 17.

At least 73 passengers lost their lives, and over 100 were injured in the Tugayam fire incident alone. Similarly, 21 people were killed, and about 85 were injured in the Allure Express accident.

Three drivers lost their lives in the Jinnah Express's Hyderabad accident, and some passengers were also injured in this accident. The driver of Sangodha Express lost his life after the train hit the dumper truck. Besides the aforementioned incidents, there are also reports of deaths of some passengers in other accidents. Several minor and major accidents were also reported in 2020, 2021, 2022, and till June 30, 2024.

Hospital probe silent on 'exchange of baby boy with dead infant'

Police file FIR on father's complaint

LAHORE: During the investigations into an incident in which a baby boy was allegedly exchanged with a dead baby girl at the Children's Hospital, the hospital management claimed that the parents had themselves taken away the 'male baby' from the hospital against medical advice, without explaining the issue of babies' exchange.

The incident was probed by a committee of senior medical teachers of the hospital following the complaint of four-day-old sick baby boy's father Irfan, of Gujranwala, who alleged that the doctors and staff exchanged his son with a dead baby girl.

He had asked the hospital administration to return his son and initiate action against the officials responsible for the "crime" they committed.

Irfan had also brought back the body of the baby girl to the hospital which was allegedly handed

over to him by the staff concerned.

The committee in its findings declared that the investigation officers questioned all the relevant staff, including doctors, nurses and paramedics, who remained at the neonatal unit where Irfan's son was provided treatment. It stated that the footage of the CCTV camera installed there were also examined.

The report says the condition of the newborn got critical despite all possible treatment, and the doctors shifted him to the high dependency unit to put him on ventilator support. However, the parents and other relatives of the patient refused to get further treatment and left the hospital along with the baby after signing the Leave Against Medical Advice form, the committee claimed.

However, the hospital's inquiry report is silent on the issue of alleged exchange of the babies.

Meanwhile, Gujranwala police have registered an FIR on the complaint of Irfan, regarding alleged exchange of the baby boy with the dead baby girl by the hospital staff. — Staff Reporter

Two held for torturing street entertainer's monkey to death

By Our Correspondent

RAHAWALPURI: The Vehari police arrested two persons on Thursday for animal cruelty after they tortured a monkey of a street entertainer to death.

District police spokesperson Adnan Tariq told Dawn that the suspects, Faisal Masih and Ali Akbar, were the employees of Vehari zoo. They caught the monkey, named Kain, near the zoo from a street, near the zoo entrance, Muhammad Nasir, a resident of Chak 12/WB, and tortured her to death.

DPO Mansoor Aman took notice of the incident and on his direction, City police approached Nasir to register a case against the suspects. After registration of a case under sections of the PPC, police arrested Masih and Ali Akbar.

According to the first information report (FIR), when Nasir reached near the zoo the other day, the suspects snatched his monkey from him.

At this, the monkey put up resistance while the suspects tortured her to death.

The police spokesman said that the zoo employees had snatched two other monkeys of Nasir in the past too.

MEDICINES: The CM's adviser on health retired Maj Gen Ashar Mahmood Kapani has directed the health department of Rahawalpur to launch a crackdown on the spurious and fake medicines in the district.

He was presiding over a meeting along with Deputy Commissioner Zahoor Anwar Jajja to review the health delivery system.

DHA Chief Executive officer Dr Farooq Shah belated the meeting and claimed that the people in the rural areas, Christian and TIQ hospitals areas were being provided with health facilities. He said preventive measures to control the measles, malaria, dengue fever, polio and other diseases, particularly among children, had been taken.

The health adviser also

inspected BVH Cardiac Centre (CC), Bahawal Victoria Hospital (BVH) and Government Nawab Sadiq Hospital where Prof Dr Shahadat Ali Chaudhry and medical superintendents (MSs) of both hospitals, Dr Amir Bokhari and Dr Muhammad Hamid, briefed him on the medical facilities being extended to the patients.

POLICE: Lodhran Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razaq Mahar has reprimanded the executives of the antipolice team for their unsatisfactory performance in the district.

According to an official handout, the DC directed them to improve their efficiency and complete their task by Friday, the last day of a five-day anti-police campaign.

The vaccinators were asked to complete administration of polio vaccine to over 100,000 children, including about 1,000 high-risk children of gypsy (nomadic) families, in 28 union councils of the district.

22 trains to operate on public-private model

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: In a major development, Pakistan Railways (PR) has decided to operate 22 passenger trains on the public-private partnership model.

The decision aims to provide better facilities to train passengers and enhance railway's revenue.

The trains to be operated under the public-private partnership model include the Karakoram Express, Karachi Express, Awam Express, Green Line, Mehr Express, Chenab Express, Saman Saker Express, Mohorjo Daro Express, Pak Business, Bolen Mail, Thal Express, Sukkur Express, Mera Express, Chaman Express, Hazara Express, Shalimar Express, Bahaudin Zakaria Express, Kohat Express, Mahan Express, Attock Express, Jand Express and Rawalpindi Express.

"We aim to provide our passengers with the best travel experience. The PPP model will ensure that passengers receive top-notch facilities," says Pakistan Railways Chief Executive Officer Amir Ali Baloch in a statement.

He mentioned that the dining cars have been upgraded, and premium dining cars will be added to Tugayam and Zakaria Express trains, along with some others.

Baloch says "exclusive washrooms" constructed at the Lahore Railway Station have been well-received by passengers, adding that similar washrooms will be made functional at all major stations within the next three months.

20kg flour bag cheaper by Rs80, claims Azma

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari claims that flour millers have reduced prices of each bag of 20kg by Rs80.

Speaking at a press conference along with Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Kirmani here on Thursday, she said the government approached the flour millers on reports of increase inatta price though the supply of wheat in the open market had been improved.

She said Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz took notice of the price hike and held a meeting in which shun date being fed by the food department to the provincial government was also exposed.

She said negotiations with the flour millers led to a cut inatta prices by Rs80 per 20kg bag.

Ms Bukhari said that four officials of the food department have also been suspended and removed from their posts for feeding wrong data to the authorities about wheat and atta prices.

Meanwhile, the food department has issued a notification on monitoring of inter-province movement of wheat and flour.

Food secretary Musazzam Iqbal Sipra says that e-permits will be required to transport wheat and atta out of Punjab and that the district food controllers have been empowered to issue e-permits.

Pharmacists write to CS about 'harsh' tone and tenor of notifications

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: The Pakistan Pharmacists Association (PPA) has filed a complaint with Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman to take action against health secretary Ali Jan for passing what they said derogatory and discriminatory remarks against the pharmacists, declaring his act a blatant violation of the constitution of Pakistan.

The PPA stated that the health secretary even used the words like "302and "420" in the official notifications for the pharmacists which were taken in negative sense in the routine life and discussed for criminals in the record of the law-enforcement agencies, including police, the Federal Investigation Agency, etc.

These were used deliberately by the department to give a 'hidden message' to all the relevant health authorities including the heads of the government hospitals and

others not to 'show sympathies' with the pharmacists and treat them harshly, the PPA lamented.

The PPA's strong reaction came when it collected various official notifications of the Punjab health secretary wherein he continued to 'target' the pharmacists by passing 'abusive' and 'insulting' remarks in his frequent departmental actions initiated against them. The copies of the notifications and the complaint were also available with Dawn.

As soon as another (recent) such notification surfaced, the PPA submitted the same to the Punjab chief secretary along with the complaint as evidence stating that the health secretary used repeatedly 'intolerable' and 'humiliating' words.

The notification says the health secretary has suspended a pharmacist of Services Hospital, Lahore, Irfan Afzal, on account of inefficiency and misconduct.

The PPA apprised the CS that the very next sentence in the notification was con-

taining a highly objectionable decision, 'he shall not be allowed to enter the hospital premises henceforth'.

In his complaint, PPA president Dr Farooq declared it a sheer violation of his fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution for the government employees including pharmacists to freely move in the government offices.

He argued that under the constitution no one has been authorised to put a ban on the pharmacist(s) to enter any public sector hospital of the country even if he was found guilty while discharging official assignments.

The 'order' of the health secretary has left thousands of pharmacists highly upset.

The PPA president also submitted to the CS another notification wherein the health secretary initiated departmental action against a doctor (additional principal medical officer) of the hospital, employing the official jargon.

"Dr. Irfan Ishaq, Additional Principal Medical Officer (PS-19) Regular, Services

Hospital, Lahore City, Lahore, is hereby transferred, with immediate effect and directed to report to the Specialised Healthcare/Medical Education Department, on administrative grounds, for further orders. He is also relieved of his duties forthwith".

He also notified of the health secretary. Mr Farooq further highlighted that the notification issued for the suspension of Dr Irfan Ishaq was bearing No. SO/GC/131-56/2024.

The notification No. SO/AHP/0420/002(2024) issued for the suspension of pharmacist Irfan Afzal was carrying the words of "420" (used for fraudulent persons, "302" (used for murderers).

"The malice on the part of the authority is apparent in the above said discriminatory and derogatory remarks revealing bias and unjust exercise of power as well as the said remarks are violation of article 3, 4 and 15 of the constitution of Pakistan and cause humiliation and undermine the dignity"

regulation of these professionals", reads the complaint of the PPA.

The PPA president stated that the treatment meted out to the pharmacist has been highly degrading as such orders did not contain these remarks for health professionals. Mr Farooq also highlighted another issue of awarding 'unnecessary' major departmental punishments to the pharmacists across Punjab without holding prior inquiries.

He claimed that a majority of the suspension orders of pharmacists were issued without any substantial evidence, just to cover up the inefficiency of administration of the hospitals.

"If there is any allegation of inefficiency and misconduct against any pharmacist, a proper inquiry should be conducted as the PPA always supports transparency," the PPA president said.

The health secretary did not respond to a text message by Dawn to know his side of the story.

Two killed over canal water row

By Our Correspondent

TORA TEK SINGH: Two people were murdered and another injured critically over irrigation water dispute in Dikot area, Chak 277 RB, Faisalabad, on Thursday.

According to Dikot police, three cousins, Hamid Ali, Akshat Razaq and Usman were irrigating their crops when their opponents (two brothers) Khan Muhammad and Sultan Ahmad and Khan's two sons, Jamshed and Razaq, opened indiscriminate fire on them as a result all three were seriously wounded.

They were shifted to DHO hospital where Hamid and Razaq succumbed to their injuries while Usman was started to be critical.

YOUTH KILLS FRIEND: A youth killed his friend over a trifle on Thursday at Chak 415 JB, Gojra.

Reports said Ali Hasan was present at the outcome of suspect Ali Shah when after exchange of harsh words over some issue, Shah fired on Ali Hasan, injuring him critically. He was shifted to

THQ hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Police have taken into custody Ali Shah who claimed that he was clearing his gun when suddenly a bullet triggered from it and Ali Hasan which caused his death.

Gojra Sadhar police have shifted the body to hospital for autopsy.

INJURED: A dozen passengers were injured when a Faisalabad-bound coach van overturned near Chak 9-GB on Jaranwala-Narokanah Road on Thursday after its tire got broken down.

All the injured were shifted to Jaranwala THQ Hospital. The injured were identified as Zarina (50), Mushtaq (55), Shahzad Bha (60), Sakina (45), Maria (10), Zarina (45), Ahmad (18), Alisha Dima (40), Maha (7), Najid (23) and Amroo Hanna (55).

Meanwhile, on Sarandei Road near the shrine of Saif Barkas Ali in Faisalabad, a van traveling from Sarandei to Faisalabad collided with a roadside tree. Rescue 1122 ambulances shifted the injured to DHO Hospital. They were identified as Mushtaq (70), Umar Dera (10), Nafay (72), Humaira (34) and Asif (47).

CM announces metrobus, Rs18bn projects for Gujranwala

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Thursday announced mega projects for Gujranwala, including the Gujranwala Metrobus Project, worth Rs18 billion, the first state-of-art cardiac hospital and a farm unit in the city.

During her visit to Gujranwala on Thursday, she also ordered the construction and repair of small and big roads of the city.

Former CM and current Prime Minister Sheikh Sharif had promised the metrobus project for the citizens of Gujranwala in 2018 just before the end of his last tenure as the chief minister of the province.

Maryam ordered early completion of the Nigar Chowk Bypass and sought steps to build parks and beautification of the city. She issued directions for increasing the

number of field hospitals and clinics on wheels. She directed the officials to upgrade of the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) and ensure cleaning of drains.

Under the 'Pink Wheel' project for women's help in Gujranwala, she said, the women police would immediately arrive on pink bikes to address women's complaints related to police. The CM directed to control artificial inflation along with reducing prices of essential commodities.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said, "For the first time in Punjab, regular cleaning and repair work of roads are being done in the rural areas. Early drainage of rainwater must be ensured during the monsoon. Do not make anyone unemployed, the wheel-carts should be parked on the road side in an orderly manner. Water filtration, streetlights and manhole covers should be installed.

The operation should continue in Gujranwala to steadily deal with drug peddlers. Food and drink will be provided by the government during Maharram."

She commended the police for elimination of kite flying and extortion.

The CM met the assembly members and PML-N candidates in the last election at the commissioner's office where assembly members presented their problems, suggestions and recommendations.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was briefed on Gujranwala development projects and approved about available municipal services. Information Minister Azma Bokhari, provincial minister Sahade Ahmad Malik, Khairan Dastagir Khan, members of national and provincial assembly, chief secretary, the commissioner and other officials were also present.

ATC rejects MPA's interim bail in Jatoi AC torture case

By Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD: Dera Gazi Khan Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Syed Faizul Hasan on Thursday rejected the interim bail of PML-N MPA Rana Akhbar Manan Sajid in a case of torture of Jatoi assistant commissioner (AC) during a farm unit protest against 'unfair' distribution of ganyu bags.

The MPA had been granted interim bail by the Peshawar High Court. On May 19, the MPA led a farmers' protest outside the residence of Jatoi AC Tariq Mahmood, alleging that the officer sold Sardana ganyu bags to some middlemen instead of giving the same to wheat growers, whose crop was lying in the fields.

During the protest, some of the farmers allegedly subjected the AC to torture and made videos of the episode. After the incident, the AC approached Deputy Commissioner Mian Usman Ali and DC Khan Commissioner Navir Muhammad Rashid with a complaint against the MPA.

Official sources say that the commissioner and DC held a meeting with Regional Police Officer (RPO) retired Capt Sajid Hamid, DPO Syed Hamid Haider, after which the police registered the case against the MPA and other protesters. The Provincial Management Service Association, taking notice of the incident, issued a press release, demanding the arrest of the suspects, including the MPA.

Later, AC Tariq Mahmood took leave for treatment. In the first information report (FIR) the AC stated that a mob led by MPA Rana Akhbar Manan Sajid attacked and tortured him. He alleged that the attackers also took away official files, cash, a laptop and mobile phones from his residence.

Later, the Jatoi police added section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) in the FIR and arrested four of the suspects.

MPA Rana Sajid denied allegations and claimed that the protest was peaceful and none of the farmers entered the AC house, harming the case baseless.

The ruling party MPA was not present in the court when the judge rejected his interim bail.

FOUR KILLED: Four people were killed and 30 others injured in a bus-coach van collision here on Thursday at Adla Hussain Shah near Chowk Sarwar Shahad.

Reports said the passenger van was travelling from Layyah to Multan, while the bus was on its way from Kabirwala to Layyah. The collision occurred about 50 kilometers from the city due to speed of the bus.

The accident left 30 passengers seriously injured, with 15 in critical condition. Locals and rescue officials shifted the injured to THQ Hospital, Sarwar Shahad and Nidhar Hospital Multan for treatment. The victims hailed from Tehsil Kabirwala and Layyah district.

Kot Adla Deputy Commissioner Syed Musawir Abbas Bokhari declared an emergency at the hospital and directed the THQ hospital staff to provide the best possible care to the passengers.

Further, the council approved an Online and Distance Learning Policy, migration and transfer rules, the minutes of all departmental Board of Studies meetings, and updated library rules and regulations for 2024.

Additionally, the HEC Undergraduate Policy 2023 was adopted, and an Associate Degree Programme was introduced in 12 departments.

VC Dr. Ramzan highlighted several initiatives to advance the university's educational standards, including the hiring of highly-qualified faculty, adoption of instant assessment techniques, implementation of a campus management system, introduction of 71 short courses, establishment of an e-library and a digital library, initiation of new BS programmes.

Black day

LAHORE: Former National Assembly speaker and People's Party central Punjab president Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that July 5, 1977, will be remembered as a black day in the political history of the country.

In a message issued here on Thursday to mark the 47th anniversary of the overthrow of the

elected government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, he said that on this day, a dictator killed an elected government and oppressed the PPP leadership and workers.

But the party fought the oppression for the sake of the Constitution and democracy in the country and even after 47 years the PPP is alive, he said. — Staff Reporter

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE-1

INVITATION FOR BIDS

500 KW HARYALA HYDROPOWER PROJECT

With reference to the tender notice # 5470 regarding Design, Manufacturing Supply, Installation, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Electro-mechanical works of 500 KW Haryala Hydropower Project. The last date for submission of bids has been extended upto 30th July, 2024.

All other terms & conditions shall remain same.

Managing Director
AJK Power Development Organization
Muzaffarabad

LAH-01 AJK 171-08-07-2024

Electricity workers observe martyrs day

LAHORE: Power workers observed 'Martyrs Day' all over the country on Thursday to pay tribute to the workers who sacrificed their lives during performance of duty.

They held rallies and meetings under the auspices of the All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union.

In Lahore, the workers staged a rally in support of their demands and urged the prime minister and the federal energy minister to intervene to get stopped

the fatal accidents of line and field staff during the performance of duty. They urged the government to provide safe working conditions to Wapda employees during the performance of duty.

Union secretary general Khurshid Ahmad asked the workers not to perform their duties in case they were not provided with safe working conditions. — Staff Reporter

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE-1

INVITATION FOR BIDS

500 KW PATHIALI HYDROPOWER PROJECT

With reference to the tender notice # 5469 regarding Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Electro-mechanical works of 500 KW Pathial Hydropower Project. The last date for submission of bids has been extended upto 30th July, 2024.

All other terms & conditions shall remain same.

Managing Director
AJK Power Development Organization
Muzaffarabad

LAH-02 AJK 171-08-07-2024

GHAZI UNIVERSITY

Dera Ghazi Khan

ADMISSIONS OPEN

Fall 2024 (Morning & Evening)

BS | MS | PHD

ADMISSIONS DEADLINE

02 Aug 2024

Apply for BS Programs on the Basis of First Year Marks

Faculty of Sciences	Faculty of Arts	Faculty of Management & Social Sciences	Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
BS Botany	BS English	B.Ed (1.5 Years)	B.Sc (Hons) Agriculture
BS Chemistry	BS Urdu	B.Ed (Hons.) Elementary	BS Environmental Science
BS IT	BS History	BS Education	BS Food Science & Technology
BS Mathematics	BS Balochi	BBA (Hons.)	M.Sc (Hons) Agri Entomology
BS Physics	BS Saraiki	BBA (2 Years)	M.Sc (Hons) Agronomy
BS Statistics	BS Islamic Studies	BS Accounting & Finance	M.Sc (Hons) Horticulture
BS Zoology	BS Pakistan Studies	BS Digital Marketing	M.Sc (Hons) Plant Breeding & Genetics
M.Phil Chemistry	BS Political Science	BS Supply Chain Management	M.Sc (Hons) Soil Science
M.Phil Mathematics	M.Phil History	BS Economics	MS Environmental Science
MS IT	Ph.D History	BS Development Studies	MSc (Hons) Plant Pathology
Ph.D Chemistry	Apply Online For Eligibility Criteria Visit www.gudgk.edu.pk	BS Sociology	Ph.D Agri Entomology
Ph.D Mathematics		MS Business Administration	Ph.D Agronomy
		M.Phil Economics	Ph.D Horticulture
		M.Phil Education	Ph.D Plant Breeding & Genetics
		M.Phil Sociology	
		Ph.D Business Administration	
		Ph.D Economics	
		Ph.D Education	

For Further Details Visit www.gudgk.edu.pk

REGISTRATION FOR ADMISSIONS

BS | MS | PHD

LAH-03

PUNJAB DAANISH SCHOOLS & CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AUTHORITY DAANISH SCHOOL (BOYS & GIRLS) CHISHTIAN

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Punjab Daanish Schools and Centers of Excellence Authority, Government of the Punjab offers opportunities to highly dynamic and committed professionals in NON-ACADEMIC STAFF category to serve at DAANISH SCHOOL (BOYS & GIRLS) CHISHTIAN:

Sr. No.	Name of Posts	Pay Scale	No. of Posts	Qualification / Experience	Age Limit
1.	Nurse (Female)	05-04	01 (Female)	• Intermediate (Pre-Medical Subjects) with Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery, Registered with Punjab Medical Faculty Board/Pakistan Nursing Council (PMC) • At least 3-4 years' of related experience in Government/Private Institute/Hospital. • Additional related medical certificates / diploma will be given due recognition. • Experience/Character Certificates from the previous employers, if any. • Minimum Matriculate or equivalent qualification from recognized institution / Board.	Up to 55 years
2.	Junior Clerk (General)	05-11	02 (Male)	• Computer Proficiency (MS Office Suite, Excel, Power point), Urdu In Page • Knowledge of filing system / record keeping. • Typing speed 30-35 wpm. • Preferably 3 years of experience in a reputed organization. • Experience/Character Certificates from the previous employers, if any. • Minimum 12th/10th from recognized institution with short computer course, typing speed 30-35 wpm. • Preferably 3 years of experience in Government/Private office. • Accounting/Finance experience will be preferred. • Experience/Character Certificates from the previous employers, if any.	Up to 45 years
3.	Junior Clerk (Accounts)	05-11	01 (Male)	• Computer Proficiency (MS Office Suite, Excel, Power point), Urdu In Page • Knowledge of filing system / record keeping. • Typing speed 30-35 wpm. • Preferably 3 years of experience in a reputed organization. • Experience/Character Certificates from the previous employers, if any. • Minimum 12th/10th from recognized institution with short computer course, typing speed 30-35 wpm. • Preferably 3 years of experience in Government/Private office. • Accounting/Finance experience will be preferred. • Experience/Character Certificates from the previous employers, if any.	Up to 45 years
4.	Electrician	05-04	02 (Male)	• Intermediate (Pre-Medical Subjects) with Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery, Registered with Punjab Medical Faculty Board/Pakistan Nursing Council (PMC) • At least 3-4 years' of related experience in Government/Private Institute/Hospital. • Additional related medical certificates / diploma will be given due recognition. • Experience/Character Certificates from the previous employers, if any. • Minimum Matriculate or equivalent qualification from recognized institution / Board.	Up to 55 years
5.	Security Guard	05-02	01 (Male)	• Experienced from Infantry, Artillery, Armored Corps, Air Defense, Rangers and Frontier Corps, Corps of Engineers (Engg), Pakistan Navy Marines (PM Marines), Mounted (Active Battalion) and personnel from other armaments qualified in Advance Infantry Course/100 Course. • Certificate by school psychologist about mental stability during probation period. • Preferably 3 years' proven experience in weapon handling (to be tested). • Pay-05-02-A/B.	Up to 50 years
6.	Head Writer/ Draftsman	05-01	01 (Male)	• Preferably 3 years' relevant experience. • Physical Fitness (Mandatory). • Experience/Character Certificates from the previous employers, if any.	Up to 40 years
7.	Mail/Balder	05-01	02 (Male)	• Preferably 3 years' relevant experience. • Experience/Character Certificates from the previous employers, if any.	Up to 40 years

Process / Conditions

- Applicants shall attach with their applications a detailed resume (CV), 3 x Photographs and certified copies of educational / experience certificates, DHC duly attested should reach to DAANISH SCHOOL (BOYS & GIRLS) CHISHTIAN.
- Applications should be submitted to the undersigned on or before 02 AUGUST 2024. Candidates may also submit their applications in the school office in person during working hours.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for test / interview. Date of written / or any other test will be given later, if required.
- After test only shortlisted / selected candidates will be called for interview. All appointments will be on contract basis.
- No TA/DA will be admissible to the candidates shortlisted for test/interview.
- The applications submitted by the candidates will be at the risk and cost of the applicants. Any information found bogus at any stage, during selection or later in service, will result in termination of candidature or employment thereof.
- The selected candidate(s) can be transferred/deployed to any other Daanish / Center of Excellence School located in Punjab Province.
- All selected applicants will be required to submit medical certificate(s) and police clearance certificate.
- School Principals/PO/ACSA Head Office has the right to reject any or all applications with / without any reason and its decision will not be challengeable in any court of law.

PRINCIPAL, DAANISH SCHOOL (BOYS / GIRLS) CHISHTIAN, DISTRICT BAHAWALNAGAR
12-KM, Chak 5/G Road, Tehsil Chishtian District Bahawalnagar (For Girls)
10-KM, Bahawalnagar Road, Tehsil Chishtian District Bahawalnagar (For Boys)
Telephone: Boys Campus: 063-2509909, Girls Campus: 063-2509999

LAH-04

PESHAWAR

Sunset 07:31pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:05am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 28°C
Maximum 34°C
Outlook Cloudy

METRO
North

**Djokovic survives
rookie test, Pegula
bows out**

Pg.18 SPORT



An official uses a tokenless block instrument at Attock Khurd railway station to ensure there is no other train on the track until the next station. The 100% system for use on single track railways has been designed in such a way that the controlling signals will only allow one train to enter the line at any one time. — *Wafa Star*

PHC summons chief secretary, former health secretary over contempt pleas

Petitioners claim MTI BoGs chairman replaced contrary to court order

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court on Thursday summoned Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief secretary and a recently transferred health secretary in contempt pleas accusing them of replacing chairman and members of the board of governors (BoG) of some medical teaching institutions in the province.

A bench consisting of Justice Ijaz Awan and Justice Syed Arshad Ali directed that the two officers should appear in person today (Thursday) for explaining their position.

The court had earlier on June 26 suspended a notification of provincial gov-

ernment of appointing chairman of BoG of MTI Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) Peshawar despite issuance of a stay order by the court.

The bench was hearing different contempt of court petitions filed by some former chairman and members of BoG of KTH and Ayub Teaching Hospital, who stated that the high court had issued clear order on June 13 to restrain government from taking any adverse action against them and also not to pass any final order on the matter regarding the expected removal of petitioners and appointment of new chairman/members of BoG on the recommendation of search and nomination council.

However, they stated that after the order was issued, provincial government issued back-dated notifications purporting of June 11 through which the petitioners were removed from the said post.

One of the contempt petitions is filed by KTH BoG chairman Dr Umar Ayub Khan, requesting the court to initiate

proceedings against the officers, who had violated the said order.

Harrister Rabiat Shahzad Miran, Rahmatullah Shah and Habib Awan appeared for the petitioners and stated that on June 13 the bench had in clear terms stopped the government from issuing any final order.

They said that the order of the court had been violated as a back-dated notification of June 11 was issued whereby the petitioner was removed from the post of BoG chairman/member of KTH.

They stated that provincial government issued another notification on June 20 through which one Taimoor Shah was appointed the chairman of the said BoG by the chief minister under section 5 of MTI Reforms Act, 2015.

The lawyers contended that this one was also a back-dated notification aimed at frustrating the order of the high court.

"By issuing the said notification, prima facie the order of this court dated 13.6.2024 has been violated and has

thereby undermined the authority of this court," the bench had observed during previous hearing.

On Thursday, when the bench ordered that the chief secretary and the health secretary should appear in person, an additional advocate general pointed out that the said health secretary had been transferred. The bench directed that the transferred secretary should appear in the matter.

Justice Ijaz Awan observed that on June 13 the advocate general present in the court had informed the bench that so far no order adverse to the interest of the petitioner had been passed and the petition was premature. However, the judge observed the said notifications were subsequently made public.

The bench wondered how it could be possible that the advocate general was unaware of the said development, if the notifications were issued prior to the court order, and had not informed the bench about it.

Gandapur orders provision of funds for Muharram security

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Thursday ordered the release of the funds required for security measures during Muharram, saying maintaining law and order in the province is the top priority of his government.

Chairing a meeting here, the chief minister said that authorities should pay special attention to sensitive districts for targeted security measures in Muharram.

He also asked them to contact religious leaders of different sects and elected public representatives to promote religious harmony and tolerance, according to an official statement by the chief

minister's secretariat.

Mr Gandapur issued orders for the installation of tents on the routes of mourning processions in view of the heat wave and health officials should contact the Peshawar and tribal area electric supply companies to ensure uninterrupted power supply to Muharram processions and majalis.

He ordered the introduction of an effective mechanism of coordination among the relevant departments and agencies at provincial, divisional and district levels.

Mr Gandapur urged religious leaders and people to play their proactive role in maintaining law and order and promoting sectarian

harmony during Muharram.

He also examined the security plan and arrangements for Muharram during the meeting.

The participants included the provincial chief secretary, additional chief secretary, home, police, chief and administrative secretaries. The divisional commissioners, regional police officers, deputy commissioners and district police officers attended the meeting via video link.

Officials briefed the meeting about Muharram's security plan and said that the mourning processions and gatherings would be held in 14 districts with eight districts declared as the most sensitive and its sensitive in light of the

law and order situation.

They also said that around 40,000 security personnel would be deployed across the province in Muharram, whereas special contingents of Frontier Corps and Pakistan Army would be engaged for protecting mourning processions and majalis.

The officials told the meeting that a central control room with representatives of all relevant departments and law enforcement agencies was being set up at the home department.

They also said that special arrangements would be made for the security of sensitive districts and places across the province.

The officials said that mourning

processions and majalis would be monitored through closed circuit television cameras, whereas a ban had been slapped on the display of arms, pillow riding, and hateful wall-chalking.

They said that special initiatives were proposed to constantly monitor social media pages to control hateful contents and negative propaganda during the month of Muharram.

The officials also said that mobile phone service would be suspended in sensitive districts, while staff of health and rescue departments would be assigned special duties with the purpose to effectively deal with any untoward situation. — *Bureau Report*

Govt bans depts from creating posts, buying vehicles

Notifies austerity measures, budget guidelines for all depts

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa finance department has banned all departments from creating posts, purchasing vehicles, and holding seminars and workshops in five-star hotels.

The ban is part of the austerity measures and budget guidelines notified by the finance department for the current fiscal year.

The measures approved by the provincial cabinet on May 24 have been circulated to all government departments, according to a document of the finance department.

It revealed that there would be a complete ban on the creation of posts but development projects would be an exception. However, the chief minister could relax the ban on the one-to-one basis in the case of exigency.

The finance department also said the purchase of vehicles would be banned with the exception of ambulances, earth-moving machinery, fire trucks, tractor trucks, buses, passenger vans, prisoners vans, motorcycles, bonser trucks, recovery and rescue vehicles, and rescue and life saving boats.

It also stopped all departments from participating in foreign workshops, seminars and training programmes involving the provincial government's funds.

Also, there will be a ban on holding seminars and workshops in five-star hotels involving provincial funds as well as an overseas treatment at the govern-

ment's expense.

The document read that the cabinet also banned extension in the contractual period of project employees unless it was justified by the relevant administrative departments and decided in consultation with the finance department.

"All administrative secretaries and heads of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies, being principal accounting officers, shall conduct meetings of the departmental accounts committee regularly to ensure inter-departmental coordination and expenditure shall be restricted to the funds released and the administrative departments shall not incur expenditure in anticipation of additional or supplementary grants," it said.

The department said in order to improve efficiency in revenue collection, the provincial revenue

review committee would meet regularly under the chairmanship of the finance minister to review the performance of all revenue collecting entities of the provincial government and to propose structural changes, performance indicators, legal reforms, and other arrangements in the procedures.

It added that contingent workers would be hired in 2024-25 only after the approval of the finance department.

"No appointments will be made to 'leave vacancies' without the finance department's prior approval, while there won't be any appointments to vacancies, except by promotion, without the issuance of the No Objection Certificate by the relevant superior," it said.

The department said the principal accounting officers would ensure that no appointment is made to vacant posts of "dying"

cadres and disciplinary proceedings were taken over such post appointments.

It added that no development schemes involving the creation of posts or the purchase of vehicles, machinery, equipment, or furniture would be considered without prior clearance.

"All autonomous bodies, medical teaching institutions, other institutions, and authorities under the provincial government will adopt these austere measures within their respective organisations with the approval of competent forums," it said in the letter.

The finance department said the planning and development department would initiate district and sectoral plans spread over the next three years as part of the mid-term development framework for the purpose of improved planning and eliminating wasteful expenditures.



Nawagai bazaar closed to protest bomb blast

By Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The main bazaar in the Nawagai town here remained closed for the second consecutive day on Thursday against the killing of five people, including former senator Hidayatullah Khan, in Wednesday's bomb blast in Mamund taluk.

It is the third largest commercial centre in the district with around 2,500 shops.

Also, traders, political and social activists, and people from other walks of life took to the streets in this native area of Mr Hidayatullah. Shouting slogans, they demanded tangible steps for peace in the district.

Azami National Party leader Maulana Khan Zeb said the residents were in the state of grief and fear after the Mamund bombing.

He said the law and order situation in the district had been poor for the last two years and the people held multiple peace marches and gatherings, but authorities didn't take corrective measures.

The other speakers said Bajaur used to be a peaceful region but the killing of innocent people destroyed peace.

They urged people to forge unity for ensuring durable peace in the district.

Mr Hidayatullah, who was killed during the election campaign for his nephew Najeebullah Khan's election campaign for the provincial assembly constituency PK-22 by-election, was laid to rest in Nawagai area late on Wednesday.

His funeral prayer was attended by people from across the district. The other bombing victims were buried in their native areas on Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

The police registered an FIR against unidentified attackers under Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act and sections 427 and 302 of Pakistan Penal Code.

8 killed in Haripur, Mansehra road mishaps

HARIPUR/MANSEHRA: Eight people, including two women and a minor girl, were killed and 17 others injured in different road accidents in Haripur and Mansehra districts on Thursday.

In Haripur, five passengers including two women and a minor were killed and ten others injured when a passenger van plunged into a roadside gorge near village Chakhshe on the night between Wednesday and Thursday.

Police and rescue sources said that more than 15 occupants of Hase van were travelling to the Islamabad Airport on Wednesday night to see off a relative.

The driver lost control over the vehicle near Chakhshe village, and it fell into 300 ft deep roadside ravine, killing two women, two men and a minor girl on the spot while ten others including the driver were injured, they said.

The area people, along with emergency services, launched a rescue operation but due to rain and darkness of night, the shifting of injured and dead bodies to nearest medical facility caused great hardships to rescuers.

The police registered a case against the van driver Muhammad Fareed for negligence in driving.

In Mansehra, three people were killed and seven others critically injured in two road accidents in Oghi and Balakot on Thursday.

The driver of a dumper truck lost control over the vehicle, colliding head-on with a three-wheeler and both fell into a ravine in the Tarnawa area of Oghi.

The injured were rushed to hospital where doctors pronounced Muhammad Naveed and Mohammad Raza, stated to be the drivers of rickshaw and the dumper truck respectively, dead. Three of the injured were referred to King Abdullah Teaching Hospital Mansehra for treatment.

In another road mishap, a young boy was killed and four others sustained critical injuries when a pickup van plunged into a deep ravine in the Kasal area of Koghan Valley on Thursday. The injured were shift to the Civil Hospital Balakot where doctors pronounced Shah Ma, 11, dead. The injured were referred to Ayub Medical Complex Hospital Abbottabad for further treatment. — *Dawn Report*

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

Minister for use of modern agricultural tools to boost yield

By Our Correspondent

KHYBER: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Agriculture retired Major Muhammad Sajjad Khattak has said that provincial government is keen to devise a better strategy to enhance agricultural yield in tribal districts despite financial constraints.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa rural investment and livelihood support project and olive farming at Bara Agriculture Training Centre on Thursday, he said that modern tools and machinery were required for a rapid agricultural development but the provincial government faced shortage of required funds for the purpose.

He, however, said that provincial government desired to invest Rs40 billion in the seven merged districts for development of agricultural to provide additional financial benefits to tribal farmers.

"Improving agriculture and assisting local farmers are the priorities of present provincial government with focus on introducing modern agricultural technology to facilitate local farmers," he added.

The minister said that a drive was conducted on farms submitted by local farmers for walking tractors, vertical farming and kitchen gardening under the assistance of World Bank. He congratulated those farmers, whose names were selected after the drive.

He said that the drive was conducted in a transparent manner. Later, he distributed olive plants among the selected farmers.

On the occasion, the director of agriculture, Zaid Islam Durrani gave a detailed briefing about the activities of his department in different parts of Khyber in particular reference to grafting of thousands of wild olive trees in Tishah and other parts of Bara.

The ceremony was also attended by officials of provincial agriculture department along with MNA Iqbal Afridi and MPAs Abdul Ghani and Shahid Afridi.

A group of Bara farmers, however, later complained that they were neither invited to the ceremony nor they were included in the drive. They said that farmers from across the Khyber should be treated equally and provided with official assistance on equal basis.

Prolonged power cuts protested in Shangla, Bisham

SHANGLA: Traders in Shangla Bely Baba Bazaar staged a protest rally against excessive power outages and in Bisham city they announced complete shutoff down strike against unsheduled power outages and increased taxes in power bills on Thursday.

The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) has increased the duration of electricity loadshedding from 18 to 20 hours a day in the district.

The rally's participants, mainly businessmen of the area, were carrying banners, placards inscribed with the demand of ending power outages, and they chanted slogans against the PESCO authorities.

Addressing the rally, Muhammad Alam, Sahib Zada and others said, only traders used the power supply from PESCO in the area, as majority of local residents depended on the solar panels for supply of power.

They criticised that despite regularly paying the electricity bills, the PESCO authorities had started excessive loadshedding, which brought severe negative effects on their businesses.

Ali Bax, a trader, said that PESCO had not only increased the electricity bills massively, but also started excessive loadshedding.

Zairun Gil, a trade union leader, said that they got power bills with heavy amounts but when power transformers developed faults, they paid to private technicians from their own pockets to get them repaired.

Meanwhile, the Bisham city trade union president Muhammad Zada, addressing a press conference, said, they could not bear such an excessive loadshedding which was directly destroying their businesses. He announced that they would close all the businesses centres and blocked the Karakoram Highway to protest the power outages and massive increase in electricity prices.

MOHAMMAD: Local residents and traders in Ekkahward Bazaar near Mohammad staged protest and blocked main Peshawar-Bajaur road for an hour against excessive loadshedding. They also condemned Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO) authorities for lodging FIRs against several traders and local residents.

Addressing the protesters, the speakers lambasted the PESCO officials for exceeding the power loadshedding to 20 hours a day, causing great hardships to local people, businesses and scarcity of drinking water in this hot weather.

— Correspondent

Revenue official held in Haripur for corruption

HARIPUR: The anti-corruption establishment arrested an official of the revenue department on corruption charges here on Thursday.

The arrest of head of the Haripur Mahafiz Khana (revenue record room) Taseem Khan came on people's complaints during a raid on his office.

The ACP officials obtained warrants for his arrest from judicial magistrate Shahid Khan, who led the raid.

They also seized marked currency notes of Rs10,000 and took the official to the ACP police station, where a corruption case was registered against him under the anti-corruption law.

— Correspondent

Notice issued to advocate general over pleas against provincial duty on tobacco

Petitioners pray court to declare KP Finance Act, 2024, unconstitutional

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court on Thursday issued notice to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa advocate general for responding to pleas, challenging imposition of provincial excise duty on unmanufactured tobacco produced in the province.

A bench consisting of Justice Jaz Arif and Justice Syed Anwar Ali observed that as the petitioners had challenged a law, Provincial Excise Duty (Unmanufactured Tobacco) Act, 2024, therefore, under section 27-A of Code of Civil

Procedure it was mandatory to hear the advocate general on the matter.

The bench issued the order after preliminary hearing of three almost identical petitions filed by M/S Pak Hills Thrashing and Re-drying and two other tobacco companies, challenging the imposition of provincial excise duty at a rate of Rs50 per kilogram on unmanufactured tobacco by the provincial government.

The petitioners have requested the court to declare as unconstitutional the relevant sections of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Act, 2024, through which the imposed law had been enacted for imposition of provincial excise duty on unmanufactured tobacco.

They requested the court to declare that the provincial legislature couldn't legislate about any item incorporated in Federal Legislative List of Fourth Schedule to Constitution of Pakistan after the omission of the concurrent list therein.

They sought declaration of the court that the export of tobacco or local supply of excisable tobacco was a federal subject and already subjected to federal excise duty (FED) on unmanufactured tobacco levied by the federal legislature and the provincial assembly/provincial government couldn't control, administer and levy the provincial excise duty (PED) on unmanufactured tobacco.

The petitioners' counsel Iftikhar Ahmad Sarwar stated that his clients were industrial unit engaged in processing of unmanufactured tobacco. He said that the main material being processed by the petitioners was tobacco, which was subjected to FED as per rate prescribed in the First Schedule of Federal Excise Act, 2005.

The counsel stated that Federal Excise Act (FEA) was administered by Federal Board Revenue being a revenue division of the federal government. He said that recently provincial assembly enacted the Provincial Excise Duty (Unmanufactured Tobacco) Act, 2024, through Finance Act, 2024.

He contended that the imposed law was not only in contrast to the provisions of Constitution but also a parallel duty to FED duty legislated by the parliament in exercise of its power under entry No.44 of Federal Legislative List of Constitution.

Mr Iftikhar said that the provincial assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa without considering the provisions of Constitution promulgated KP

Finance Act, 2024, and decided to levy and to be collected excise duty on all unmanufactured tobacco produced within the province at rate of Rs50 per kilogram.

He stated that the federal government had already imposed FED on tobacco presently at rate of Rs300 per kilogram.

He argued that it was not in the constitutional domain of provincial government to legislate on the subject, which was available in Federal Legislative List provided in Fourth Schedule of Constitution.

He said that through the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, the concurrent legislative list had been moved from Constitution and parliament had exclusive jurisdiction to legislate on matters appearing in Federal Legislative List.



A MAN prepares garlands at his shop in Peshawar. — APP

Police deploy more personnel on KKH

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: The Kohistan police have increased the number of personnel deployed on the Karakoram Highway in the district ahead of Muharram to provide security to travellers, including foreigners.

During a meeting in his office on Thursday, Lower Kohistan district police officer Muhammad Umar told officials to perform duty more vigilantly for the protection of the local, national and foreign travellers on the Karakoram Highway.

He said that the National Action Plan meant to effectively counter militancy should be enforced in letter and spirit.

"I won't tolerate negligence in the implementation of NAP and won't allow the entry of anyone to our district via the Karakoram Highway or other arteries without thorough search and examination," he said.

Mr Umar said that patrols on the KKH and other arteries, which linked Mansehra district with Hazara and Malakand divisions, should be immediately enhanced.

He said that 810s of all police stations would ensure that non-residents don't get rooms in the local hotels.

The DPO said that if house or hotel rooms were rented out without fulfilling requirements under the NAP, their owners would be taken to justice.

He said that the effective implementation of the NAP guidelines would help control crimes.

The participants, including the superintendent of police, deputy superintendent of police, SHO and investigation officers from Pafan, Basked and Ramnail circles, also reviewed security arrangements for Muharram.

Meanwhile, electric supply was suspended to Kamila and other areas of Upper Kohistan district here early on Thursday due to the collapse of a power pylon.

A truck knocked down the pylon on the Karakoram Highway in the Mansehra district area of Lower Kohistan district on the way from Rawalpindi to Gilgit.

The incident occurred as the driver lost control of the truck due to brake failure.

No one was hurt when the pylon collapsed, but a small house was damaged.

The residents complained about a delay in the restoration of power supply.

Abdul Malik Baghar insisted that many elderly people and women faced due to the prolonged power suspension in the hot and humid weather.

A PESCO official claimed that efforts were under way to restore electric supply.

Lakki police arrest bandit after exchange of fire

By Our Correspondent

LAKKI MARWAT: The police arrested a bandit in injured condition and seized arms, ammunition and narcotics from him after an exchange of fire in Sarja Kharsakhal area here the other day.

Police were tipped off about the presence of Hashim Khan, a biggun of the bandit gang, in the rural area, an official said.

He said a party of Shabbakhal police station immediately reached the locality to ensure the arrest of the wanted man.

"When he noticed policemen he opened fire on them to avoid being arrested," the official said, adding the cops returned the fire and a gun battle continued for some time.

He said when firing stopped the law enforcers launched a search and captured the man wanted by police in robbery cases in injured condition. He said police seized an AK-47 rifle, bullets and 1.2kg ice drug from him. He was shifted to a hospital.

The official said Hashim's gang was involved in robberies on Peshawar-Karachi highway in the mountainous terrain of Bara Pura town.

He said the outlaw was among the top 10 most wanted proclaimed offenders for his involvement in attacks on law enforcers, murders, attempted murders, narcotics smuggling and terrorism-related cases.



Government of Gilgit-Baltistan
Chief Minister Secretariat
(Chief Minister's Reforms Unit GB)

No.50(B&A)-1300024 (Procurement)Gilgit dated the 5th July, 2024

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed government registered firms / dealers / suppliers / contractors for procurement and supplying of items / goods / services in the following categories to Chief Minister's Reforms Unit (CMRU), Gilgit-Baltistan during financial year 2024-2025.

Category	Name of Item	Call Deposit (Pak Rupees)	Last Date of Submission
A	Edible Items	200,000	22 nd July, 2024
B	Non-Edible Items / Misc Store Items	200,000	22 nd July, 2024
C	Repair / Maintenance & Supply of Spare Parts of Govt. Vehicles	200,000	22 nd July, 2024

Note: Prescribed Form / Bidding Documents containing terms & conditions and details for each category may be obtained from the office of the undersigned from 8th July, 2024 during office hours.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- Sealed tenders may be submitted to the undersigned on or before the date mentioned against each category by 1200 hours, which will be opened on the same day at 1230 hours in presence of contractors / suppliers or their authorized representatives at Chinar Bagh, CM Secretariat Gilgit.
- Contractors / suppliers may offer only the category of tender, in which he has complete set up (own shop / store / auto shop), technical experts / workers / staff, vast and past experience with documentary evidence.
- The contractors / suppliers must be sole proprietor having their own complete set up (shop / store / auto shop) containing adequate supplies in Gilgit Town and he will be bound to supply demanded items to the Chief Minister's Reforms Unit, Chinar Bagh, Gilgit.
- The bid must be accompanied a call deposit mentioned against each category of tender above.
- The bid security / call deposit in shape of Bank Draft / Pay Order issued by the bank in the name of Secretary to Chief Minister GB / P&O may be attached with the bidding / tender documents. Tender without call deposit from the bank will not be accepted.
- If any contractor / supplier intends to participate in more than one tenders, a separate bid for each separate category of tender must be offered, mentioning the name of category in bold letters on envelope.
- The bidding documents of only registered firms / dealers / suppliers / contractors shall be entertained.
- The rates of those items which are not included or covered after award of tender to a successful bidder in the Prescribed Form will be determined in accordance with the prevalent retail price in the open market at the time of supply / delivery.
- All kinds of taxes, custom duties applicable (if any) may be included in the bid price and shall be borne by the firms / dealers / suppliers / contractors.
- Conditional, ambiguous & incomplete tenders shall not be accepted.
- Bank statement for the last 03 years, 03 years work experience in relevant field, registration certificate and non-bankrupting certificate and other supporting papers as mentioned in the bidding document must be attached with the sealed tender duly attested.
- The Secretary to Chief Minister, GB / P&O reserves the right to accept or reject any one or all of the tenders as per relevant instructions / guidelines of GB PPRA.

(SHAHID IQBAL)
SECTION OFFICER (B&A)
Ph : 05811-932023

0508-475040581-02



NATIONAL TRANSMISSION AND DESPATCH COMPANY LTD.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
XEN-PL-01/2024-2025

Sr.#	Name of Work	Estimated Money (Rs)	Cost of Tender Documents (Rs)	Completion period
1	CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION CHANNEL, 1st AT 220/132 KV SUB STATION JALAMAND	465,000/-	5,000/-	90 Days

Date and Time of tender receipt: 23.07.2024 upto 12:00 noon

Date and Time of tender opening: 23.07.2024 at 12:30 p.m.

Place of opening: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CIVIL WORKS DIVISION NTDCL LAHORE.

ELIGIBILITY OF CONTRACTORS:

- Registered with PEC in category qualifying estimated amount of the work and having relevant for the year 2024-2025.
- Bank statement for last 6 months showing the financial position of the firm.
- Must produce satisfactory completion certificate of at least two works of similar nature.
- Successful bidder will submit 10% Performance Security (Bank Guarantee) of quoted bid from any scheduled bank in Pakistan.
- Tender document may be obtained on production of above said documents and tendering over the enclosed money in the shape of Deposit Call in favour of Executive Engineer (Civil Works Division) NTDCL, NTDCL House, 34-Industrial Area Gulberg-II, Lahore up to 22.07.2024 from the office of the undersigned during working hours. Relevant Design / Drawings may be seen during office hours in the Office of the undersigned.
- Bid price must include all Federal and provincial taxes & duties i.e. income tax, general sales tax, provincial sales tax etc.
- The bidders will submit undertaking that he has read & accept the NTDCL GOF for blacklisting of firm.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CIVIL WORKS DIVISION
34-INDUSTRIAL AREA GULBERG-II, NTDCL HOUSE, LAHORE.
Phone office 042-99261064, S.O's Cell 011-0334-0306043 **PID/L/41**

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com