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'Legal' Afghans allowed to stay for another year

- Cabinet extends PoR cards' validity to June 30, 2025
- Operation Azm-i-Istehkam must to keep peace, says PM
- Two depts being formed to look after Pak-PWD affairs
- Shehbaz warns against delays in 'right-sizing' agenda

By Syed Inam Raza

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Wednesday extended the validity of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, held by 1.45 million Afghan refugees legally staying in Pakistan, by one more year to June 30, 2025.

The decision came after a meeting during which United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi had requested Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to halt registration of even those Afghan refugees who were not registered with the government and the UNHCR and were staying in Pakistan illegally.

Pakistan, it may be recalled, wanted to send 70,000 Afghans to a third country as was agreed around three years ago.

"The cabinet accepted (the proposal) of a one-year extension of the PoR cards of 1.45 million Afghans legal residents that expired on June 30, 2024," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Pakistan began expelling undocumented foreigners, mostly Afghans, in November last year amid a row over accusations that Afghanistan harbours Pakistani militants, a charge it is denying. Taliban denials, Islamabad says, it is also

struggling to host millions of refugees as it grapples with an economic crisis. More than 100,000 Afghans have returned from Pakistan since the campaign was announced, according to UN figures.

According to sources, Prime Minister Shehbaz apprised the cabinet members of Azm-i-Istehkam operation and said it was required to maintain peace in those areas where a resurgence of terrorism has been observed.

The sources said that the PM took the cabinet into confidence on the issue and the members assured him of their full support in this regard.

Two depts to replace Pak-PWD

Abolishing the Pakistan Public Works Department (Pak-PWD) as part of winding up loss-making entities, the cabinet approved formation of two new departments — Pakistan Infrastructure Development Company (PIDC) to oversee federal development projects, and the Asset & Facility Management Company (AFMC) for repair and maintenance works.

The meeting, chaired by PM Shehbaz, decided to hand over the federal government's projects to the relevant provincial departments.

The AFMC will be set

up to carry out the repair and maintenance works currently being done by the Pak-PWD. The Pak-PWD employees would be transferred to the relevant ministries and a golden handshake scheme would be introduced for them.

The PIDC will be established to carry out the PSDP projects being implemented under the PWD.

Other projects such as roads, etc will be given to the provincial communication and works departments and highway authorities.

The committee formed to review the government's plan said the cabinet that it would complete the information gathering about unnecessary departments of the ministries of IT, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, States and Frontier Regions, Industries and Production, and National Health Services by July 12 and present its proposals by the first week of August.

The meeting was informed that after July 15, similar information would be sought from other ministries, and recommendations would be tabled regarding the closure or merger of departments.

PM Shehbaz warned against any laxity in the implementation of the government's downsizing agenda.

Continued on Page 5



ISLAMABAD: Shop owners look on as firefighters battle the blaze that ripped through the H-6 Weekly Bazaar on Wednesday, destroying over 600 stalls. — Tanzeem Shehbaz / White Star

Nepra urges govt to correct power generation contracts

- Regulator orders investigation into overbilling by distribution companies
- Consumers accuse Nepra of acting as rubber stamp for tariff hikes

By Khaleeq Hani

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Wednesday called on the government to seriously work on corrections in power generation contracts to provide substantial relief amid widespread public outcry over a tariff increase of up to Rs7.12 per unit.

During a public hearing, Nepra also announced it had taken notice of last month's overbilling by distribution companies due to changes in the meter reading mechanism to 'pre-rata' adjustment and had ordered a detailed investigation.

Representatives from the power

division and its subordinate companies claimed that the average tariff for the current fiscal year would be lower than the previous year's due to fewer quarterly tariff adjustments and monthly fuel cost changes.

They said the government had finally provided a Rs10bn subsidy for three months to provide relief to residential consumers using up to 200 units per month. However, a senior Planning Commission official told the hearing that the cabinet's decision about this relief had yet to be officially notified.

The public hearing, presided over by Nepra Chairman Wassim Mukhtar

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15 killed as jeep crashes into AJK riverbank

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: Fifteen people were killed and two others injured after a passenger jeep crashed into the banks of the Neelum River on Wednesday.

The Muzaffarabad-bound jeep was carrying 16 people, including the driver — all hailing from Laxar Bala village — when it met with the accident at about 10am near Devlian village.

After falling from the road, the vehicle first struck the bypass, then tumbled down to the riverbank, stopping just short of the river, Muzaffarabad Deputy Commissioner Nadeem Ahmed Janjua said.

Mr Janjua asserted that the main road at the site of the accident was quite wide and could easily accommodate four vehicles passing simultaneously from opposite directions.

"An initial assessment suggests that the lateral of the passenger jeep broke, causing the driver to lose its control," he said.

Before the vehicle came to a halt near the riverbank and was reduced to a twisted mass of metal, about all passengers were thrown to the rocks, he added.

Rescuers found 14 people dead at the scene, and two young boys with critical injuries.

Those who died on the

Continued on Page 5

NA clears SOEs bill; PM says no wheat exports yet

By Bilal A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif cleared the National Assembly on Wednesday that the government has not decided to export wheat from the country, even as the State-Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Bill, 2024 was rushed through the legislature.

This controversial amendment, which allows the government to remove board members of SOEs based on recommendations from the board nomination committee, had been passed by the Senate the previous week and will become Law upon President Asif Ali Zardari's assent.

"I want to bring it on record before the House that there is no such decision on wheat exports," the PM said while responding to the opposition leader's accusations against Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. Earlier, Omar Ayub had accused Mr Naqvi of making hundreds of billions in an alleged wheat import scam during his days as

Continued on Page 5

ON OTHER PAGES



Selectors fired over T20 debacle

The PCB has sacked selectors Wahab Riaz and Abdul Parraiz from the national selection committee, its first punitive move following Pakistan's disastrous performance at the men's T20 World Cup. PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi had criticised major surgery after Babar Azeem's team crashed out of the world tournament before the knock-out stages. Page 18

Key former ally testifies against Imran in corruption case

- Pervez Khattak claims cabinet chaired by ex-PM had approved confidential deed to return money to property tycoon Malik Riaz
- PTI founder asks Supreme Court to dismiss govt challenges against NAB judgement

By Malik Asad

RAWALPINDI: As former prime minister Imran Khan faces a jail trial in the \$190-million corruption case, former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Pervez Khattak arrived in Adiala Jail on Wednesday to testify against him before an accountability court.

Before he parted ways with the PTI to form the now-defunct PTI-Parliamentarians in the run-up to the Feb 8 polls, Mr Khattak was a key PTI

leader, also serving as defence minister in Mr Khan's federal cabinet, which he claimed had approved a confidential deed to transfer money, seized by the UK, to Bahria Town owner Malik Riaz.

Before Mr Khattak, a number of people considered close to the entrepreneur have stood in the witness box in several cases faced by the PTI leader. His secretary Asim Khan testified in the cipher case, while another aide, Anam Chaudhry recorded his statement in the Bhatt case.

Usually, the PTI founder does not move from his chair when witnesses record statements. But for Pervez Khattak, Mr Khan rose from his chair and approached the witness box, apparently to get a good look at his former comrade who had now turned against him.

In his almost 15-minute statement, the former PTI leader told accountability judge Mohsin Ali Wazir about the cabinet's approval of the confidential deed, where the \$190m seized by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA)

as proceeds of crime, was allegedly returned to the property tycoon.

The case alleges that Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi obtained billions of rupees and land to the tune of hundreds of kanal from Bahria Town Ltd for legalising the said amount through the federal cabinet.

Mr Khattak testified before the court that he was a party to the deed in the December 2019 meeting, where then-accountability adviser Mirza Shafiq Akbar produced the confidential deed in a sealed envelope

for cabinet approval. He said when he inquired about the document, Mr Akbar said that it was an agreement of the Pakistani government with the NCA for the refund of crime proceeds.

According to the former minister, some cabinet members had asked Shafiq Akbar to disclose the document, but he refused to do so despite their insistence, saying that the deed was confidential.

Prosecution witnesses

Continued on Page 5

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PHOTO: AFP

Zardari chairs meet to discuss PPP organisation, ties with PML-N

LAHORE: A meeting of the Punjab leadership of the Pakistan People's Party was held here on Wednesday under the chair of President Asif Ali Zardari.

The meeting, convened at Iqbal House after a dinner hosted by President Zardari for PPP parliamentarians and ticket-holders from Punjab, was attended by Governor Saleem Haider, former prime minister Raja Perwaiz Ashraf, Qamar Zaman Keira and Syed Hassan Mustafa, among others.

Punjab Information Secretary Shehzad Cheema told reporters during a break in the meeting that the gathering mostly focused on party re-organisation matters, while relations with the ruling PML-N also came under discussion. He would not elaborate on the hiccup in the ties between the PPP and PML-N but said President Zardari informed the participants about the difficulties facing the country and the party, assuring the audience that the issues would be resolved shortly.

He said that the no-show by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to receive President Zardari at Lahore airport upon his arrival in the city did not figure in the discussion because, he said, the party did not focus on such petty issues.

Regarding the recent federal cabinet decision to allow a premier intelligence agency to tap phone calls of suspects, Mr Cheema said that earlier the practice was carried out illegally, whereas now it has been brought under the ambit of the law. However, he said that the PPP has consistently been against tapping phone calls of citizens.

—Staff Reporter



LAHORE: Waste Management Company staff trying to clear rainwater from Empress Road near Hajj comp.—White Star

Dairy employee tests positive for Congo virus

MIANWALI: A dairy farm staffer has tested positive for Congo virus here.

Muhammad Asif, an employee at a dairy farm in the Qamar-Mushafi area of Tehsil Isakhel, had been experiencing a constant fever. Despite taking medication prescribed by local doctors, his condition did not improve, and he was eventually referred to the Mianwali DHQ Hospital.

Medical tests at the DHQ hospital confirmed Asif was positive for the Congo virus. Owing to the lack of appropriate treatment facilities in Mianwali, he was transferred to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad.

Upon receiving the information, Mianwali Deputy Commissioner Khalid Javed Goraya directed the Isakhel assistant commissioner to close slaughterhouses and cattle markets for two weeks. He also banned transportation of animals from Mianwali to other districts.

—Correspondent

Polish cyclist injured in accident

RAHEM YAR KHAN: A Polish cyclist on a tour to Pakistan was injured when a truck hit his cycle rickshaw from behind on the national highway near Kharibeta in Dera Gokul tehsil, about 90km from here, on Tuesday.

Reports said Rupniewski was travelling from Lahore to Karachi on his cycle rickshaw. Near Taj Filling Station, Jampur, a truck collided with his three-wheeler as a result Rupniewski sustained minor injuries to his foot, knee, and arm, and his cycle rickshaw was also damaged.

Police shifted him to Kharibeta Rural Health Centre.

Rupniewski had been travelling on the national highway in a cycle rickshaw covered with a plastic sheet and wooden hood and equipped with air ventilation. He mostly travelled at night to avoid the scorching heat.

—Correspondent

CIA police bust 'biggest' drug trafficking gang of Punjab

Claim recovery of huge cache of narcotics

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), Lahore, claims to have busted an international drug trafficking ring allegedly involved in supplying narcotics to the elite class youngsters across Punjab and smuggling the contraband abroad.

CIA officials, claiming recovery of the "largest-ever quantity of cocaine", say the arrested ringleader and the gang's key members have dual nationalities.

Talking to media persons here on Wednesday, Lahore CIA DIG Imran Kadirwar said the network was "very diverse, dangerous and well-connected".

He said a CIA team headed by SP Punjab Bilal unmasked "the biggest drug supply gang in the history of Punjab" using modern information technology.

The suspects had named the network as 'Speedy gang', the DIG said.

Of the arrested suspects, Qamar Muzaffar was an Italian nationality holder, Amir Cheema alias 'Billa Spanish' and Imad Butt alias 'Speedy' were UK nationals, while the others were identified as Rizwan Hussain, Malik Waqas, Fahim Hassan etc.

Mr Kadirwar said the gang would get

drug supply from Italy, Spain, Holland and Belgium and provide the same to the youngsters belonging to well-to-do families and students of universities, colleges and other education institutions across Punjab.

He said the gang was also involved in smuggling drugs to Iran, adding that Cheema was also wanted by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in four drug trafficking cases.

The DIG said the CIA teams worked extensively on the network's local handlers for a few months to ensure their arrest as they were not only well-connected but also highly dangerous.

"After having reliable intelligence-based information and making fool-proof preparations, the CIA carried out

raids on the hideouts of the gang members in posh localities of the provincial capital," he said.

The police localised the suspects from Bahria Town, Camt, Baski and Bedian Road of the Defence Housing Authority (DHA).

He said the CIA police recovered from the traffickers 4.5kg cocaine, 25,000 100mg ecstasy pills and 7kg heroin, surpassing the previous record of maximum recovery of cocaine in Punjab to one kg.

The cost of the 1kg cocaine in the drug market was said to be Rs30.5 million, Mr Kadirwar said, adding that more revelations were expected as the CIA teams were further expanding the scope of investigation to round up many other drug suppliers.

'Awami' assembly session Bhachar wants PA speaker to specify open space

By Manzoor Malik

LAHORE: Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly Malik Atwood Khan Bhachar has formally requested the Punjab Assembly speaker to allocate space to the open air for installation of a tent on the premises of the Punjab Assembly — "for the holding of opposition's day-to-day business".

In a letter written to the Punjab Assembly speaker, Mr Bhachar stated that the opposition benches had on June 28 organised a peaceful and unarmed protest against the "brutality" meted out by the government to the PTI workers and calling for the release of party's founder chairman Imran Khan.

However, he alleged, the treasury "on the instructions of the so-called Leader of the House", his Opposition Chairman was locked and staff called back. "You, as custodian of the entire House, remained a helpless bystander, demonstrating your complete failure and inability to restrain this high-handedness, which has been unprecedented, not just in the history of the Punjab Assembly, but that of all national and provincial houses across Pakistan," he said.

After the aforesaid protest, Mr Bhachar said, the speaker suspended 11 opposition MPAs without any notice, investigation or due process, thereby abdicating to prevent all applicable constitutional guarantees and parliamentary traditions.

The opposition leader said the speaker's "undemocratic" and "non-venue" behaviour had not only paralysed the working of the opposition, but also impaired the performance of 197 members elected by millions of

people of Punjab.

Mr Bhachar stated that the speaker might be facing pressure but it would be courageous on his (speaker's) part to display impartiality and allocate 40 ft x 40 ft space in the open air on the premises of the Punjab Assembly for installation of a tent with an electricity connection to hold an 'Awami' assembly.

The opposition leader has also sought permission to bring the related furniture and fixtures inside the Punjab Assembly premises; issuance of entry passes for 10 members of opposition's private staff for the tent space/office; and allowing the 11 suspended MPAs access to the tent space/office to conduct "our day-to-day business".

Meanwhile, Mr Bhachar lambasted the PML-N government for pushing masses against the wall by issuing inflated power bills. He said people were being forced to opt for suicide after seeing the electricity bills.

Speaking at a news conference at Lahore Press Club on Wednesday, Mr Bhachar said the government had now launched a "solar panels drama." He said the PTI would launch a mass protest against power bills because even the most vulnerable segment of society was getting inflated power bills up to Rs2,000 for three fans and four lights.

He challenged the chief minister and prime minister to help plan a budget of a household that was even surviving minimum wages in the province. He lamented the government was busy in stifling all sectors in the society.

Meanwhile, the PTI has planned an Awami Assembly outside the Punjab Assembly gate, which will be attended by the PTI's parliamentary party — all those who won the provincial assembly seat on the basis of Form-45 and those nominated on reserved seats.

Husband publicly tortures TV anchorperson

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A TV show host, Ayeshah Jahanzeb, was allegedly subjected to torture and humiliation in public by her husband on Wednesday.

Her husband, Haris Ali, was arrested by Saadpur Road police after the anchorperson appeared before the police with bruises and torture marks on her face and other body parts, soon after the alleged torture incident.

The police obtained a physical record of the suspect and started investigations into the violence case lodged against him by Ms Jahanzeb.

In the FIR, she alleged that her husband turned abusive a few months after their marriage in 2015, but she tolerated his behaviour just to keep her marriage intact.

She stated that Haris kept on treating her harshly even in front of her minor daughters, adding that a few days back he badly threatened her, pulling her hair and kicking her.

The anchorperson said these physical assaults on her left her two minor daughters in trauma.

She said that on Wednesday her husband again subjected her to severe torture on the main gate of her residence in the presence of neighbours, besides abusing her.

She said the attacker, who was also holding a gun, threatened the neighbours with dire consequences when

some of them tried to rescue her, saying it was his 'domestic matter'.

Meanwhile, she said, her driver Akhtar and an electrician, Akmal Rehman, managed to rescue her. The suspect left the house when more neighbours started gathering there, she added.

Speaking to Saman TV, where she hosts a show, she said it was the fourth incident of her physical torture by Haris during the current year, adding that she did not get public about the issue only for the sake of her children.

She revealed that the suspect had also divorced her recently.

About reasons for her husband's abusive and violent behaviour, anchorperson Manzoor Ali Khan, speaking on behalf of Ms Jahanzeb, said Haris, who is a Sargodha-based businessman, had borrowed a huge amount from her, but was not ready to return it.

He further said the accused was pressing her to move to Sargodha, but she told him that she could not do so because of her profession.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken notice of the torture incident and sought a report from Punjab IGP in this regard.

The CM ordered provision of the best available medical treatment to the injured anchorperson.

"Women are my red line; any sort of torture of working women will not be tolerated," she added.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTERESTS (EOI)

Procurement of Consultancy Services to undertake Assessment Study, Preparation of Detailed Designs, Procurement Assistance and Construction Supervision (Irrigation Infrastructure) for Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Project (IFRAP)

IDA Credit Number: 7332-PK

The Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan represented by Government of Balochistan has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Project (IFRAP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services for preparation of detailed designs, procurement assistance and supervision of works (irrigation infrastructure Sub-Component).

1. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found by visiting our website www.ifrap.gov.pk or can be obtained at the address given below.

2. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) IFRAP, now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services as per the TORs. Consultants are encouraged to provide only materials that would be specific to the proposed services, and to avoid submitting generic promotional material. The qualifying criteria are: i) Corporate Capacity (Core business and years of experience in same business for at least 10 years); ii) at least five (5) similar assignments undertaken in the last Ten years indicating the nature and scope of these assignments in areas of design, supervision, procurement, contract administration, quality assurance, environment and management/planning; It may be noted that specific experience of supervision (similar assignments) is mandatory; iii) the logistical capacity of the firm and; iv) number of technically qualified staff.

3. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly as to whether the association is in form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. The rationale for association with brief specialists to enhance the qualification shall be mentioned with broad job description of each member of association (JV and/or sub-consultants). In case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. Interested consulting firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.

4. The attention of the interested consultants is drawn to Section III - Governance, paragraphs 3.14 (Conflict of Interest), 3.15 and 3.17 (Consulting Services) of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IFP Borrowers November 2020.

5. Expressions of interest may reach the address mentioned below on or before Wednesday July 31, 2024, at 1600 hours (PST).

6. A consultant will be selected in accordance with Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations.

7. Further information can be obtained in writing at the address given below during office hours i.e., 0900 to 1700 hours.

AB No. 38-10-07-2024

Project Director, IFRAP/IFRAP Project/PIU, IFRAP
13-B, Jinnah Town, Samanpur Road, Quetta (Phone: +92-81-3570101)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Country: Pakistan
Project: Balochistan Human Capital Investment Project (Education Component)

Loan No./Credit No./Grant No.: IDA-4713-PK-0679-PR
Assignment Title: Hiring of firm for Technical Assistance for Capacity Development of Balochistan Assessment & Examination Commission (BAEC)

Reference No.: PK-500 - GOB-42604-CE-C08

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) (the "World Bank") toward the cost of Balochistan Human Capital Investment Project. The Project Management Unit, Balochistan Human Capital Investment Project, School Education Department, GoB an implementing agency of the Client, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the finance to eligible payments under the contract for which this Expression of Interest is issued.

Project Management Unit-Balochistan Human Capital Investment Project (Education Component) invites potential firms to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) following a Functional Review and Capacity Building Assessment of the Balochistan Assessment & Examination Commission (BAEC) in 2023, the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Balochistan Human Capital Investment Project (BHCIP), funded by the World Bank, is seeking to engage technical assistance (TA) to build the BAEC capacity to conduct Provincial Large-Scale Assessments (PLSA), including meta-analysis and research. Interested registered firms may download the TORs and selection criteria from the project website <http://www.ifrap.gov.pk> and can be obtained at the below address during office hours i.e. 0900 to 1700 hours.

Selection will be made in accordance with the Consultant Qualification Based Selection (CQS) method set out in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services (July 2018) revised, November 2017 and August 2018 (Procurement Regulations) and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations. Expression of Interest (EOI) must be delivered to Procurement Section before 11.30 am PST August, 2024 at the address below.

AB No. 37-10-07-2024

Project Director, Balochistan Human Capital Investment Project (Education Component) 14-A
Chaman Housing Scheme Airport Road, Quetta Tel: 0912-854251 Fax: 0912-854237
Email: pa.500ip@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

The Notice Inviting Tender for "PROCUREMENT OF SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES / MACHINERY FOR FIRE FIGHTING AND SOLID WASTE" was published in newspapers under AB No. 50713-04-2024. AB No. 50713-04-2024 and uploaded on BPPRA Web Site vide TSE-232405419001, TSE-232405419071 and TSE-232405419071. The last date for submission/opening of the Tender is extended on 19th July 2024. Further terms and conditions remain the same.

AB No. 38-10-07-2024

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Verdict on reserved seats due after full court huddle

Extreme care, attention needed since the matter has 'historic significance', says legal expert

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court full bench had a three-hour discussion on the matter related to reserved seats for women and non-Muslims on Wednesday, a day after closing the hearing on a set of appeals moved by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) and reserving the verdict that is now expected to be announced later this week.

The full court after the consultation is expected to come up with an overarching pronouncement on how to allocate reserved seats to the parliamentary parties under the proportionate representation system in future.

The apex court had earlier reserved its ruling on the appeals against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the Peshawar High Court (PHC) decisions to deny reserved seats for women and non-Muslims in the SIC.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Issa while closing the hearing on Tuesday had simply stated "reserved", though Justice Muzib Akhtar presumed to have suggested announcing the decision the same day. Justice Issa then explained that the judgement was being reserved as it could be long and that the judges had not yet consulted each other.

Headed by the CJP, the full court meeting considered various aspects of the controversy as length since the case is of first impression and will have a far-reaching impact on the allotment of the reserved seats among political parties in the legislature in future as well. Therefore, a legal expert was of the opinion, "extreme care and attention is needed in deciding the matter as being of a historic significance".

The legal observer, who exten-

sively attended the entire SC hearing, told Dawn on condition of anonymity that a split decision was expected as every member of the full court was perceived to have made their mind. They might come up with separate opinions on the case, he said, adding that additional notes along with the main judgement were expected.

Fate of 77 seats in the balance

The real controversy before the court is how to deal with the reserved seats if they are neither doled out to other parties having presence in parliament and provincial assemblies nor allotted to the SIC (that did not contest the Feb 8 general elections and thus failed to secure a single seat — a legal requirement for the allotment of reserved seats according to the ECP).

The SIC, however, argues that under the concept of proportionate representation system, it is not a constitutional requirement for the allotment of reserved seats that a political party having general seats in the national assembly had contested the general elections.

The commission, in a 4:1 verdict, earlier ruled that SIC was not entitled to claim seats for reserved seats for having non-constitutional legal defects and violation of a mandatory provision of submission of a party list of nominees for reserved seats.

On the other hand, the SIC pleads that Articles 51 and 106 suggested the concept of proportionate representation system.

Their interpretation suggests the SIC and the PTI were legally not required to submit their list of candidates for reserved seats before the election, because neither the SIC nor the PTI contested the 2024 election under their election symbol rather its electoral candidates contested the said general election as independent candidates.

On May 6, a smaller bench had responded the PHC judgement and CJP's decision of depriving the SIC of reserved seats. Consequently, the ECP suspended the notification of the 77 members on the reserved seats in the assemblies.

Japanese mountaineer's body recovered

Nine more summit Nanga Parbat; two skiers aim for peak today

By Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: A week after the death of a Japanese climber who fell into a crevasse while descending the 7,027-metre Golden Peak, some local climbers and high-altitude porters from the Hoper Valley of Nagai district managed to retrieve and hand over his body to his colleagues.

The 65-year-old climber, Chuzo Hiroshi, fell into the crevasse near Camp-2 after summit of Golden Peak on July 5.

Mukhtar Hussain, Jafar Hussain, Abbas Ali, Saleem, Mustafa and other high-altitude porters brought the body to the Hoper Valley after tireless efforts over the past six days. They handed over the body to Japanese colleague climbers in Hoper.

The body was later shifted to Islamabad to facilitate its return to his family in Japan.

Meanwhile, two ailing climbers Salma Masood from Pakistan and Dutch mountaineer Riemersbert Richard were airlifted to Skardu from Broad Peak by a helicopter of Pakistan Army on Wednesday.

On the other hand, nine more climbers, including three from Europe, summited Nanga Parbat (8,125m) on Wednesday, a day after four climbers summited the peak, according to Seven Summits Treks.



LOCALS from Hoper Valley rest during their descent as they carry the body of a Japanese climber down from Golden Peak.—Dawn

Vedran Druslic from France and Israel's Adarsh of Azerbaijan summited the peak without bottled oxygen. Viveka A. Soffard from Norway, Thomas Nivarcimus from Greece, Al Harithi Nadhira Ahmed Alsholah from Oman, Ngima Wangdak, Ngima Dorchi, Pansang and Phodachite from Nepal summited the peak.

Earlier, four members of the rope fixing team — Lhakpa Tenzin Sherpa and Pemba Sherpa from Nepal, and Dilshar Hussain and Fida Ali from Pakistan — reached the peak.

Meanwhile, skiers Arny Taylor from Poland and Tom Lalonde from France intend to summit Nanga Parbat without supplementary oxygen on Thursday and ski down, as they reached Camp 2.

Airlifted to Skardu

The team operator of a three-member Pakistani expedition team told Dawn that Salma Masood from Lahore and Dutch mountaineer Riemersbert Richard were airlifted to Skardu from Broad Peak by a Pakistan Army helicopter, after their health condition deteriorated and they sought urgent medical aid.

According to the team operator, Salma Masood left for camp 1 from Broad peak base camp on Tuesday but was brought back to base camp after her health condition deteriorated. She had requested medical aid from Pakistan Army.

Similarly, the Dutch mountaineer, who was part of another expedition, had faced high-altitude sickness and breathing problems during the expedition, due to which he requested for evacuation.

High-profile TTP militant among three killed in IBO

- Commander was 'shadow governor' for Peshawar, carrying Rs6m bounty
- Two security personnel, two policemen martyred

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: Four law enforcement officials were martyred and three militants of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), including its shadow governor for Peshawar, were killed in a gun battle on the city's outskirts on Wednesday, officials said.

The crossfire erupted around 8:15am during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted jointly by the police, Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and security forces in the Bokhan Khel village of Kasoo area in Hassan Khel sub-division, located 40 kilometres north of Peshawar.

"The exchange of fire continued for hours as law enforcement agencies surrounded a few abandoned houses. Rah-eem of the banned TTP and two associates were killed in the joint IBO," an official said, adding that a combat operation was initiated but postponed afterwards. The search will resume today.

The police superintendent for Sadoz division, Zameer Khan, confirmed the incident, stating that two personnel from the security forces and two from the police department, including one from the CTD, endorsed martyrdom during the operation. Six other personnel sustained injuries and were shifted to the hospital, where they are in stable condition.

A statement from the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said the joint operation targeted a high-profile terrorist.

The intense exchange of fire resulted in the deaths of three militants, including Commander Abdul Rahoon, who was highly wanted by law enforcement agencies with a bounty of Rs6 million on his head. The ISPR said Rahoon was involved in numerous terrorist activities, including the martyrdom of Captain Hameed Jhangir and Havildar Shafiq Ullah on May 26 this year.

"Today's operation has avenged the heinous act and has brought the main perpetrator to justice," the military said. The martyred personnel of the Pakistan Army were Sepoy Muhammad Akram, 34, from Swabi district, and Sepoy Badam Gul, 34, from Kohat district. The martyred police officers were Sub-Inspector Tajmir Shah, 38, from Peshawar district, and Assistant Sub-Inspector Muhammad Akram, 34, from Mardan district.

The ISPR said that Pakistan's security forces stood shoulder to shoulder with other law enforcement agencies to ensure peace and stability across the country and such sacrifices of the brave men further strengthened their resolve.

The funerals of martyred police officers were held at Peshawar's police headquarters and were attended by KP police chief Akhtar Razaq Khan, Commandant Frontier Constabulary Muzammar Jafar Ansari, Inspector General Frontier Corps Near Wali Khan, CCMD Peshawar Qasim Ali Khan, senior security and police officials, and relatives of the martyred personnel.

The militant commander Rahoon, a resident of Amir Khel, Mir Ghaz Khel area from Swabian, surfaced a few years ago and was wanted for attacks against police and security forces in Mardan and Hassan Khel sub-divisions.

"The militant commander Rahoon, a resident of Amir Khel, Mir Ghaz Khel area from Swabian, surfaced a few years ago and was wanted for attacks against police and security forces in Mardan and Hassan Khel sub-divisions."

Phone tapping permission for ISI challenged

By Waqar Ahmad Shabb

LAHORE: The federal government's decision to allow Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to tap phone calls has been challenged in the Lahore High Court.

Citizen Masfuzur Hussain has filed a writ petition through Advocate Nadeem Sarwar, saying the federal government issued a notification permitting the Inter-Services Intelligence to tap phone calls.

He pleaded that call-tapping is a serious invasion of an individual's privacy. With the growth of highly sophisticated communication technology, the right to hold telephone conversation, in the privacy of one's home or office without interference, is increasingly vulnerable to abuse.

The petitioner argued that to enjoy protection of law and to be treated in accordance with law is an inalienable right of every citizen of the country under Article 4 of the Constitution.

He said the rules for Section 54 of the Act have not yet been formulated and argued that the power vested in the federal government could not be delegated to any person without framing rules.

The petitioner asked the court to set aside the impugned notification for being unconstitutional and also ordered the federal government to formulate the rules for exercising the powers delegated under Section 54 of the Telecons Act.

Judges argue against bar associations joining military courts case

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Two of the seven judges hearing the military courts case have opposed the July 8 order of the bench, imploding the Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA) and the Lahore Bar Association (LBA) in the case, with one saying the matter at hand was purely a question of law.

Headed by Justice Amrullah Khan, a seven-judge bench had allowed the applications of the LHCBA and LBA by holding that there was no harm in accepting these applications, as senior counsels will assist the apex court in reaching a right conclusion while hearing the intra-court appeals (ICA) against the

Oct 23, 2023 order.

The Oct 23 order by a five-member bench nullified the trial of civilians by the military courts involved in the May 9 violence.

But in separate notes, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan opposed the majority order.

In his note, Justice Shahid Waheed observed that the applicants had moved their applications under Order V Rule 2(2) read with Order 33 Rule 6 of the Supreme Court Rules 1980 for implementation of the applicants as respondents in the ICAs preferred under Section 5(1) of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 against the Oct 23 judgement.

Justice Waheed explained that the grievance voiced in the ICA was that the lawfulness of

Section 20(6) and Section 55(4) of the Pakistan Army Act (PAA) 1952 had not been correctly determined by the original bench.

Section 20(6) of PAA says that those persons not otherwise subject to PAA become subject to it if they were accused of seducing or attempting to seduce any army officer from his duty or allegiance to the government.

Likewise, Section 20(6)(ii) says the individuals could be tried under PAA if they have committed offence in relation to any work of defence, arsenal, naval, military or air force establishment or station, ship or aircraft or otherwise in relation to the naval, military or air force affairs of Pakistan an offence under the Official Secrets Act 1923.

Section 55(4) says that any person who

becomes subject to PAA will be liable to be tried under this act.

The issue at hand, Justice Waheed observed, was a pure question of law and since PAA was a federal legislation, the question of its validity could be decided effectually and completely in the presence of the federation of Pakistan.

It needs to be examined whether the applicants, under the circumstances, can be allowed to join appeal proceedings to rendering assistance in the public interest, to determine the question of law raised before the court.

Meanwhile, Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan observed that the applicants were not aggrieved with the Oct 23 judgement, which was evident from the fact that they have shown their desire to be impleaded as respondents in the ICAs.

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Security of foreigners at Karote Hydropower project reviewed

By Mohammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: The regional police officer Babar Sarhaz Agha has instructed the police to conduct intelligence-based operations in collaboration with security agencies in the vicinity of important sites and verify whether security personnel deployed at the Karote Hydropower project have undergone a security check or not.

He also ordered provision of foolproof security to foreigners during their movement between the project site and their residence.

The Regional Police Officer (RPO) Babar Sarhaz Agha gave this instruction while visiting Karote Hydropower project Kahuta on Wednesday.

SSP Special Protection Unit (SPU) and SDPO Kahuta gave a detailed briefing on security arrangements and other matters.

The RPO directed the police officers to conduct search operations along with other security agencies around all the important places in the vicinity of the hydro power project and ensure that security personnel should also undergo a security check besides providing security to foreigners during their movement.

A spokesman for the RPO said on Wednesday that Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Region Babar Sarhaz Agha visited Great Hydro Project Kahuta, SSP Special Protection Unit Colonel Shahid, SDPO Kahuta Meera Tahir Skandar and other relevant officers also accompanied the RPO.

The RPO reviewed all the security arrangements at the power project, the police officers and military officials concerned gave a detailed briefing to the RPO Rawalpindi on all the security arrangements.

RPO Rawalpindi issued instructions to the officers concerned that according to the SOP, intelligence-based search operations should be carried out in the surrounding areas of the project along with other security agencies, checking of security officials deployed at the project should be carried out.

He also directed to ensure timely completion of security arrangements before their movements.

RPO also visited the Kahuta police station and Khidmat Markaz Kahuta. The RPO said that the provision of a service centre should be ensured without interruption and in a short time. The RPO further said that the police station is a basic unit for providing justice to the citizens.

Citizens who come to the police station should be treated with courtesy while ensuring merit and justice.

Blaze reduces over 600 shops to cinders in H-9 bazaar

CDA chief forms inquiry committee to probe incident; stall owners promised compensation

By Iqbal Jumaid

ISLAMABAD: A massive blaze at the H-9 weekly bazaar in the federal capital on Wednesday gutted as many as 625 shops causing millions in damage, as it took 31 firetrucks almost three hours to put out the inferno which started at about 11am.

The weekly bazaar — held every Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday — has 2,743 stalls and 625 perished in the fire which started only a little after a heavy spell of rain lashed the capital.

The timing of the fire raised many an eyebrow, with the Capital Development Authority (CDA) chief forming an inquiry committee to probe the incident.

Eyewitness told Dawn that thick plumes of black smoke were visible from afar at 11:15am and initially, 10 firetrucks reached the site, but the intensity of the

fire forced the administration to seek help from Rawalpindi and the navy as well, bringing a total of 31 fire tenders to extinguish the blaze.

A fire brigade official told Dawn that the blaze started in the garment section and spread to grocery and other sections of the market. "Because of the severity of the issue, the Pakistan Navy, air force and Rawalpindi administration was called in to play their role and use all possible resources to extinguish the fire," he said.

Upon hearing the news, several shop owners also reached the bazaar in panic and attempted to enter the premises to save their goods from the fire but the police deployed there stopped them from entering the bazaar. The administration also asked them to cooperate with the authorities as their "panic would only aggravate the situation".

CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Raza Khan said 250 rescue officials took part in the operation. He said the fire erupted at 11:15am and a fire tender, which was already present there, started the rescue operation. While replying to questions, he said that he requested the police chief to seal the area to avert any further mis-

hap. He said damages would be paid to the affected stallholders.

According to the CDA chairman, steps would be taken to ensure that such incidents would not be repeated in the future. "It has come to my knowledge that fire has erupted a number of times, in the bazaar in the past. I will ensure that the reasons behind this is digested and such unfortunate incidents are not repeated in the future," he said while talking to reporters.

The CDA chairman, who is also the capital's chief commissioner, said the deputy commissioner would preside over the inquiry committee and assured that the report would be finalised in a week.

The committee has representation of the district administration and the police.

It may be noted that fires are a routine occurrence at this bazaar.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also took notice of the incident while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the authorities to pay the damages to the affected stall owners.

The interior minister also sought a report on the incident from the CDA and ordered a thorough investigation.

Pakistan, Turkiye take part in exercise to strengthen disaster response

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-Turkiye International Simulation Exercise (Sim-Ex) was conducted online at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to enhance cooperation and preparedness between the countries during disasters.

This joint exercise, organised by the NDMA and Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), focused on preparing for and responding to floods and earthquakes.

According to a statement issued by the NDMA, Sim-Ex is a pioneering exercise aimed at bolstering collaboration between the two nations, enhancing their capabilities to manage and mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

Participants engaged in various scenarios, addressing challenges and strategies involved in dealing with severe floods and devastating earthquakes.

NDMA Chairman Lt Gen Iqbal Haider Malik underscored the importance of bilateral cooperation during disasters.

He emphasised the need for preparedness and a proactive disaster management approach, highlighting that such joint exercises were vital for effective response and building resilience.

Head of Department Response Plans and Exercise Yusuf Ayub at AFAD expressed gratitude to the NDMA for organising the simulation exercise.

He said the event provided valuable insights and strengthened the partnership between Pakistan and Turkiye in disaster management.

The NDMA declared the successful completion of the simulation exercise as a significant advancement in international collaboration between Pakistan and Turkiye, ensuring both countries were better equipped to handle future natural disasters.

Local govt polls in Islamabad on Sept 29, IHC told

ECP blames federal govt for delay; says delimitation to be completed by July 23

By Malik Anad

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan on Wednesday informed the Islamabad High Court that the much-delayed local government elections in the federal capital would be held on Sept 29 this year whereas the delimitation of union councils and wards was going to be completed on July 23, 2024.

The election watchdog stated the poll date with the high court during the hearing of identical petitions by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani against the "iron dinosaur" hike in the property tax that was also extended to private housing societies in the capital.

The petitions were filed by the Residents Welfare Association F-15/G-15 and the Islamabad City Council. The petitioners challenged a notification of a threefold increase in the property tax in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

At the last hearing on June 4, Justice Kayani sought a date for conducting

local government (LG) elections in the federal capital and also issued a stay order against the collection of property tax on residential rates.

As the IHC judge resumed the hearing on Wednesday, he inquired about the date of local bodies elections. The ECP submitted a report before the court regarding the polls in which it shared the details about the union councils' delimitations and the poll date.

In its report, the ECP said the local government polls in Islamabad could not be held due to frequent changes in the number of union councils and the non-provision of notification of reserved seats of the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad by the federal government.

In compliance with the March 2, 2023 order of the IHC which said polls should be held on 125 UCs within 120 days, the ECP said it completed the delimitation process of 125 UCs by June 9, 2023.

On June 21, the ECP convened a meeting with the federal government representatives and informed the commission the notification of reserved seats.

Despite repeated reminders, the government did not provide the required documents, it said, adding that after the 7th Digital Population Census 2023, the

ECP carried out the delimitations afresh under Section 17(2) of the Elections Act.

On June 27, the ECP met the federal government officials again to demand the documents but so far the commission did not get them from the government, the response said, citing the federal government representatives as saying: "A summary of Draft Islamabad Capital Local Government (Amendment) Act 2023 has been approved by the cabinet on June 5, 2024 and notified by the cabinet in its meeting held on June 11, 2024. However, minutes of the said meeting are still awaited to proceed further."

"The commission in the above-mentioned meeting directed the secretary of the Ministry of Interior to provide the notification regarding the number of reserved seats of the Metropolitan Corporation, Islamabad and amendment in Section 17 of the ICT Local Government Act, 2015, within one week, failing which the ECP will be constrained to fix the matter of non-conduct of local government elections, ICT, in regular on day-to-day basis," the response said, adding that the government assured that they would provide the docu-

ments within one week.

Property tax

During the hearing, Justice Kayani observed that the property tax collected from a union council must be utilised in that particular area.

He inquired utilisation of the tax collected from the private housing societies and what sort of services the civic agency provided to the residents of the societies. The CDA counsel replied that the civic agency collected waste from the selected sites of the private societies besides other services. Out of Rs50m, a modest sum of Rs30m is collected through the property tax.

Earlier, the counsel for the petitioners, Advocate Umar Iqbal Gilani, argued that the right to decide the rate of taxation was reserved for elected representatives of the people. The principle of "no taxation without representation" is adhered to in democracies all over the world. The role of the administrator is confined to day-to-day decisions. Therefore, the notification regarding an increase in the property tax is liable to be set aside.

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Quotation/Tender Notice

Q10 makes reference to Procurement & Bidding of various items for their Emergency SOP requirements. It also an equipment lease, Engineering Service, Office Car & associated with PPA Rules 2004 also attached with them from the original form regarding with Contract and Sales Tax Dept and an invoice for supply of 100 and other required with Cantonment Board (Offering being submitted only for electronic bidding).

S.No	Description	Estimated Cost
1	Transportation & Rental of various items for their Emergency SOP requirements. It also an equipment lease, Engineering Service, Office Car & associated with PPA Rules 2004 also attached with them from the original form regarding with Contract and Sales Tax Dept and an invoice for supply of 100 and other required with Cantonment Board (Offering being submitted only for electronic bidding).	Rs. 28,80,000 (28 million 800 thousand 000/-) Budget Reference: 2024-2025

Basic Terms and Conditions are as follows:

- The quotations / tenders should only be submitted electronically online, on or before 11:00 AM on 11/07/2024 at 11:00 AM through e-tender portal at 0400. Govt. Info-System (www.gis.gov.pk) which will be opened on the same day electronically at 11:00 AM. The construction will be done in complete accordance with.
- The bidder shall submit 10% Bid Security of the estimated cost needed to qualify in the stage of bid opened a certified only through cheque before closing date and time.
- In case of bonded quoted by the bidder is more than 10% (ten) per cent estimated cost, the additional bid security in the stage of Bid Opening / Bid / 20% (two) issued by a Notarised Bank of Pakistan a sum of USD 100,000 (one hundred thousand) from the notarised letter only in the amount of bid more than 10% before the signed estimate in the form of percentage. The results bid security shall be forfeited within 07 days of award of work and in case of failure to award the bid security, the amount money that be forfeited / quoted item shall also cancelled. The amount of additional bid security shall be used in the event of financial default/ breach/ penalty in the quoted items beyond 10% (ten) per cent estimated cost.
- Electronic bids should be submitted electronically on or before the last date / time.
- The bidder can register themselves with Cantonment Board Office at electronic bid on the same bidding site on the day prior to the last date of submission of the electronic bids.
- Electronic Bidding site shall be opened / available on: Home / Bank or e-gov / Bank of Oman Internet Of Banking. Only bid signs after the deadline point shall be considered for evaluation purposes.
- The bidder should submit all the documents / papers / proposals / forms / etc. in the PPA Rules 2004 (as amended).
- The award to contractor of the work is as specified in the B/T which will start from the location of site of execution.
- Electronic bids will be valid for 90 days and also shall be inclusive of PPA conditions.
- Electronic bids shall sign the agreement with the contracting entity within 15 days after the execution of the bid.
- The bidder shall submit all the documents / papers / proposals / forms / etc. in the PPA Rules 2004 (as amended).
- Call Detail of authorized Bank shall be accessible from the respective Bank account of the bidder.
- Any bid received in contradiction of existing provisions of PPA Rules 2004 will be treated as non-responsive by the Board being procuring entity. Cantonment Board Office being procuring entity reserved the right to accept or reject any bid on technical / administrative grounds under Rule 107(1) of PPA Rules 2004 (as amended) without any reason.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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S.No	Tender Reference Number	Name of Scheme	Estimated Cost	Bid Security	Tender Cost	PEC Category with Code
1	Dir/ICM/ED/KMC/12/2024-25	Installation of Solar System at KMC Head Office	20.00 Million	5% of the Amount	Rs.5000/-	Valid PEC License in Category C-4 and above along with the tender of specification value 02 to 05, 06, 07 and 08.11
2	Dir/ICM/ED/KMC/13/2024-25	Construction of House / Open along with Kitchen and Flood from, KWSB Branch under Beach Colony Bridge in Shahdada-Mirafiq Road, Shahdada Zone	20.00 Million	5% of the Amount	Rs.5000/-	Valid PEC License in Category C-4 and above along with the tender of specification value 02-01, 04-05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 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Tender schedule shall be as follows:

SCHEDULE	DATE & TIME	VENUE
1. Receiving of Application & Release of Tender	From: 15-07-2024 to 24-07-2024 During Office hours	Office of the Director Contract Management, Engineering Department, KMC, situated at Old SBICA Building, Ground Floor, behind Civic Center & adjacent to KWSB Main Office, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi.
2. Dispatch of Tender	30-07-2024 at 3:00 PM	Office of the Chairman Procurement Committee, Engineering Department, KMC, situated at Old SBICA Building, Ground Floor, behind Civic Center & adjacent to KWSB Main Office, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi.
3. Opening of Tender	30-07-2024 at 11:00 AM	As above

ELIGIBILITY / MANDATORY CRITERIA:

- Valid Registration Certificate upto June 2023 and onwards with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category and approved/recognized as a member/registered work.
- At least one similar nature of work having minimum cost of 80% of the estimated cost of the work or at least two similar nature work each having minimum cost 50% of the estimated cost for last three years fully supported with comparative certificates, certified copies of their Financial Reports and PPA/PA/SA.
- Site Data of Engineering and Technical staff working with the firm as required and mentioned in bidding documents.
- Average Annual Turnover of last two years than stipulated cost of the scheme / project during last three years (Turnover will be evaluated from Annual Returns and Audit Reports).
- Annual Audited Returns of last three years from (SOAP) Registered Audit Firms, Audit Reports issued other than (SOAP) registered audit firm will be accepted.
- List of Machinery and Equipment available with documentary evidence with its ownership for last three years must be provided.
- Bank Statement for the last three years must be provided.
- NTH Certificate with active status of Pastors Board of Revenue.
- Annual Income Tax Returns of last three years must be provided.
- Valid Registration Certificate with State Revenue Board Government of Sindh/Province with active status.
- Each page of bid must be stamped and signed by the tenderer / representative.
- The bids must be accompanied by an original Bid Security (amount mentioned in each entry) in the form of a single Pay Order / Demand Draft, Cash Deposit or a Bank Guarantee issued by a Notarised Bank in favor of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (except single Pay Order / Demand Draft, Cash Deposit or a Bank Guarantee shall not be accepted).
- The bidder must be quoted the rate both in words and in figures with maximum two decimals placing only first decimal place shall not be considered.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- Bidding Documents and other terms and conditions can be seen or downloaded from the official website of SPPRA. The bidder by submitting to the office (PWA) in stage of Bid Order in favor of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation must be understood to accept that the bidding documents can be downloaded from SPPRA / PPA/SA website & can be deposited on the given date & time, place in the B/T along with a Pay Order of Tender Cost as mentioned above (whichever the bidder will be required).
- The bidder will be opened in presence of Procurement Committee / participating contractors / Bids and their authorized representatives, who may be present.
- The Pay Order / Demand Draft, Cash Deposit or a Bank Guarantee of the responsive bidders supplied due to higher rate will be returned after the issuance of work order to the successful bidder.
- In case any member of Procurement Committee happens to be out of Headquarters on the date of opening of bids, the bids will be submitted and opened on the next working day on same schedule.
- Joint tenders will not be allowed.
- From Affidavit (to originate) to the effect that all the documents / particulars / machinery information furnished are true and correct, in case of dispute / discrepancy or false information / certificates provided by the company / firm shall be liable to be cancelled at any stage.
- Details of tender along with CMED on Non-Judicial Stamp Paper a representative should have authority of Non-Judicial Stamp Paper from vendor, authority other than Non-Judicial Stamp Paper will not be considered and such tender will not be entertained.
- In case of firm giving full particulars of Directors / Proprietors or other information provided along with Power of Attorney in case of being with Proprietors such undertaking on Non-Judicial (in Original) to be furnished.</

Caretakers banned X on issues of 'compliance', says Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Social media platform X (formerly Twitter) was banned by the caretaker government over "compliance issues", Information Minister Attaullah Tarar told a Senate panel on Wednesday.

He was responding to a query raised by Senator Ali Zafar during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information.

"There is no restriction on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn, which are being used by the common man [for] posting all kinds of content," he noted.

Mr Tarar said the Ministry of Interior had requested its response to the high court on the matter, adding that the courts would now take a decision in this regard.

During the meeting, a number of senators from the treasury benches raised concerns over the dissemination of fake news, misinformation and disinformation.

Senator Zafar, who chairs the committee, pointed out that freedom of expression was the basic right of every citizen. But Senator Irfan Siddiqi called for steps to discourage "misuse of freedom of expression", while Senator Jam Muhammad called for a strategy to curb disinformation and fake news.

The social media sites should be used to pursue national interests, he said.

Former information minister Pervez Rashid regretted the propaganda shared on such sites and condemned the derogatory language being used by some elements.

The minister called for taking an initiative to curb crimes being committed in the digital domain, regretting there was currently no mechanism to tackle the issue of deepfakes.

The committee was informed that the work on a Centre for Digital Communication was underway at the Pakistan-China Friendship Centre.

"There is a need to promote contentment in the country," he said while stressing the need for taking initiatives for encouraging the film industry.

Under the Film Finance Fund established by the government, he said, prominent film producers were reluctant to float ideas for producing quality movies.

He said the local film industry should not be affected by the screening of foreign films.

The chairman of the committee sought a detailed report on the last two years performance of the External Publicity Wing, as well as the rules proposed under the Press amendment Bill—APP.

15 killed as jeep crashes

Continued from Page 1

spot were identified as Mohammad Adnan, 59; Ghulam Yasin, 60; Mohammed Farid Butt, 24; and his siblings Saleem, 16; and Salim, 12; Rehman Jan, 65; and her son Majid Khan, 27. Tariq Mir, 25 (driver); Zarina Bibi, 45; and her daughter Zeerat Bibi, 13; Saima Bibi, 40; Rafique Butt, 19; and his siblings Ibtisam Bibi, 14; and Tameer, 12.

The survivors were identified as Ahsan Farooq, 10; and Nabeel, 7.

Ullah Bibi, 45, a resident of Devlian area, who was sitting down on a slope by the riverbank, was also injured after being struck by the falling vehicle. All three were shifted to CMH Miranshah, where Ahsan died of his wounds, an official said.

Meanwhile, AJK PM Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq was reported to have sought a report on the accident from divisional commissioner Sardar Aslam Khan within 24 hours. According to his press secretary, the

premier convened a high-level meeting on pre-emptive measures to avoid road accidents.

Quarantined vehicles

The frequency of road accidents in AJK is rising. These are often blamed on outdated vehicles, which are commonly abused by owners to maximize passenger capacity, in violation with the motor vehicle authorities.

The jeep involved in Wednesday's accident had been locally altered to increase its seating capacity, similar to another vehicle that plunged into the Neelum River on June 9 after the edge of the narrow road gave way under the vehicle's weight. As a result, 17 people had drowned. Ironically, such vehicles are given fitness certificates by the authorities.

"The cause of accidents in suburban areas is the [fake] fitness certificates issued to altered vehicles. Who will act against those responsible for these accidents?" Muhammad Tariq

Shahzad posted on X with an image of the fitness certificate of the vehicle involved in Wednesday's accident.

A transporter told Dawn that alteration of vehicles was unlawful, but added that authorities overlooked it for reasons best known to them.

"This region desperately needs the implementation of a strict MOT test to ensure that all vehicles on the road, particularly public transport, are roadworthy and safe to operate," he said.

A government official, who has served in the transport sector, told Dawn that like many other parts of the country, the remote rural areas of AJK were a safe haven for transporters who operated vehicles that had outlived their normal lifespan.

"The vehicles which should have been scrapped in junkyards are being on roads either by obtaining a so-called fitness certificate or even without bothering for this formality because they know nobody is going to check them," he suggested.

NA clears SOEs bill

Continued from Page 1

caretaker Punjab chief minister. The opposition leader also expressed concerns about potential wheat export plans. PM Shehbaz, however, said that it was a matter of record that wheat and sugar were first exported and later imported during PTI's days in power. "When the billion and trillions of rupees went is a part of history," he remarked.

The prime minister praised National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq for being generous in giving time to the opposition, contrasting it with PTI's attitude under Asad Qaiser, who he claimed often denied him permission to speak as opposition leader. Former speaker Asad Qaiser refuted these claims and challenged the premier to verify the facts from records.

Mr Qaiser pointed out that during his term, the opposition leader tried to speak for hours and had even been given the floor before the finance minister's budget speech, a first in the country's parliamentary history.

He said the National Assembly proceedings were telecast live at the time, insisting that the correct par-

liament faces censorship and has become a mere debating club.

Mr Qaiser also drew attention to a recent raid on the opposition leader's residence and the harassment of lawmakers. In response, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif recalled the arrest of various PML-N lawmakers during the PTI rule, lamenting that Mr Qaiser never issued production orders for them.

SOE Governance Bill

Law Minister Asim Nasser Tarar, on behalf of Finance Minister Muhammad Anwarullah, introduced the bill through a supplementary agenda after suspending the rules for immediate consideration. Earlier, Chairman of the NA Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue Syed Naveed Qasim presented the committee's report on the bill.

Leader of the Opposition Omar Ayub criticized the process, alleging that amendments were not shared with committee members beforehand. "There should be certain quantitative matrices and criteria to appraise the board of directors based on their performance," he said.

Mr Ayub noted that he and party members Shabram Khan, Mohsen

Arif and Ali Barfarar had written a note of dissent.

Citizenship Amendment Bill

The Pakistan Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2024, also landed in the House. Law Minister Tarar moved it on behalf of the interior minister.

He explained that under the previous law, citizenship was granted to every child of foreign nationals born in Pakistan. The amendment proposes that at least one parent must be a Pakistani national for their child to obtain citizenship.

The minister said some refugees claimed citizenship, even though it was written in their contract that they would not be entitled to citizenship. He said hundreds of such cases were pending before courts, causing a lot of expenditure.

He said that after the amendment, only those children would be entitled to citizenship who were born in Pakistan and at least one of their parents is a Pakistani national.

The National Assembly speaker referred the bill to the Standing Committee on Interior for deliberations. The House was later proposed indefinitely.

'Legal' Afghans allowed to stay for another year

Continued from Page 1

agencies and asked the ministries to work hard for meeting the nation's expectations.

"I will not allow my time to waste and I am sure you will not allow your time to be wasted. The only thing that will make a difference is action and implementation. Roll up your sleeves as this is a matter of concern. Please make no mistake about it."

"It is okay if there is any valid reason for any subsidiary, but protesting any entry for the sake of perks and privileges is a thing of the past, not today. It will not happen and it must not happen," he remarked.

Apprising the meeting about his visits to Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, he referred to his interactions with world leaders, particularly Russian President Vladimir Putin, and said he had formed a committee under Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal for follow-up measures.

On the housing ministry's recommendation, the cabinet approved transferring the building of Federal Lodge-II in Peshawar to the Election Commission of Pakistan for establishing the permanent office of provincial ECP.

It approved the reorganisation of seven accountants members of Appellate Tribunal Inland Revenue to the FBR and appointment of 14 officers to the tribunal benches.

Health sector

On the health ministry's recommendation, the cabinet approved the appoint-

ment of Joint Secretary Muhammad Iqbal as administrator of the National Council for Homoeopathy.

It decided to revoke the accreditation of Bahawalpur Medical College for its failure to meet the required standards of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). The students of the college would be shifted to other medical colleges.

The premier formed a committee comprising Economic Affairs Minister Ahmad Khan Chohan, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission

Jahanzeb Khan and PM's Coordinator on Health Malik Mubtakar Ahmed, asking them to present proposals for a third party audit of the PMDC.

The cabinet approved the appointment of Javed Qureshi as director on the board of directors of S&E Electric, on behalf of the government of Pakistan and endorsed the decision of the Economic Coordination Committee and the Cabinet Committee on NDC, taken on June 27 and July 4, respectively.

With input from Agencies

Six killed in separate incidents

By Ali Jan Mangi & Abdul Wahid Shahwari

DERA MURAD JAMALI/KHUZDAR: Two people, including a woman, were killed and two others injured in an armed attack on a house in the Usta Muhammad area of Nainabad division on Wednesday.

According to police, three armed men barged into the house in Goth Lakhmir and opened indiscriminate fire, killing a man and a woman, and injuring two other women before fleeing the scene.

The deceased were identified as Shuhra and Lala Khatoon Khosa, while the injured were Mona and Gul Naz.

A senior police officer said the killing was the result of an old enmity.

Separately, four people, including two security guards, were killed and two others injured in different incidents in Khuzdar on Wednesday.

According to Levies officials, two guards of a private security company were killed when their van overturned on the Quetta-Karachi National Highway near the Sankoo area of Wachi Tehsil.

In another incident, a motorcyclist was killed when he fell from a bridge near the Jhalawan Bus stand area due to speeding.

A 10-year-old boy, Muhammad Yasin, was killed when a speeding vehicle hit him on Sultan Ibrahim Khan road in Khuzdar town.

Balochistan getting full share from Indus: minister

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Balochistan Minister for Irrigation Mr Sadiq Umrani has said that Balochistan is getting its full share of water from the Indus River through the Pat Feeder canal and it is for the first time over the last 15 years that the province is getting its full quota of water.

"Now 5200 cusecs water is being released into Pat Feeder canal from Sukkur Barrage," the minister told media here on Wednesday.

He said that water supply from the Sukkur Barrage was affected for a brief period due to damage suffered by three gates of the barrage, but now Balochistan is getting its full share of water.

Mr Umrani said that an amount of Rs4.4 billion has been approved by the provincial government for cleaning (dredging) of the Pat Feeder canal for increasing Balochistan's water share from the Indus River.

He refuted allegations about revengeful action taken by the government against political opponents and clarified that the action against these people had been taken on the orders of the Balochistan High Court to stop water theft.

TENDER NOTICE		
Bids are invited for the following:		
Tender No.	Description	Closing Date/Time
PDQ/MS/PT/28263/24	Supply of filters for turbine & diesel engine on FOM DGP bases	01 Aug. 2024 1500 hrs.
PDQ/MS/PT/28219/24	Supply of electrical spares	30 Jul. 2024 1500 hrs.
PDQ/MS/PT/28264/24	Supply and fabrication of U-tube bundle of gas chiller (S-2400)	01 Aug. 2024 1500 hrs.
PDQ/MS/PT/28266/24	Supply of gaskets on F.O.R bases	01 Aug. 2024 1500 hrs.
PDQ/MS/PT/28268/24	Consultancy services of HQ/DF & HAZID Charman and SCR/RR	31 Jul. 2024 1500 hrs.
PDQ/MS/PT/28212/24	Supply of electrical & general items	30 Jul. 2024 1500 hrs.
PDQ/MS/PT/28215/24	Supply of electrical items	30 Jul. 2024 1500 hrs.
PDQ/MS/PT/28213/24	Supply of general consumables	30 Jul. 2024 1500 hrs.
PDQ/MS/PT/28228/24	Onshore 2D seismic data processing and reprocessing services for compressional regime, Pakistan	12 Aug. 2024 1500 hrs.

All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bids closing date/time.

Extension in Bid Closing & Opening Date

Closing and opening date of the following tender has been extended as follows:

Tender No.	Description	Tender Closing On	Revised Closing Date/Time
PDQ/MS/PT/28164/24	Pre-qualification of manufacturers/vendors & procurement of 6" CS line pipe	21 Jun. 2024	13 Jul. 2024 1500 hrs.

Bidders who have already submitted their proposals (bids) may take them back and resubmit the same before the revised closing date and time mentioned above.

All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the revised bids closing date/time.

Tender notice / detailed instructions are available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk. Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through PPL's e-procurement portal at <https://e-procurement.ppl.com.pk> for details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents. PPL reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal.



Key former ally testifies

Continued from Page 1

Zabata Jalel, Nadim Afzal Chah, and former principal secretary Asim Khan did not appear before the court. Owing to this fact, the defence counsel Danish Riaz Gill and Zahoor Abbas did not cross-examine Mr Khanak.

saying that since all three witnesses concerned the same evidence, they would cross-examine them jointly. The next hearing is set for July 23.

'Nothing special'

Speaking to media persons later, Imran Khan downplayed the statement of his former aide, saying that he did not say "anything special". However, Mr Khan said that he would comment on this particular issue after the cross-examination was complete.

Mr Khan also urged the powers that be to conduct transparent elections to save Pakistan from the ongoing crisis, calling PM Shehbaz Sharif a "rogue" of the establishment.

He claimed that the Feb 8 polls were a "historic fraud" and the chief justice was demanding the case of the PFI to the ECP, which was responsible for it in the first place.

NAB appeals

Separately, the PFI leader requested the Supreme Court to dismiss the federal government's application against a Sept 15 judgement of the top court, which had ruled that changes to the NAB law were illegal.

In a written submission on behalf of Imran Khan, the plea said the amendments to the NAO represent an unprecedented and egregious example of legislative manipulation. On June 5, a five-judge SC bench headed by CJP Qazi Faez Iqbal reserved its ruling

on the federal government's appeal against the Sept 15 majority judgement.

He said if the NAB is abusing its authority and powers, as it did in the Tohaddama case, then the NAO should be returned to prevent such abuses. "The most glaring example of this abuse is the NAB case against me," Imran Khan stated, adding that a resolution worth Rs18 billion was falsely declared as having worth Rs3.18 billion, leading to an unjust case being filed. He said instead of abolishing NAB or weakening its mandate, it must be strengthened to prevent abuse of power.

Nadir Iqbal also contributed to this report.

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TENDER NOTICE

FOR THE SUPPLY OF DENTAL CHAIRS AT CPSP RC ISLAMABAD

Quotations are invited from reputable companies/Importers & Dealers for the supply of Dental Chairs.

Interested parties may obtain tender documents at a cost of Rs. 2,500/- (non-refundable) from CPSP Purchase Department. For further information, please contact the Purchase Department at Karachi, Phone No. 021-99264400-10 (Ext. 237-330) And Operations Department at CPSP Islamabad, Phone No. 021-4262390-1

Two Sealed quotations (Technical & Financial) should reach the Secretary, CPSP, 7th Central Street, Phase-4, D.H.A. Karachi and College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan, Regional Centre, P.I.M.S Sector G-8/3 Ravi Road, Islamabad by 29th July, 2024 at 11:00 AM. The tender will be opened on the same day at 11:15 AM in the presence of bidders.

The management of CPSP reserves the right to accept or reject any/all bids before its acceptance as per the law.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

PROVISION OF SERVICES TO ESTABLISH AND MANAGE IGNITE NATIONAL INCUBATION CENTER SIALKOT

IGNITE/NC-SIALKOT/2024-25/0081/PRDC.

Ignite is incorporated with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, under Section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017 (previously Companies Ordinance, 1984), by the Ministry of IT & Telecom, Government of Pakistan. Ignite funds incubation centers and innovation projects which utilize fourth industrial wave technologies to solve local problems and to target opportunities in health, energy, agriculture, telecom, finance, and other verticals.

Ignite invites proposals from qualified licensed/registered well reputed entities for "Provision of Services to Establish and Manage Ignite National Incubation Center Sialkot" as per details mentioned in the RFP document that can be downloaded from <https://e-procure.gov.pk>, <https://ignite.org.pk/rfp-year-2024> and www.ppra.org.pk

Interested entities should be on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and GST registered (if applicable) with professional management team and prior relevant experience as mentioned in the RFP document.

Proposals in sealed envelopes, clearly mentioning the name of RFP on top must reach at the address given below by 1500 hours on August 23, 2024. It is also mandatory for bidders to upload proposals on EPAD: <https://e-procure.gov.pk>

Proposals will be opened on the same day at 1500 hours in the presence of bidders/authorized representatives at the same address.

All correspondence on the subject may be addressed to the undersigned.

Manager Procurement | Ignite - National Technology Fund

3rd Floor, Telecom Foundation Complex, 7 Maave Area, G-9/4, Islamabad.
Phone: 051-9107441-5, Cell: 0305-1961254, Fax: 051-9107447, Email: procurement@ignite.org.pk

www.ignite.org.pk 

Population crisis

PAKISTAN is the world's fifth most populous nation, yet the resources and socioeconomic tools needed to provide for over 240m souls are severely lacking. The only logical measure is to bring down the fertility rate in order to provide a better standard of living to citizens, as well as the generations to come. Unfortunately, successive governments, beyond providing lip service, have failed to act to prevent the population bomb from coming close to detonation. If we continue on this trajectory, the UNFPA projects that Pakistan's population may hit 265m by 2036, which is just around the corner. Does Pakistan have the resources to adequately feed, clothe, educate and house this massive number? The answer is worryingly self-evident.

Therefore, today, as World Population Day is being observed globally, both state and civil society must pledge to address the population issue in a progressive and pragmatic manner. This can be done by declaring a 'population emergency', and committing funds and efforts to the cause of addressing the explosive population growth. While some states have taken innovative steps, such as limiting the number of children couples can have, there are better examples in the neighbourhood that do not infringe on personal rights, yet achieve the goal of planned families. In this regard, UNEPA cites the Muslim-majority states of Turkey, Iran and Bangladesh, which have managed to implement successful family planning programmes. As per the UN body's research, these countries succeeded because the state was fully supporting policies aimed at reducing population growth, while information and family planning services were easily available to citizens. There is no reason why Pakistan — which in the 1960s had initiated similar plans — cannot learn from these Muslim states, with which we share many cultural similarities.

Perhaps the biggest factor that can give a boost to family planning campaigns is unwavering commitment from the state at the federal and provincial levels. There needs to be buy-in from political parties, as well as the clergy. The fact is that due to the social structures in Pakistan, it is imperative to have ulama, tribal elders and other community leaders on board to successfully implement family planning programmes — from big cities to the furthest hamlets. Both men and women need to be counselled about the options available. Moreover, successful programmes, such as Lady Health Workers, can be utilised to provide information and reproductive health services to women. At the policy level, the skewed weightage given to large populations in the NPC Award formula should be reconsidered, as provincial administrations will continue to ignore rampant population growth in order to secure more funds. For a balanced future where all Pakistanis have access to food, water and basic services, a successful family planning model is essential.

Taxing agriculture

OUR inability to collect sufficient tax revenues is resulting in persistently high fiscal deficits, forcing successive governments to accumulate an unsustainably high debt — domestic and external — to finance their budgets year after year. The current administration has now pledged to raise tax-to-GDP ratio by over 3pc from the existing 9.5pc to 13pc in the next three years as it negotiates another IMF bailout to avert an economic meltdown. However, few believe it can do so without taxing every sector of the economy equitably. Agriculture is one potential area that can produce sizable revenues. Nonetheless, the sector contributed less than 0.1pc of the direct tax collection of Rs3.7tr in the last fiscal year, despite comprising nearly a quarter of the national economy. Why is this so? One reason is that agriculture income tax remains a provincial subject because it suits the interests of big landlords who enjoy substantial political clout in the assemblies. Besides, the provinces have limited capacity to assess farm incomes and collect tax accordingly. More importantly, tax rates on farm income are much lower than the federal rates applicable to income derived from other sources. The highest slab on agricultural income is just 15pc in Sindh and Punjab, compared to nearly 30pc on salaried individuals.

The abysmally low rates on farm incomes have in effect turned agriculture income tax into a 'tax haven' for tax cheats. An IMF paper has indicated that tax exemption on agricultural income makes this sector a legal, and sometimes illegal, tax shelter for other forms of income. Transfers from other sectors of the economy to agriculture are commonplace to avoid income taxes. It means application of federal tax rates on agricultural income could yield substantial revenues for the budget and reduce the growing burden on the rest of the economy. But this is not possible unless agriculture income tax is transferred to the centre for assessment and collection under normal income tax laws. That will require a consensus at the NPC forum and then a constitutional amendment. Until we get there, the provinces must bring agriculture income tax rates on a par with normal income tax rates and transfer it to FBR. The revenues from farm incomes can be distributed amongst the provinces till an agreement is reached to make it part of the divisible tax pool.

Negligence at PHOTA

THE impression that the state is being careless towards aspects of organ trade control is damaging. Recent news about the Punjab Human Organ Transplant Authority being without a regular head for a year and a half reeks of negligence, and the extension in its director general's tenure for a sixth term violates the PHOTA Act, which mandates regular appointments of the head. Despite frequent news about the involvement of educated people, doctors and administrators in sinister networks, the body responsible for regulating organ transplants in Punjab finds itself at the centre of controversy, with allegations of favouritism. Moreover, the current DG, in disregard of the apparent conflict of interest involved, reportedly heads the serology department at a local hospital too. Last year, the Punjab health department shortlisted 16 candidates for the job but the effort came to naught.

More troubling is the fact that PHOTA appears compromised at a time when organ trafficking is at a significant scale in Punjab, which has witnessed an upsurge in illicit transplants over the past year. The racket thrives in times of economic distress and Pakistan's present situation is one that enables exploitation. Hence, the necessary manpower and a non-controversial, scrupulous administrator are the need of the hour to monitor evil elements and eliminate human organ sale. The onus for PHOTA's state falls on the government; it has not only got the physical security of citizens at risk but also emboldened corrupt forces and odious networks to operate with impunity. What this country needs is a coordinated, vigilant and effective approach led by experienced, upright supervisors. Lawmakers cannot leave any room for Pakistan to revert to its earlier avatar of an organ tourism destination. Organ trafficking dehumanises society, particularly the poor, and feeds a global black market. Activists and the medical fraternity need to keep the pressure on lawmakers to fortify PHOTA and free it of all interference.

OPINION



BY ZEB SAATHAR

Leaving behind millions

We do not need data to recognise the inequality of lives across Pakistan.

TODAY is World Population Day and the theme this year is 'Innocent Lives, Threads of Hope'. While the world is becoming increasingly interconnected, it has, paradoxically, also become vastly inequitable. Many citizens around the world, including those of Pakistan, continue to be highly neglected despite their lives being intertwined with those more fortunate.

UN Secretary General António Guterres has expressed concern over the achievement of the global development agenda outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals, and the collection of data that measures progress towards a better world for all by 2030. A mere six years prior to the SDG deadline, he has highlighted the need for data to capture inequalities in the achievement of universally agreed goals to ensure that no one is left behind. Importantly, while Pakistan may not be recording adequate progress with regard to the SDGs, we certainly collect data to measure inequalities in most development outcomes.

The country's official statistical agency, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, has completed one out of two censuses in the last seven years: PPS also collects annual data through a range of regular surveys — the Household Integrated Economic Survey, Labour Force Survey, the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement survey, and many others. The truth is that PPS seems to have little time to share the heaps of crucial data it collects as it is caught up collecting more.

The data of the 2023 census, which has essential ground-level information on the condition of the Pakistani population, has yet to be released. In general, there appears to be a lack of appetite, awareness and ability in Pakistan to analyse and utilise data especially among those making decisions regarding the employment, health, education and other essential needs of the country's 240 million citizens.

Data reflecting inequalities among communities, districts and populations that are being 'left far behind', is, in fact, readily available. What is missing, however, is the will to analyse the data, prove its veracity and take action accordingly.

The Population Council's recent analysis of District-Level Vulnerability (based mainly on the PRS Pakistan Mosaic Census 2020), shows that the distance to a basic health unit in rural Punjab is seven kilometres, 25km in Sindh, 15km in KP, and 51km in Balochistan. Similarly, the average distance to a girl's secondary school in Punjab is 8km compared to the much higher 38km in Balochistan.

Socioeconomic data is periodically collected by PRS, but barely used. The PRS website is the window to Pakistan's official figures on everything ranging from prices, numbers of animals and acreage of land to education, health, national accounts, etc. It should be making widely available development data on inequalities across Pakistan, showing chunks of the population, especially in the districts of rural Balochistan, which are left very far behind.

There is one silver lining in District-Level Vulnerability in the area of communications — mobile density is almost 100 per cent in Pakistan. Undoubtedly, an equaliser, mobile phones make it easier for families to connect with each other and the self-employed to connect with their clients. Specifically, a large number of migrant families are able to remain regularly in touch with their relatives back home thanks to mobile phones. But, while we remain progressively interconnected through telecommunication, internet and social media, we are drifting apart as a nation, due to the wide disparity of living standards across the population.

We do not need data to recognise the inequality of lives across Pakistan; it is visible around us and just requires a bit of sensitivity and empathy to observe. It is palpable in the lived experience of countless people — a large proportion of whom live below the poverty line. We are surrounded by poverty, discrimination and injustice.

The country's elite need to take a break from their monologue chatter about politics, the heat, and inflation, and focus on the glaring divide between the rich and the poor. In this regard, the poor treatment of domestic help stands out as a grave issue of concern. Often, these workers who

provide household services face harassment and even violence at work and at home.

Women's empowerment is a priority area of the SDGs and human rights in general. Still, women in Pakistan (with the exception of a privileged few) generally fall in the bottom rung of any socioeconomic metric; they lead a life fraught with difficulty. They are often malnourished and experience frequent and unwarmed pregnancies, and have poor access to basic services, such as health and education. Above all, they are generally devoid of any agency to make decisions concerning themselves or their children, and struggle to make ends meet.

Children's rights and welfare is at the heart of the SDGs. In spite of that, a majority of children in Pakistan are denied even their basic rights. We continue to remain complacent about high levels of fertility when out of the 7m babies born each year, about half are either unwanted or mistimed, and are likely to end up being born in poor households. The vast majority of these children are likely to be stunted and never go to school. Many would be lucky to survive their first birthday.

The poor are berated through remarks such as 'these people have too many children and do not look after their health'. Given the indifference to their plight, there may come a point when the poor are blamed for not wanting to get out of their state of poverty. This attitude is in divergence with the values of a just and humane society.

A thread of hope in terms of providing basic needs to the millions being left behind would lie in our state leadership, elites and citizens groups waking up to the situation. A major job is required to disturb the prevailing complacency, apathy and lack of conscience that are preventing policies that direct resources towards access to health, education and safe drinking water for millions of Pakistanis. Without immediate course correction, Pakistan is headed towards default on its SDGs by 2030. ■

The writer is Country Director, Population Council.

GOVT DEFENDS ERWESDROPPING PERMIT FOR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES



BY KHURRAM HUSAIN

Pressure building

THERE is no precedent in our history of such a long and intense spell of inflation gripping the country. It has never happened before. Pakistan has had bouts of high inflation, with the last one running roughly from early 2008 to 2010 or so, depending on which metric you use to measure its rise and tapering off. But the most recent bout began in May 2021 and is continuing unabated, despite what the measurement of the Consumer Price Index might be showing.

That is three continuous years with no end in sight. Not only that, if the last peak that inflation saw was about 20pc, this bout has seen it touch a peak above 30pc. Not only is the present bout of inflation longer in duration than any in the past, it is also more intense.

We have a new situation on our hands, because there is no model, no projection and no way of knowing what such prolonged exposure to such intense inflationary pressure can do to a populace. Already we are surrounded by anecdotes and stories told by those around us of electricity bills that are in excess of or equal to a household's monthly expenses. But wait till the month of August. That is when the new electricity bills will start arriving, and for those who live on a salary, the new tax deductions will be applied. The pressures on household purchasing power are set to intensify further.

How far will this process go? The state is fueling its books on one hand, years and more. It is shovelling its deficits and offloading them onto us instead. This is what they call 'wastefulness' in the sterile language of economics. For the rest of us, it simply means a severe eroding of our standard of living.

Since 2008 onwards, Pakistan has been under a virtually continuous stabilisation programme. I say 'virtually continuous' for a reason. There were a few years in between, from 2014 till 2017, and again from around 2021 till 2022, when a brief spurt of economic growth passed through our midst. None of those were real. They were fuelled by heavy borrowing, domestic and foreign, and both played a big role in creating the

crash that followed. I have written a bit about why this has been the case. For now, I want to draw your attention, dear reader, to this simple fact: Pakistan's paper has been subjected more to the longest and most intense bout of inflation that it has ever experienced in its history. And it isn't over yet.

The reason I want you to focus your mind on this is equally simple. We don't know where the breaking point lies, and we certainly don't know what happens when we hit that breaking point. A few countries offer some clues. Kenya, for example, saw the outbreak of large-scale rioting on the streets when the government rolled out an

The inflation engulfing the country is no longer just an economic problem.

IMF-mandated budget laden with taxes and withdrawals of vital subsidies required to keep food prices in check.

But riot need not be the only expression of popular anger and desperation. A rising tide of street crime usually accompanies rising urban unemployment coupled with inflation. But beyond these more traditional outlets for the growing desperation lies a danger zone that we can barely imagine.

Economists do not have the models to tell you what sustained exposure to intense economic desperation can do to a populace. The consequences need not come overnight, as in Kenya where riots broke out almost immediately following the announcement of the budget. The slow burn of inflation can bring changes that we are not equipped to measure or detect. The vote that needed to be suppressed so ruthlessly in February this year is perhaps one example. It is easy to see

where Miftah Ismail is coming from when he says the (real) outcome of the February election was actually driven by prolonged inflation.

Beyond protest and riots and petty crime and votes, the rising era of desperation can also lead to conflict. People can turn on each other with bizarre justifications that don't seem to connect with their economic circumstances in any rational way. They can turn towards faith healers and other quacks, whether for health advice, or advice on 'get rich quick' rackets, or even political and religious advice. What can follow is a train of consequences that leads in strange directions: the growth of bubbles and pyramid schemes or the spread of bad medicine or rising cases of domestic violence or the growing incidence of lynching and looting and other violent mob behaviour.

The state can no longer rely only on its repressive apparatus to keep the consequences of inflation in check. The personnel who staff this apparatus are themselves drawn from the general populace, and it is to the same general populace they return when they go home after performing their duties. Whatever happens to the people happens to them, unless the state tries to use its dwindling resources base to secure those personnel from the deprivations of inflation. Doing so leaves less behind for others, and makes the situation worse by aggravating the inflationary fire rather than helping put it out.

The inflation engulfing the country is no longer just an economic problem. It is a danger to the social order. It is not clear when a tipping point will be reached, nor what it will trigger if and when it does arrive. I do not know any longer who I am writing this for. Those in power cannot be reached, and even if they could, there is not much they can do about it anymore. For the rest of us, however, it is worth bearing in mind that power in Pakistan is losing its grip. ■

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OPINION



BY F.S. AIJAZUDDIN

More than change

PRESIDENT Joe Biden insists that he is still running. He has not said in which direction he needs to decide quickly before someone makes up his mind for him. Some expect the Democratic Party to push him over the edge. Others that his medical team will advise him against subjecting himself to the rigour of a gruelling election campaign. The only person he will listen to is his wife Jill Biden.

It will not be the first time that a spouse has had the last word. In November 1990, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, locked in a leadership contest within her Conservative Party, survived the first ballot. She would have taken the fight into a second ballot — 'to fight on and fight to win' — had her husband Denis Thatcher not persuaded her to quit. The grave her this party adviser: "Don't go on, love".

In Great Britain's recent general election, the British voters themselves, rather than a further cabal of Conservative bigwigs, were invited to decide on the future of PM Rishi Sunak and the party. The results — one question but not unexpected — sent Rishi and the Conservative Party packing.

His successor as PM is Labour's Sir Keir Starmer who won by a landslide. No one can predict how long he will last. It seems the only permanent resident of 10 Downing Street is the photographic tablet on which poses artfully on its display.

In the UK, the transfer of power is like the passing of an Egyptian pharaoh, interred with meticulous ceremony and a treasure of memories.

In US politics, a presidential election is not a contest of ideologies. It is a clash of personalities. For example, the winsome John F. Kennedy vs Richard Nixon with a firecracker shadow, the dynamic Bill Clinton vs Bob Dole; the underdog Barack Obama vs Mitt Romney; the Israeli Donald Trump vs Hillary Clinton, and then the corrective Joe Biden vs Donald Trump.

Should a US president retire prematurely through death (Franklin D. Roosevelt) or resignation (Nixon), the automatic replacement is the incumbent vice president. Harry Truman replaced Roosevelt; Gerald Ford succeeded Nixon. It is said that during George H.W. Bush's presidency, though the Secret Service had been instructed that if the president was ever in mortal danger, VP Dan Quayle should be shot first.

If Biden does stumble into premature retirement, his successor would be his Vice President Kamala Harris. She would by default become the US's first female off-white president.

Kamala Harris, like Rishi Sunak, comes from immigrant stock. As did Barack Obama. She is the daughter of the Conservative Party, 2010-12). Ward, the first Muslim to serve as a cabinet minister, led

two posts: minister of state for the foreign and commonwealth office and simultaneously for faith and community. She resigned in August 2024, after disagreeing with PM David Cameron's policy relating to the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Ten years later, that Israel-Gaza conflict is continuing, unresolved. However, her then lone voice has gathered strength. In the new UK parliament, there are 89 MPs from ethnic minority backgrounds, among them 25 Muslim MPs who have made their positions on the Gaza conflict clear.

By comparison, in India's current Lok Sabha, there are only 24 Muslim MPs. Congress has seven, Modi's ruling BJP team. Some BJP critics have questioned how many true Muslims Pakistan has in its parliament.

Interestingly, in the UK and in India, future policies will be influenced less by ideology than by changing demographics. The Rev Martin Luther King's dream that humans should "not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character" is being fulfilled gradually.

Ask Barack Obama. Ask Michael Jackson. Ask Meghan Markle. But in a rainbow world, colour will continue to matter.

This year 2024 will be known as that of general elections. One quarter of the world's population across 97 countries is eligible to vote. They include eight of the most populous — Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Brazil, Mexico, Russia, and the UK.

These voters will inevitably have significant, differing expectations of their governments. Over the next four to five years, they want to see not just the change promised during the electoral hearings but a discernible improvement in governance, resource distribution, climate change, etc.

Governments might like to follow these five simplified commandments: Thou shalt not kill (the UK); Thou shalt not commit adultery (Donald Trump); Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods (Netherlands); Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour (the Western media); and Thou shalt not steal (Pakistani politicians).

But then leaders are neither saints nor miracle workers. To them, any accountability is best postponed until the time of the next general election or their political death, whichever comes first. ■

Voters want to see not just change but discernible improvement.

The writer is an author. www.fsaiajazzuddin.pk



BY AISHA KHAN

Climate diplomacy

CLIMATE change is now globally recognised as an existential threat to the planet and all life systems. Diplomacy has been used as a tool for countries to address geopolitical issues and resolve contentious matters through negotiated agreements.

In today's world and the current global scenario, the overarching threat of climate change makes climate and diplomacy inseparable. The use of one to step up action in the other has played a critical role in moving the needle on climate change from its inception at the Earth Summit in Rio (1992) to the Paris Agreement (2015) that finally succeeded in getting 195 countries to agree on an 'Agenda of Solutions'.

As we move forward into uncharted territory, it is more important than ever before to forge mutually beneficial alliances to preserve nature and invest in sustainable development so that people and nature can thrive in tandem. To this end, the Conference of Parties is held annually to reach agreement on contentious issues within the Paris Agreement on the way forward. Diplomacy is in full swing at these meetings and country delegates from their respective foreign offices play an important role at these multilateral dialogues.

However, while recognising the necessity of multilateralism, it is equally important to acknowledge the need for strengths using bilateral cooperation that can promote dialogue and confidence, thereby contributing to regional stability. Cooperative and coordinated mechanisms are an investment in future peace and crisis management between and among countries that live in close proximity and are connected by land, air and water. The benefits of an integrated approach include reducing future risks, improving productivity of resources and people, boosting innovation by seeking solutions to new challenges, increasing environmental benefits and improving ecosystems.

South Asia is a complex and dynamic ecosystem with climate hot spots, high mountains, large glaciated areas and a vast coastal belt. It is also the least integrated region in the world with a population of approximately two billion and a large youth cohort. The geography and topography of the region makes each country an upper or lower riparian that derives its waters from the same mountain source. The type of climate-induced disasters and the coping capacity of people also have similarities that go beyond economic indicators to sharing social norms and traditional practices, especially with regard to gender, access and opportunity.

Air pollution is a transboundary issue

and a common concern that is rapidly eroding the environmental integrity of urban centres and putting glaciated areas under threat causing damage to human health and accelerating the melting of glaciers. All of the above make a compelling case for collaboration.

Under a rapidly warming world with high humanitarian stakes, it is time for countries in South Asia to prioritise policies based on the urgency of the crisis and plan accordingly. Climate diplomacy is the best tool for re-evaluating and recalibrating relationships. Countries taking into account the scope of the climate threat, its impact on communities and the capacity of states to manage it on a stand-alone basis. Given the interconnectivity of the land mass, climate impacts will have a spill-over effect making the future risky at best and hazardous at worst.

The recent climate stocktake in Dubai and the post-election scenario in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India present the region with a new opportunity to explore the potential of developing a regional climate vision strategy that offers practical cooperative solutions for safeguarding the natural resources of South Asia and protecting human life.

Given the traumatic and traumatic history of the region, this may not be easy but using climate as an entry point and diplomacy as a tool can open windows for constructive conversations.

The courts in Pakistan and India have recognised climate change as a human rights issue and justified this rights-based approach by linking the state's obligation to take preventative measures to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. This shift in constitutionalising climate change offers a unique opportunity to both countries to address the challenge jointly and use it to deliver on an agenda that is seen not only as an exogenous threat but as a core legal and ethical responsibility of the state towards its citizens. Cooperation and collaboration on approaches that support sustainable development, protect the rights of people and nature, ensure that decisions on climate change are equitable and develop better understanding of the problem and solutions to environmental issues can only be a win for all. ■

The writer is chief executive of the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change. csc4cc.org.pk

It is more important to forge alliances to preserve nature.

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago Kashmir plebiscite

ISLAMABAD: The Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs, Aziz Ahmed, tonight (July 10) reaffirmed Pakistan's 'full support' to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle to achieve their right of self-determination. "It is not open to any political leader or political party in the State of Jammu and Kashmir to barter away that right," he said in a statement. ... Mr Aziz Ahmed was commenting on a Singapore report that the Plebiscite Front in occupied Kashmir had abandoned its demand for a plebiscite and called for a settlement with India allowing the State "full control over its affairs except Defence, Communications and Foreign Affairs". ... News agencies in Islamabad, as reported by news agencies from Rawalpindi, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has disclosed that very recently there have been some ominous movements and deployment of Indian forces near Sialkot and in Kashmir and elsewhere which point to a "grand design." In an interview to Mr James Clarity of "The New York Times" ... the Prime Minister said he believed that the "grand design" is to ... intimidate [Pakistan] and to make some unpleasant announcement relating to occupied Kashmir.

1949 | Seventy-five years ago Resignation accepted

KARACHI: THE Governor-General of Pakistan has accepted the resignation of Sir Francis Mordaunt, Governor of the West Punjab, a Press communique ... announced. The terms of the resignation were issued by the Cabinet Secretary of the Government of Pakistan ... On a Thursday on Sunday (July 10) has Mr Ghanshar Ali Khan, Pakistan's ambassador in Iran, been called to Karachi. No indication has, however, been given whether his visit has any connection with the filling up of the office of Governor. ... [Agency adds ...] Inquiries revealed that the Pakistan Cabinet had not formally discussed the question of his succession, who is certain to be a Pakistani. ... [Meanwhile, according to news agencies from Decca,] The East Pakistan Preventive Detention (Continuation) Ordinance has been declared ultra vires by the Dacca High Court. The issue arose in a habeas corpus petition moved for the release of Mr Dabirul Islam, a law student of Decca University, who has been detained ... since May 15. ... It was contended by the petitioner that there were no provisions of law to keep alive the dying ordinance by enacting a fresh ordinance and further to give a retrospective effect to it.

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.

Hydro-politics at an unprecedented level



the matter amicably. Voicing concerns in the United Nations may also bear results. Besides, Pakistan must improve its water governance to preserve water resources. This includes granting drip irrigation in agriculture sector, and building dams in regions that receive maximum rainfall.

Jawad Ahmad Faridi
Hyderabad

Notion of neutrality

THIS is with reference to the article "War in Ukraine" (June 23), which attempted to justify Pakistan's neutral stance on the Russia-Ukraine war with arguments that were not convincing. For instance, the portrayal of the war as a 'crisis in Ukraine' is flawed as it is a term that downplays Russia's blatant act of aggression and falsely implies shared responsibility.

The narrative that Russia was 'provoked' by Nato expansion is completely against the evidence with the former Eastern European countries and Soviet republics that have actively sought Nato membership as a safeguard. Ukraine has never been nominated as a candidate for Nato membership, and it has never received an invitation to join.

Recent facts proved Russia's true attitude to Nato enlargement. After Finland and Sweden joined Nato, Russia unilaterally demilitarised the Finnish border and withdrew a significant number of troops from the region. This confirms that Moscow has no serious security concerns in this regard.

The said article also suggested that Pakistan must choose sides between the West and a Russia-China bloc. This is a simplistic notion that contradicts the very idea of neutrality. Pakistan, as a sovereign nation, should not base its foreign policy on the dictates of other capitals.

The Russia-Ukraine war is not merely a regional dispute, but a pivotal moment that will reshape the future of international relations. A Russian victory could embolden other states to pursue territorial ambitions through military force, signalling a dangerous return of the rules-based international order.

Has the West itself always acted in line with a rules-based order? To be fair, we have to admit that it has not always done so. But even if such irregularities did occur in the past, they cannot be used to justify Russia's aggression against Ukraine today.

It would be incorrect to view the issue being discussed solely through the lens of geopolitical strategies, ignoring the moral dimensions. Turning a blind eye to blatant acts of aggression, violence and oppression is not neutrality; it is a tacit acceptance of evil. Choosing silence in the face of such suffering makes one complicit.

By opting for neutrality, Pakistan risks contributing to a world where power

dictates what is right. Condemning a war of aggression is not just a matter of abstract principle, but a matter of strategic foresight and Pakistan's national interest. Upholding international law and resisting aggression are crucial investments in a stable and peaceful future; a future that Pakistan, along with the rest of the world, desperately needs and deserves.

Murkhon Chuchuk
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Ukraine
to Pakistan

Muharram etiquettes

AS the holy month of Muharram began, there were some congratulatory messages people received about the beginning of the new year. The month, as we all know, is about mourning the tragedy of Karbala, and all Muslims, regardless of any divide, should keep their focus in this regard.

It is also equally important that all those addressing inquisit should avoid irresponsible behaviour and speeches. They should be careful about the selection of what they want to say and how. Every word, every gesture should show care and respect for all. We should not forget that Imam Hussain did everything to keep us on the right path. And mujahids should not be distracted from his teachings about being a civilised human being. Also, mujahids and mourning processors should not create hurdles in the way of other citizens, especially women and the elderly. The focus should be on keeping life peaceful and normal as much as possible.

Imam Hussain's message should be understood and practised in letter and in spirit by all the people. In Pakistan, we need to go to extremes in every sphere of life. Let Muharram be an exception.

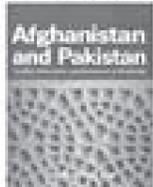
Mohd Rizvi
Ontario, Canada

Afghan dilemma

THE Durrand Line Agreement was signed back in 1893, but the matter seems to have remained

unresolved as some factors in Afghanistan claim their right over the land across the Pakistani border. There is also a growing trend of nationalism on the Pakistani population dwells on both sides of the border.

The conclusion is exacerbated by the deep presence of banned terrorist groups in Afghanistan, mainly the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan



(TTP). As a result, diplomatic and trade relations have remained halted. Officials have estimated daily losses in trade at \$3 million. It is high time both countries started engagement on diplomatic and economic platforms.

In his book *Afghanistan and Pakistan*, Riaz Muhammad Khan suggested more than a decade ago that the Durand Line issue should be addressed by recognising it as an internationally acknowledged border. He emphasised that the Pakistan position should also be skillfully handled by paying attention to the reservations of the locals.

Also, China can help bridge this gap as it has announced a multi-billion-dollar investment in Afghanistan. China should compel the Afghan authorities to respect territoriality. The role of services cannot be ignored in this regard. Government officials on both sides of the border should also take them into confidence. Finally, the Afghan Taliban should have a clear policy with regard to the terrorist groups.

Sarwar Akhbar/Latif Khawro
Hyderabad

KE generating bills

IMAGINE ordering a lethal heatwave with no electricity, and still receiving constant KElectric (KE) bills. Anybody living in Karachi will tell you readily that there is more 'current' in the KE bills than in the transmission lines. The shock caused by that 'current' is traumatic.

In the last few weeks, more than a hundred people have perished due to the heat stroke in Karachi. Who is responsible for these deaths? It certainly could not be the weather alone. We cannot control the weather, but what about electricity supply? Surely, KE cannot handle it, for its expertise is clearly in generating as well as distributing bills, not electricity.

In fact, why do we, the people, not receive the electricity we pay for? It is a clear case of manipulation by the KE and the government, making us believe there is a shortage of electricity when the reality is that they are out to fleece the people.

A lot of avenues in the city are reducing seriously an unbearably long loadshedding hours despite the fact that most people in such locations happen to be 'star' status on their KE bills, which is a confirmation that they pay their bills timely and regularly. The irony in that settlements, also called kanhi abadis, close to such 'star' communities continue to receive uninterrupted power even though there is a history of overpayment associated with such illegal consumers. This leads to suspicion of some kind of a pact between the defendants and KE employees. Writing these lines in the absence of electricity at my residence, the irony is lost on me.

Muhammad Imran
Karachi

► **ANOTHER FAILURE:** The recent tragic incident in which two university students fell off a moving bus of a private education institution, resulting in one fatality and a serious injury, is profoundly distressing. Transportation issues have long plagued the provincial capital, and while the introduction of the green bus service has been a welcome relief, it is insufficient to meet the needs of the thousands of passengers who rely on it every day. Moreover, overcrowding on buses forces passengers to stand in unsafe positions, leading to incidents like the recent one. Immediate and effective measures must be taken to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Azfar Ahmad
Quetta

► **A CURSED NATION:** Recently, I visited the police facilitation centre at P-6/1 in Islamabad for my motorcycle clearance certificate. Although I was charged Rs1,000 for the certificate, I was not given any receipt in return, depriving me of the proof of my payment. Moreover, it was disheartening to see the data entry operator making several critical errors while writing the certificate which I detected later. If this is the case in the capital, what would be happening in the other cities across such facilitation centres. Unfortunately, as things stand, there seems to be no chance of improvement, and that is reason enough why I will not appeal to any higher authority to take notice of the situation. I think we Pakistanis are cursed forever.

Muhammad Mahmood
Islamabad

► **PREMIUM CAR PLATES:** The Sindh government recently announced premium car number plates at astronomical prices. In this auction, bidders bought number plates at bids worth millions of rupees. Apart from mounting the prices at which these premium number plates were sold, it would have been interesting if the government could also provide the names of the respective buyers along with the actual amount of income tax paid by them as 'filers' in the preceding financial year.

Jawad Maqsood
Karachi

► **External Ombudsman:** Veteran journalist Muhammad Ali Siddiq 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. [Email: aliombudsman@gmail.com](mailto:Email:aliombudsman@gmail.com)

Entry of heavy vehicles to Hayatabad banned

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar district administration on Wednesday received the dispute between the Hayatabad residents and industrialist association over entry of heavy vehicles to the city's upscale neighbourhood.

The development came during a meeting chaired by Peshawar division commissioner Fiaz Khan Mehsud.

Peshawar Development Authority's director general Khalid Mahmood, Hayatabad Industrialist Association president Ghazwan Bhatti and other relevant officials were also in attendance.

Earlier, PDA had banned the entry of heavy trucks into the neighbourhood following the local residents' complaints. However, the industrialist association announced to protest the restriction.

The meeting decided that the entry of heavy vehicles would not be allowed in the residential areas of Hayatabad. However, it directed the PDA to designate an alternate route for the heavy vehicles coming and going to industrial estate.

Mr Mehsud directed the relevant authorities that heavy trucks should proceed to the Industry Flood from the detour road next to the Ring Road.

The commissioner also set up a monitoring committee with representation from industrialist association and local residents for finding a permanent resolution to the issue.

Earlier on Tuesday, on behalf of Hayatabad residents, Good Governance Forum had also opposed the entry of heavy vehicles into the neighbourhood.

In a statement issued here, the forum said: "Allowing entry via Hayatabad to heavy loaded vehicles would not only cause nuisance to residents but they will also damage the roads inside the township. Traffic jams would become a daily occurrence, which would further ruin the aesthetic side of a well-planned township."

The residents had threatened that in case the entry of heavy vehicles was not banned, they would launch an organised campaign, and would also move a writ petition in court for enforcement of their fundamental right of enjoying peaceful life.

Two killed, 36 injured as rain, windstorm lash Bannu, Kohat, Waziristan

Official says emergency declared in all Bannu hospitals

Dawn Report

LAKKI MARWAT (KOHAT/SOUTH WAZIRISTAN): Two people were killed and 36 others were injured when heavy downpour and windstorms lashed Bannu, Kohat and South Waziristan on Wednesday, rescue and administrative officials said.

A Bannu administrative official said two bodies were brought to the District Headquarters Hospital, who were identified as Khawaja Bhai, 65, and Tawar Khan, 18. He said the woman died in Ghalban area, and the boy in Bharati Mehrdhal area in roof-collapse incidents as the first spell of monsoon rain coupled with strong winds wreaked havoc in the district.

The official said an emergency was declared in all major hospitals and doctors and paramedics were called on duty.

He said at least 33 injured, including women and children, were also brought to hospitals from different areas.

He said the teams of Water and Sanitation Services Company, municipal bodies, Rescue 1122 and other relevant departments had been sent dispatched to the affected areas to carry out rescue and relief activities.

Local residents said heavy downpour with strong winds flooded streets and

roads, forcing people to stay indoors. They said the strong winds damaged rooftop solar panels and uprooted trees. Boundary walls and roofs of houses collapsed.

A video clip circulating on social media showed debris of a big car shed lying on the premises of the District Headquarters Hospital and on the IM Khan Road, and ambulances bringing the injured to the hospital.

Several cars and motorcycles parked under the shed were damaged.

A rescue official said that incidents of roof and wall collapse were reported from different parts of the district.

He said four students were injured when roof of a primary school in Kot Pasha village of Churpa taluqa.

He identified the injured as Qadir, 15, Hakim, 9, Ahsan, 7, and Mirza, 20, who had been shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital.

Bannu deputy commissioner Shah Saeed visited the DHQ Hospital to enquire after the wounded people and check availability of doctors and essential medicines.

He told journalists that special instructions were issued to the hospital's management to ensure presence of all relevant staff and provide standard medical facilities to the injured persons. The deputy commissioner said that sufficient medicines were available in all hospitals and health facilities across the district.

He said that on the directives of divisional commissioner Parwez Sabkhat, his administration was

closely monitoring the situation and that the affected residents would be provided all sorts of relief at their doorsteps.

Meanwhile, three people, including a woman, were seriously injured when boundary wall of a mosque fell on an adjacent house in Mandoori area of Lachi tehsil of Kohat during a windstorm.

Rescue 1122 officials said that after getting the distress call from the control room they reached the spot and provided first aid to the injured after recovering them from the debris. The injured were identified as Mr Akhbar, 32, Faiz Sabhan, 45, and Risa, 22.

Rescue officials said that Sufian was referred to a Peshawar hospital in present condition.

In Lower South Waziristan district, a girl and a woman got injuries when roof of a room of their house collapsed in Sholan Wachi taluqa of Bernal tehsil during heavy rain.

The injured, identified as Nadia and Ahsan BAI, were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital, Wana. The local residents rushed to the spot and retrieved the injured from under the debris.

Lakki police officials suspended over links with outlaws

LAKKI MARWAT: District police officer Tawar Khan on Wednesday suspended 12 policemen, including a sub-inspector, over links with criminals.

An official said that the suspended officials had been directed to report to the police lines immediately.

The suspended officials included Ghannikhal police station additional SHO Saba Inspector Qudratullah, head constable Syed Ali, lower local constables Qayyum and Mubin, detective foot constable Ishaqullah, and wireless operator Mir Qasim Khan, the official said.

He said that five gentlemen of former SHO Shahzadullah (already suspended and related to the police lines) were also among the suspended officials.

They included constables Barkatullah, Nazrooz, Shafia, Nisar and Amanat.

The official said that the charge sheet and summary of allegations would be issued to the suspended cops separately. —Correspondent

PTI, ANP candidates front-runners in Bajaur by-election

BAJAUR: A tough contest is expected between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Awami National Party candidates in the by-election on PK-22 constituency being held here on Thursday (today).

Political observers said

though there were total 12 aspirants in the race for the by-election. PTI-backed Rahmatullah Khan and Nisar Khan of ANP were the front-runners.

They said Abdul Khan of Jamaat-e-Islami JI also had 'strong' position.

Observers said earlier, Akid Khan and Nisar Khan were believed to be the favourites as the PTI nominee also faced opposition from his own party's disgruntled figures as three senior party workers were contesting as independent candidates.

However, withdrawal of the independent, Mian Habib Gul, from the election race, strengthened Rahmatullah's position.

On the other hand, political observers said that the position of independent candidate, Najmatullah Khan, who was expected to get the sympathy vote after the killing of his uncle — former Senator Hadyarullah Khan — in a bomb blast last week, was still weak compared to his competitors.

Observers said though people across the district showed their support over the killing of former senator, they would not vote for Najmatullah, the elder son of former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governor Eng Shaukatullah Khan, mainly owing to his 'lack of acceptance' among the people, especially youth.

Meanwhile, the local authorities on Wednesday declared 23 polling stations as the most sensitive. Talking to Dawn on Wednesday, deputy com-

missioner Muhammad Anwarul Haq vowed to ensure free, fair, transparent and peaceful conduct of the by-election.

Mr Haq, who is also the district returning officer, said a total of 91 polling stations had been established in the constituency, out of which, 43 had been declared sensitive, and 23 most sensitive.

He said all the most sensitive and sensitive polling stations were located in mountainous localities, where special security arrangements had been made to conduct the polling process in peaceful manner.

Mr Haq said that besides policemen, Frontier Corps personnel had also been deployed outside all the most sensitive and sensitive polling stations to avoid any unpleasant incident.

He said that CCEV cameras had been installed at the highly sensitive polling stations to prevent any attempt of sabotage.

The DRD said that election material and staff had been dispatched to their respective polling stations through specially arranged transport amid tight security on Wednesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, a statement issued from the district police officer's office said 1,300 policemen would perform duty at the polling stations across the constituency, which is said to be the largest among all the four provincial assembly constituencies of the district both in size and population. —Correspondent

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) is a state-owned enterprise responsible for the exploration, mining, and marketing of various minerals operating under the administrative control of the Ministry of Energy, Petroleum Division, Government of Pakistan. PMDC invites applications for the following post on an open contract basis.

Position:	Manager (Technology & Digital Transformation)
Place of Posting:	PMDC Head Office, Islamabad
Qualification:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's degree in Information Technology, Computer Science, Business Administration, or a related field from a recognized institution. Relevant certifications (such as SAP Oracle etc.) will be preferred.
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 08 years of experience in ERP management and digital transformation, with a strong track record of successful project implementation. Experience in the mining or related industries preferred. Proficiency in ERP systems and digital tools, project management, data analytics, and process improvement. Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
Age:	45 Years
Key Job Responsibilities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement ERP and digital transformation strategies aligned with the company's goals. Oversee the selection, implementation, and maintenance of ERP systems. Lead digital transformation projects, ensuring timely and budget-compliant delivery. Identify opportunities for process improvements through digital technologies. Ensure seamless integration of ERP systems with other business applications. Manage data governance, ensuring data integrity, security, and availability. Collaborate with various departments (HR, operations, finance, procurement etc.) to understand needs and support digital initiatives. Manage relationships with ERP vendors and technology providers. Provide training and support to staff on ERP systems and digital tools. Stay updated on the latest trends in ERP and digital technologies. Conduct risk assessments and ensure compliance with relevant regulations. Track key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the success of digital initiatives.

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 - Incomplete and late applications will not be entertained.
 - Only short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.
 - Complete application form available at PMDC website, filled with complete supporting details including educational & experience letter.
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 - The envelope containing the application may be marked "APPLICATION FOR MANAGER, ERP & DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION" on the top right corner or through Email to career@pmdc.gov.pk. Applicants can also apply ONLINE through the link www.pmdc.gov.pk.

General Manager (HR&EA)
Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation
 Head Office, Plot No. 13, Sector H-9, Islamabad.
 Tel: 92-01-92081-32, Fax: 92-01-9206127-29 hr@pmdc.gov.pk

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR
MEDICAL & TEACHING INSTITUTION
HAYATABAD MEDICAL COMPLEX PESHAWAR

VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications are invited from medical graduates for a one-year house job at Medical & Teaching Institution Hayatabad Medical Complex, Hayatabad Peshawar.

HOUSE JOB POSITIONS:

Sr. No.	Nomenclature of Post	Gender	No. of Seats	Eligibility Criteria for House Job
1.	House Job (Reserved Seats)	Male / Female	03	Medical graduates of Public Sector Medical Colleges of Azad Jammu & Kashmir having domicile of KP and Newly merged districts.
2.	House Job (Open Merit)	Male / Female	20	Medical graduates of Public, Private and Foreign Medical Colleges having domicile of KP and Newly merged districts followed by the Country.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- Applicants accompanied with complete academic record, domicile certificate along with CO (photographic) and CSC photocopy duly attested must reach the HR Department (House Job Section) MTI-HMC personally or through a registered courier service on or before Friday, **19th July, 2024** till **12:00 PM** of the publication of this advertisement on a prescribed form.
- The application form is available on the HMC website (www.pmdc.gov.pk) and must be submitted to the House Job Section MTI-HMC.
- The applicants must have a valid PMDC license/registration or receipt of application of Registration to PMDC.
- Merit for AJ&K, Public and Private medical graduates will be determined based on their final year MBBS marks. For Foreign Medical Graduates, merit will be assessed based on their entire academic MBBS/MD marks.
- The number of seats may be increased depending upon the availability of vacant / resigned seats.
- Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.
- If the closing date fixed for the receipt of the application form falls on an official holiday, the next working day shall be considered as the closing date.
- An application after the closing time and date shall stand rejected.
- The House Job Committee members shall be compelled to reject incomplete applications.
- Original documents must be produced at the time of the interview.
- No TA/DA will be provided for the test / interview.

03/07/2024/24

MEDICAL DIRECTOR MTI-HAYATABAD MEDICAL COMPLEX, PESHAWAR

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 (Textile & Leather Division)
 Tel: 031-99207212, E-mail: zameer.soomro@tdap.gov.pk

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan
 Ministry of Commerce – (Government of Pakistan)
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Government borrows Rs3.2tr in 45 days

Per day borrowing stood at Rs72bn for the period

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: The government borrowed Rs3,231 billion (Rs3.2 trillion) from scheduled banks during the last 45 days (May 15 to June 28) of the fiscal year 2023-24 despite a 30 per cent growth in reverse repo rate.

The latest State Bank data shows that the government borrowed Rs71.8bn per day during the period, reflecting the government's massive spending of the government.

In the budget for FY25, the government has resorted to heavy taxation in order to generate 40 per cent more revenue than what it did the previous fiscal year.

Although the government has been hinting at imposing more taxes for increasing revenue, there seems to be little effort to curb spending in order to avoid borrowings.

Government borrowing from scheduled banks reached a record high of Rs8,544tr during FY24, more than twice the Rs3,715tr it borrowed during FY23.

The borrowing for the last 45 days of FY24 — Rs3.2tr — was incidentally close to the entire borrowing in FY23. These borrowings came at a staggering cost since the interest rate is as high as 22 per cent.

Lavish spending

The data shows that the government borrowed Rs6,55tr for domestic debt servicing during the year. The government has been exhausting the nation to be ready for more sacrifices in the wake of ongoing talks with the IMF, but has shown reluctance to stop its lavish spending.

The economy is under severe pressure since fixed investments have gone down to a 50-year low. The government slashes the development programme every year while the private sector's borrowings from banks were negligible due to a whopping 22 per cent interest rate.

All these factors combined to restrict the growth rate to a miserable 2.38 per cent.

The government has set a 2.5 per cent growth target for FY25, but a ballooning debt servicing liability, a high interest rate despite low inflation and a slump in economic activities by the private sector are unlikely to allow economic managers to reach the target.

Cost raises Rs442bn at slightly reduced rates

The government raised Rs442 billion against the target of Rs450bn through auction of treasury bills on Wednesday.

The cut-off yield on the papers were reduced by 10 basis points for three months to 25.04 per cent and 18 basis points to 19.79pc for six-month T-bills. The rate on 12-month papers was kept unchanged at 18.54pc.

The government raised Rs24.6bn for three-month, Rs158.3bn for six-month and Rs421.4bn for 12-month papers. An amount of Rs87.4bn was raised through non-bidding process.

OICCI concerned over deteriorating security in Karachi

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) has raised serious concerns over the country's deteriorating security environment, particularly in Karachi, compared to other cities where the security situation has improved.

In the OICCI's Security Survey 2024, respondents reported deterioration in the overall security situation in 2024 compared to 2023. Specifically, Karachi saw a worsening situation from 67 per cent to 89pc, with many respondents expressing concerns about growing incidents of street crime not only in the metropolis but across Sindh.

Similarly, Balochistan's security situation also worsened, increasing from 69pc per cent to 75pc, according to the survey conducted in June 2024, compared to last year. The survey covered members' feedback on the security environment in Pakistan's commercial hubs.

On a positive note, marginal improvements were noted in Lahore, where the security situation improved from 73pc to 49pc, Punjab from 63pc to 53pc and Peshawar from 68pc to 58pc.

Security remains one of the top three concerns for doing business in Pakistan for 71pc of the survey respondents, consistent with the 2023 survey.

OICCI management committee member Kamran Ataulah Khan said: "Our members stress the importance of sustained efforts by law enforcement agencies to enhance security, which is crucial for attracting foreign direct investments (FDI)."

He pointed out that economic instability and security incidents have impacted visits by foreign nationals for business purposes.

OICCI Secretary General M. Abdul Azeem highlighted that the survey provides detailed feedback from foreign investors on various aspects of doing business related to security, such as street crimes, expatriate security, illegal gratification, and protests. During 2024, responses were received from over two-thirds of members, including CEOs and senior management. Approximately 75pc of OICCI members are based in Karachi, with the remainder in Lahore and Islamabad, operating throughout the country.

US DOLLAR BUYING: 252.78-95 SELLING: 252.90-95	EURO BUYING: 229.34 SELLING: 230.17
GBP BUYING: 192.64-24 SELLING: 193.87-21	SAE DIRHAM BUYING: 19.75-55 SELLING: 19.76-29
INR BUYING: 19.75-55 SELLING: 19.76-29	GOLD 24K: 19,245,500 10-GRAM: 19,270,562

Cash-strapped govt notifies hefty hikes in salaries, pensions

By Khaleeq Kiari

ISLAMABAD: The government on Wednesday notified 15 per cent increase in pension and 20-25pc increase in salaries of the public servants with effect from July 1.

In a series of notifications issued by the Ministry of Finance, the government also restricted public servants from drawing more than Rs1 million per annum on account of their membership on the boards of directors of various corporate entities. These employees would be entitled to retain a maximum of Rs1 million per year, deposit any excess amount in the government treasury, and submit their reports to the MoF.

Under one of the notifications, the government allowed Ad hoc Relief Allowance-2024 (ARA) at the rate of

25pc of running basic pay for basic pay scale (BPS)-1 to 16 and 20pc for BPS-17 to 22 for all the federal government employees including armed forces personnel, civil armed forces and civil employees as well as the civilians paid from Defence Estimates. They also include contract staff and contract staff employed against civil posts in basic pay scales on standard terms and conditions of contract appointment.

The amount of ARA will be subject to income tax and also admissible during leave and entire period of leave prior to retirement except during extraordinary leave. The ARA will not be treated as part of emoluments for the purpose of calculation of pension or gratuity and recovery of house rent and will also not be admissible to the employees during the tenure of their posting or deputation abroad.

However, the ARA will be admissible to the employees posted abroad on their repatriation from foreign posting at the rate and amount which would have been admissible to them had they not been posted abroad.

The term "basic pay" for the purpose of ARA-2024 would also include the amount of personal pay granted on account of annual increments beyond the maximum of the existing pay scales.

In another memorandum, the MoF also notified an increase of 15pc of net pension to all civil pensioners of the federal government, including civilians paid from Defence Estimates and retired personnel of the armed forces and civil armed forces. The same rate of increase would also apply to pensioners retiring on or after July 1.

"Net pension" has been defined as "pension being drawn minus medical allowance" for the purpose of increase. The increase will also be applicable on family pension under pensioners gratuity scheme of 1954 and liberalised pension rules 1977 on pension sanctioned under the Civil Servants (Extended Injury Pension) Rules as well as on Compensation Allowance.

However, this increase in pension is not admissible on Special Additional Pension allowed in lieu of pre-retirement Orderly Allowance and unutilised value of a direct or army order. The notification clarified that if the gross pension sanctioned by the federal government is shared with any government under accounts code Volume-1, the amount of increase in pension will be apportioned between the federal government and the other government concerned on a proportionate basis.

US tightens aluminium, steel import rules

WASHINGTON

The United States unveiled stricter rules Wednesday on steel and aluminium imports from Mexico, moving to prevent Chinese origin goods from avoiding tariffs.

The election-season actions by President Joe Biden's administration mark the latest in a series of efforts to guard against excess industrial capacity in China, which Washington has warned could bring a flood of unfairly priced goods to other markets.

Steel arriving via Mexico will qualify for duty-free benefits only if melted and poured in that country, or in the United States or Canada, White House National Economic



EXCESS Chinese steel production has led to a surge in imports across several Latin American countries. — Reuters file

Automobile sales hit 18-month high

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The country's auto sales — cars, jeeps, sport utility vehicles and pickups — touched a 18-month high to 11,284 units during June 2024, showing a 25 per cent month-on-month and 120pc year-on-year.

In volumetric terms, MoM jump in car sales is primarily due to an increase in the sales of hatchback Maruti Suzuki, which rose by 44pc to 2,907 units and Pak Suzuki Motor Company Ltd, which went up by 15pc to 6,885 units in June this year.

Hyundai Nishat Motor recorded sales of 1,059 units (up 55pc MoM) while Sagar Engineering Works (SAZEW) sales were 871 units, up by 12pc. Only Honda Atlas Cars Limited (HACL) recorded sales of 1,095 units, down by 8pc MoM in June 2024.

On a YoY basis, the significant jump of 120pc in total car sales is attributed to a low base from last year amid plant shut-downs, Mystra. Sohail of TopLine Securities said. Total sales of cars, jeeps,

vans and pickups during FY24 were down by 10pc to 103,827 units YoY which is the lowest sales after 15 years due to escalating car prices, expensive auto financing, and the low purchasing power of consumers, she said.

Ms Sohail believed that improvement in economic activity following the IMF's new programme, a stable currency, and reduction in interest rates will lead to an improvement in car sales.

She said bike sales were down 24pc MoM but up by 8pc YoY to 80,895 units in June 2024. Atlas Honda Ltd (AHL) recorded sales of 80,900 units, down 22pc MoM and up 7pc YoY, thus making the total industry sales to 1.15m units, down 3pc in FY24 due to low purchasing power of consumers.

Total tractor industry sales rose to 4,134 units in June 2024, up by 28pc YoY and 34pc MoM, while FY24 sales clocked in at 45,494 units, up by 42pc YoY due to low base of last year amid floods, she said.

Sales of trucks and buses were also up 21pc MoM and 10pc YoY to 299 units in June 2024. This took FY24 industry sales to 2,684 units, down 13pc YoY.

CCP clears acquisition of soap unit

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Procter & Gamble is set to sell off its soap manufacturing unit, leaving the brand of Safeguard with remain with P&G.

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of certain assets of Procter & Gamble (P&G) by Nimir Industrial Chemicals Ltd.

The Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) approved by the CCP allows Nimir to acquire certain assets of P&G relating to its manufacturing facility of toilet soap, Safeguard.

The transferred assets include the real estate property located in Hala, Bahawalpur, plant and machinery. However, P&G has not sold the brand name Safeguard and its manufacturing formula to Nimir. The CCP's Phase I competition assessment has been classified in the category of Personal Care — Hard Soap.

Exports to US dive on poor performance by textile sector

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's merchandise exports to the United States fell 19.65 per cent to \$4,989 billion in the first 11 months of ongoing 2023-24 from \$5,484bn over the corresponding period last year.

The fall is mainly attributed to a dip in exports of textiles and clothing to North America, according to data compiled by the State Bank of Pakistan.

Contrary to this, Pakistan's exports to China increased by 42pc to \$2,553bn in July-May FY24 from \$1,809bn over the corresponding period last year. It is estimated that during FY24, Pakistan's exports to China will reach \$3bn by the end of June this year.

According to PPS data, Pakistan's exports to the US stood at \$5.17bn in FY23, down 23.28pc from \$6.74bn in the previous fiscal year. In FY24, Pakistan's exports to China stood at \$2,22bn, down 30pc from \$3.18bn in FY22. The US remained Pakistan's biggest export destination in FY23.

According to the finance ministry report on top export destinations, the US remained Pakistan's most significant market in 9M FY24. Exports to the USA moderately decreased to 17pc in 9M FY24, compared to 19pc last year. Similarly, the Chinese export share increased to 9pc during the period under review.

Meanwhile, the export share to the United Kingdom stood at 7pc, followed by 5pc in Germany, the UAE and 5pc in starting the month under review. The share in export proceeds remained relatively stable for these countries during the month under review compared to the previous year.

The primary factor hindering exports was the slowdown in major importing economies, exacerbated by stringent monetary policies responding to high inflation and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. It said home textile exports have dropped due to lower demand in the European Union, the UK, and the US.

Kissan cards in Punjab from Aug 10

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Kissan cards will be available in the branches of the Bank of Punjab from Aug 10 as the printing of 250,000 cards is underway.

A meeting chaired by Agriculture Secretary Hakeem Ali Sahoo was informed that verification of 100,000 applications had been completed, while new applications were also being received.

The Kissan card holders would be able to purchase fertilisers, seeds and pesticides at discounted prices from Oct 15.

Mr Sahoo said the card would be distributed on "first come, first served" basis as 275,000 growers have so far applied for it.

Stocks fall below 80,000 on IMF's new condition

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: The stock market snapped its record-setting streak on Wednesday due to emerging economic concerns as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) attached a new condition for reaching a Staff-Level Agreement for a new loan.

Consequently, the benchmark index fell below 80,000 due to aggressive profit-taking despite massive foreign buying.

Ahsan Mubashir of Arif Habib Corporation said stocks closed sharply lower on uncertainty over the resolution of \$15 billion energy debt repayment to China and IMF condition to abolish the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund by September 30 for transparency and accountability of profit-making state-owned enterprises after handing it to members in the federal budget FY25.

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

THE TOP FIVERS			
GAINERS		LOSERS	
Etete Pakistan	71.17	Unilever Foods	178.83
PIA Holding Co	63.20	Pakistan Tobacco	46.03
Data Agro	43.00	ZL Ltd	22.65
Sagar Engineering	40.64	Premium Textile	22.44
Nestle Pakistan	38.47	Etete Pakistan	19.05

LEADERS*			
K-Electric	57.71	PIA Holding Co	43.03
Unity Foods	28.62	WiredCall Telecom	20.10
Hum Network	18.55		

INDICATORS			
	Wednesday	Tuesday	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Point)	79,841.56	80,872.86	▼ 1,031.30
KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Point)	28,488.91	28,793.87	▼ 304.96
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	10,885.175	10,791.388	▼ 94.787
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	22.519	24.917	▼ 2,398

ACTIVITY	
Total listed	532
Active	440
Gainers	153
Losers	241
PARTICIPANTS	
Foreign	▲ \$2,40m
Companies	▲ \$0,50m
Banks	▲ \$1,25m
Mutual Funds	▼ \$1,87m
Individuals	▼ \$0,84m

Topline Securities Ltd said profit-taking was witnessed in the PSX as investors chose to capitalise on the market's strength. Prominent stocks such as Hub Power, Pakistan Petro-

chem, Dawood Hercules, Millat Tractors, Habib Bank, and Bank Al-Habib led the negative momentum, collectively adding 362 points to the index's downturn.

As a result, the benchmark index hit an intraday low of 80,971.96 points and a low of 79,841.32. However, the index settled at 79,841.56 after losing 810.51 points or 0.71 per cent on a day-on-day basis.

However, the overall trading volume contracted 18.7pc to 495.90 million shares. The traded value also dipped 305pc to

BBC commentator's wife, two daughters murdered near London

LONDON: British police launched a massive manhunt on Wednesday after three women, the wife and daughters of a BBC horse racing commentator, were killed in a leafy town outside London in an incident believed to have involved a crossbow.

Officers discovered the three victims, aged 25, 28 and 61, with serious injuries at the home in Bushey, 20 miles northwest of London, on Tuesday evening. They died at the scene a short time later.

The BBC said that the women were Carol Hunt, the wife of its commentator John Hunt, and two of their daughters. A huge search involving armed officers has now been launched for suspect, Kyle Clifford. Police have appealed to him to give himself up and warned the public not to approach the 26-year-old. With the suspect believed to be in north London or around Bushey.

Chief superintendent Jon Simpson called the incident "horrific", telling reporters a crossbow and possibly other weapons were believed to have been involved.

"Our overarching objective today is to protect public safety and to locate Kyle Clifford who is wanted in connection with the murder of the three women in what we believe is a targeted incident," Simpson said. Friends and colleagues of Hunt expressed their shock at the news.

"Impossible to comprehend this pair. Just know we are all here for you John. We love you and raising loves you," ITV horse racing commentator said on X. Interior minister Yvette Cooper called the deaths "truly shocking" and said she was being kept updated about the inquiry.

A spokeswoman for her department said legislation was "under constant review and a call for evidence was launched earlier this year to look at whether further controls on crossbows should be introduced". She said the minister would "swiftly consider the findings to see if laws need to be tightened further".—Agencies



LONDON: David Lammy is being sworn in as Britain's foreign secretary after legislators met at the House of Commons for the first time since the general election, on Wednesday.—AFP

Bangladesh's top court suspends job quotas after student protests

DHAKA: Bangladesh's top court on Wednesday temporarily suspended quotas for reserved government jobs after thousands of students staged nationwide protests against what they call a discriminatory system, lawyers said.

The quota system was abolished in 2018 after weeks of protests, but reinstated in June by Dhaka's High Court, sparking fury from students.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday suspended that order for a month, said lawyer Shah Meowarul Hoque, who represents two students seeking to end the quota system.

Hoque said that Chief Justice Obaidul Hasan had also requested that students return to class. Despite the call, student groups continued to block key highways and railway tracks, bringing traffic movement to a halt in the capital Dhaka and several major cities to a halt.

The quota system reserves more than half of well-paid and lucrative over-subsidized civil service posts, totalling hundreds of thousands of government jobs, for specific groups including children of liberation heroes.

Students protest. Students launched protests earlier this month, demanding a merit-based system, with demonstrations on Wednesday blocking highways and railway lines. "We will not return to classrooms until our demand is met," protest leader Rashed Ahmed of Chittagong University said. Thousands of students on Wednesday threw up barriers across key intersections in Dhaka, as well as blocking major highways connecting the capital to other cities, police said.

Hannayatul Islam, deputy police chief in the northwestern city of Rajshahi said that "at least 200 students" blocked the highway to Dhaka.

"Brilliant students no longer get the jobs they want because of this quota system," said Hafizatul Nadeem, a professor and physics student at Chittagong University. "You work hard only to find out that there are only a limited number of jobs available," she added. "This court order is temporary. We want a permanent executive order from the government, saying that the quotas are abolished, except some quotas for the disabled and minorities," said Parvez Mosharraf, a student at Dhaka University.

He was among dozens of students who laid timber logs on a railway track at Dhaka's Karwan Bazar, forcing the halt of train services connecting the capital to northern Bangladesh.

"Limited number of jobs". The quota system reserves 30 per cent of government posts for children of those who fought to win Bangladesh's independence in 1971, 10% for women, and 10% for residents of specific districts.

Students said only those quotas supporting ethnic minorities and disabled people — six per cent of jobs — should remain. "We don't also want the job quotas for women because women are no longer lagging behind," female student Meera Bari Das, 22, said.

"Women are marching ahead with their talents. But the quota system is creating obstacles and snatching our rights."—AFP

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Denmark to introduce world's first livestock carbon tax

COPENHAGEN: Denmark will introduce the world's first carbon tax on livestock, a unique measure designed to bring the Scandinavian country closer to its goal of carbon neutrality by 2045.

From 2026, methane emissions caused by flatulence from cattle and pigs will be taxed at a rate of 300 kroner (54) per tonne of CO2 equivalent. This amount will rise to 750 kroner in 2035 under the terms of an agreement reached at the end of June between the government, part of the opposition and representatives of livestock farmers, industry and trade unions.

The tax still has to be approved by parliament which will examine it after the summer.

For Christian Fromberg, a campaign leader at Greenpeace Nordic, the tax "offers hope... in a situation where a lot of countries are backpedalling on climate action." "While the carbon tax should have been both higher and implemented sooner, it does mark a significant milestone," he said.

At the same time, Fromberg deplored the "missed opportunity" to bring about "a new direction for Danish agriculture".

This is despite the fact that its practices remain highly intensive and discharge a lot of nitrogen, which is responsible for deoxygenating the water. Without oxygen, marine flora and fauna disappear.

For the Danish Association for Sustainable Agriculture, however, the agreement is "useless". It is "a subsidy for agriculture", it said in a press release.

"As a farmer, I feel uncomfortable because we are taking part in an uncertain experiment" that could threaten "the security of the food supply," said the association's president Peter Kjaer, recalling New Zealand's abandonment of a similar proposal in the face of farmers protesting. To soften the bill for Danish farmers, the plan proposes a 60 per cent tax deduction.—AFP

Ukraine creates 'legion' to recruit men abroad to fight

KYIV: The Ukrainian military has launched a new initiative to recruit fighting-age men living abroad to enlist, as Kyiv desperately tries to replenish its depleted forces on the front lines.

The establishment of the so-called Ukrainian Legion comes after more than two years of fighting, which has seen heavy casualties drain the military of manpower needed to battle Russia's advancing forces.

The creation of the new unit was part of a wider security agreement agreed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk earlier this week.

"We call on all Ukrainians in Europe to join the Ukrainian Legion. Your contribution is invaluable in our struggle for freedom and independence," Defence Minister Rustem Umerov announced on social media on Tuesday.

The initiative aims to recruit volunteers from the pool of Ukrainian men living in Europe, especially Poland and Germany, which are home to the largest numbers of Ukrainian refugees. An estimated 200,000 Ukrainian men of fighting age are believed to be living in Poland alone.

Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian men are believed to have been residing in Europe before the war, while an uncounted number of others fled after the Russian invasion — some legally and others through illicit means.—AFP

Astronauts stuck on ISS 'confident' Starliner will bring them home

WASHINGTON: A pair of NASA astronauts left stranded on the International Space Station without a clear departure date expressed confidence on Wednesday that their Boeing Starliner spaceship would soon bring them home.

Butch Wilmore and Sori Williams blasted off on June 5 following years of delays and safety issues affecting Starliner, as well as two aborted launch attempts that came as the two were strapped in and ready to go.

They checked the following day for what was meant to be roughly a week-long stay, but their return has been pushed back because of thruster malfunctions and helium leaks that came to light during the journey.

Asked during a live press call from the orbital outpost whether they still had faith in the Starliner team and the spaceship, mission commander Wilmore replied "We're absolutely confident." "I have a real good feeling in my heart that the spaceship will bring us home, no problem," added Williams.

She said they were continuing to enjoy their time aboard the ISS, performing tasks like changing out the pump on a machine that processes urine back into drinking water, and carrying out science experiments such as gene sequencing in the microgravity environment.—AFP

French centrists seek alliance with rightists in hung parliament

PARIS: French centrists were looking for an alliance with the right on Wednesday, after an inconclusive snap election left the European Union's second-largest economy with a hung parliament.

In a surprise outcome, a broad left-wing coalition won most seats in Sunday's vote, dashing the far right's dreams of an absolute majority that would allow it to lead government.

Prime Minister Gabriel Attal's government will remain in power as Paris makes final preparations for the Olympics, starting in just over two weeks, but his centrist group in parliament lost ground and the hunt is on for a figure to replace him. French leftists believe that as the target bloc in the new

National Assembly with some 100 seats they are entitled to suggest a new prime minister.

But many in President Emmanuel Macron's centrist camp, which holds around 100 seats, would refuse to support a new government that includes figures from the hard left.

The president's Renaissance outfit on Wednesday sought to find allies in the lower chamber, but appeared divided, with some seeking to include forces ranging from the centre left to the right in a broad coalition, and others only wishing to join forces with conservatives.

Anouar Bergant, re-elected on Sunday and minister in charge of gender equality in the outgoing government, said his group wanted to ally with the conservative

Republicans and other members of parliament near the centre.

"There are a little more than 160 of us today... and I am hearing of other lawmakers... who would be ready to join us, which means we could become more in numbers than the left-wing bloc," she told the France 2 television channel.

"Move forward". Macron had had less since the election results, and was away on Wednesday for a Nato summit in Washington. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin, who was also re-elected, told the CNews broadcaster he could support a "right-wing prime minister".

Former prime minister Edouard Philippe, a Macron ally, has called for a deal between the centrists and the conservatives "to move forward and be able to manage the country's affairs for at least a year".

Francois Bayrou, another Macron supporter, urged the president to name a prime minister who could "bring together" both sides of parliament.

Any candidate would have to survive a confidence vote in parliament when it opens for business next week. The wide leftist alliance including Greens, Socialists, Communists and LFI has said they would suggest a candidate for prime minister by the end of the week.

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ROME: "Horse", a bronze sculpture by Colombian artist Fernando Botero, is on display at Via del Corso as part of an exhibition dedicated to the artist, on Wednesday. The widespread exhibition will continue until Oct 1 — the major squares of the Italian capital will host large bronze sculptures created between the 1960s and early 2000s.—AFP



LONDON: This hand-drawn image shows artist John Sibbick's depiction of Comptonatus chaseni, a new species of a plant-eating dinosaur whose fossils were found in Britain's Isle of Wight.—Reuters



PRAQUE (Czechia): A newly born critically endangered Chinese pangolin is being weighed at Prague Zoo, on Wednesday.—Reuters

NEWSMAKERS



CONFISCATED smuggled snakes lie inside a plastic bag at a customs office in Shenzhen, China.—AFP

Man in China caught smuggling 100 live snakes in his trousers

BEIJING: A man has been caught trying to smuggle over 100 live snakes into mainland China by cramming them into his trousers, according to the country's customs authority.

The stranded traveller was stopped by customs officers as he sought to slip out of semi-autonomous Hong Kong and into the border city of Shenzhen, China Customs said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Upon inspection, customs officers discovered that the pockets of the trousers the passenger was wearing were packed with six canvas drawing bags and sealed with tape," the statement said. "Once opened, each bag was found to contain living snakes in all kinds of shapes, sizes and colours," it added.

The statement said officers seized 108 of the scaly reptiles, including milk snakes and corn snakes, many of which were non-native species. An accompanying video showed two border agents peering into transparent plastic bags filled with squirming red, pink and white snakes.

China is one of the world's biggest animal trafficking hubs, but authorities have cracked down on the illicit trade in recent years. The country's biosecurity and disease control laws forbid people from bringing in non-native species without permission.

"Those who break the rules will be held liable in accordance with the law," the customs authority said, without specifying the man's punishment.—AFP



SONING (UK): A kayaker paddles past an art installation of an ATM cashpoint, attributed to Iwan, an anonymous artist.—Reuters



JAKARTA: Mount Lewotobi Lati-laki spews volcanic ash during an eruption, as seen from Dligali village in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province, on Wednesday.—AFP

Biden ally Pelosi raises doubts about race, Clooney calls for exit

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden must decide quickly whether to stay in the 2024 White House race, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a longtime Biden ally, said on Wednesday while declining to say definitively that she wanted him to run.

In an opinion piece published on Wednesday in the New York Times, Hollywood star George Clooney, a Democrat who co-hosted a fundraiser for Biden last month, withdrew his support. Pelosi's remarks, which ignored Biden's repeated insistence that he remains in the race, suggested he could face a fresh wave of doubts from fellow Democrats. For nearly two weeks the 81-year-old Biden has sought to stem defections by Democratic lawmakers, donors and other allies worried he might lose the Nov 5 vote to Republican Donald Trump, 78, after Biden's backing June 27 debate performance.

The president has said again and again that he will be the Democratic candidate and that he believes he can beat Trump. Pelosi said on MSNBC she was encouraging her colleagues to refrain from acting this week while he fights state leaders in Washington this week.

"I've said to everyone here just hold off. Whatever you're thinking, either tell somebody privately, but you don't have to put that out on the table until we see how we go this week," she said.

describing Biden's strong remarks at the Nato summit on Tuesday as "spectacular".

She declined to say definitively that she wanted Biden to run. "I want him to do whatever he decides to do," she said. "We're all encouraging him to make that decision because time is running short." Asked to respond, Biden's campaign referred to a letter Biden sent Democrats in Congress that said he was "firmly committed" to staying in the race and beating Trump. It also noted Pelosi's remark on Tuesday that she had "always been committed" to Biden.

Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal echoed Pelosi's message later on Wednesday, saying he was "deeply concerned" about Biden's ability to win the race.

In his opinion piece, Clooney wrote: "We are not going to join in November with this president. On top of that, we were with the House, and were going to lose the Senate." Biden was greeted with rousing applause when he met with a group of labor leaders, an important part of his political base, on Wednesday, joining an AFL-CIO executive council meeting in Washington to discuss "their shared commitment to defeating Donald Trump," the Biden campaign said.

At the meeting, Biden listed high rents, expensive grocery prices and a lack of housing as issues to be tackled going forward. There is "a whole range

of things we're going to get done with your help in a second term," Biden said. "We're better positioned than any country in the world to own the remainder of the 21st century because of union labor." Labor votes were key to Biden's win over Trump in competitive states, including Michigan, Nevada and Pennsylvania, in 2020.

Democrats in Congress remain deeply divided over whether to fall in line behind Biden or to urge him to step aside because of persistent questions about his health and ability. Biden has said he is fit to serve but understands the questions. Some have expressed concern that Biden continuing at the top of the ticket could cost the party the White House and both houses of Congress in November.

But public defections remain a small segment of the 213 Democratic-aligned House members, and the party's leadership continues to back Biden publicly. No members of the Senate have publicly said Biden should stand aside, though Senator Michael Bennet of Colorado said on Tuesday he did not believe Biden could beat Trump.

Biden, eager to change the story, has narrowed himself with communities of his staunchest supporters, including Black Democratic lawmakers and voters. His campaign has framed sticking with Biden as a return of the loyalty he has shown them through his half-century of public life. —Reuters

Power generation contracts

Continued from Page 1

an government's request for reducing national average tariff averaging up to 53 per cent hike, attracted strong criticism from almost all consumer categories from across the country, including Karachi. Even the export sector, for which the government claimed to have reduced tariff worth \$650m during this fiscal year, claimed that their effective tariff at \$42 per cent still worked out at 15 cents per unit compared to 80 cents in the region, making the sector uncompetitive.

Both online and physically present consumers criticised Nepsa for allegedly acting as a rubber stamp for government tariff hikes, with little effort to address inefficiencies in the power sector.

Some participants also highlighted contradictory policy stance by the Punjab and federal governments, with the provincial government providing subsidised solar panels adding to surplus capacity and the Centre imposing fixed capacity charge on consumers.

Elephant in the room

Nepsa's tariff member, Mather Niaz Rana, highlighted that he had been pointing out that "the elephant in the room is generation and related to the 'looked into'". He said the government should examine whether the integrated power producers (IPPs) and generation plants are operating efficiently without violating their contracts.

Similarly, the working capital requirements for 15-day operations could be examined in addition to insurance costs and so on. There is a lot of potential to work on operational efficiencies, and it should be looked into, Nepsa Chairman Makhraj said the regulator had a lot of concerns over inefficiency and the distribution companies were way behind efficiency and regulatory standards, barring a couple of Dcos that were meeting or were close to those standards.

He said the power companies had failed to

improve recoveries beyond 50pc over the years, which should be 60pc. "Drastic steps are needed. Business as usual will not deliver. At least bring some sense of reward and accountability in the system to restore public confidence," he asked the government team, led by Joint Secretary of Power Division, Mubassir Bhatti.

Mr Bhatti said the government had already started working in that direction, and the prime minister was himself monitoring power sector reforms. He said the key performance indicators were now being introduced for Dcos, support units were being created, and boards were being transformed with sector experts, while some areas also needed investments.

Overfilling probe

Nepsa's member for consumer affairs, Hafiz A. Shauk, said the power regulator had constituted an investigation team on recent complaints of overfilling through gas rate application of units that moved many consumers out of the protected category or breached a specific slab.

The team has already visited the Power Information Technology Company that maintained the power sector data on meter reading and billing, etc, and was able to access 60pc of the data, which is covered by the process of sensitivity analysis.

He noted that similar complaints last year led to an investigation and adjustments for overfilled consumers. He also stated that while Nepsa could impose fines on power companies, some decisions faced challenges in higher judicial forums.

The Nepsa chairman disagreed with the general perception that the regulator was acting like a rubber stamp. He said the government had demanded a \$4.33 per unit increase in the average national tariff, but the regulator brought it down to \$4.50 per unit, which was further reduced to \$4.72 on the day of final determinations with the applicability of the last interest rate. He said the final tariff revision decision would be issued in a day or two.

BOP THE BANK OF PUNJAB
PUBLIC AUCTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTIES

WHEREAS the Lahore High Court, Lahore awarded judgment and decree dated 14-11-2022 in C.O. No. 25095/2018 in favor of The Bank of Punjab (BOP) and against the judgment debtors named below, jointly and severally, in the sum of Rs. 488,137,126/- with costs and cost of funds. The judgment debtors have failed to pay the decretal amount.

WHEREAS the Lahore High Court vide order dated 09-05-2024 passed in Execution Petition No. 42611/2022 allowed BOP to sell the mortgaged properties (described below) without intervention of the Court under section 79(1) of Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance, 2001 read with Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finance) Rules, 2018, the decree in favor of BOP constitutes and confers sufficient power on it to sell the mortgaged properties by public auction together with details of marketable title.

WHEREAS in terms of Rules 1 and 4 of the Rules, 2018, BOP got the Mortgaged Properties independently valuated by three PRA approved professional valuers for determining the reserve price/total sale value pursuant to Order dated 21-05-2024, informing the judgment debtors of appointment of the valuer, the valuation and stating the time and date of sale. No objection was received. The names of the valuers are: (1) M/s. The Bank of Punjab, (2) M/s. Creative Consultants & Contractors and (3) M/s. Siga & Company Pvt. Ltd.

WHEREAS the highest valuation was by M/s. Siga & Company Pvt. Ltd. and, therefore, adopted as the reserve price under Rule 3 (3) (b) (ii) (b).

NOW THEREFORE BOP invites all interested persons/parties to participate in the public auction of the Mortgaged Properties as per the given schedule.

NAMES OF JUDGMENT DEBTORS:

- Sally Textile Mills Limited having its Head Office at 04-D, Gullberg-8, Near Main Market, Lahore, through its 100% share holder and Factory at Chak No. 11/588, Masaffgarh Road, Jhelumabad, District Faisalabad.
- Mian Iqbal Salehuddin son of Mian Salehuddin (Director/Owner/Mortgagor)
- Mian Yasir Salehuddin son of Mian Salehuddin (Director/Owner/Mortgagor)
- Mian Asad Salehuddin son of Mian Salehuddin (Director/Owner/Mortgagor)
- Mrs. Masura Salehuddin wife of Mian Salehuddin (Director/Owner/Mortgagor)

85 residents of House No. 42-C, Main Boulevard, Gullberg, Lahore.

DESCRIPTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTIES AND RESERVE PRICE:

No.	Property Description	Reserve Price / Total Sale Value* (Amount in PKR)
1.	All that piece and parcel of factory/industry measuring 119 Acares & 88 Marlas, bearing Plot No. 115, Khanna-4 (2), Sector Khanna-4 (2) (1), 10, 20, 3, 2 & 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 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Israeli army orders evacuation of devastated Gaza City

• Tanks unleashed on buildings in Rafah • France, Germany demand probe into attacks on schools • Latest fighting has displaced 350,000 civilians

GAZA STRIP Israeli army troops dropped thousands of leaflets over war-torn Gaza City on Wednesday, urging all residents to flee a heavy offensive through the main city of the besieged Palestinian territory.

The leaflets, addressed to "everyone in Gaza City", set out designated escape routes and warned that the urban area, which had a pre-war population of over half a million, would "remain a dangerous combat zone".

The warning came as Israeli troops, backed by tanks and aircraft, have fought Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters in the heaviest combat the city has seen in months in the war raging since October 7.

In one operation, the army said it had killed fighters and found weapons inside the long-vacated Gaza City headquarters of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

Elsewhere across Gaza, deadly strikes have hit four schools used as shelters in four days, sparking rebukes from France and Germany which both labelled the attacks "unacceptable".

"We call for these strikes to be fully investigated," said the French foreign ministry, highlighting a deadly strike on Tuesday on a school near the southern city of Khan Yunis.

"It is unacceptable that schools, especially those housing civilians displaced by the fighting, should be targeted."

Heavy fighting also raged in Gaza's far-eastern Rafah, where



A PALESTINIAN woman holds her daughter as she walks past the rubble of houses destroyed during the Israeli military offensive, in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza Strip, on Wednesday.—Reuters

witnesses told AFP that Israeli tanks had rumbled into the city centre and unleashed intense fire on buildings.

The latest fighting in Gaza has newly displaced 350,000 civilians, said UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini, who spoke before the leaflet drop and said "there is absolutely no safe space in Gaza".

One woman carrying her seven-month-old child through the ruins, Samar al-Jamal, told AFP on Tuesday that "this is the 10th time" her family has had to flee. "How many times can we endure this? A thousand times? Where will we end up?"

The upsurge in fighting, bombardment and displacement came as talks were to resume in Qatar

towards a truce and hostage release deal to end the war now grinding on into its 10th month.

An Israeli delegation led by Mossad chief David Barnea arrived in Doha, a source with knowledge of the negotiations said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

CIA director William Burns was also expected to the Qatar capital after holding talks in Cairo on Tuesday.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, said US President Joe Biden's special envoy for the Middle East, Brett McGurk, Netanyahu "emphasized his commitment" to a proposed truce plan, "as long as Israel's red lines are preserved," his office said.—AFP

England beat Netherlands, to meet Spain in Euro final

DORTMUND Substitute Ollie Watkins scored a late winner as England reached a second consecutive European Championship final with a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over the Netherlands on Wednesday.

England, who lost to Italy in the final of the last edition, will face Spain in Sunday's final after Watkins, who had replaced captain Harry Kane skinned in from inside the penalty area in the 90th minute.

In a lively start in Dortmund, Kai Havertz caught Declan Rice in possession and unleashed a rocket from outside the box to give the Netherlands a seventh-minute lead.

But England were back in it 12 minutes later. Declan Rice was harshly adjudged to have fouled Kane inside the box and the striker stepped up to bury the resulting penalty past the goalkeeper.

Both sides hit the woodwork in the space of two minutes past the half-hour mark. Dumfries, leading against the bar from a corner and Phil Foden's effort came off the post.

The tempo dropped in the second half but Watkins broke Dutch hearts at the death, turning Stephen Vrij to meet a pass from Palmer to spark English celebrations.—Agencies

Biden, Nato pledge fresh Ukraine aid, membership

Alliance begins sending F-16 jets to Kyiv

WASHINGTON US President Joe Biden and leaders of other Nato member states are set to announce new aid and stress a membership pledge for Ukraine at a summit in Washington after Biden promised to defend Kyiv against the Russian invasion.

An Biden-led NATO summit, the United States and Germany announced that the US would start deploying longer-range missiles in Germany in 2026 in an effort to demonstrate its commitment to NATO and European defence.

A joint US-German statement said the "episodic deployments" were in preparation for longer-term stationing of such capabilities that would include SM-6, Tomahawk and developmental hypersonic weapons with a greater range than current capabilities in Europe.

A draft communiqué prepared for the meeting of the 32-nation alliance said the allies intend to provide Ukraine with minimum funding of 40 billion euros (\$43.28bn) in military aid within the next year, but stopped short of the multi-year commitment Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg had sought.

The draft, seen by Reuters, also strengthened past Nato language on China, calling it a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war effort in Ukraine and saying Beijing continues to pose systemic challenges to Euro-Atlantic security.

Nato allies announced on Wednesday they had started the long-promised transfer of F-16 jets to Ukraine. The White House followed up by saying that Denmark and the Netherlands had begun sending F-16 jets to Ukraine.

Norwegian premier Jonas Gahr Store said at the Nato summit that Norway will begin delivering six F-16 fighter jets

to Ukraine later this year. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the F-16 transfer "concentrates Vladimir Putin's mind on the fact that he will not oust Ukraine, he will not let her go, and if he persists, the damage that will continue to be done to Russia and its interests will only deepen."

"The quickest way to get to peace is through a strong Ukraine," Blinken said.

Biden said in a speech on Tuesday that Nato was "stronger than it's ever been" and that Ukraine can and will stop Russian President Vladimir Putin "with our full, collective support".

However, November's US presidential election could prompt a sharp change in Washington's support for Ukraine and Nato. Republican candidate Donald Trump, 78, has questioned the amount of aid given to Ukraine to fight Russia's invasion, and US support for allies generally.

Biden, 81, has faced questions about his fitness for office after falling a June 27 debate and hopes the Nato spotlight will help him stage a comeback of sorts, unrelieved by allied leaders who have spent his three years in office cultivating.

Uncertainty about US leadership has unsettled Nato allies.

"But when I meet 15 senators, as I just did at the Senate, there's strong bipartisan support for Ukraine and also for Nato."

While Biden has been seeking to rally allies and domestic support, several high-ranking European officials met a top foreign policy adviser to Trump during the summit.—Agencies

APPEAL by PAKISTAN TEXTILE COUNCIL

Undo the Draconian Tax/Administrative Measures to Save the Sector

TEXTILE INDUSTRY IS COLLAPSING

Muhammad Anwarul Haq, Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue
 Muhammad Shabbir Ghani, Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan
 Ali Danish Malik, Minister of State for Finance, Revenue, and Power

Finance Act, 2024 Will Wreck the Nation's Largest Private-Sector Employer & Exporter

- Income Tax Regime: An unprecedented 2% of revenue withheld as income tax, including 1% as MTR and minimum 30% corporate income tax.
- EFS is being undone as local procurements by EFS registered entities are now excluded from EFS pricing out local goods.
- An Additional Customs Duty of 2% imposed on critical imported inputs for textile industry.

Textile Industry has already been under severe pressure on account of:

- Chronic delays, 6-9 years, in IT/GST, Deferred GST/DLT/TUF etc., refunds have denied liquidity in a high interest rate environment.
- Expensive/unreliable energy, high interest rates, tough international markets.
- Mis-categorization of industrial gas supply as supply for captive power generation.
- Lack of competitively priced Long-Term Finance for BMR & compliance infrastructure.

PTC will work with the government to prevent the sector from collapsing.

Akhter Textile Industries (Pvt) Ltd, Al Karam Textile Industries (Pvt) Ltd, Al Rahim Textile Industries Ltd, Al-Karam Textile Mills (Pvt) Ltd, Anshad Corporation Pvt Ltd, Artistic Garments Industries (AGI) Darina (Pvt) Limited, Artistic Milliners Private Limited, Faal Cloth Mills Limited, Ferozabad Mills Limited, Gul Ahmed Textile Mills Ltd, Inklus Home Limited, Interloop Limited, Kohinoor Textile Mills Limited, Liberty Mills Limited, Mahmood Textile Mills Limited, Masood Fabrics Limited, Masood Textile Mills Limited, Mustaqim Dyeing and Printing Industries (Pvt) Ltd, Naveena Exports Limited, Nishat Chaudhri Limited, Nishat Mills Limited, Premium Textile Mills Limited, Sapphire Finishing Mills Limited, Soorty Enterprises (Pvt) Limited, Style Textile (Pvt) Ltd, Stylers International Ltd., US Apparel and Textiles (Pvt) Limited, Yunus Textile Mills Limited.

PAKISTAN TEXTILE COUNCIL

Provincial Disaster Management Authority Rehabilitation Department Government of Sindh

Precautionary Steps for Monsoon Rains and Floods

- Monitor the weather alerts/forecasts through print, electronic, and social media.
- Stay indoor during heavy rain, keep doors and windows closed in storm wind and avoid to come out unnecessary.
- Maintain a distance from power lines or electrical wires/electrical poles. If you notice any loose electric wires/poles in your area, inform the authorities immediately.
- Avoid touching electrical switches or outlets while it is raining. Do not try using electrical sockets or outlets outdoors while it is raining.
- Avoid driving in heavy rain because of poor visibility.
- Avoid underpasses, drainage ditches, low-lying areas and areas where water accumulates.
- Check on family members who are especially at risk from weather hazards, young children, older adults, and the chronically ill.
- Avoid parking/standing near walls, weak structures, & under trees.
- Evacuate to higher ground immediately if advised by authorities. Prepare an emergency kit with essentials like food, water, medications, and OHC.
- Seek medical attention for injuries or illnesses related to the flood. Follow instructions from emergency services and local authorities.

HELPLINE NUMBERS: 1122 (TOLL FREE) 1736 (TOLL)

In case of emergency during rains and floods contact the following numbers:

Commissioner Karachi: 021-99203443	Commissioner Hyderabad: 022-9200115-6	Commissioner Islamabad: 0233-9290054	Commissioner Sindh/Balochistan: 0264-9370333	Commissioner Lahore: 071-9410243	Commissioner Punjab: 071-9310834-5, 071-9310617-8
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PDMA Office: 021-35381810 | PEOC: 0335-5557362 | Fax: 021-35314219 | Email: info@pdma.gos.pk

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INF/KRY No. 2253/24

SPORT

Sparkling Spain reach Euros final the hard way

MUNICH: Spain's jubilant celebrations in reaching the Euro 2024 final were understandable after taking the hard-fought road to get there and handling the hairpin bends with poise.

Laura de la Fuente's side having emerged from what was dubbed the "group of death", beat tournament favourites Georgia, hosts Germany and pre-tournament favourite France to make it to Berlin.

La Roja are aiming for a record fourth European title on Sunday at the Olympiastadion and successfully navigating their dangerous run gives them the belief they will triumph, regardless who of England or the Netherlands they face.

"I feel proud of these players and of the path we've gone on to reach the final," De la Fuente told reporters Tuesday after the team edged France 2-1 in an entertaining semi-final clash.

"There's no achievement with out effort and suffering in life is normal, because everything is tough. These are young players but they suffer to work and force themselves to improve more and more each day — I am happy to be here coaching them."

Spain progressed from the group without conceding a goal, defeating Croatia 3-0, defending champions Italy 1-0 and rounded it off with virtually a reserve side edging Albania 1-0.

In the knock-out rounds De la Fuente's team have not finished and overcome every hurdle.

Defeatists Georgia, backed by fervent travelling support, took the lead but Spain hit back to record a convincing 4-1 victory which the coach said "could have been 5-1".

Overcoming hosts Germany in extra-time, after conceding an 80th minute equaliser, proved Spain possessed grit to go with their style.

They came from behind to beat France with two goals in a five-minute salvo which left their coach seething.

After France started well and took the lead through Randal Kolo Muani, the 16-year-old Lamine Yamal produced a bolt from the blue to stun Les Bleus, becoming the youngest goalscorer in the tournament's history.

Yamal's brilliant long-range curler after 21 minutes rocked Didier Deschamps' side and Dani Olmo fired home the decisive second four minutes later.

"We can play great football, as you saw today and through the tournament," said De la Fuente. "We are a very romantic team, the players we have make that possible."

Exciting winners Yamal and Nico Williams hypnotised their opponents and while they have drawn the most plaudits, helping Spain shine and stand out as an exciting side playing flowing football compared to a lot of risk-averse, duller big teams, across the league they have enjoyed strong performances.



SPAIN'S Daniel Olmo shoots to score during the Euro 2024 semi-final against France at the Munich Football Arena.—AFP

Both Paris Saint-Germain's Fabian Ruiz and Chelsea's Marc Cucurella have struggled to shine at club level but have excelled in Germany.

Defender Aymeric Laporte, despite now playing in Saudi Arabia at club level, has been rock solid at the back and was one of the best players against France, the country he was born in.

Spain have had few concerns during the tournament, no crisis to manage, beyond their dif-

ferent fixture list as they ended up in the harder side of the draw. Playing the strongest teams may even have helped them.

"Germany and France are great teams and got the best out of us," said De la Fuente.

"England and Netherlands are two more great teams. We know that even if it is difficult, we are capable of winning."

Despite their sparkling displays and convincing run of victories, the coach said his team can still reach new heights.

"I know these players and I take decisions knowing each of them, not on a whim," added De la Fuente. "They are not surprising me, and I know they can give a lot more still and they can improve."

END OF AN ERA FOR FRANCE?

For France, who boast an enviable record in major tournaments over the last decade under Didier Deschamps, the manner of their exit from a competition

in which they never caught fire has left many feeling that their tournament had been a failure.

Securing a place in the final last year, Deschamps achieved a contract target and he is set to remain at the helm for two more years, but few in the French set-up will emerge with much credit from the tournament in Germany.

Their much-vaunted forward line left with reputations battered and attacking midfielder Antoine Griezmann with questions over his international future.

Even their defence, which had stood firm throughout the tournament, crumbled when needed the most as they allowed Spain to fight back.

Kyllian Mbappe was perhaps the biggest disappointment, contributing only a penalty and an assist, but with mitigating circumstances.

A broken nose in France's opener against Austria threatened a premature end to his participation but after missing the next match he returned with a mask to protect his face.

He said it had inhibited him in subsequent games so when he emerged on Tuesday to play without it supporters would have been hoping a liberated Mbappe would produce an inspired performance of old.

It started well enough with an imperious elevated pass for Kolo Muani's goal but rapidly descended into a sequence of predictable crosses followed by off-target shots.

"The competition was a failure. I wanted to be European champion but we're not," he told reporters. "It's football. We have to move on. We're going home, it's simple."

France have got used to winning under Deschamps, but winning is all that has ever mattered to the coach, who is less fussed about playing with poise than about getting results.

"Ask my president. We have just lost a semi-final. I won't answer that today," Deschamps said in response to a question about his future after the Spain defeat.

Euro 2024 marks the end of the road for veteran striker Olivier Giroud, France's all-time top scorer, but there is no suggestion that Griezmann, aged 33, plans to retire.

"We will come back. We have talent but you need a lot more than that," Griezmann said on Tuesday, acknowledging France had not performed well enough in Germany.

No doubt France will be back again, among the favourites in two years' time for the World Cup, and if the chattering experience in Germany spurs them to improve then it could be said something good came out of Euro 2024.

However, as they headed home on Wednesday there was little to secure.—Agencies

Vingegaard wins Tour de France stage 11, Pogacar extends lead

LE LORAIN: Defending champion Jonas Vingegaard held off race leader Tadee Pogacar to win the 11th stage of the Tour de France, having caught the Slovenian after he made a break with over 20 kilometres left on Wednesday.

The 211km ride from Evranx les Bains to Le Lorain is the longest stage in this year's Tour, and while the expected early breaks materialised, it came down to the main contenders, with the overall top four making up the first four at the finish.

For Vingegaard, who came into this year's event having not raced for three months after suffering a collapsed lung and fractured ribs, this was a significant victory over the race leader and favourite.

"I feel of course very emotional for me," Vingegaard said. "Coming back from the crash, it means a lot and all the things I went through in the last three months it makes you think of that and I would never have been able to do this without my family."

Slovenian Pogacar, twice Tour champion, still extended his overall lead to one minute six seconds over Remco Evenepoel, who finished third in the stage, with Denmark's Vingegaard a further eight seconds back in the general classification.

A group of 10 riders managed to get away for long parts of the race, but Pogacar's UAE Emirates team mates controlled the front of the peloton and never let a large gap open up.

TORRIST CLIMB

Irishman Ben Healy was the last to resist before being swallowed up by the chasing pack with one kilometre left in the top of the Pic de Peyrol, the toughest of the stage's six climbs, and Pogacar made his move close to the summit.

Pogacar extended his lead on the descent, but Vingegaard showed his mettle and left Roglic behind to go in pursuit of the leader, catching him just before the top of the next climb with less than 15km to the finish.

The final descent to the finish was a narrow ride, and Vingegaard took the lead on the home straight in a game of cat and mouse and when they finally started sprinting, he just held off Pogacar on the line.

"I couldn't follow the attack he had, it was a very, very strong attack. I just had to fight and actually I didn't think that I would be able to make it back," Vingegaard said. "But I just kept fighting and I made it back and started relaying with him. A bit surprised I could beat him in the sprint." Primo Roglic came fourth after crashing close to the finish, but as it happened in the final three kilometres, he only lost 25 seconds on the leaders, the same as Evenepoel, rather than 55.

Pogacar and his team had done everything right, setting him up for the break, and he must have thought this would be a day when he got even more time between himself and his rivals, but Vingegaard had other ideas.

"It means so much to me. I'm so happy about the victory today, I would never have thought this three months ago," Vingegaard said.—Reuters



TEAM Vitoa-Lotto's Belgian rider Wout Van Aert crashes in the Col de Nervens ascent during the 11th stage of the Tour de France, a 211km distance between Evranx-les-Bains and Le Lorain, on Wednesday.—AFP

World champion Jackson suffers injury scare

PARIS: Double world 200-metre champion Shericka Jackson pulled up with an apparent injury late in a race in Hungary on Tuesday, less than three weeks before the start of the Olympics.

The Jamaican was leading the race entering the home straight before abruptly slowing down, grimacing and putting her hand to her head as she eventually walked across the finish line.

The race was won by Juliet Alfred of Saint Lucia. Jackson, 25, has the second fastest time ever in the event. She also won silver in the 100m at last year's world championships.

Her competitor Elaine Thompson-Herah, who completed the 100m-200m gold medal double at both the 2016 and pandemic-delayed 2020 Olympics, was ruled out of the Paris Games last month after failing to recover from an Achilles injury.—AFP

Kenyan star Kosgei pulls out of Olympics

NAIROBI: Kenya's former marathon world record holder and Olympic silver medalist Brigid Kosgei has pulled out of the Paris Olympics because of injury, team officials said on Wednesday.

The 30-year-old Kosgei, who set a world record three times in the women's marathon in Chicago 2019, was hoping to make her second Olympic appearance

after being named alongside defending champion Peres Jepchirchir and former Olympic 5000m silver medalist Helen Obiri in the women's marathon lineup.

The Kenyan marathon team — which also includes the men's two-time Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge — has been in residential training in the Rift Valley athletic hub of Eldoret for the past two months.

"It's a sharing one of the regular monitoring sessions that Olympic silver medalist Brigid Kosgei expressed an injury concern to the technical team," Kenya's Olympic Committee said in a statement.

"Upon a review by the medical team led by the chief medical officer, Kosgei will not be heading to Paris for her second Olympics."

The statement did not specify the injury.

Kosgei has been replaced by Sharon Lokelei, the 2022 New York marathon champion who had been named in the travelling reserve squad.

The women's marathon will be held in Paris on August 11, a day after the men's race.—AFP

Messi enjoying his 'last battles' as Argentina make Copa final

EAST RUTHERFORD: Lionel Messi said he was enjoying his "last battles" with Argentina after the 37-year-old found the net in a 2-0 win over Canada on Tuesday to book a place in the Copa America final.

After a lacklustre display against Ecuador in the quarter-finals, Messi looked back to himself again, connecting with Angel Di Maria and strike partner Julian Alvarez, who also scored, to secure Argentina's spot in the final of a third straight major tournament after their victories at the 2022 World Cup and Copa America in 2021.

"I'm living it like I lived it in the last Copa America, in the last World Cup... these are the last battles and I'm enjoying them to the maximum," he told TyC Sports after the win in front of a capacity crowd at the MetLife Stadium.

Messi, now playing with Inter Miami in Major League Soccer, has yet to indicate

whether he will continue to play with Argentina in the 2026 World Cup.

This edition of the Copa America is likely to represent the last chance for many senior squad members to add to their trophy collection with the national team.

Angel Di Maria, 36, said last year he would retire from international football after the Copa America, while Messi, 37, and Nicolas Otamendi, 36, are both nearing the end of their careers.

"Asked about Messi's 'last battles' comment, Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni asked for calm.

"You know how I feel about Angel. We don't want to retire him earlier than needed," Scaloni said. "We don't want them to feel melancholy. We have to let him play, and then we'll see if we can convince him or not to stay with us. But so far, he's here, and he has to be allowed to enjoy this moment. "For Leo [Messi], it's similar



ARGENTINA'S Lionel Messi scores past Canada goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau during their Copa America semi-final at the MetLife Stadium.—AFP

to Angel. We have to let him be and we will never be the ones to close the door. He can be with our team for as long as he wants to be. And if he wants to retire but still come and being around, it would be great."

Messi has chance to win a third straight major title with his national side. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner refer-

enced veteran teammates Di Maria and Otamendi and said that the success was validation for the difficult barren years the team had suffered.

"The truth is that it's crazy what this group has done, what the Argentine national team has been doing, because after all this it gives value to all [the tournament] and the old gen-

eration have played in," Messi said. "It's not easy for us to be in a final again, for us to compete again to be champions."

Despite Argentina reaching the final with some comfort against Canada, the former Barcelona forward said it had been a tough test so far.

"It's a difficult Copa, evenly-matched, with very bad pitches, with high temperatures, very tough teams, and for us to be in a final again is something to enjoy," he said.

In Sunday's final, Argentina could face either Uruguay, who beat them in a World Cup qualifier in November, or Colombia, who are on a 27-match unbeaten run under coach Nestor Lorenzo.

"These two potential opponents are top-notch national teams, but it would be reckless to say that I prefer one or the other," Scaloni said. "One of them already beat us. It was a very tough match. We have not played against Colombia with this coach, but we know it

could be very difficult as well."

Argentina, who have won a joint-record 15 Copa titles and reached the final six times in the past eight editions, went ahead when Rodrigo De Paul played through Alvarez, who ghosted in between two defenders to score with a tidy finish in the 22nd minute.

Messi scored Argentina's second in the 51st minute, making one a best to direct Enzo Fernandez's shot from the edge of the area past Canada goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau.

The two-goal cushion established, Argentina were content to sit back and preserve their energy and invite the Canadians to take them on.

It was not until the final minutes though that Canada were able to trouble Emiliano Martinez with substitute Easton Okonkwo's forcing the keeper into action after some sloppy defending.

For Canada, the defeat ends a remarkable run in which

they defied expectations and performed better than their higher-ranked CONCACAF rivals Mexico and the United States, their fellow co-hosts of the 2026 World Cup.

Canada coach Jesse Marsch said he was proud of what his squad had achieved on their tournament debut.

"When I said to the team afterwards is I know that they're very disappointed, but I'm very proud of them," Marsch told reporters. "We've put together some incredible performances, just starting our process."

"We need to find a way to expand our player pool. We need to continue to challenge our group to come together and be able to perform in moments like this. But in general, we've had a wonderful five-six weeks together and it's gone way better than any of us could have scripted. There's still a lot of work to do, but we've built a really good foundation."—Agencies

Wahab, Razaq sacked from selection committee

By Our Sports Reporter

LAHORE: In its first significant move after the senior team's disastrous show at the recently held T20 World Cup, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Wednesday sacked Wahab Riaz and Abdul Razaq both of whom were part of a seven-member national selection committee.

"The PCB today confirmed that it has notified Abdul Razaq and Wahab Riaz that their services will no longer be required in the national selection committee setup. Abdul Razaq was a member of the men's and women's selection committee, while Wahab was a member of the men's selection committee," the PCB said in a media statement here on Wednesday.

"The PCB will provide further updates on the selection committee's composition in due course," the statement added.

Pakistan under the captaincy of Babar Azam suffered an embarrassing first-round exit from the 20-t nation T20 World Cup, staged jointly by West Indies and the USA last month, after losing group-stage matches against the USA, a one-day playing cricket nation, and arch-rivals India.

When Pakistan from almost a winning position lost to India in their World Cup match in New York, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi in his message on social media platform X had said that the team required a 'major surgery'.

While introducing the novel model of a seven-member national selection committee without a chairman earlier this year, Mohsin, who was elected as PCB chief in February this year, had said that he would be responsible in case the committee failed.

However, following a string of the national team's failures that culminated in a pathetic performance in the T20 World Cup, mainly due to some obviously wrong selections, the PCB chief has initiated the 'surgery'.

Mohammad Yousaf, Asad Shafiq, Bilal Ahsan, Babar and head coach Gary Kirsten are also members of the selection committee, each having equal role and powers to recommend players for selection.

It may be mentioned here that Mohsin had delayed the announcement of the national team for the T20 World Cup for a couple of days, saying he wanted the minutes of the selection committee's meeting during which the squad for the mega event was selected.

Interestingly, Mohsin, who introduced a national-level selection body without a head, also included Bilal Ahsan, who is a non-technocrat. It seems, however, that Wahab and Razaq have been made scapegoats.

Former South African Test cricketer Kirsten though joined the Pakistan team on their England tour a few weeks before the World Cup, since his appointment he has remained part of the consultations which were being made for the national team selection.

Meanwhile in a sharp reaction over his ouster, Wahab categorically denied that he prepared the fellow selectors.

"I don't agree with the statements being discussed about adding pressure to the members of the selection committee, how can I vote dominate? Everything is documented on record in the meeting minutes," Wahab wrote in a message on X.

Former Test fast bowler Wahab, who is in England these days playing the World Championship of Legends, may issue a fresh statement later in the day.

Wahab, at one stage, seemed one of the most favourite choices of Mohsin as the captain had also worked with him as the sports adviser when Mohsin was caretaker chief minister of Punjab. Moreover, Wahab, besides being a selector, was made senior manager — a novel position also introduced by Mohsin after taking the mantle as PCB chief.

Indian captain Gill hails 'crucial' T20 win in Harare

HARARE: Indian captain Shubman Gill led his team to what he described as a "crucial" 23-run win in the third T20 International against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club on Wednesday.

India took a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

Gill hit 66 off 49 balls in an Indian total of 182 for four after he won the race and decided to bat. Zimbabwe replied with 159 for six.

"It was a crucial win for us," Gill said at the post-match presentation. He added he was delighted with the way India started with both bat and ball.

The win continued an Indian comeback after they lost a low-scoring first match on Saturday.

"Everyone is contributing and that is a good sign," said Gill.

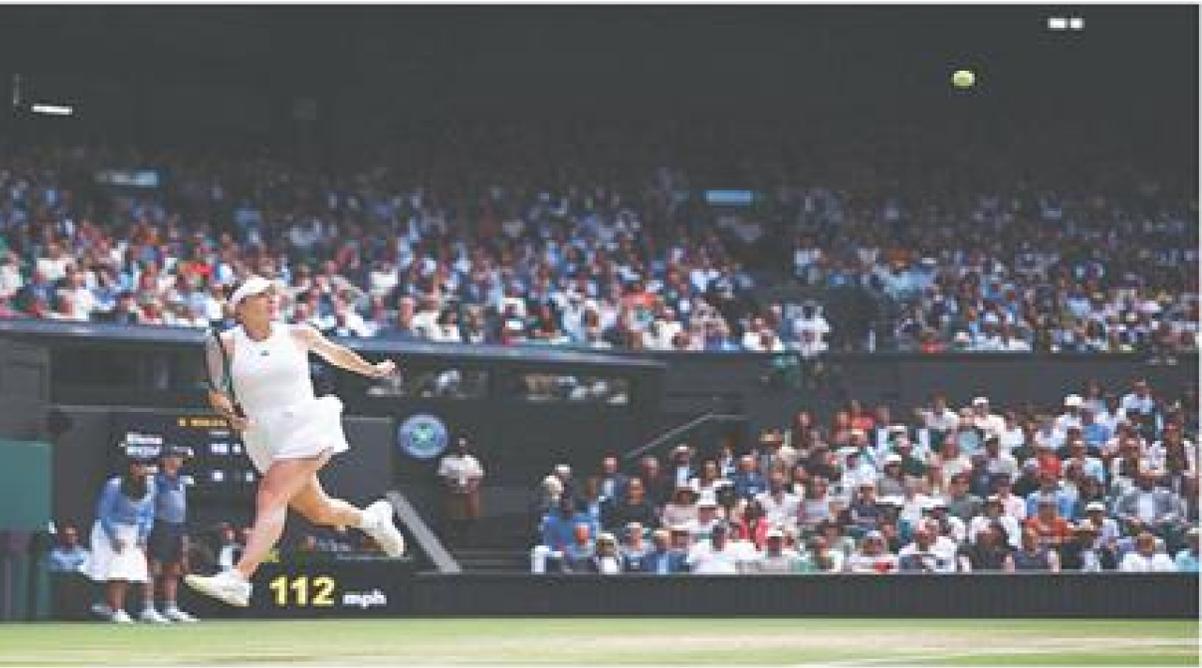
India raced to 49 without loss in four overs at the start of a 62-run opening stand between Gill and Yashvir Jaiswal, then reduced Zimbabwe to 39 for five in the first seven overs of the home team's innings.

Opening bowlers Khaleel Ahmed and Azeem Khan took three wickets in the power play before off-spinner Washington Sundar claimed two wickets in his first over.

Sundar finished with three for 15 in four overs and was named man-of-the-match.

India were bolstered by the inclusion of their three World Cup squad members, Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan and Shivam Dube, who missed the first two matches because of India's World Cup victory celebration in Mumbai.

Jaiswal made 36, Sarfaraz faced only seven balls towards the end of the



UKRAINE'S Elina Svitolina returns a shot against Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan during their Wimbledon quarter-final at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club on Wednesday.—AFP

US confirms 592-member Olympic team

LOS ANGELES: The United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) on Wednesday formally named a star-studded 592-member team for this month's Olympic Games in Paris.

The US squad, which comprises 314 female athletes and 278 male athletes, will be aiming to top the Olympic medals table for a fourth straight games.

The team includes Olympic stars such as gymnast Simone Biles, swimmer Katie Ledecky and NBA icon LeBron James.

"It is with immense pride and excitement that we announce the 2024 US Olympic Team and the exceptional athletes that embody the spirit of dedication, resilience, and excellence, continuing the proud history of Team USA at the Olympic Games," USOPC chief executive Sarah Hirdland said in a statement.

The US team includes more than 250 returning Olympians, including three five-time Olympians, four four-time Olympians and 16 three-time Olympians.

The squad includes 122 Olympic medalists, including 66 Olympic champions who have won a combined 110 gold medals.

Forty-five athletes on the team have won multiple Olympic medals, while 25 of them have claimed multiple Olympic golds.

The youngest member of the team is gymnast Healy Rivera, 16, while the oldest member of the squad is equestrian Steven Futral, the 53-year-old rider.—AFP

Djokovic gets free pass to Wimbledon semi-finals as Rybakina cruises

LONDON: Novak Djokovic progressed to a record-extending 13th Wimbledon semi-final without hitting a ball on Wednesday after Alex de Minaur pulled out injured as former champion Elena Rybakina sailed through.

Australian ninth seed de Minaur, 25, announced shortly after midday at the All England Club that he was "devasted to pull out due to a hip injury".

It means Djokovic has now equalled Roger Federer's men's record of 13 semi-final appearances at Wimbledon as he closes on the Swiss great's mark of eight singles titles.

The 37-year-old Serbian is also through to a record-extending 49th men's Grand Slam semi-final where he will face Italy's Lorenzo Musetti.

De Minaur, who beat Djokovic at the United Cup in January, said: "It's no secret that this would have been the biggest match of my career but it's a unique injury."

"I woke up this morning wanting to feel some sort of miracle, but there was a high risk of making the injury worse if I stepped on court."

"One stretch, one slide could take this from a three to six weeks' injury to four months out."

Djokovic will play 25th seed Musetti for a place in Sunday's championship match after the Italian beat US 13th seed Taylor Fritz 3-6, 2-6 (7/5), 6-2, 3-6, 6-1.

The world number two — who had knee surgery last month — does not have a title to his name this year and is still seeking a first victory against a fellow top-10 player.

But a historic 25th Grand Slam triumph is coming into sharp focus for Djokovic, who demolished Roger Federer in straight sets in the fourth round.

The Serb has a 5-1 winning record over 22-year-old Musetti, including a come-from-behind five-set victory at the French Open last month.

"Djokovic knows the stadium here better than me," admitted the Italian.

"He's a legend everywhere and has done unthinkable things. We've played lots of times and I expect a huge fight."

"It's the toughest challenge in tennis but I see an ambitious guy and I like to be challenged. I will give 100 per cent."

In early action on Wednesday, 2022 champion Rybakina barely broke a sweat in scattering aside last year's semi-finalist Elina Svitolina 6-3, 6-2 in 61 minutes.

She will face Barbara Krejtzikova for a place in Saturday's final after the Czech 31st seed came out on top against Jelena Ostapenko in a battle of former French Open champions.

Russian-born Rybakina, now 19-2 in main draw matches at Wimbledon, broke the Ukrainian 21st seed four times in the match on Centre Court.

The fourth seed was broken in the first game of first of the watching Queen Camilla but hit back straight away and barely got a foot wrong after that.

The 25-year-old, who crunched 28 winners to Svitolina's eight, said she had "amazing memories" from 2022 but does not like the favourite tag.

"I have an aggressive style of game, I have a huge serve so it's a big advantage," she said.

Krejtzikova took the first set against Latvian 13th seed

Ostapenko with a single break on Court No. 1.

Ostapenko, the 2018 Wimbledon semi-finalist, finally broke through in the fourth game of the second set for a 3-1 lead and backed it up with a hold.

But she went dramatically off the ball as Krejtzikova reeled off the next four games for a 5-4 lead.

Ostapenko clung on to break the Czech in the 10th game but 2021 French Open champion Krejtzikova played the more composed tie-break to seal the victory.

"I told myself that I'm going to leave here everything I have and I'm really happy that I did and it's a great moment for me," said Krejtzikova.

Victory for the 28-year-old comes after a miserable run in 2024, with her season marred by injury and illness.

Her run to the Birmingham quarter-final last month allowed her to celebrate match wins for the first time since Abu Dhabi in February.

"It was a very, very difficult period. It was actually super difficult even before this tournament," she said.—AFP



INDIAN captain Shubman Gill plays a stroke during the third T20 International against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club on Wednesday.—AFP

Atkinson's magnificent seven against West Indies upstages Anderson exit as England take charge

LONDON: Gus Atkinson made the spotlight from England great James Anderson's farewell by taking a sensational seven wickets on his Test debut as the West Indies collapsed to 121 all out on Wednesday's opening day at Lord's.

England then consolidated their advantage to be 189-3 at stumps, a lead of 58 runs, with Zak Crawley (76) and Ollie Pope (57) both making three figures.

The backdrop to the first of this three-match series had centred on the retiring Anderson's last international appearance following a record-breaking Test career that has now yielded 701 wickets — the most by any fast bowler at this level.

But it was 26-year-old quick Atkinson who took centre stage instead with a remarkable haul of 7-45 in 12 overs — including a triple-wicket maiden.

Atkinson's final figures, after he accounted for Altonji Joseph and Shemar Joseph, were the second best by an England bowler on a Test debut behind Dominic Cork's 7-43 against the West Indies at Lord's in 1995.

Anderson, by contrast, did not add to his tally of Test wickets as he had last man Jayden Seales hit to end the West Indies innings.

West Indies debutant Mikyle Louis, the first Test cricketer from St Kitts, responded with 25 in an innings where only three batsmen made it into the 20s.

Having played just one warm-up match and with inexperienced top-order batsmen Kirk McKenzie, Alick Athanaze and Karvin Hodge looking only nine caps between them before this Test, the West Indies unsurprisingly struggled after losing the toss in overseas conditions.

They were 88-3 when Atkinson, who had already taken two wickets before lunch, came on to bowl the 35th over.

With his second ball of the over he had Athanaze caught

by Jon Root in the slips for 23. Atkinson, maintaining a challenging line and length, then produced a superb delivery near ball that Hobley, back after nearly a year out of Test cricket, edged to Harry Brook in the cordon.

Jonas Da Silva survived the hair-ribs but the following ball he too fell for a duck, an inside edge caught by opposing wicket-keeper Jamie Smith, who along with Surrey teammate Atkinson was also making his Test debut.

Atkinson had now taken three wickets for no runs in four balls, thereby securing his place on the Lord's honours board for a five-wicket haul in a Test.

Earlier, Anderson was thrust straight into the action when England captain Ben Stokes opted to field after winning the toss — a decision greeted by huge cheers from the crowd at the 'Home of Cricket'.

But despite a probing new-ball spell of five overs for 11 runs, the 41-year-old Anderson was unable to dislodge either West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite or fellow opener Louis.

West Indies were looking to Brathwaite, appearing in his 50th Test, to make a significant score.

But he was out for two, slipping into his straps, as Atkinson struck with only his second ball on Wednesday.

Louis's promising 58-ball innings ended when the 23-year-old fell to a brilliant net catch by the diving Harry Brook at third slip off Stokes.

West Indies' plight was summed up when Hodge fell for 24 after a three-square cut off Chris Woakes was well caught by Pope at point, the batsman sinking to his knees in disbelief.

Crawley looked on course for a hundred before Seales headed him with a rapid leg-stump yorker as an 85-ball innings, including 34 fours, came to a spectacular end.—AFP

WEST INDIES (1st innings)		ENGLAND (1st innings)	
1. Brathwaite	24	1. Crawley	76
2. Louis	25	2. Ollie Pope	57
3. McKenzie	25	3. Root	23
4. Athanaze	23	4. Smith	11
5. Hodge	23	5. Atkinson	11
6. Joseph	17	6. Atkinson	7
7. Joseph	17	7. Atkinson	7
8. Joseph	17	8. Atkinson	7
9. Joseph	17	9. Atkinson	7
10. Joseph	17	10. Atkinson	7
11. Joseph	17	11. Atkinson	7
12. Joseph	17	12. Atkinson	7
13. Joseph	17	13. Atkinson	7
14. Joseph	17	14. Atkinson	7
15. Joseph	17	15. Atkinson	7
16. Joseph	17	16. Atkinson	7
17. Joseph	17	17. Atkinson	7
18. Joseph	17	18. Atkinson	7
19. Joseph	17	19. Atkinson	7
20. Joseph	17	20. Atkinson	7



ENGLAND opener Zak Crawley is cleaned up by West Indies pacer Jayden Seales during the first Test at Lord's on Wednesday.—AFP

Scoreboard	
INDIA	182
1. Gill	66
2. Jaiswal	36
3. Sarfaraz	10
4. Dube	10
5. Sundar	10
6. Khan	10
7. Ahmed	10
8. Sundar	10
9. Sundar	10
10. Sundar	10
11. Sundar	10
12. Sundar	10
13. Sundar	10
14. Sundar	10
15. Sundar	10
16. Sundar	10
17. Sundar	10
18. Sundar	10
19. Sundar	10
20. Sundar	10

KARACHI

Sunset 07:28 pm
Sunrise (tomorrow) 05:46 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 30°C
Maximum 38°C
Humidity 78%
Outlook Partly Cloudy

METRO South



Djokovic gets free pass to Wimbledon semi-finals as Rybakina cruises

Pg.18 SPORT

Eight law officers removed by govt

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Sindh government has deposed the services of eight provincial law officers. According to a notification issued on July 8 by the law secretary, the services of two additional advocates general — Mohammed Saad Rizvi and Ch Yaswan Akhtar — and six assistant advocates general — Nadeem Haq Solangi, Ghulam Akbar Usmani, Imran Ali Jatoi, Shafiq Uddin Jamali, Ghulam Mustafa Akbar and Urooj Fatima Raza — have been de-notified.

Pursuant to the provision of sub-rule (1) of Rule 4 of the Sindh Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1973, the Government of Sindh has been pleased to discontinue with the services of the following law officers, with immediate effect," it added.

Sources said that there were around 70 provincial law officers in Sindh, including around 50 in Karachi, and the sacked AAGs were posted at the provincial metropolises.

Some of the recently de-notified AAGs told Dawn that they had been appointed about two to three years ago.

When asked about their removal, they maintained that it was the discretion of the provincial government to take such decisions.

Dawn tried to reach out Advocate General Hassan Akbar for comments, but to no avail.

Man shot dead by robbers

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A young man was shot dead by armed robbers in New Karachi in the small hours of Wednesday morning, police said.

New Karachi Industrial Area SDO Muhammad Nawaz Gondal said that Imran Saleem, 25, was sitting with his friends on a footpath in Sector 5-G when three robbers emerged there, held them at gunpoint and demanded their cell phones.

He said that one of the robbers shot Saleem when he got up resistance and refused to give his cell phone.

He suffered critical but not mortal wounds and was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The victim was a factory worker and had a minor daughter.



CHILDREN take advantage of the water gushing out of a burst pipe on Shahrah-e-Pakistan, on Wednesday. A large amount of water was wasted when the pipeline ruptured during repair work on a sewage line in Liaquatabad. —Online

Arrest of militant, DSP's murder renew threat of TTP's resurgence

- 'TTP man wanted for killings of 16 coal miners in KP' held in Ittehad Town • DIG says suspect Shoaib was planning to carry out suicide attack on a Muharram procession in Karachi • Says he is now '90pc sure' TTP involved in DSP Raza's assassination

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: While the Counter-Terrorism Department was '90 per cent' sure that the assassination of its senior officer DSP Ali Raza had been carried out by the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), CTD officials on Wednesday claimed to have foiled a terror plot by arresting an alleged key TTP commander, said to be planning a suicide attack on a Muharram procession in Orangi Town.

The July 7 attack on DSP Raza and the foiled plot to target the Muharram procession seem to indicate the re-emergence of the banned TTP in Karachi, which allegedly already has ' sleeper cells' in the metropolis.

However, a senior CTD official was reluctant to openly talk about this at a press conference held at the CTD Control Office to announce the arrest of the TTP commander. "There are sleeper cells of the TTP, but it will not be advisable to talk about specific things regarding re-emergence of the banned outfit in Karachi," said CTD DIG Asif Ejaz Shaikh.

'Strong TTP network broken'

Responding to questions, the DIG-CTD said that there was a 'strong network' of the TTP in Karachi but it had been 'broken'.

"It is possible that the TTP can be involved in it," he said when asked whether the banned outfit killed DSP Raza on July 7. "If you ask me about the degree or percentage, I will say that we are 90 per cent sure that the TTP is involved in the killing of DSP Ali Raza."

He said that there had been 'TTP sleeper cells', but it would not be advisable to talk about 'specific things' regarding 're-emergence' of

the banned outfit in Karachi.

The officer said they had got 'some clues' and they were working on it. "This is our own case and we will solve it," declared DIG Shaikh.

Plot to attack Muharram procession

Giving details of the arrest of the TTP militant, he said the CTD had arrested Muhammad Shoaib after an encounter in Ittehad Town.

He was said to be one of the 'most wanted commanders of the TTP' who was allegedly involved in many heinous crimes, including the murder of 16 miners in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He was planning a suicide attack on a procession to be taken out in Orangi Town on Muharram 7, the officer said.

"Shoaib is a commander of the TTP Barru Adam Khel for whom the KP government has announced a \$42 million reward," he said, adding that he had kidnapped 16 coal miners in Khyber Agency and demanded ransom from their families. However, over non-payment of the ransom, the suspect had shot dead all the 16 miners and buried them in a mass grave in Dad Tangi Jamali area.

The held suspect's son, Zakariullah, along with other TTP men was shot dead in an encounter with the army, the officer said. "He is the most wanted militant for KP police, CTD and other law enforcers."

During the initial probe, the suspect had allegedly revealed that he along with his accomplices had planned a grenade and suicide attack on the 7th of Muharram procession in Orangi Town. DIG Shaikh said that the CTD had saved the city from a major destruction.

The police claimed to have recovered one Kalashnikov, two hand grenades, explosive material and one improvised explosive device from his possession.

Karachi swelters due to high humidity

With 36.6°C maximum temperature and 63pc humidity, feels-like temperature surges to 52°C

By Faiza Syam

KARACHI: Harsh humid conditions, aggravated by the disruption of the sea breeze, prevailed almost the whole day on Wednesday in the city, following a brief respite brought by monsoon showers a day earlier.

According to the Met department's data, 82 per cent humidity was recorded at 8am that day, with temperature at 36.6°C.

The maximum temperature was 36.6 degrees Celsius with 63pc humidity, bringing the feels-like temperature to 52°C in the afternoon, a Met official said.

The minimum temperature recorded was 27°C.

"High humidity levels in the monsoon season are not unusual. This happens due to the penetration of moist currents," explained Chief Meteorologist Dr Nadeem Sarfaraz.

He said that humid weather conditions were experienced across the country during the monsoon season.

The influence of low pressure area's remnants aggravated the humid effect of humid conditions on Wednesday, he added.

"The system has moved westward. Weather conditions in the coming two days are likely to be partly cloudy and windy in Karachi with restoration of the sea breeze, though there are no significant chances of rain for at least eight to 10 days," he said.

Dr Sarfaraz said that drizzle/light rain might occur in the evening or night.

The maximum temperature is expected to range between 38-35°C on Thursday (today). Humidity in the morning and evening is expected to range between 70-80pc and 55-65pc, respectively.

Suspect beaten to death after PPP worker shot dead in Korangi

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A worker of the Pakistan Peoples Party was shot dead in the Korangi area, where enraged people overpowered one of the alleged killers and lynched him on Wednesday, police said.

They said that 30-year-old Norman Abbasi was gunned down near Dhobi Ghat within the remit of the Zaman Town police station by assailants riding on a motorcycle.

Wounded Norman failed to overpower one of the assailants who fell from the motorcycle and overpowered by area people who had gathered there after hearing shots.

They gave the suspected killer a severe beating and as a result, he died on the spot.

Korangi SSP Tauheed Rahman Memon told a press conference that Norman was a worker of the PPP and he was killed over some 'personal enmity'.

He claimed that the killed suspect was identified as Faisal, alias Ghada, and his accomplice, Sheenaz Raza, was also arrested.

The officer said that the held suspect had 'confessed' to have killed Norman over 'personal enmity'.

Norman was the second worker of the PPP who was targeted in the same Korangi area.

SSP Memon said that the police had arrested Mohammed Naseem on charges of killing PPP's councillor Amir Abbasi on July 1.

He said a rifle/revolver used for reconnaissance of the slain PPP councillor and a 9mm pistol used in the murder had been recovered from the custody of suspect Naseem.

Removal of 'illegal, dangerous' hoardings ordered

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Keeping in view strong winds during the monsoon season, the Sindh government has ordered authorities to remove all 'billboards and hoardings that pose a danger to public safety' in Karachi and other parts of the province.

Through a circular, the Sindh General Administration and Coordination Department on Wednesday issued directives to additional chief secretary, local government and all divisional commissioners for the quick action against the giant billboards and hoardings.

A statement issued by the information department said that the directives were issued following the forecast of heavy rains by the Met office during the current monsoon season.

"Given the devastation caused by torrential rains in recent years, it is imperative to implement safety measures to protect life and property [of citizens]," said the statement. "The presence of large billboards and hoardings atop buildings and other structures poses a significant risk, particularly during thunderstorms and heavy rains."

The statement said that the Supreme Court had also in its order mandated the removal of such dangerous installations, in compliance with these directives. "All illegal, unauthorised and hazardous billboards and hoardings must be promptly dismantled to ensure the safety of citizens and the protection of property," it added.

CM wants 15-km portion of Malir Expressway completed by next month

Directs KWSC to start work on rehabilitation of Hub Canal

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: Chief Minister Saeed Anwar Abbasi has directed the authority to complete the first 15-kilometre portion of the Malir Expressway from Jam Sadiq Bridge to Shah Faisal Colony so that it could be opened for public by the second week of August.

While reviewing the progress of major development works in the city, the CM asked the local government department to expedite work on the 38-km Malir Expressway between KPT Interchange (through Quyyanabad) and the Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway near Korangi, along the Malir river that will serve as the alternative route for carrying

traffic of the port and industrial areas to main highways, reducing traffic on the Shara-e-Faisal.

The meeting was attended among others by Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani, Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Iqbal Shaikh, Principal Secretary to CM Agha Waheed, Commissioner Syed Hassan Nayif, LC Secretary Khalid Hyder Shaikh, Transport Secretary Asad Zamin, CEO of Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation Syed Salahuddin Ahmed and Malir Expressway Project Director Niaz Soomro.

The chief minister was told that 77 per cent work on the first segment of one to 15 km from Jam Sadiq Bridge to Shah Faisal Colony had been completed, while the physical progress of segments 2 — Shah Faisal to Kathora (15 to 38km) — was at 29 per cent.

The local government minister informed the chief minister that the progress on Jam Sadiq Bridge connectivity had reached 13pc.

Additionally, the ERM Interchange, Pir Bakhari Nullah Bridge, Chakora Nullah Bridge, and Shah Faisal

Interchange had reached 56pc, 59pc, 99pc, and 90pc completion respectively. However, work on



HEAVY machinery is being used to construct Malir Expressway. —Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

Quaidabad connectivity stands at 8pc.

It may be noted that work on the 38.681 km Malir Express carriage was started on May 12, 2022, and is scheduled to be completed in June 2025. It has three into three (six lanes) lanes and six interchanges and two toll plazas.

The CM directed the local government department to expedite the work on Segment 3 and said that he would open it on August 14 for the public.

Reviews Hub Canal project

He also directed the water board to start work on the rehabilitation of the Hub Canal project on August 1 so that it could be completed within a year.

The CM was informed that the provincial government had launched the \$12.7-billion project for construction of a new canal to supply water to the metropolis from Holy Dam and rehabilitation of the

existing one.

Mr Shaikh said that with the rehabilitation of the existing canal, 30 to 35pc water for three districts of Karachi — West, Central and East — would be increased, adding that with the construction of new canal along the existing canal, these three districts would be receiving 200 MGDs.

He said that keeping in view the importance of the project he had decided to construct the project from provincial government's resources. Therefore, he would not tolerate any delay in its process.

Mayor Murtaza Wahab told the CM that he had personally monitored the entire process and added that the contract had been awarded after hiring of the consultant and work would be started shortly.

The CM directed the mayor to start work on August 1. "I would personally visit the site and witness the progress of the work in the mid of the August."

PRAYER

Table with prayer times: Fajr 4:19, Zuhar 12:36, Asr 3:24, Maghreb 7:27, Isha 8:54

REFLECTIONS

THE LESSONS THAT YOU SUFFER ON ACCOUNT OF YOUR SILENCE CAN BE EASILY COMPENSATED BY THE LESSONS WHICH ARISE OUT OF EXCESSIVE AND LOOSE TALK ARE DIFFICULT TO ACQUIRE. — HAZRAT ALLAH RAZI

99.4pc children in Karachi found to be exposed to passive smoking: study

Researchers conducted survey of 2,769 children between 9 and 14 years in Dhaka and Karachi to assess their exposure to second-hand smoke

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: A study, co-authored by researchers from three countries, has discovered the presence of second-hand smoke in an alarming 95 per cent of children in Pakistan and Bangladesh, putting them at an increased risk of respiratory tract infections and, in cases of babies with hereditary disorders, death.

Second-hand smoke (SHS) occurs when people around an active smoker inhale the exhaled tobacco fumes coming from the smoker. This highlights the deeply disturbing ripple effect of smoking, which can penetrate different social spaces, especially in places with poor smoking restrictions.

The study provides evidence of extremely high levels of SHS exposure in Karachi, where nearly all (99.4pc) of the children were found to be exposed to second-hand smoke, primarily due to male-dominated smoking cultures.

The levels of SHS exposure in Dhaka and Karachi, the two study sites, indicate widespread and unrestricted smoking, according to the researchers.

The research team conducted a survey of 2,769 children aged 9-14 from 74 primary schools in Dhaka and Karachi to assess their exposure to SHS.

To measure the exposure, they tested the children's saliva for cotinine. They examined the association between the smoking behaviour of adults in the homes and salivary cotinine levels in the children.

Compared to children living with non-smok-

ers, those living with adult smokers had higher levels of SHS exposure. Similarly, children living in homes permitting indoor smoking had slightly higher levels of SHS exposure than those in homes where smoking was not permitted.

Infant Death Syndrome

Dr Romina Iqbal and Prof Javed Khan from AKU pointed out that "the high exposure of children to SHS is in contrast to figures from many developed countries where only a minority of children are now exposed to such risks".

The effects of second-hand smoke, researched and pointed out, have been long observed and analysed by scientists around the world and are nothing short of horrendous. It has been proven to contribute to a variety of respiratory tract infections in newborns, infants, and children up to adolescence.

Moreover, research suggests that children born with hereditary disorders are less likely to survive when exposed to second-hand smoke and may have an increased frequency of sudden infant death syndrome.

"The research findings are really alarming.

If we cannot protect the children from SHS exposure, they will develop an increased risk of respiratory infections and associated deaths and will be at risk of lower academic performance and a high rate of smoking uptake in later life," said Prof Rumana Haque from ARK Foundation, Bangladesh, and a co-author of the paper.

Chief Investigator of the study Prof Kamran Siddiqi of the University of York said "It is important to advocate for smoke-free homes and cars to protect children from SHS exposure. However, in addition to these initiatives, it is also important to enforce smoking bans in public places and transportation, especially those public spaces that children frequently visit, such as playgrounds, parks, and fair grounds."

He emphasised that it is essential to complement smoking restrictions with tobacco cessation advice and support in these settings.

The research team called for a comprehensive approach to protect children from this harm, underlining the need for smoking restriction laws in households and the enforcement of smoking bans in public places.

SUP announces MPC against plan to allot coastal land to DHA

Scores of people attend nationalist party's protest rally at Hawksbay

By Tahira Siddiqui

Wednesday announced that it would hold a multi-party conference (MPC) on July 30 against the process of allotting 5,000 to

5,000 acres of land near Hawksbay to the Defence Housing Authority (DHA). SUP president Zain

Shah said this while addressing a big protest rally in the Hawksbay area.

Hundreds of residents of over 45 villages established in Teh Allah Bana, Doh Mandhari and Doh Chhatara in district Keamari participated in the protest rally.

illegal occupation of villagers' land. "We hope that the judiciary would do justice," he added.

SUP General Secretary Jagdish Akhja said that the move to allot land of the coastal belt to DHA

KARACHI: The Sindh United Party (SUP) on

Shah said this while addressing a big protest rally in the Hawksbay area.

deeds of years," he added. Mr Shah said that the provincial government did not have any authority to seize the land of the

provincial government and added the PPP had been given provincial government under an "agreement".

He said that a constitutional petition had already been filed in the Sindh High Court against the

was creating hatred between people and the institutions.

He urged the provincial government to immediately withdraw this decision and give ownership rights to the victims.

KARACHI SHIPYARD & ENGG. WORKS LTD. TENDER NOTICE. Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works Limited, West Wharf, Karachi, invites tenders for the supply of following on free delivery at KSEW berth:

GOVERNMENT OF SINDH JINNAH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE KARACHI-75510. Tender No. 1-202024-21000MUPMC/ Open on 01-08-2024. NOTICE INVITING TENDER. Single Stage One Envelope Procedure through EPADS.

ADVERTISER. TO ADVERTISE IN DAWN. COMMERCIAL RENTAL AVAILABLE. KARACHI. CLIFTON. MASSAGE BUREAU. KARACHI. RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE FOR SALE. KARACHI. RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TO PURCHASE. KARACHI.

KARACHI METROPOLITAN CORPORATION AUCTION NOTICE. The following Annual Revenue Licences of Karachi Zoo, Landis Korang Zoo and Safari Park Recreation, KMC will be auctioned on 31/07/2024 for the financial year 2024-2025 within the premises of Zoological Garden, Waller Road Karachi.

Woman prevented from setting herself, daughter on fire during demonstration

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: A woman doused herself and her young daughter with petrol and was about to torch both of them in front of Khairpur SSP office on Wednesday but police officials rushed to stop her from committing a self-immolation.

Shabana Khuhro later told media persons that she was compelled to take the extreme step in protest against officials posted at Shah Latif police station.

They had picked up her husband Jameel Ahmed Khuhro from her home in Mumtaz Colony five days ago after she refused to establish 'friendship' with police constable Waheed Shaikh.

She said that she had been making rounds of the police station since then, but police officials turned a deaf ear to her cries and complaints and often drove her out of the police station.

She said that the police official was threatening her that if she did not do his bidding he would implicate her husband in bogus cases and he would be 'full-bred', which meant he would be killed in an staged encounter. Moreover, she said that police were also demanding Rs40,000 bribe for releasing her husband.

She said that if she did not get justice, she would commit suicide along with her young daughter and in that case, the constable Waheed Shaikh and SHO of Shah Latif police station would be responsible for their suicide.

She appealed to Sukkur DCO and Khairpur SSP to intervene to get her husband freed and provide her family protection against police, especially the constable, Waheed Shaikh.

Sources said that the woman might have lost all hope after she decided to take the extreme step after she saw little impact of her press conference against the police official at local press club a day ago.

PSDP cut will hurt Sindh's development schemes, Khuhro fears

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA: Nisar Ahmad Khuhro, chairman of provincial assembly's Public Accounts Committee, has criticised federal government's cut in budget for PSDP and feared it will seriously hurt annual development programmes of the province.

Khuhro, who is also president of Pakistan Peoples Party's Sindh chapter, said at a press conference at Larkana Press Club on Wednesday that the federal government had made Rs409 billion cut in the PSDP whose original size was Rs1,400bn. It would definitely affect the ADP's of the provinces which they had already announced, he said.

He said that slashing the PSDP volume would force provinces to revise downwards their development plans. The Sindh government in its budget had allocated Rs550 billion for the ADP without adding new development schemes, hence the centre should reverse its decision, he said.

He criticised caretakers for halting many already approved development schemes in Sindh which in turn had dras-

tically impacted the process of development. "We bore huge losses in terms of development, as caretakers had been at the helm for a long period of 59 months which severely affected work on the ongoing schemes in the province," he said.

"We have called in reports from local bodies' right from corporations to union councils about their financial health and expenditures for one year to audit pace of development, procedure of spending money and correct utilisation of allocated funds," he said.

The members, chairman of town committees, district councils and even union councils were asked to submit their receipts and expenditures along with the adopted procedures for spending money, he said.

"We aim to assess and analyse fairness in spending money and will see if it is judiciously used for pro-people projects and schemes," he said.

He said that the PAC would review the 'audit paper' of all departments of 15 years. The entire report would be submitted to the PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, he said.

The OGT share of union councils had

been enhanced from Rs500,000 to Rs1.2 million per month which was a big amount for the UCs constitutions.

On the theory issue of damage to the Nekkur Barrage gates, Khuhro appreciated efforts of irrigation and aligned departments for their help to tackle the issue. During the crisis period, water shortage was experienced in all canals originating from the barrage and tail-enders suffered the most, he said.

As soon as repair and rehabilitation were successfully carried out, it would improve 'pond level' at the barrage and then the water would flow in all canals. The damaged gate would be installed by July 20, which would further improve the situation, he said.

He talked about the huge debt-sinking process carried out at Rice Canal and Warah Canal which have again contributed to improving the water level in both canals.

He clarified that PPP was not in alliance with PMN or government. "We are leading support to the federal government in parliament only for the sake of continuity of democracy. We don't want a share in the centre," he said and disclosed that PPP had not shut the doors

for negotiations with any political party. "We support Aam-I-Islam operation for uprooting terrorism," said Khuhro, adding that no one should have any objection to the operation for peace," he said. The PPP would participate in the proposed All Parties Conference about the operation. He accused Imran Khan of releasing TTP terrorists from the jails of Afghanistan and the very people of TTP were involved in terrorism in Pakistan.

Responding to a question he said Benazir Bhutto, Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif remained in jails but never had investigated their workers attacking state institutions. He alleged that Imran Khan was behind investigating his workers to attack state institutions and the incident of 9 May.

He complained that 17 ministries were yet to be devolved by the spirit of the 18th amendment adding that with their decentralisation about Rs300 billion would be saved and transferred to the provinces. Currently, unnecessarily such a huge amount is being spent by the centre on 17 devolved ministries. He also stressed on early announcement of the NFC award.

Sindh plans baseline survey of mining sites to prevent illegal activities

Dawn Report

KARACHI: In a bid to enhance revenue generation and prevent illegal mining activities, the Sindh department of mines and minerals has decided to conduct a baseline survey of mining sites in the province.

The decision was made at a meeting chaired by the Sindh minister of mines and minerals to develop open-pit and education department, Syed Sardar

Ali Shah, held at the Director General's Office in Karachi on Wednesday.

The meeting was aimed at identifying new mining sites, establishing separate courts to address mining-related cases and improve the monitoring system of mining sites.

The minister emphasised the importance of exploring new sites, grading minerals and establishing a museum and laboratory in the Director General's office.

Currently, 27 types of

minerals are being mined in Sindh, generating significant revenue. In FY 2023-24, Rs1702.89 million was collected while Rs 1804.43 million was collected in FY 2023-24.

The minister stressed the need to increase financial resources and ensure public safety and health standards in the mining areas.

The department is working to attract investors by creating market utility for minerals, collaborating with factories, universities and research institutes.

It was decided that only registered mining associations would be contacted to ensure legal

consultations. The establishment of separate courts would expedite mining-related cases and prevent delays.

It was informed that the baseline survey and grading of minerals would help generate market utility, making Sindh's minerals more attractive to investors.

The minister also instructed the director of the Director General's office, emphasising the importance of presentations. Secretary Mines and Minerals Development Tahir Hussain Sangi, Director General Zafar Khan and other officials also attended the meeting.

76 protesters booked for 'blocking road' during demonstration

DADO: Police registered a case against 76 traders at Jamshoro police station on Wednesday for holding a protest in front of SSP's office a day ago against police failure to curb in streets crimes and curb sale of drugs across the town.

The traders had observed a shutdown strike in Kotri SITE area, took out a procession and staged a demonstration before SSP office on Tuesday. In response, a case was registered against traders on charge of blocking a road on a complaint lodged by ASI Muhammad Khan Siddiqui.

The case involved as many as 16 persons including Jan Mohammad, Javed Sheikh, Shafiq Khairzoda, Ghulam Mustafa, Arman Sheikh, Kaleemullah, Imad Khan, Bilawal Pathan, Nasser Haid, Hafiz Khan, Adnan Khan, Hamza Khan, Nasser and cited 60 as unknown accusing them of blocking vehicles on the National Highway.

A large number of activists of political parties and social activists had also joined the traders' protest to protest against unattended incidents of robbery, theft, kidnapping and sale of drugs.—Correspondent

PAKISTAN RAILWAYS
 Bid Reference No. 398-24/PSDP/UPD/2023-24 Dated 08.07.24

INVITATION FOR BIDS

- Project Director "Immediate Track Safety Works on RCH-TDM section invites bids for "Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of Uninterrupted Power Supply 3 phase UPS of capacity 20KVA(2Nos.) and 30KVA(2Nos.) on (TDM-RCH) Section over Sukkur Division from eligible bidders having PEC registration in category C-5 or above with specialization of EE-04 (valid/renewed on date of opening) and who are on ATL of FBRL on single stage two envelope basis as per PPRRA rules.
- Tender documents can be obtained from <http://e-procure.gov.pk> (Tender No.F-240785134) free of cost. Bidders must submit their bids both Technical & Financial, through E-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (E-PADS). Technical bids must be accompanied by a scanned copy of Bid security in the form of CDM/PA order, in the name of FA and CAC, amounting to Rs.0.480 Million whereas bid security in original shall be submitted in the office of Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/Sukkur alongwith other necessary documents as stated in bidding documents before closing of submission time.
- In addition, a hard copy of tender duly filled (technical and financial proposals in separate envelopes) should be submitted in under mentioned office on 30.07.2024 not later than 12:00 hours. However, only those bids shall be entertained for opening of bids which are submitted on E-PADS.
- Technical bids will be opened on same date and venue at 12:30 hours in the presence of the representatives of the firms who want to be present. Financial bids of only technically qualified firms will be opened for which time and date will be communicated to qualified firms accordingly.
- Tender notice is also available on PPRRA website (www.pprra.org.pk) and Pakistan Railways website (www.pakrail.gov.pk).

(Muhammad Reza Qureshi)
 Divisional Engineer/S&T/TSW-8
 For PD/Immediate Track Safety Works on Tando Adam/Bahri Section, Concrete Sleeper Factory, Adam Shah Road, Sukkur.

PID (H) 08/2024

GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
JINNAH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE KARACHI-75510
 Tender No. 1-10204-25/ODM/JPMC/ Open on 01-08-2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 Single Stage One Envelope Procedure through EPADS

Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, Karachi being the procuring agency invites e-bids through E-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (EPADS) from eligible bidders on Active Tendering List of the PPR for the supply of Drugs Medicines/Surgical Consumables/Medical Devices through local purchase on step by step emergency basis for the financial year 2024-25 as per Hurdled 1) SPPRA-2010 (Amended up-to-date) Single Stage One Envelope Procedure.

Bidding documents containing detailed terms & conditions can be viewed / downloaded from <https://epadsweb.eprocure.gov.pk>.
 Electronic bids should be submitted through EPADS ONLY. Manual bid will also be submitted. Interested bidders are required to get registered themselves on EPADS System at the link: <https://e-procure.gov.pk/1/registration> for submission of bids.

The bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions given in the bidding documents must be submitted on EPADS by 01/08/2024 at 9:00 A.M. The original instrument of tender fee Rs. 2000/- cash payment (non-refundable) and bid security of 5% of estimated tender value in shape of Pay Order/Bank Draft/CDR must reach the Procuring Agency before the deadline for submission of e-bids, which will be opened on the same day at 10:00a.m. at the address Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, Phase-II, JPMC, Karachi.

NOTE:
 For any query of e-bidding the Executive Director, JPMC, Karachi may be contacted on 0316-2115880.
 In case Government announces any public holiday or any unforeseen circumstances, the tenders / bids will be submitted and opened on the next working day, with same venue and time.
 The Purchaser reserves the right to reject any / all bids under the relevant provisions of SPPRA Rules 2010.
 In case of any difficulty prospective bidders may contact EPADS Helpline 021-111-127-237 during working days / hours.

Prof. Shahid Raza
 Executive Director

EP-KHY-224724

TOWN MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SADDAR, KARACHI
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR ADVERTISEMENT
 No. DM/ADM/TMC/5/163/2024 Dated: 06/07/2024

NOTICE FOR REVISION / INCREASE IN ADVERTISEMENT FEE / TAX SCHEDULE OF ALL KINDS OF SIGNAGES

The public in general and advertising agencies & companies in particular are hereby informed that Town Municipal Corporation Saddar Karachi vide its Council Resolution No.28, dated: 10/06/2024 has been pleased to accord approval for the revision/enhancement in the existing Advertisement Fee of Schedule of all kinds of signages, within its limits the revised rates are mentioned below:-

(Revised Rates Schedule-I)

S. No.	Nature of Device	Zone I	Zone II
1	Billboard and all other Advertisements/Signs etc. situated at road and premises of private and commercial buildings.	750/- per sq. ft. per annum	325/- per sq. ft. per annum
2	SMD-LED Screens installed on private properties.	5000/- per sq. ft. per annum	3000/- per sq. ft. per annum
3	Ar Banners & Flags	1500/- per sq. ft. per annum	1000/- per sq. ft. per annum
4	Moving Publicity through Delivery Vehicles	100/- per sq. ft. per annum	75/- per sq. ft. per annum
5	Moving Publicity through Bumper Vans	300/- per sq. ft. per annum	200/- per sq. ft. per annum
6	Moving Publicity (SMD Van)	10000/- per day per van (small size) 20000/- per day per van (large size)	7500/- per day per van (small size) 15000/- per day per van (large size)
7	Moving publicity through Tricycles, Bikes and Bus	200/- per sq. ft. per annum	150/- per sq. ft. per annum
8	Moving Publicity through Angler Device	5000/- per day	3500/- per day
9	Kiosk / Stall Activity with one person wearing Masked	1000/- per day	750/- per day
10	Advertisement wearing Masked	500/- per person per day	350/- per person per day
11	Shop Counter, Deep Freezer, fridge etc Publicity	100/- per sq. ft. per annum	75/- per sq. ft. per annum
12	Window Graphics	200 per sq. ft. per annum	150 per sq. ft. per annum
13	Fluorescing Light	100/- per light per day	75/- per light per day

(Revised Rates (shops and offices) (Schedule-II)

S. No.	Nature and Kind of Advertisement	Zone I	Zone II
1	Penalties, notices, warning, placards, signs illuminated and non-illuminated signs.	250/- per sq. ft. per annum	150/- per sq. ft. per annum
2	Billboards, signs, notices, placards, signs, illuminated and non-illuminated signs.	1000/- per sq. ft. per annum	750/- per sq. ft. per annum
3	Projection changes on projected boards.	100/- per sq. ft. per annum	75/- per sq. ft. per annum
4	Sign boards.	100/- per sq. ft. per annum	75/- per sq. ft. per annum

(Revised Rates (Cinema Publicity) (Schedule-III)

S. No.	Nature of Device / Advertisement	Advertisement Fee / Projection Charges
1	Cinema Banners / Computer Banners	1500/- per Cinema Banners / Computer Banners per annum
2	Cinema Commercial Film / Computer Film	1000/- per Commercial Film / Computer Film per annum
3	Cinema Poster	50/- per sq. ft. per annum
4	Hanging / Projected Board (Projection Charges)	500/- per sq. ft. per annum

The interested persons / advertisers / companies and concerned people may pursue the revision of Advertisement Fee of Schedule of all kinds of signages by visiting the office, situated at Khayal Dada Park, opposite Aram Bagh Police Station, near Hajjagar Chowk, Karachi, within office hours, within fifteen (15) days after publication of this notice and submit their written objection (if any) before the Committee comprising of Council members and officers. No objection shall be entertained after expiry of stipulated time and the revision of rates shall be notified / enforced and the remaining official procedure will be completed.

DIRECTOR ADVERTISEMENT TMC SADDAR KARACHI
 49/11/06/Saddar/05/2024
 49-KHY-224594

Specific Procurement Notice
Request for Bids
WORKS
 (One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Pakistan
 Name of Project: Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLCK)
 Contract Title: MC Schemes 2023-24 (Package-2)
 Lot No / Credit No.: 0390-13K
 IFB Reference No.: PK-1.00-02508-CW-IFB

- The Government of Pakistan has received a draft from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLCK) project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for MC Schemes 2023-24 (Package-2). For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment Disbursement Method, as defined in the World Bank's Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing.
- The Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLCK), Local Government Department now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the works consisting of:

Lot No.	Description	TMC
1	Rehabilitation of Amir Khwaja Road Rehabilitation of Road at Noman Masjid Near Lindy Nagar Chowk, UC-3	Jinnah
2	Rehabilitation of Liquest Air Kinar Road, UC-1 Road Rehabilitation of Green Belt at Akbarabad Near WTE Stop Rehabilitation of Nazam Farid Road, UC-7 Rehabilitation of Streets CO Power, Sector 5, Streets 6, 10, Navy Colony, UC-1F Rehabilitation of Jangir Road, UC-8, Saeedabad, Near 24 Market Road Rehabilitation of Road from Nisar Khan Ghar to via Farhad Chowk to Ali Nagar Joint Shaheed-e-Geetha, UC-2 and UC-7 Rehabilitation of Street CO Power, Saeedabad Link, Near Lucky Hotel Street No. 1 to 10 Joint Ali Streets (Jinnah Road Masjid and Jinnah Masjid, Sector 14-D, UC-2	Mirafiqh Quah Madda Orangi

- Bidders may bid for one or more lots as described in instructions to Bidders but evaluation will be done individually for each lot.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IFB Borrowers (PROCUREMENT IN PRACTICE) PROJECT FINANCING - Goods Works Non-Consulting and Consulting Services July 2016, Revised November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Competitive and Livable City of Karachi, Program Director, CLCK, and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours at the address given below.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address given below and payment of a non-refundable fee of PKR 10,000/- in favor of "Program Director CLCK". The method of payment will be cash only. The document may also be collected in person. Bidding documents can be seen at <https://clck.gov.pk/tender>
- Bids must be delivered to the address given below on or before 02:00 p.m. on 31 of July, 2024 and must be accompanied by a security of the Security of 2% of the total bid value or an equivalent amount must be in the form of Pay Order / Bank Guarantee / Demand Draft in a freely convertible currency.
- Bids will be publicly opened in presence of bidders / representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at 02:00 p.m. on 31st July, 2024 at the address given below. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. The bidders are requested to give their best and final prices as no negotiation is expected.
- The address referred to above is:

DEPUTY PROJECT DIRECTOR
 Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLCK)
 1 Floor, DMC Specific Office, Hajjagar Chowk, Aram Bagh
 Karachi-75000, Pakistan
 Tel: +92-21-99210874-5

EP-KHY-224724

SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK A4757 TRICKY B4757

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To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk. Created by Peter Finlayson (C) PZZ.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Substances used by scientists (9)
- 7 Safe places (8)
- 9 Crows old (4)
- 10 Fish of the salmon family (3)
- 12 Liquid measure (4)
- 13 Clanton (8)
- 14 State of untidiness (4)
- 16 Fruit (3)
- 18 Riding whip (4)
- 19 Chess piece (6)
- 20 Bangles (8)

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DOWN

- 1 Presiding officer (8)
- 2 Level (4)
- 3 Nets (6)
- 4 Step in (8)
- 5 In the past (3)
- 6 Set in motion (8)
- 8 Matt step (anag.) (8)
- 11 Not as shallow (8)
- 12 Drawing implement (8)
- 15 Encouragement (4)
- 17 Small green vegetable (3)

CHESS



WHITE TO PLAY
HINT: WIN A PAWN

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Djokovic gets free pass to Wimbledon semi-finals as Rybakina cruises

ISLAMABAD
Sunset: 07:27pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow): 05:03am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum: 28°C
Maximum: 34°C
Outlook: Partly Cloudy

Blaze reduces over 600 shops to cinders in H-9 bazaar

CDA chief forms inquiry committee to probe incident; stall owners promised compensation

By Ikram Juraiddi

ISLAMABAD: A massive blaze at the H-9 weekly bazaar in the federal capital on Wednesday gutted as many as 625 shops causing millions in damage, as it took 31 firetrucks almost three hours to put out the inferno which started at about 11am.

The weekly bazaar - held every Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday - has 2,743 stalls and 625 perished in the fire which started only a little after a heavy spell of rain lashed the capital. The timing of the fire raised many an eyebrow, with the Capital Development Authority (CDA) chief forming an inquiry committee to probe the incident.

Speakers told that thick plumes of black smoke were visible from afar at 11:15am and initially, 10 firetrucks reached the site, but the intensity of the fire forced the administration to seek help from Rawalpindi and the navy as well, bringing a total of 31 fire tenders to extinguish the blaze.

A fire brigade official told Dawn that the blaze started in the garments section and spread to crockery and other sections of the market. "Because of the severity of the issue, the Pakistan Navy, air force and Rawalpindi administration was called in to play their role and use all possible resources to extinguish the fire," he said.

Upon hearing the news, several shops owners also rushed the bazaar in panic and attempted to enter the premises to save their goods from the fire but the police deployed there stopped them from entering the bazaar. The administration also asked them to cooperate with the authorities as their "panic would only aggravate the situation".

CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Razaibara said 250 rescue officials took part in the operation. He said the fire erupted at



(CLOCKWISE from top) Firefighters extinguish flames in a stall, vendors collect their goods salvaged from their damaged shops while officials from the district administration and police gather at the scene of the blaze in H-9 weekly bazaar in Islamabad on Wednesday. — Photos by Farveez Shafiq

11:15am and a fire tender, which was already present there, started the rescue operation. While replying to questions, he said that he requested the police chief to seal the area to avert any further mishap. He said damages would be paid to the affected stallholders.

According to the CDA chairman, steps would be taken to

ensure that such incidents would not be repeated in the future. "It has come to my knowledge that fire has erupted a number of times in the bazaar in the past. I will ensure that the reason behind this is dug out and such unfortunate incidents are not repeated in the future," he said while talking to reporters.

The CDA chairman, who is

also the capital's chief commissioner, said the deputy commissioner would preside over the inquiry committee and assured that the report would be finalised in a week. The committee has representatives of the district administration and the police.

It may be noted that fires are a routine occurrence at this

bazaar.

Interior Minister Mubashir Nazki also took notice of the incident while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the authorities to pay the damages to the affected stall owners. The interior minister also sought a report on the incident from the CDA and ordered a thorough investigation.

NHS announces setting up of stroke centre at Pims

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) has announced plans to set up a stroke centre, valued at Rs2.59 billion within the Cardiology Department of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

Prime Minister's Coordinator for Health Dr Muhtasham Ahmad Bhawath hailed the initiative as major breakthrough for potential stroke patients. He said the Stroke Management Unit in the Cardiac Centre would help prevent permanent disability among stroke-affected patients, emphasising the importance of timely interventions such as myocardial and surgical procedures on arteries to prevent strokes.

Dr Bhawath said Rs2.59 billion had been approved for the establishment of the stroke centre, which is expected to be completed within six to eight months. The government is actively procuring all necessary equipment and resources to treat stroke patients who have suffered from brain haemorrhages.

He further highlighted that progress had been made in Islamabad and across Pakistan in the healthcare sector.

The introduction of modern equipment and the availability of highly skilled doctors and staff will be prioritised, he added.

"All citizens, regardless of their status, will benefit from modern and standardised facilities. Providing the latest healthcare facilities to the citizens of Pakistan is the government's top priority," he said.

The health ministry spokesperson, Sajid Shah, while talking to Dawn, highlighted the importance of administering an injection within half an hour to prevent paralysis in stroke patients. Unfortunately, a majority of hospitals lack this facility owing to the complicated procedure, he added.

"PM Coordinator Dr Muhtasham Ahmad has been trying to ensure that the stroke centre would be established in around six months so that no patient suffers from paralysis due to a lack of better facilities," he said.

Globally, stroke is the second leading cause of death, resulting in approximately 6.7 million deaths annually, taking a life every five seconds. Every two seconds, someone in the world suffers through a stroke, and almost one in eight deaths is caused by stroke. The incidence of stroke is expected to double within the next 15 years, making it a critical health issue worldwide.

Security of foreigners at Karote Hydropower project reviewed

By Mohammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: The regional police officer Babar Sarfaraz Alpna instructed the police to conduct intelligence-based operations in collaboration with security agencies in the vicinity of operations sites and verify whether security personnel deployed at the Karote Hydropower project have undergone a 'security check' or not. He also ordered provision of footpath security to foreigners during their movement between

the project site and their residence.

The Regional Police Officer (RPO) Babar Sarfaraz Alpna gave this instruction while visiting Karote Hydropower project Kahuta on Wednesday where SSP Special Protection Unit (SPU) and SOPO Kahuta gave a detailed briefing on security arrangements and other matters.

The RPO directed the police officers to conduct search operations along with other security agencies around all the important places in the vicinity of the

hydro-power project and ensure that security personnel should also undergo a security check besides providing security to foreigners during their movement.

A spokesman for the RPO said on Wednesday that Regional Police Officer (Rawalpindi) Babar Sarfaraz Alpna visited 'Green Hydro Project Kahuta, SSP Special Protection Unit Colonel Shahid, SOPO Kahuta Mirza Tahir Nkandar and other relevant officers also accompanied the RPO. The RPO reviewed all the

security arrangements at the power project, the police officers and military officials concerned gave a detailed briefing to the RPO Rawalpindi on all the security arrangements.

RPO Rawalpindi issued instructions to the officers concerned that according to the SOPO intelligence-based search operations should be carried out in the surrounding areas of the project along with other security agencies, checking of project should be carried out. He also directed to ensure

timely completion of security arrangements before their movements.

RPO also visited the Kahuta police station and Khadmat Markaz Kahuta. The RPO said that the provision of at the service centre should be ensured without interruption and in a short time. The RPO further said that the police station is a basic unit for providing justice to the citizens.

Citizens who come to the police station should be treated with courtesy while ensuring merit and justice.

Woman kills husband

By Our Correspondent

GUJAR KHAN: A woman allegedly killed her husband by hitting him with an iron platter in Ahli village in the jurisdiction of Jail police station on Wednesday morning.

According to police sources, Mian Mahmood Chohan and his wife had a quarrel in their house over some issue during which the man hit his wife with an iron rod. The woman also struck him with a sharp edged iron platter used for baking bread, critically injuring him.

Mahmood was being shifted to the hospital but he died on the way. The woman, who also sustained injuries, was arrested by the police and later hospitalised. The police have registered an FIR against her.

Local govt polls in Islamabad on Sept 29, IHC told

ECP blames federal govt for delay, says delimitation to be completed by July 23

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan on Wednesday informed the Islamabad High Court that the much-delayed local government elections in the federal capital would be held on Sept 29 this year whereas the delimitation of union councils and wards was going to be completed on July 23, 2024.

The election watchdog shared the poll date with the high court during the hearing of identical petitions by Justice Mubashir Akhtar Kayani against the 'irregularities' in the property tax that was also extended to private housing societies in the capital. The petitions were filed by the

Residents Welfare Association (RWA) and the Islamabad City Council. The petitioners challenged a notification of a threefold increase in the property tax in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

At the last hearing on June 4, Justice Kayani sought a date for conducting local government (LG) elections in the federal capital and also issued a stay order against the collection of property tax on revised rates.

As the IHC judge resumed the hearing on Wednesday, he inquired about the date of local bodies elections. The ECP submitted a report before the court regarding the polls in which it shared the details about the union councils' delimitations and the poll date.

In its report, the ECP said the local government polls in Islamabad could not be held due to frequent changes in the number of union councils and the non-provision of notification of reserved seats of the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad by the federal government.

In compliance with the March 2, 2023 order of the IHC which said polls should be held on 125 UCs within 130 days, the ECP said it completed the delimitation process of 125 UCs by June 9, 2023.

On June 22, the ECP convened a meeting with the federal government representatives and informed the commission was ready for polls and that it required the notification of reserved seats.

Despite repeated reminders, the government did not provide the required documents, it said, adding that after the 7th Digital Population Census 2023, the ECP carried out the delimitations afresh under Section 17(2) of the Elections Act.

On June 27, the ECP met the federal government officials again to demand the documents but so far the commission did not get them from the government, the response said, citing the federal government representatives as saying "A summary of Draft Islamabad Capital Local Government (Amendment)

Continued on Page 15



CONSTITUTION Avenue gives a festive look on the eve of the arrival of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev who is visiting Pakistan on the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

PRAYER

Fajr 05:27
Zuhr 12:17
Asr 05:15
Maghreb 07:23
Isha 09:05

Starting time in Islamabad

REFLECTIONS

THE LOSSES THAT YOU BUFFER ON ACCOUNT OF YOUR SILENCE CAN BE EASILY COMPENSATED BUT THE LOSSES WHICH ARE OUT OF EXCESSIVE AND LOOSE TALK ARE DIFFICULT TO REQUITE.

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

IRSA4027

Car lifter killed

TAXILA: A suspected car lifter was shot dead while his accomplices managed to escape during a 'shootout with police' in the early hours of Wednesday, police said.

The police spokesperson claimed that the suspect was killed from the firing of his gang members.

According to police, vehicle lifters in the guise of passengers booked a taxi from Mohammad Hanif from Qandil village in Faisalabad on July 7.

Later, they killed him after searching his vehicle and threw his body in an under-construction housing society in limits of New Airport police station.

Police have registered a case against the unknown vehicle lifter and launched an investigation.

According to a police spokesman, a team of New Airport police was chasing the suspected car lifter with the help of digital intelligence.

When the car lifter realised that they were being chased, they opened fire on the police party on Haji Shakh Road in the limits of Attock Saktar police station.

The spokesman further added that later when the firing stopped, the police party found one of the attackers lying in a pool of blood after being hit by his own accomplices who managed to flee.

He said that the dead suspect was identified as Ahmad, a native of Kasial tehsil, Ferozshah.

Later, the body of the deceased was shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Attock for autopsy. The spokesman said a case had been registered against the suspects.

— Correspondent



A PEDESTRIAN bridge on Karnal Sher Khan Road in Islamabad has been blocked with rocks to prevent motorcyclists from using it. — Online

Punjab IG seeks report of police officials involved in drug smuggling

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Following reports implicating 45 Punjab police officials in drug smuggling activities, ranging from the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) to constables, the Punjab police chief has directed all divisional and district police chiefs to take immediate action and submit a report.

In response to the IG's directions, City Police Officer Rawalpindi Saad Khalid Bhamani has appointed DSP Operations Hafiz Kamran Asghar as the inquiry officer tasked with identifying and investigating officers involved in drug smuggling.

A directive from AIG Operations Zahid Nawaz addressed to the City

Police Officer Rawalpindi and CPDs/DSPs across the province, mandating swift action against the officers involved in the drug smuggling activities.

The provincial police chief has also sought a detailed report on the actions taken and the outcomes thereof.

Details including the names, designations, department, CNIC, mobile phone number, place of posting and action taken against the accused have been sent to the district police chiefs. Among those involved are two sub-inspectors of Rawalpindi police, one serving as the SHO and the others posted in the Police Lines Headquarters.

Other individuals involved include a former DSP Anti-Narcotics Unit district Lahore and his driver, a sub-inspector from the

Special Branch in Bahawalpur and another from the Special Protection Unit (SPU) Punjab.

Many of these officials were posted in various police stations, including those holding significant positions such as SHO despite their alleged involvement in drug smuggling.

According to the list provided to CPDs and other senior police officials, six police officials, including one head constable and five constables were posted in Gujranwala while seven police officials belonged to Attock. As many as fourteen police officials allegedly involved in drug smuggling belong to Pakpattan, eight posted in Muzaffargarh, two in Bahawalpur, one in B.V. Khan, one belonging to Lahore police, one SHO posted in Mian Channu (Khanewal) and one in Bahawalpur.

CDA achieves record revenue target

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has generated record revenue of Rs22 billion in the fiscal year 2023-2024 which is the highest revenue collection in the civic body's history.

The CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Razaibara in May and June, CDA collected Rs2.9 billion.

He said that earlier the highest revenue of CDA was Rs17.4 billion in fiscal year 2021-2022, while the target for fiscal year 2023-24 was set at Rs11.8 billion. However, through effective strategies, CDA surpassed its target by 21pc.

He highlighted that instead of selling assets, the authority was focusing on alternative revenue sources to make it a financially stable organisation.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi congratulated CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Razaibara and his team on achieving the record revenue target.

He said during the last two months the CDA team had worked with dedication and commitment to achieve the target.

He expressed the hope that the authority will continue to focus on revenue generation with the same zeal in the current fiscal year.

Meanwhile, Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday directed CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Razaibara to ensure swift drainage of water from the low-lying areas following rains.

He directed him to utilise all

resources to drain water from the streets.

He also instructed police to ensure the smooth flow of traffic.

On the minister's directions, Mr Razaibara visited various locations to review drainage work and directed CDA, MCI and district administration officials to remain in the field until the drainage work is completed.

According to the CDA administration, citizens can contact help-lines in case of any emergency situations. — Staff Reporter

Burglars steal UPS, sound system from mosque

RAWALPINDI: Some unidentified thieves broke into a mosque and stole away the sound system, including speakers, mic, loud speakers and UPS with batteries in Pargal in the limits of Chakri police station.

Habib Khan, lodged an FIR with the Chakri police saying that he went to the mosque on Tuesday to offer Fajr prayer, he found the locks of the mosque were broken. When he entered the mosque, he found one UPS with battery, mic, desk, four small speakers, and one loud-speaker unit.

The value of the stolen goods was estimated at Rs100,000. The police have registered an FIR and launched an investigation.

Meanwhile, a man was robbed of Rs65,000 by two unidentified robbers in the limits of Banni police on Wednesday.

Umar Ahmed, robbery victim lodged a complaint with the police saying that he was on way to home when he was intercepted by two unidentified persons who held him at gunpoint and snatched away Rs65,000, and one mobile phone before they escaped. — Staff Reporter

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IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE JUDGE BANGI COURT ISLAMABAD. M/s. Akshara Bank (petitioner) vs. M/s. Masud Ullah Khan (respondent). Case No. 248, Institution 24/04/24. Muhammad Raheem versus Muhammad Irfan etc. Suit for Recovery. To: Muhammad Irfan S/o Muhammad Shafiq S/o Khushfah Lary. Shah Ghani Chaudhary Mirpur. Qadir Hussain S/o Abdul Hamid R/o Kas. Rajal. Muhammad Mansha S/o Muhammad Mubashir R/o Khir Zardai Tahsil and District Mirpur. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the decree of the suit will be taken in favour of the plaintiff. Next date of hearing is fixed 20-07-2024. (277079436)

MIRPUR: In the Court of Mr. Fariq Ahsan Judge Family Court Mirpur, Suit No. 100/2024, date of hearing 11-07-2024. M/s. Sajma Farhan vs. Shahid Haidar (etc). Notice against (1) Shahid Haidar son of Saqir Ghulam (2) M/s. Tanzeem Akbar (3) M/s. Qureshi (4) M/s. Sabiha daughter of Saqir Ghulam (5) Saqir Ghulam (6) Saqir Ghulam (7) Saqir Ghulam (8) Saqir Ghulam (9) Saqir Ghulam (10) Saqir Ghulam (11) Saqir Ghulam (12) Saqir Ghulam (13) Saqir Ghulam (14) Saqir Ghulam (15) Saqir Ghulam (16) Saqir Ghulam (17) Saqir Ghulam (18) Saqir Ghulam (19) Saqir Ghulam (20) Saqir Ghulam (21) Saqir Ghulam (22) Saqir Ghulam (23) Saqir Ghulam (24) Saqir Ghulam (25) Saqir Ghulam (26) Saqir Ghulam (27) Saqir Ghulam (28) Saqir Ghulam (29) Saqir Ghulam (30) Saqir Ghulam (31) Saqir Ghulam (32) Saqir Ghulam (33) Saqir Ghulam (34) Saqir Ghulam (35) Saqir Ghulam (36) Saqir Ghulam (37) Saqir Ghulam (38) Saqir Ghulam (39) Saqir Ghulam (40) Saqir Ghulam (41) Saqir Ghulam (42) Saqir Ghulam (43) Saqir Ghulam (44) Saqir Ghulam (45) Saqir Ghulam (46) Saqir Ghulam (47) Saqir Ghulam (48) Saqir Ghulam (49) Saqir Ghulam (50) Saqir Ghulam (51) Saqir Ghulam (52) Saqir Ghulam (53) Saqir Ghulam (54) Saqir Ghulam (55) Saqir Ghulam (56) Saqir Ghulam (57) Saqir Ghulam (58) Saqir Ghulam 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Pakistan, Turkiye take part in exercise to strengthen disaster response

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-Turkiye International Simulation Exercise (Sim-Ex) was conducted online at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to enhance cooperation and preparedness between the countries during disasters.

This joint exercise, organised by the NDMA and Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), focused on preparing for and responding to floods and earthquakes.

According to a statement issued by the NDMA, Sim-Ex is a pioneering exercise aimed at fostering collaboration between the two nations, enhancing their capabilities to manage and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters. Participants engaged in various scenarios, addressing challenges and strategies involved in dealing with severe floods and devastating earthquakes.

NDMA Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik underscored the importance of bilateral cooperation during disasters. He emphasised the need for preparedness and a proactive disaster management approach, highlighting that such joint exercises were vital for effective response and building resilience.

Head of Department Response Plans and Exercise Yusef Ayaz of AFAD expressed gratitude to the NDMA for organising the simulation exercise.

He said the event provided valuable insights and strengthened the partnership between Pakistan and Turkiye in disaster management.

The NDMA declared the successful completion of the simulation exercise as a significant advancement in international collaboration between Pakistan and Turkiye, ensuring both countries were better equipped to handle future natural disasters.



SANITATION workers are seen cleaning Imbbara Road of rainwater following early morning downpour in Rawalpindi on Wednesday. — White Star

Action sought to check population growth

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: On the eve of World Population Day, the Coalition of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for Population has emphasised the significance of population issues and their profound impact on national development.

This year's theme, 'Embracing the Power of Inclusive Data Towards a Resilient and Equitable Future for All' resonates strongly with the vision for a healthy and prosperous Pakistan.

The day observed on July 11, the CSOs has called on federal and provincial governments to honour their commitments to population management outlined in their manifestos, aiming for sustainable population growth.

Established in 2021, the coalition comprises 30 NGOs, think tanks, and professional networks advocating for sustainable population growth in Pakistan and monitoring government progress on implementation of the 2018 CCI decisions to improve family planning programmes.

"A critical issue is the lack of disaggregated data from the 2023 census, which hampers informed policy-making. The coalition questions the delay and urges the government to release this data promptly," emphasised a statement issued on Wednesday.

Pakistan faces significant challenges in managing population growth, impacting resources and public services.

Once water-abundant, Pakistan is now the world's third most water-stressed country and is not able to meet the net zero goal of the growing population. The coalition stresses reducing maternal mortality, with 11,000 maternal deaths occurring annually in Pakistan, a third of which are due to closely spaced and repeated pregnancies.

Increasing contraceptive use from 34pc to 52pc could save 3,800 mothers. Similarly, the high infant mortality rate, with 42 infants dying per 1,000 live births, could be reduced by saving 140,000 infants with increased contraceptive use.

"Pakistan's young population, with 63pc under 35, faces low education levels and limited employment opportunities. The coalition asks that the government's strategies must leverage this demographic dividend and address the high ratio of out-of-school children, where one in three is not in school. Effective policies are needed to ensure these children receive an education," it stated.

The coalition has urged the government to explore all possible avenues to expand access to family planning services to lower the high unmet need for family planning. It has recommended that community-based health workers such as community motivators (CMWs) and lady health workers (LHWs) are engaged to improve access to family planning services in remote and rural areas.

Local govt polls in Islamabad on Sept 29

Continued from Page 13

Act 2023' has been approved by CCLC in its meeting held on June 5, 2024 and ratified by the cabinet in its meeting held on June 11, 2024. However, minutes of the said meeting are still awaited to proceed further.

"The commission in the above-mentioned meeting directed the secretary of the Ministry of Interior to provide the notification regarding the number of reserved seats of the Metropolitan Corporation, Islamabad and amendment to Section 17 of the ICT Local Government Act, 2015, within one week, failing which the ECP will be constrained to fix the matter of non-conduct of local government elections, ICT, in regular on day to day basis," the response said, adding that the government assured that they would provide the documents within one week.

Property tax

During the hearing, Justice Kayani observed that the property tax collected from a union council must be utilised in that particular area. He inquired with the union of the tax collected from the private housing societies and what sort of services the civic agency provided to the residents of the societies.

The CDA counsel replied that the civic agency collected waste from the selected sites of the private societies besides other services. Out of Rs50bn, a modest sum of Rs1bn is collected through the property tax.

Earlier, the counsel for the petitioners, Barrister Umar Ijaz Gilani, argued that the right to decide the rate of taxation was reserved for elected representatives of the people.

The principle of "no taxation without representation" is adhered to in democracies all over the world. The role of the administrator is confined to day-to-day decisions. Therefore, the notification regarding an increase in the property tax is liable to be set aside.

AJK High Court allows FIR against minister, others for 'assaulting' citizens

By Tariq Naqsh

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) High Court has dismissed two identical petitions filed by a member of the AJK cabinet-one individually and the other jointly with a district councillor—seeking to overturn a decision by the Justice of Peace (JP) that ordered the police to register an FIR against the minister and others based on a complaint by civil society activists.

On June 13, Sardar Shabbir Khan, president of the traders' body of Poonch division, approached Suddhot's JP officer and session judge) under Section 22-A of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), requesting a directive for the police to register FIRs against the minister for tourism, Sardar Feroze Akhtar Ballooch, and several others, including two police officials, for allegedly assaulting and abusing them.

Mr Khan alleged that on June 9, during a festival in Suddhot, he and his colleagues were attacked, abused, and roughed up at two different locations at the behest of Mr Ballooch, but the police were not entertaining their complaint, maintaining that they had already registered an FIR on the issue from the other party.

In his decision on June 28, JP Raja Imtiaz Ahmed directed SP Suddhot and SHO Baloch to register the FIR based on the complaint of Mr Khan and others.

The minister then challenged the decision under Section 561-A of CrPC through two writ petitions, one of which he filed jointly with district councillor Azhar Iqbal, imploring that the JP's order should be set aside as it was passed "without considering the proper procedure and relevant law required for registration of a criminal case against the petitioners."

The former IGP advised the state

department to follow the path of goodness instead of malice. Citizens, according to Dr Tenzari, can be achieved through excellence and stepping out of one's comfort zone.

He encouraged students to cultivate engineering beliefs with vision, passion, discipline and conscience. He emphasised the importance of thinking big and staying positive, continuously improving themselves daily.

He urged the students to convert

problems into opportunities, weaknesses into strengths and painful experiences into empowering beliefs.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Inspector General of Police Heliana Iqbal Saad shared her journey as the first woman officer in the Police Service of Pakistan and emphasised the importance of self-discipline, hard work and honesty. She urged students to avoid shortcuts and corruption and to stay away from drugs and crimes.

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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE, ATTOCK OPEN AUCTION OF VEHICLES

Office of the District & Sessions Judge, Attock intends to auction the following vehicles on "As is where is basis". Details are as under:

S. No.	Registration No.	Status	Make/Model	Model
1	AKG-16-140	Running	Suzuki Cultus VXR-2016	2016
2	AKG-16-148	Running	Suzuki Cultus VXR-2016	2016
3	AKG-16-149	Running	Suzuki Cultus VXR-2016	2016
4	AKG-16-150	Running	Suzuki Cultus VXR-2016	2016
5	AKG-16-151	Running	Suzuki Cultus VXR-2016	2016
6	AKG-16-152	Running	Suzuki Cultus VXR-2016	2016

Terms and Conditions

- All vehicles can be inspected from the date of publication to 09-08-2024 (except Sunday or any other public holiday) during office hours from 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM by visiting the office of the District & Sessions Judge, Attock.
- Open Auction will be conducted on 10-08-2024 (Saturday) at 11:00 AM in the office of the District and Sessions Judge, Attock.
- The bidder will be required to submit a pay order/demand draft of Rs 50,000/- as earnest money for each vehicle in favour of District and Sessions Judge, Attock one day before auction date in office hours, which will be returnable to unsuccessful bidders after 10 days of auction date. Without submission of pay order/demand draft no one can participate in the auction.
- The bidders must bring their CNIC at the time of auction and provide complete address/mobile number and attested copies of CNIC at the time of submission of earnest money.
- Vehicles will be sold only where the highest bid exceeds the reserve price.
- Successful bidder must deposit earnest money i.e. 100% cash amount of bid within three days along with all government taxes applicable (except already deposited pay order/demand draft). The delivery of vehicles will take place on full payment and if the successful bidder fails to deposit the bid amount within three days, his earnest money will be confiscated.
- Withholding Tax (10% from the bid and 20% from non-bid) on the bid amount and any other tax as per Government policy shall be charged as per prevailing rates.
- Successful bidders will be entitled to receive vehicles/documents etc subject to conforming approval of auction process by the Hon'ble Lahore High Court, Lahore, the final authority.
- The transfer of ownership of documents will be responsibility of the successful bidder and ownership of documents/vehicles must be transferred from concerned Motor Registration Authority within three days after approval of Hon'ble Lahore High Court, Lahore and CNIC will be returned after transfer of ownership of vehicles.
- The payment of outstanding taxes of vehicles will be responsibility of the successful bidder.
- Other details will be communicated at the time of auction.
- The Auction Committee/Competent Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with rule 33 of PPRJA Rules, 2014.

DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE / Chairman Auction Committee ATTOCK

PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR POULTRY FEEDS MANUFACTURERS / AUTHORIZED DEALERS

The bidding Documents are invited from poultry feed manufacturers / authorized dealers for all over the Punjab of registered poultry feed mills, under the Punjab Animal Feed Staff and Compound Feed Act 1916 for pre-qualification as per The Punjab Procurement Rules 2014 amended 2016 for the supply of approximately 300-00 bags each bag of 50 kg having estimated cost of Rs. 150.00 million to Government Poultry Farms on F.O.B. (freight on board basis located at Rawalpindi, Sanghoth, Multan, Sheikhpur, D.G.Khan, Dera, Gujrat, Attock, Muzaffar, Bahawalpur, Feroz, Chakranar (Shekhop), Governor House, Lahore and other Poultry Farms established during the financial year 2024-25 under the administrative control of Directorate of Poultry Research Institute, Rawalpindi in the form of Quoties and Bids. The good reputation, relevant experience, past performance, capabilities with respect to the feed plant, storage facilities, financial position and taxation documents shall be criteria of pre-qualification.

The interested poultry feed manufacturers / authorized dealers for all over the Punjab of feed mill are requested to apply for pre-qualification on the prescribed application form, obtainable from the office of Chief In-charge Bids, Poultry Research Institute, Rawalpindi on or before 05.08.2024 (non-refundable) on working days (Monday to Friday) during office hours (09:00 am to 05:00 pm).

Complete applications along with relevant documents will be received upto 25.7.2024 @ 11:00 a.m. which will be opened on the same day at 11:30 a.m. in presence of bidders or their representatives.

Note: Incomplete applications in any respect and applications received after due date & time will not be entertained.

DR. MUHAMMAD SAJJAD AHMED CHATTA, DIRECTOR, POULTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, RAWALPINDI. Ph: 051-9292182 / 03005674540

GOVERNMENT OF GILGIT-BALTISTAN OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER W&P DIVISION DIAMER

NO.EE-W&PAB/2023-24/21 Dated 09th July, 2024 NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Reference: This office notice EE-W&PAB/2023-24 dated 28th June, 2024

Technical and Financial Proposal for the work "Solarization of Public Sector Institution in Diamer Division" was scheduled to be opened on 16th July, 2024 at 2:30 PM is hereby extended and rescheduled on 26th July, 2024 at 2:30 PM due to Ashura holiday.

Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Engr. Habibullah Khan Executive Engineer Water & Power Division Diamer

LAHORE
Sunset 07:12 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:04 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 28.0°C
Maximum 35.0°C
Outlook Partly Cloudy
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 100



Djokovic gets free pass to Wimbledon semi-finals as Rybakina cruises

Pg.18 SPORT



LAHORE Waste Management Company staff trying to clear rainwater from Empress Road near Hajj camp. — White Star

CIA police bust 'biggest' drug trafficking gang of Punjab

Claim recovery of huge cache of narcotics

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), Lahore, claims to have busted an international drug trafficking ring allegedly involved in supplying narcotics to the elite class passengers across Punjab and smuggling the contraband abroad.

Talking to media persons here on Wednesday, Lahore CIA DIG Imran Kidwar said the network was "very dense, dangerous and well-connected". He said a CIA team headed by SP Farqan Bilal unearthed "the biggest drug supply gang in the history of Punjab" using modern information technology.

The suspects had named the network as 'speedy gang', the DIG said. Of the arrested suspects, Qamar Muzaffar was an Italian nationality holder, Amir Cheema alias 'Billa Spontini' and Imran Butt alias 'Speedy' were UK nationals, while the others were identified as Hassan Hussain, Malik Wasim, Fahim Razaq etc.

The police arrested the suspects from Bahria Town, Carr, Barki and Radian Road of the Defence Housing Authority (DHA).

Husband publicly tortures TV anchorperson

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A TV show host, Ayasha Jahanzeb, was allegedly subjected to torture and humiliation in public by her husband on Wednesday.

She said that on Wednesday her husband again subjected her to severe torture on the main stage of her residence in the presence of neighbours, besides abusing her.

'Awami' assembly session Bhachar wants PA speaker to specify open space

By Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan Bhachar has formally requested the Punjab Assembly speaker to allocate space in the open air for installation of a tent on the premises of the Punjab Assembly.

After the formal proposal, Mr Bhachar said the speaker responded "I'll support MIPAs without any restriction, investigation or due process, thereby shattering to pieces all applicable constitutional guarantees and parliamentary traditions."

Her husband, Harris Ali, was arrested by Karwar Road police after the anchorperson appeared before the police with bruises and torture marks on her face and other body parts, soon after the alleged torture incident.

Speaking to Saman TV, where she hosts a show, she said it was the fourth incident of her physical torture by Harris during the current year, adding that she did not go public about the issue only for the sake of her children.

In a letter written to the Punjab Assembly speaker, Mr Bhachar stated that the opposition benches had on June 28 organised a peaceful and unarmed protest against the 'brutality' meted out by the government to the PTI workers and calling for the release of party's founder chairman Imran Khan.

The opposition leader said the speaker's "undemocratic" and "non-serious" behaviour had not only paralysed the working of the opposition, but also impaired the performance of 107 members elected by millions of people of Punjab.

The police obtained Thursday physical remand of the suspect and started investigations into the violence case lodged against him by Ms Jahanzeb.

Meanwhile, she said, her driver Akhtar and an electrician, Akhbar Rehman, managed to rescue her. The suspect left the house when more neighbours at street gathering there, she added.

However, he alleged, the treasury "on the instructions of the so-called leader of the House", his Opposition Chamber was locked and staff called back. "Yes, as custodian of the entire House, remained a helpless bystander, demonstrating your complete failure and inability to restrain this high-handedness, which has been unprecedented, not just in the history of the Punjab Assembly, but that of all national and provincial houses across Pakistan," he said.

Mr Bhachar said the speaker suspended 11 opposition MIPAs without any notice, investigation or due process, thereby shattering to pieces all applicable constitutional guarantees and parliamentary traditions.

She stated that Harris kept on treating her harshly even in front of her minor daughters, adding that a few days back he badly thrashed her, pulling her hair and kicking her.

She revealed that the suspect had also divorced her secretly. About reasons for her husband's abusive and violent behaviour, anchorperson Mansoor Ali Khan, speaking on behalf of Ms Jahanzeb, said Harris, who is a Sargodha-based businessman, had divorced her.

Mr Bhachar said the speaker suspended 11 opposition MIPAs without any notice, investigation or due process, thereby shattering to pieces all applicable constitutional guarantees and parliamentary traditions.

Mr Bhachar stated that the speaker might be facing pressure but it would be clear

Public schools outperform private institutions

By Imran Qabool

LAHORE: Public schools have outperformed their private counterparts in the 2024 matriculation examinations across Punjab.

boys achieving 78.47pc and girls outperforming with 87.07pc.

with 76,805 passing (82.08pc) in Faisalabad, 146,651 students appeared, with 122,811 passing (83.79pc), in Durgamwala, 211,927 students appeared, with 148,318 passing (70.08pc); in Lahore, 250,227 students appeared, with 174,537 passing (69.75pc); in Multan, 125,896 students appeared, with 98,955 passing (78.69pc); in Rawalpindi, 319,265 students appeared, with 252,629 passing (79.14pc); in Sahiwal, 73,159 students appeared, with 53,206 passing (72.73pc); and in Sargodha, 96,993 students appeared, with 75,273 passing (77.61pc).



CHIEF Minister Maryam Nawaz gives away a prize to a student as she hosted an event for position holders in matric exams.

A total of 1.2 million students appeared for the annual examination, with 929,238 passing, yielding a pass percentage of 75.88.

Private school candidates in the science group included 76,303 boys and 86,980 girls. The pass rate for private school students was 68.47pc, with boys at 67.98pc and girls at 78.94pc.

A spokesperson for the Punjab School Education Department (PSED) stated that the result highlighted a significant achievement for public schools, demonstrating their capability to deliver quality education and produce better academic outcomes compared to private institutions.

In detail, 655,867 regular candidates from public schools participated in the science group, and 101,249 in the humanities group, compared to 863,203 candidates in science and 17,648 in the humanities group from private schools.

In the humanities group, 15,609 boys and 85,640 girls from public schools took the exam. The pass rate for public school students was 67.89pc, with boys at 55.98pc and girls at 73.81pc. Private schools had 12,754 boys and 24,894 girls in the humanities group, with a pass rate of 47.96pc, boys achieving 38.54pc and girls 57.18pc.

Among regular candidates in the science group, there were 314,173 boys and 341,694 girls. Public school students in this group had pass rate of 82.16pc, with

Zardari chairs meet to discuss PPP organisation, ties with PML-N

LAHORE: A meeting of the Punjab leadership of the Pakistan People's Party was held here on Wednesday under the chair of President Asif Ali Zardari.

The meeting, convened at Bilawal House after a dinner hosted by President Zardari for PPP parliamentarians and ticket-holders from Punjab, was attended by Governor Saleem Hader, former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Gamar Zaman Kaira and Syed Hassan Muraza, among others.

Punjab Information Secretary Shohzad Cheema told reporters during a break in the meeting that the gathering mostly focused on party re-organisation matters, while relations with the ruling PML-N also came under discussion. He would not elaborate on the focus in the sea between the PPP and PML-N but said President Zardari informed the participants about the difficulties facing the country and the party, assuring the audience that the issues would be resolved shortly.

He said that the no-show by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to receive President Zardari at Lahore airport upon his arrival in the city did not figure in the discussion because, he said, the party did not focus on such party issues.

Regarding the recent federal cabinet decision to allow a premier intelligence agency to tap phone calls of suspects, Mr Cheema said that earlier the practice was carried out illegally, whereas now it has been brought under the ambit of the law. However, he said that the PPP has consistently been against tapping phone calls of citizens.

— Staff Reporter

Dairy employee tests positive for Congo virus

By Our Correspondent

MIANWALI: A dairy farm staffer has tested positive for Congo virus here.

Muhammad Asif, an employee at a dairy farm in the Qamar-Mushari area of Bahawalpur, had been experiencing a constant fever. Despite taking medication prescribed by local doctors, his condition did not improve, and he was eventually referred to the Mianwali DHQ Hospital.

Medical tests at the DHQ hospital confirmed Asif was positive for the Congo virus. Owing to the lack of appropriate treatment facilities in Mianwali, he was transferred to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad.

Upon receiving the information, Mianwali Deputy Commissioner Khalid Javed Gerojo directed the health assistant commissioner to close slaughterhouses and cattle markets for two weeks.

The DC also banned the transportation of animals from Mianwali to other districts for two weeks to mitigate the threat of the virus.

The DC ordered the livestock department to conduct immediate anti-virus spraying in the affected area and to check the animals there. He also directed the health department to take samples from people in the affected area.

Polish cyclist injured in accident

By Our Correspondent

RAHM YAR KHAN: A Polish cyclist on a tour to Pakistan was injured when a truck hit his cycle rickshaw from behind on the national highway near Khanbela in Lajpatpur tehsil, about 90km from here, on Tuesday.

Reports said Polish cyclist Rupuniewski was travelling from Lahore to Karachi on his cycle rickshaw. Near Taj Filling Station, Jarpur, a truck collided with his three-wheeler as a result Rupuniewski sustained minor injuries to his foot, knee, and arm, and his cycle rickshaw was also damaged.

Police shifted him to Khanbela Rural Health Centre (RHC).

Dr Darwesh, in-charge at RHC, told Dawn that Rupuniewski was brought to the health facility at 7am. After receiving necessary first aid and an MLC report, he was discharged at 8am.

Dr Darwesh confirmed that Rupuniewski was stable at the time of his departure. Rupuniewski had been travelling on the national highway in a cycle rickshaw covered with a plastic sheet and wooden hood and equipped with an ventilator. He mostly travelled at night to avoid the scorching heat.

24 booked for 'attacking police, freeing drug seller'

By Our Correspondent

SAHIWAL: Dera Sahib police on Wednesday booked 24 persons, including seven unidentified women, for allegedly attacking a police party which attempted to arrest a drug trafficker at 99/9-1, village in Chichawatni taluka.

According to police, a team conducted a raid on a premises at the village after receiving a tip-off that Javed and his accomplices were selling hashish at his outhouse.

The raiding team captured Javed, but as they were shifting him into a police mobile van, a group of village residents, including the suspect's family members, attacked them.

The police say the attackers resorted to aerial firing, pelting them with stones and hit the policemen with bamboo and sticks for around 40 minutes, freeing the alleged drug seller.

They say the attackers injured two of the policemen, Hans Hussain and

Sarfaraz, snatching official weapons of the latter, and resorted to aerial firing. The police say the attack also included women, who allegedly pelted the policemen and police vehicles with stones, smashing the windshields of two mobile vans.

The attackers managed to escape, taking Javed along. The police later booked 24 suspects, including Hassan, Shah Muhammad, Hans, Shaukat, Zafar, Shahzad, Asif, Jirani, Mural and Asim.

The police claimed to have recovered 420 grams of hashish from Javed's pocket, and a drug sample has been sent for analysis.

The police charged the main suspect, Javed, along with others, under sections 24, 295, 440, 506B, 440, 353, 186, 224, 225, 188 and 149, of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), section 7 of Anti Terrorism Act, and Section 9 of The Control of Narcotic Substances Act 1997, on the complaint of Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Muhammad Arain of Chowki Sherahi Moh.

NHMP seeks shifting of passport office

By Wassam Ashraf Butt

GUJRAT: The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) demands shifting of the regional passport office from the GT Road as it has become a major cause of traffic jams on the thoroughfare.

According to a letter written by the regional head of the NHMP to the authorities and local administration, at least 1,500 to 2,000 people visit the passport office daily and they often park their cars and motorcycles on the green belt of the GT Road. Moreover, these visitors sit on both sides of the median as well as on the greenbelt which hinders the flow of traffic at that point.

The letter adds that there is no parking space available for the visitors while the queue of applicants also reaches the GT Road.

A senior official of the NHMP told Dawn that the issue has been brought into the notice of the passport office many times in the past but to no avail.

He says now the NHMP has sent a letter to the DC to shift the passport office to any other suitable site.

It is pertinent to mention that the current building of the passport office is owned by the federal government's Directorate General of Immigration and Passports Islamabad and the office was established more than a decade ago.

NEWBORN KIDNAPPED: A newborn girl was kidnapped by an unidentified



woman from the Aziz Bhutti Shalveed Teaching Hospital (ASTH) on Tuesday. Iqra Shabbir Bhutti, a resident of Shalveed Road, had given birth to a baby girl through C-section late on Monday night and her sister-in-law was present along her as an attendant in the ward.

An unidentified woman proceeding to

be an attendant of another patient engaged her in talk and developed closeness. She asked her to sleep since she was attending her sister as well as the baby for long hours.

When Iqra's sister-in-law woke up at around 4:15am, she found her niece missing from the bed. She reported the matter to the staff concerned of the

hospital. Police registered a case against unidentified suspect on report of Shabbir Bhutti, the father of the kidnapped baby.

A spokesman for Gujrat police said District Police Officer Muhammad Anis Bajwa had taken notice of the incident and constituted a team to trace the kidnapper.

Woman kills minor nephew over children's fight

By Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARGARH: Police arrested on Wednesday a woman who allegedly strangled her five-year-old nephew to death and then dumped his body in a box to conceal her crime at Bari Darigh of Rohatnawali town.

According to police, the woman has confessed to have killed the child over a fight among the children.

According to the victim, Tabir's father, Shahid, his son had gone missing while playing in the street near his house on Tuesday.

After failing to find the child, the family reported

the matter to Rohatnawali police, and lodged a kidnapping case against unknown persons.

However, when police launched a search operation in the village and over suspicion interrogated Tabir's aunt Nadia Bibi, she confessed her crime.

As per police, Nadia said that Tabir beat her children, which strangled her and she strangled him to death. In conceal her crime, the suspect dumped the child's body in a box in her house.

The police, after recovering the body, shifted it to hospital for the post-mortem examination.

The police added section 302 to the kidnapping FIR.

Woman shoots husband, then herself

By Our Correspondent

TORA TEK SINGH: A woman shot at and injured her husband before taking her own life in Golden Hill Town of Faisalabad on Wednesday.

Reports said Dil Azeem, 25, and her husband Muhammad Azeem, 27, quarrelled over an issue.

According to D-Type Colony police, the woman first fired at her husband and then shot herself. Both were seriously injured. The woman died instantly, while her husband was shifted to the DHO hospital.

ENROUTE: Two brothers, worried by Faisalabad police, were killed in a shooting in Vehari's Karampur area of Maudia on Wednesday.

Faisalabad Saddar DSP Wassam Faraz was wounded in the crossfire and shifted to the Vehari DHO hospital.

The police raided the area to arrest the outlaws, Waqas Shah and Gulam Shah, who were wanted for multiple crimes in Faisalabad's Khushian Warrachan locality.

The police said they conducted the raid in Vehari district and both Waqas and Gulam were killed, while DSP Faraz was injured by the bullets fired by the outlaws' accomplices.

The deceased were proclaimed offenders involved in several robberies,

murders, and extortion cases. **HILD:** Gujrat City police arrested the alleged killers of lawyer Irfan Nazam on Wednesday.

Nazam was shot dead on April 16 on Pirbright Road in Gujrat.

A police spokesperson said that police arrested Shamsul, Hanzeb and Amir who had a dispute with the deceased over a plot, which led to an argument and the subsequent murder.

SIBINAI: A seminar on the 'Prevention of HIV and provision of social medical facilities' was organised by the Citizens Social Welfare Foundation (CSWF), a member of the Franchise Protection Network, in cooperation with the Good Thinkers Organisation on Wednesday. Speakers said it was the fundamental right of the transgender community to receive healthcare without discrimination, saying that they often face hatred, abuse and neglect, especially if they are HIV patients.

Population Welfare Department Deputy Director Mian Muhammad Nazam said there was need for educational and training programmes to eliminate discrimination against HIV patients.

Dr Hira Angbar said that HIV is transmitted through sexual contact, direct contact with contaminated blood and from mother to child during pregnancy.

10 cows die, as many others critical after grazing on 'toxic' grass

By Our Correspondent

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Ten cows belonging to a shepherd died and as many others were in a critical condition allegedly after grazing on 'poisonous' grass irrigated with chemically contaminated water released by a nearby fertilizer plant on Wednesday.

According to shepherd Akhbar Shakkor Boker, he went to a field to cut grass for his herd of cows near the fertilizer plant at Markhorpur near Gurb Nudki in tehsil Sadqabad. After feeding the grass to his cows, more than 20 of them started moving, with 10 dying quickly and as many others in a critical condition.

Bohar said the residents disposed of the deceased cows in a nearby canal to prevent the spread of contamination to other healthy cows. He estimated the loss of his cows at Rs1 million.

Bohar said when he along with his neighbours protested over the loss, Deputy Commissioner Khuram Farooq took notice of the incident.

Officials from the livestock department visited the site but returned without taking blood samples or conducting post-mortem examination of the dead cows.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner Khuram Farooq and Sadqabad Assistant Commissioner Hamid did not respond to calls.

Husband publicly...

Continued from Page 13

a huge amount from her, but was not ready to return it. He further said the accused was pressing her to move to Sargodha, but she told him that she could not do so because of her profession.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken

notice of the torture incident and sought a report from Punjab IGP in this regard.

The CM ordered provision of the best available medical treatment to the injured and her arrest. "Women are my red line; any sort of torture or working women will not be tolerated," she added.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT POLICE OFFICER, KASUR TENDER NOTICE

Office of the District Police Officer Kasur invites sealed tenders in spirit of the Punjab Procurement Rules, 2014 (upto date) from well-reputed firms having previous experience as well as registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments for purchase of following Misc. Items on the below mentioned details & terms and conditions. Tender closing date on (Tuesday) 12.08.2024 at 11.00 AM. Tenders would be opened on (Tuesday) 13-8-2024 at 11:00 am in presence of bidders in the office of District Police Officer, Kasur. The same will not be accepted after due date and time.

The details of specifications and tender documents can be obtained against a written request from the office of aforementioned address on any working day during office hours.

DETAIL OF ITEMS				
Sr. No.	Name of Article	Estimated Cost (in Million)	Bid Security % of Estimated Cost	Tender Fee in Rs.
1.	Office Stationery	5 Million	10000	10000
2.	Computer Stationery	3 Million	40000	10000
3.	Printer	2 Million	40000	10000
4.	Spots	0.5 Million	10000	10000
5.	Hot & Cold	0.5 Million	10000	10000
6.	Other / Miscellaneous	7 Million	140000	10000
7.	Cost of Office Stationery	1 Million	20000	10000
8.	Electronic Communications	1.5 Million	30000	10000
9.	Transport (Repair & Maintenance)	20 Million	400000	10000
10.	Lubricants	5 Million	100000	10000
11.	Batteries & Boxes	0.5 Million	10000	10000
12.	Batteries & Boxes	0.5 Million	10000	10000
13.	Hardware & IT Equipment	0.3 Million	6000	10000
14.	Food & Machinery	5 Million	100000	10000
15.	Furniture & Machinery	4 Million	80000	10000
16.	Furniture & Fixture (Repair & Maintenance)	1 Million	20000	10000
17.	Other Buildings (Repair & Maintenance)	15 Million	300000	10000
18.	Power Safety & Campaign	1 Million	2000	10000
Total Estimated Amount in Rupees		7,38,20,000/-	1470000	
Total Estimated Amount in Million		73.82	1.47	

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Each bid shall comprise a single stage two envelopes as under:
 - TECHNICAL PROPOSAL:** (Detail of items on the firm's letterhead along with bidding documents).
 - FINANCIAL PROPOSAL:** (Rate of each item including all taxes, charges, whatsoever, on the firm's letterhead along with earnest money).
- Note: (The envelopes should be marked in bold letters as "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" and "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL").
- Technical proposals will be opened on 12.08.2024, while Financial Proposals shall remain in sealed form in the custody of the undersigned and would be opened after receipt after technical report in presence of qualified bidders.
- The technically qualified lowest bid would be accepted.
- The Financial proposal of bids found technically unacceptable shall be returned unopened to the respective bidders.
- The bidders have to bring their samples of each item at the time of opening the tender otherwise the offer shall be rejected.
- Tender document fee Rs. 1000/- of each bid (non-refundable) will be charged.
- The bidders shall submit 40% bid security or the value of total estimated amount of the bid as mentioned above with Financial Proposals in shape of CGR/Play Order/Bank Draft (Cheque not acceptable) or any intimated Bank in favor of District Police Officer, Kasur.
- In case of non-acceptance of tender the earnest money will be refunded after finalisation of tender.
- The District Police Officer, Kasur reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals in line with rule 35 of PPRR 2014 (amended upto date).
- All tender process will be completed according to PPRR Rules 2014 (amended upto date).
- The Terms and Conditional of rates will be applicable till 30.06.2025.

ACCOUNTANT
(S/PAO) **(MUHAMMAD USHA KHAN, PSP District Police Officer, Kasur)**
IP, 4903

TENDER NOTICE

- Sealed tenders are invited based on firm rates against manual rate system (MRS) Bi-annual period 1st January 2024 to 30.06.2024. District Government and sealed from the approved contractors of Irrigation Department who have got their names / firms entered / renewed in the appropriate category for the current financial year 2024-2025.
- Bidding documents can be purchased from office of Executive Engineer, Raichina Drainage Division, Sheikhpura during office hours of non-refundable cost Rs. 5000/- upto 26.07.2024. No bidding document will be sold on the date of receipt of tender. The bidding documents except those purchased from the above mentioned offices will be entertained or accepted.
- The tenders on Form I.R. 188 will be received by the tender opening committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Engineer, Irrigation Lahore Zone Lahore on 27.07.2024 at 12:30 pm in the office of Superintending Engineer Lahore Drainage Canal Lahore (Canal Dams Charanpur). The tenders will also be opened by the tender opening committee on the same date at 02:00 pm in presence of contractors or their authorized representatives who are to remain present at the occasion.
- The contractors / firms who desire to obtain bidding documents shall have to produce the documents to the Executive Engineer, Raichina Drainage Division, Sheikhpura regarding approval / renewal of their names with Irrigation Department and Pakistan Engineering Council for the current financial year 2024-2025. Government receipts for payment of professional fee, affidavit / renewed fees, registration with Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) for the year 2024-2025, CNIC, Original authority letter in case of representative etc to his entire satisfaction with copy of all documents duly attested by the gazetted officer, the Executive Engineer, Raichina Drainage Division. Bidders should issue the bidding documents after verification of all documents.
- The contractors / firms who desire to obtain the bidding documents shall have to produce the CGR from the scheduled terms of prescribed amount. In absence of CGR no bidding documents will be issued.
- All the bidders should satisfy themselves about site location, prevailing conditions at site and its accessibility because successful bidder will have to mobilize to site immediately after issue of acceptance letter from the office of the Executive Engineer, Raichina Drainage Division, Sheikhpura.
- The bidding documents must be delivered by intending bidders in person or through their authorized agents to the tender opening committee in sealed envelope. Any bidding documents received by post shall not be entertained.
- Conditional, incomplete and overwritten tenders submitted by bidders will be liable to be rejected.
- The tender opening committee may reject all tenders at any time prior to the acceptance of the tender. The tender opening committee shall upon request communicate to any bidder, the grounds for rejection of the tenders, but shall not be required to justify those grounds as per PPRR rules.
- Bid security / earnest money as per PPRR clause 27 or 40% of the estimated cost as specified work in shape of deposit of cash drawn in favor of Executive Engineer, Raichina Drainage Division, Sheikhpura from any scheduled bank must accompany the bidding documents, failing which the bidding documents will not be entertained.
- The successful bidder will have to execute the agreement with the Executive Engineer, Raichina Drainage Division, Sheikhpura within seven days of issuance of acceptance letter.
- In case the tender amount is less than 5% of the approved estimated amount the lowest bidder will have to deposit additional performance security as per notification vide PD No. PD (Tech) PD/T-2083 VI (P) dated, 06th April 2008 prescribed therein.
- The work will be executed according to the specification and designs / drawings approved by the competent authority.
- The contractor will establish any type of material testing equipment for all type of material tests etc. In case of failure, the contractor will be responsible to bear the cost of testing material from the required sources / laboratories.
- In case of any dispute, the case will be referred to the Superintending Engineer, Lahore Drainage Circle, Lahore whose decision will be final and binding on both the parties.
- The payment will be made according to the actual work done subject to the clearance by the consultants, departmental committee or any other agency and subject to availability of funds.
- The contractor will have no right to claim any interest on account of delay in making payment for work done because of non-availability of funds and in time.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	T.S. Estimated CE, Int. L/R No. Date	Cost	Earned 40% of Estimated Cost	Completion Period
1.	Protection of Abadi, Public Property, Ghannayal Village (Sohayri) to Mehraipur RD: 437-500 to 418-843 on Main Dug. Nudki	No. 1014/Vol/2024/ LRP/21/24/16084-88/72384 Dated: 05-07-2024	88,572 (Amount)	4,500 (Amount)	30-Days
2.	Protection of Abadi, Public Property, Ghannayal, School of Village Nudki to Ghannayal Bazar: PD: 400-000 to 407-000 on Main Dug. Nudki	No. 1014/Vol/2024/ LRP/20/24/16084-88/72384 Dated: 05-07-2024	88,807 (Amount)	4,542 (Amount)	30-Days

Executive Engineer
Rachina Drainage Division
Sheikhpura
(S/PAO) **IP, 4526**

Power Information Technology Company
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited from potential dealing firms for the "ANNUAL INSURANCE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS OF SERVERS, PRINTERS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT".

Both Technical and Financial bids shall be received up to 24-07-2024 at 11:00am and opened on 24-07-2024 at 11:30am at PTC Conference Room Lower Ground Building-B Awan-Ispat, Edgemoor Road, Lahore.

Tender Fee Rs. 3,000/- will be deposit in PTC office 401, NAPQA House Lahore.

Please download Tender Document with all details from www.ptc.com.pk and www.ppta.org.pk websites.

For any further clarification please contact Director General (2023) % No. 042-99202956, 042-99202311 Fax: 2116 during office hours.

CEO PTC, 401-NAPQA House, Lahore

METRO

North



Djokovic gets free pass to Wimbledon semi-finals as Rybakina cruises

PESHAWAR
Sunset 07:29pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:08am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 29°C
Maximum 37°C
Outlook Sunny



A CONTROL room has been set up at Kohat checkpoint in Peshawar to monitor routes of mourning processions during Muharram. — White Star

Entry of heavy vehicles to Hayatabad banned

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar district administration on Wednesday resolved the dispute between the Hayatabad residents and industrialist association over entry of heavy vehicles to the city's upscale neighbourhood.
The development came during a meeting chaired by Peshawar division commissioner Riaz Khan Mehsud.
Peshawar Development Authority's director general Khalid Mehmood, Hayatabad Industrialist Association president Ghaznafar Bhatti and other relevant officials were also in attendance.
Earlier, PDA had banned the entry of heavy trucks into the neighbourhood following the local residents' complaints. However, the industrialist association announced to protest the restriction.
The meeting decided that the entry of heavy vehicles would not be allowed in the residential areas of Hayatabad. However, it directed the PDA to designate an alternate route for the heavy vehicles coming and going to industrial estate.
Mr Mehsud directed the relevant authorities that heavy trucks should proceed to the Industry Road from the detour road next to the Ring Road.
The commissioner also set up a monitoring committee with representation from industrialist association and local residents for finding a permanent resolution to the issue.
Earlier on Tuesday, on behalf of Hayatabad residents, Good Governance Forum had also opposed the entry of heavy vehicles into the neighbourhood.
In a statement issued here, the forum said "Allowing entry via Hayatabad to heavy loaded vehicles would not only cause nuisance to residents but they will also damage the roads inside the township. Traffic jams would become a daily occurrence, which would further ruin the aesthetic side of a well-planned township."
The residents had threatened that in case the entry of heavy vehicles was not banned, they would launch an organised campaign, and would also move a writ petition in court for enforcement of their fundamental right of enjoying peaceful life.

Two killed, 36 injured as rain, windstorm lash Bannu, Kohat, Waziristan

Official says emergency declared in all Bannu hospitals

Down Report

LAKKI MARWAT/SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Two people were killed and 36 others were injured when heavy downpour and windstorms lashed Bannu, Kohat and South Waziristan on Wednesday, rescue and administrative officials said.
A Bannu administrative official said two bodies were brought to the District Headquarters Hospital, who were identified as Khosroza Bibi, 60, and Tanzeer Khan, 18. He said the woman died in Golladar area, and the boy in Buzan Mithankhel area in roof collapse incidents as the first spell of monsoon rains coupled with strong winds wreaked havoc in the district.
The official said an emergency was

declared in all major hospitals and doctors and paramedics were called on duty.
He said at least 31 injured, including women and children, were also brought to hospitals from different areas.
He said the teams of Water and Sanitation Services Company, municipal bodies, Rescue 1122 and other relevant departments had been put dispatched to the affected areas to carry out rescue and relief activities.
Local residents said heavy downpour with strong winds flooded streets and roofs, forcing people to stay indoors. They said the strong winds damaged rooftop solar panels and uprooted trees. Boundary walls and roofs of houses collapsed.
A video clip circulating on social media showed debris of a big car shed lying on the premises of the District Headquarters Hospital and on the De Khan Road, and ambulances bringing the injured to the hospital.
Several cars and motorcycles parked under the shed were damaged.
A rescue official said that incidents of

roof and wall collapse were reported from different parts of the district.
He said four students were injured when roof of a primary school in Kot Pasha village of Ghazniwala town.
He identified the injured as Qudus, 15, Hakim, 9, Aayan, 7, and Mehraly, 10, who had been shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital.
Bannu deputy commissioner Shah Saraf visited the DHO Hospital to enquire after the wounded people and check availability of doctors and essential medicines.
He told journalists that special instructions were issued to the hospital's management to ensure presence of all relevant staff and provide standard medical facilities to the injured persons. The deputy commissioner said that sufficient medicines were available in all hospitals and health facilities across the district.
He said that on the directives of divisional commissioner Parveen Sabir, his administration was closely monitoring the situation and that the affected residents would be provided all sorts of

relief at their doorstep.
Meanwhile, three people, including a woman, were seriously injured when boundary wall of a mosque fell on an adjacent house in Mansoor area of Lachi tehsil of Kohat during a windstorm.
Rescue 1122 officials said that after getting the distress call from the control room they reached the spot and provided first aid to the injured after recovering them from the debris. The injured were identified as Ms Abeer, 32, Faad Kubson, 45, and Riaz, 21.
Rescue officials said that Subhan was referred to a Peshawar hospital in precarious condition.
In Lower South Waziristan district, a girl and a woman got injuries when roof of a room of their house collapsed in Noshad Wachabi area of Birmal tehsil during heavy rain.
The injured, identified as Nadia and Almasa Bibi, were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital, Wana. The local residents rushed to the spot and retrieved the injured from under the debris.

Lakki police officials suspended over links with outlaws

By Our Correspondent

LAKKI MARWAT: District police officer Taimur Khan on Wednesday suspended 12 policemen, including a sub-inspector, over links with criminals.
An official said that the suspended officials had been directed to report to the police lines immediately.
"The suspended officials included SHO Sub-Inspector Ghaznafar, head constables Syed Ali, lower head constables Gyyrum and Mohsin, detective foot constable Khalid Raza, foot constable Iftakharullah and wireless operator Mr Qasim Khan," the official said.
He said that five gunners of former SHO Shahzadullah (already suspended and closed in the police lines) were also among the suspended officials. They included constables Barkatullah, Nuroza, Shaqif, Riaz and Amanat.
The official said that the charge sheet and summary of allegations would be issued to the suspended cops separately.

PTI, ANP candidates front-runners in Bajaur by-election

23 polling stations declared most sensitive

By Our Correspondent

BAJAUR: A tough contest is expected between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Awami National Party candidates in the by-election on PK-22 constituency being held here on Thursday (today).
Political observers said though there were total 12 aspirants in the race for the by-election PTI-backed Kabatulab Khan and Nisar Khan of ANP were the front-runners. They said Ahsan Khan of Jamaat-e-Islami JI

also had "strong" position.
Observers said earlier, Ahsan Khan and Nisar Khan were believed to be the favourites as the PTI nominee also faced opposition from his own party's disgruntled figures as three senior party workers were contesting as independent candidates.
However, withdrawal of the independent, Mian Habib Gul, from the election race, strengthened Kabatulab's position.
On the other hand, political observers said that the position of independent candidates, Najeebullah Khan, who was expected to get the sympathy vote after the killing of his uncle - former Senator Hadyarullah Khan - in a bomb blast last week, was still weak compared to his competitors.
Observers said though people

across the district showed their anguish over the killing of former senator, they would not vote for Najeebullah, the elder son of former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governor Eng Shaukatullah Khan, mainly owing to his "lack of acceptance" among the people, especially youth.
Meanwhile, the local authorities on Wednesday declared 23 polling stations as the most sensitive.
Talking to Dawn on Wednesday, deputy commissioner Muhammad Anwarul Haq vowed to ensure free, fair, transparent and peaceful conduct of the by-election.
Mr Haq, who is also the district returning officer, said a total of 39 polling stations had been established in the constituency, out of which, 43 had been

declared sensitive, and 23 most sensitive.
He said all the most sensitive and sensitive polling stations were located in mountainous localities, where special security arrangements had been made to conduct the polling process in peaceful manner.
Mr Haq said that besides policemen, Frontier Corps personnel had also been deployed outside all the most sensitive and sensitive polling stations to avoid any unpleasant incident.
He said that CCTV cameras had been installed at the highly sensitive polling stations to prevent any attempt of sabotage.
The DRO said that election material and staff had been dispatched to their respective polling stations through specially arranged transport and tight

security on Wednesday afternoon.
Meanwhile, a statement issued from the district police officer's office said 1,300 policemen would perform duty at the polling stations across the constituency, which is said to be the largest among all the four provincial assembly constituencies of the district both in size and population.
According to local election commission officials, 12 candidates are taking part in the by-election on PK-22, which fell vacant after Mahabub Zeb Khan, who also was the NA-8 in the April 21 by-election, vacated it.
They said the total number of registered voters in the constituency was 67,910, including 75,972 women.

Dept plans to phase out outdated buses of private schools

Asks educational institutions to present those vehicles for inspection

By Marzoor Ali

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa transport department has set the July 31 deadline for private schools in the province to present their buses for inspection at the office of the district motor vehicle examiners, insisting the move is meant to phase-out outdated vehicles.
The decision about the ultimatum was made during a meeting chaired by provincial transport director Ahmed Kamal.

The meeting was called to discuss a proposal to scrap private school buses of old models, reveal its minutes, a copy of which is available with Dawn.
The meeting decided that the Private School Regulatory Authority would issue final notice of 21 days with the deadline of July 31, 2024, to privately-owned educational institutions across the province to produce their buses along with the relevant documents, including registration book and previous fitness certificates, if any, for inspection at the offices of motor vehicle examiners and vehicle emission testing stations in the respective districts.
After inspection, fitness certificate and pollution control certificate will be issued to the vehicles found to be roadworthy and mechanically fit. If vehicles are found to be unfit, they

will be declared condemned and will not be allowed to ply the roads, according to the minutes.
They also resolved that after the expiry of that deadline and on the non-production of school vehicles for checking, the directorate of transport along with the district administration and traffic police would carry out a crackdown on unfit vehicles of private educational institutions in line with the decision of the department.
Transport director Kamal Ahmed said Dawn that the decision to phase out rickety buses was meant to address the issue of poor air quality.
He said that the transport sector had 58 per cent share in carbon dioxide emissions, while the matter was also related to the safety of children using outdated school buses, as the department was banning such

vehicles on a priority basis.
"These [unfit] buses are safety, emission and congestion hazards and therefore, the transport department wants to ban them from plying the road," he said.
Official documents available with Dawn show that actually, the department had decided in December 2021 to ban the private school buses registered before Dec 300 or with the model year of 2005.
According to them, the grace period of one month was granted to private educational institutions to replace those buses to ensure the "safety of schoolchildren as well as the society at large."
In Jan 2022, the transport department decided that private educational institutions would share the details of their vehicles and drivers with it for examinations.

"After reviewing the documents, the department will decide whether to issue fitness certificates to the vehicles or condemn them," a document said.
It, however, added that the private educational institutions failed to provide any document to the transport department by that deadline.
The department held another meeting on the matter the same month and decided that the private educational institutions would present their vehicles before motor vehicle examiners for inspection, but the former again didn't do so.
On June 5, 2022, the issue came under discussion in another meeting, which decided that the final notice of 15 days would be issued to private schools and colleges to present their buses for inspection.
"The transport department along

with traffic police and district administration will issue a schedule of visits, preferably on Sunday, and will inspect vehicles on educational institutions premises and all vehicles found unfit will be confiscated," the document revealed.
It added that the transport department would approach the engine and taxation department for the cancellation of registration of the vehicles found to be unfit for use, under the Motor Vehicle Ordinance, 1965.
An official privy to the matter told Dawn that educational institutions didn't present buses for inspection in 2022 and later after the arrival of the caretakers and due to the political uncertainty, the matter remained in the cold storage.
He said that around 1500 such vehicles were operated by educational institutions across the province.

Fazl supports fight against terrorism

Says people affected by past military actions still await rehabilitation

By Our Correspondent

ISHERA ISMAIL KHAN Jamia Uloom-ul-Islam (J) chief Maulana Faruk Rehman has said that he is with the state to deal with terrorism as it is a requirement of his faith according to the constitution, but his party does not recognise government's decision against those who are fighting for their rights.

He said this while talking to Dawn on Wednesday, after attending a function, organized by a local literary organization at the residence of former provincial minister Saadul Hameed Khan Qasriya.

Maulana Fazl said that he was under criticism for his clear and principled stand.

"We have not been given the opportunity of election campaign and contact with the people," he said, adding that he is against the government's policies of dealing with those who demand their rights.

Fazl said that as a result of the operations, carried out earlier to end terrorism and establish peace, a large number of people had to migrate and they became homeless, but they still could not get any help towards their rehabilitation.

"We have to plan about dealing with terrorism in our country, but we have to differentiate between forces involved in terrorism and militancy, and those who struggle politically for the sake of genuine rights," he stressed.

When asked, he said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had to decide about the matter of reserved seats.

Referring to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said that how a party could demand to get reserved seats if it had not participated in the elections.

"A resolution related to the rigging in Pakistan's general elections had passed in the UN Congress and the US representative spoke about May 9 mayhem, and it was not a concerning issue, rather a normal one," he maintained.

He added that resolutions against other countries were passed in parliaments of many countries; likewise a resolution against Israel had also been passed in the United Nations.

Fazl stressed that our country's policies including foreign and interior should be free and independent.

He also said that JUI-F was against sectarianism and there was peace and tranquility in DI Khan. Later, Maulana Faruk Rehman offered condolences to former provincial minister Saadul Hameed Khan Qasriya on the death of his young nephew Abdul Haq Qasriya.



CLOUDS hover over Peshawar on Wednesday. — White Star

PHC stays probe into 'circumvention' of anti-dumping duty

Paperboard importer requests court to declare NTC notice to him illegal

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has issued a stay order, temporarily stopping the National Tariff Commission (NTC) from probing the alleged circumvention of anti-dumping duty on Chinese imported coated bleached paperboard.

A bench consisting of Justice Neel Arshad Ali and Justice Dr Khurshid Iqbal issued a notice to the NTC, seeking its response to a petition on the matter within a fortnight, and put off the next hearing until July 24.

Petitioner Nisar Ahmad, an importer of that paperboard, challenged the May 4 notice of the NTC, which initiated an

anti-circumvention investigation into the alleged evasion of anti-dumping duties on imports of coated bleached paperboard from China.

Barrister Qasim Wajid appeared for him and said his client dealt in paper, paperboard and related products. He said the controversy was about the import of "two-sided coated bleached paperboard" by the petitioner from China.

"Initially, the NTC had initiated an anti-dumping investigation against allegedly dumped imports of the one-sided coated folding box board with white back into Pakistan over an application of a local manufacturer and respondent, Century Paper and Board Mills, on Dec 21, 2015.

"The commission, through a final determination notice on April 10, 2018, notified the imposition of anti-dumping duties on the investigated product for a period of five years with effect from Feb 28, 2017.

The report was issued on April 18, 2018," he said.

Barrister Qasim argued that after the issuance of the TD notice and FD report, the respondent Century Paper and Board Mills through letters on Nov 21, 2019, and Sept 14, 2020, raised before the commission under section 63 of the Anti-Dumping Duties Act, 2015, the alleged issue of the evasion or circumvention of anti-dumping duties imposed on the product in question by declaring that the importers were allegedly declaring the investigated product as two-sided coated bleached paperboard.

He added that the respondent had requested the NTC to envisage anti-circumvention measures against the importers.

The lawyer, however, said the commission had decided not to take any action under Section 63 of the law at the request of the Century Paper and Board Mills.

He contended that in the meantime, after completion of five years of the imposition of the anti-dumping duties, notices were issued to the relevant authorities and also notice was issued for review of the anti-dumping duties on the said product.

He added that the NTC again decided to continue anti-dumping duties on the product for another five years with effect from Feb 28, 2022. However, he stated that certain types of the bleached paperboards were excluded from the anti-dumping duties.

Mr Qasim pointed out that the respondent also filed a complaint with the Federal Board of Revenue on Dec 22, 2022, wherein it was alleged that the importers of the investigated products were mis-declaring the investigated products to avoid levy of anti-dumping duty.

He contended that the collector of customs appraisal (East) Customs House Karachi had physically exam-

ined the consignment by referring samples of the product for laboratory test.

The counsel said that the impugned notice of the respondent was rejected on Jan 24, 2023, as the allegations were found incorrect.

He said the respondent again approached the NTC under Section 63 of the Act, alleging that the Chinese exporters were circumventing the anti-dumping duties imposed on the investigated product through slight modification of the name.

Mr Qasim said the impugned notice was then issued by the NTC revealing to start investigation into the alleged circumvention of anti-dumping duty for a period from Jan 1, 2017, to Dec 31, 2023.

He argued that the issuance of that notice was illegal as it was a "past and closed transaction" and could not be reopened after a similar request was turned down by the commission.

Woman found murdered near motorway

By Our Correspondent

SWAB: The body of a 20-year-old woman, who was killed by unidentified persons, was found near Jalalabad-Peshawar Motorway here on Wednesday, police said.

Further police station SHO Mansaf Khan said that locals informed police about the dead body.

"She was brutally murdered by unidentified men and thrown in the wasteland," he said, adding that pictures of dead body were shared on social media that helped in her identification.

The police official said that the murdered young woman belonged to Kohat city, a health worker, and married to a driver of excise department.

Police registered an FIR against unidentified accused.

POWER THEFT: Chota Lahore (chd) SHO of Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) took action against power theft and cut the illegal electricity connections of many consumers in Manki region on Wednesday.

Police officials said that they visited various areas of Manki with police party, and cut off several illegal electricity connections, linked directly with

the main supply line. They said that the people involved in the crime were fined and FIRs were also registered against them by police.

CAMP: Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKT) launched here on Wednesday an Advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) boot camp, focusing on deep neural networks in collaboration with Sky Electric.

The opening ceremony of the boot camp was addressed by Prof Dr Farid Ahmad Khalid, director of GIKI, and Ashar Aziz, chairman of Sky Electric, Inc. The speakers underscored the importance of this initiative in the context of global technological advancements.

The boot camp will continue till 30th August, aiming at imparting knowledge and skill to fresh graduates in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines from across the country.

The organizers said that the objective of the boot camp was to enable graduates to become internationally competitive in AI through eight weeks of intensive hands-on training under the mentorship of industry leaders and AI experts.

Bail denied to accused in Madyan lynching case

By Our Correspondent

SWAT: The anti-terrorism court has denied bail to 30 people mentioned in the Madyan lynching case.

On June 18, a mob lynched a tourist from Sukkot in Madyan valley over the alleged blasphemy and burned his body on the road.

The ATC judge rejected the joint bail application of all the accused after hearing arguments from the lawyers.

FIRE INCIDENT: A fire broke out in the mountain range of the Shamsara area in Barikot taluk here on Wednesday.

However, no damage to public life was reported.

As the fire erupted, local people began extinguishing it. The Rescue 1122 teams later showed up and joined the operation.

Spokesperson for Rescue 1122 Staff Sgt. Col. firefighters of Rescue 1122 rushed to the area soon after learning about the blaze from Swan's control room.

"Our firefighters are continuously fighting the fire by climbing the mountain range on foot, and will soon control it," she said.

Meanwhile, the local civil society members expressed concern about the fire incident and said authorities should

investigate the cause of the fire.

They insisted that the weather was pleasant, so the fire must have been caused by some residents.

BAN ON SWIMMING IN RIVER: Swan deputy commissioner Shaukat Malik said on Wednesday banned bathing, swimming, and boating in the Swan River and streams across the district for the next six days.

The ban was imposed under Section 144 over the recent drowning incidents, according to the DC's order.

"The tide of the river has risen and become dangerous for human lives. This is why it was necessary to ban all kinds of activities in the river," he said, adding that violators of the ban would be dealt with strictly.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE, ATTOCK

OPEN AUCTION OF VEHICLES

Office of the District & Sessions Judge, Attock intends to auction the following vehicles on "As is where is basis". Details are as under:-

S. No.	Registration No.	Status	Make/Model	Model
1	AKG-16-146	Running	Suzuki Cultus VXR-2016	2016
2	AKG-16-148	Running	Suzuki Cultus VXR-2016	2016
3	AKG-16-149	Running	Suzuki Cultus VXR-2016	2016
4	AKG-16-150	Running	Suzuki Cultus VXR-2016	2016
5	AKG-16-151	Running	Suzuki Cultus VXR-2016	2016
6	AKG-16-152	Running	Suzuki Cultus VXR-2016	2016

Terms and Conditions

- All vehicles can be inspected from the date of publication to 09-08-2024 (except Sunday or any other public holiday) during office hours from 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM by visiting the office of the District & Sessions Judge, Attock.
- Open Auction will be conducted on 10-08-2024 (Saturday) at 11:00 AM in the office of the District & Sessions Judge, Attock.
- The bidder will be required to submit a pay order/demand draft of Rs 50,000/- as earnest money for each vehicle in favour of District & Sessions Judge, Attock one day before auction date in office hours, which will be returnable to unsuccessful bidders after 10 days of auction date. Without submission of pay order/demand draft no one can participate in the auction.
- The bidders must bring their CNIC at the time of auction and provide complete address/mobile number and attested copies of CNIC at the time of submission of earnest money.
- Vehicles will be sold only where the highest bid exceeds the reserve price.
- Successful bidder must deposit earnest money i.e. 100% cash amount of bid within three days along with all government taxes applicable (except already deposited pay order/demand draft). The delivery of vehicles will take place on full payment and if the successful bidder fails to deposit the bid amount within three days, his earnest money will be confiscated.
- Withholding Tax (10% from bid and 20% from counter) on the bid amount and any other tax as per Government policy shall be charged as per prevailing rates.
- Successful bidders will be entitled to receive vehicles/documents etc subject to conformatory approval of auction process by the Hon'ble Lahore High Court, Lahore, the final authority.
- The transfer of ownership of documents will be responsibility of the successful bidder and ownership of documents/vehicles must be transferred from concerned Motor Registration Authority within three days after approval of Hon'ble Lahore High Court, Lahore and CNIC will be returned after transfer of ownership of vehicles.
- The payment of outstanding taxes of vehicles will be responsibility of the successful bidder.
- Other details will be communicated at the time of auction.
- The Auction Committee/Directorate Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with rule 33 of PPRJA Rules, 2014.

DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE / Chairman Auction Committee ATTOCK

BRT service extended from Chamkani to Pabbi

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gharapal has directed to extend Bus Rapid Transit service from Chamkani to Pabbi area of Nowshera in order to facilitate the general public with quality transport facility.

He also directed to declare King Road from Chamkani to Hayatabad as BRT route for starting modern bus service on it with the aim to facilitate the commuters in the vicinity of the provincial capital.

The chief minister issued the directive while chairing the 15th board meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority, according to a statement issued here on Wednesday.

The forum was also briefed about the urban

mobility plans for divisional headquarters.

The chief minister directed the transport department to come up with solid proposals for starting electric bus service in the urban areas of all the divisional headquarters after consultations with all the relevant stakeholders.

The forum also decided to extend fare exemption to children up to five years of age travelling with their parents in BRT buses.

The chief minister said his government was committed to developing transport system of the province on modern lines, and directed the authorities concerned to take measures for improving service delivery.

He also directed ensuring availability of all the required facilities in all areas at bus stands.

PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR POULTRY FEEDS MANUFACTURERS / AUTHORIZED DEALERS

The bidding Documents are invited from poultry feed manufacturers / authorized dealers for all over the Punjab of registered poultry feed mills, under the Punjab Poultry Feed Mills and Compound Feed Act 2014 for pre-qualification as per The Punjab Procurement Rules 2014 amended 2016 for the supply of approximately 300,000 bags each bag of 50 kg having estimated cost of Rs. 150.00 million to Government Poultry Farms on F.O.B. (freight on board basis) located at Rawalpindi, Sanghoth, Multan, Bahawalpur, D.G.Khan, Dera, Gujrat, Attock, Muzaffar, Bahawalnagar, Rakhi Shikhan (Shekopi), Governor House, Lahore and other Poultry Farms established during the financial year 2024-25 under the administrative control of Directorate of Poultry Research Institute, Rawalpindi in the form of Quotations and Bids. The good reputation, relevant experience, past performance, capabilities with respect to the feed plant, storage facilities, financial position and taxation documents shall be criteria of pre-qualification.

The interested poultry feed manufacturers / authorized dealers for all over the Punjab of feed mill are requested to apply for pre-qualification on the prescribed application form, obtainable from the office of Chief In-charge BSRs, Poultry Research Institute, Rawalpindi on or before 05.07.2024 (non-refundable) on working days (Monday to Friday) during office hours (09:00 am to 05:00 pm).

Complete applications along with relevant documents will be received upto 25.7.2024 @ 11:00 a.m. which will be opened on the same day at 11:30 a.m. in presence of bidders or their representatives.

Note: Incomplete applications in any respect and applications received after due date & time will not be entertained.

DR. MUHAMMAD BARRAR AZAM CHATHA
DIRECTOR
POULTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
RAWALPINDI
Ph: 051-9292182 / 03005674540

GOVERNMENT OF GILGIT-BALTISTAN
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
W&P DIVISION DIAMER

NO.EE-W&P/AB/2023-24/21 Dated 08th July, 2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Reference: This office notice EE-W&P/AB/2023-24 dated 28th June, 2024

Technical and Financial Proposal for the work "Solarization of Public Sector Institution in Diamer Division" was scheduled to be opened on 10th July, 2024 at 2:30 PM is hereby extended and rescheduled on 29th July, 2024 at 2:30 PM due to Ashura holiday.

Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Engr: Habibullah Khan
Executive Engineer
Water & Power Division
Diamer