



DAWN

Friday
July 12, 2024
Muharram 5, 1446
KARACHI
Rs 35.00
18 Pages
Vol. LXXVIII No. 190
Regd. No. SS-022

www.dawn.com

'TTP now largest terror group in Afghanistan'

- UN monitoring report says banned outfit enjoys backing of Taliban regime, support from Al Qaeda
- Backs Islamabad's assertions Afghans being used to launch attacks in Pakistan, Nato weaponry in TTP hands
- Voices concern over IS-K elements being 'strategically' pushed into Pakistan, Iran and Central Asia

By Hassan Batai Zaidi

KARACHI: The proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is now the largest terrorist group in Afghanistan, enjoying operational and logistical support from both the Afghan Taliban and factions of the Al Qaeda terrorist network, according to a United Nations monitoring report.

"The Taliban do not conceive of TTP as a terrorist group; the bonds are close, and the debt owed to TTP significant," states the 15th report of the ISIL (Daoud) and Al Qaeda/Taliban Monitoring Team, submitted to the UN Security Council. Estimating its strength at around 6,000-6,500 fighters, the report notes that TTP is now the largest among the two dozen or so such groups that enjoy freedom to manoeuvre, under the oversight of the Taliban regime.

This lends credence to Islamabad's stance that Kabul is unwilling to act against Pakistan-facing terrorist groups, something officials such as Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Interior Minister Moin-ud-Din Noori have reiterated time and again.

The report notes that TTP "continues to operate at significant scale in Afghanistan and to conduct terrorist operations into Pakistan from there, often utilising Afghans".

"TTP has intensified attacks against Pakistan, significantly increasing from 573 in 2021 to 715 in 2022 and 1,210 in 2023, with the trend continuing into 2024," the report, updated until May 28, states.

This also lines up with Islamabad's claim of the involvement of Afghan nationals in a number of recent terrorist attacks,

such as the Bohran bombing, which claimed the lives of five Chinese engineers and their Pakistani driver. The report also mentions this particular incident.

It also backs Pakistan's worry that Nato-calibre weapons, especially night vision capability, have been provided to TTP since the Taliban takeover, adding lethality to terrorist attacks against Pakistani border posts.

Al Qaeda support

The report also questioned the Afghan Taliban's willingness to mitigate the TTP threat to Pakistan, given their historic ties, and describes the Taliban's "ad hoc support to, and tolerance of, TTP operations".

Release of TTP men was a mistake, admits minister: Page 3

Pakistan again shuts door on prospects of talks with TTP: Page 12

tion", which even includes the supply of weapons and permission for training and support from Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS).

"AQIS assists TTP in conducting terrorist attacks inside Pakistan, with Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan (TJP) claiming responsibility so as to relieve pressure on the de facto [Afghan] authorities".

Recalling the Sept 2023 clash between the Pakistani military and Afghan fighters — what the report termed the "largest TTP attack" of the past year — it said that when a large number of fighters launched a coordinated attack against two military posts in north-western

Continued on Page 11



PESHAWAR: Passengers being evacuated from a Saudi Airlines aircraft through inflatable slides after its landing gear caught fire on touchdown at the Bacha Khan International Airport in Peshawar on Thursday.—Shabbaz Bhatt / White Star
Report on Page 8

Nepra rubber-stamps govt's request for tariff rebasing

- Okays up to 51pc hike in base rates, 184pc increase in fixed capacity charges
- Average residential tariff to rise by Rs3.63 per unit for July-Sept, Rs6.27 for remaining nine months

By Khaleeq Miri

ISLAMABAD: Moving at a record speed, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Thursday rubber-stamped all the government demands for an increase of up to 51 per cent in the national electricity base rates and up to 184pc in fixed capacity charges, with changes effective retrospectively from July 1, 2024.

The authority "has no objection in approving the motion along with the subsequent addendum of the federal government", the power regulator said in the final order issued less than 24 hours after a public hearing on the issue. The new rates will be applicable across the country, including Karachi.

Similarly, the government's request to apply fixed charges at 25pc of the sanctioned load or actual Maximum Demand Indicator (MDI) value for the month, whichever is higher, has also been approved, Nepra said.

In view of the requirements for the upcoming IMF programme, the

Misery and despair: Editorial on Page 6

regulator asked the power division to ensure notification of the approved tariff and revenue schedule of all the distribution companies (DisCos).

The order said the total revenue requirement for the current fiscal

Continued on Page 5

Pakistan, Azerbaijan to expand investment up to \$2bn

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday agreed to enhance the bilateral investment level up to \$2 billion in areas of mutual beneficial projects.

In a joint press statement along with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev after witnessing the signing of agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in diverse areas between the two countries, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said: "We have discussed an initial figure of \$2bn of investment in areas of mutual beneficial projects."

The prime minister hoped that when he visited Azerbaijan in November this year, the two sides would be ready to ink agreements worth \$2bn to begin with as there was great potential on both sides to multiply this figure in years to come.

"In today's tough conversations, we have agreed to enhance our bilateral trade, besides discussing areas of joint cooperation and joint investments," he added. He said "The bilateral investment volume of less than \$100 million does not reflect the strength of our brotherhood and friendship in the field of joint investment in areas which are mutually beneficial."

Expressing satisfaction over the bilateral meeting, the prime minister said discussions were held on mutual trust and confidence where both sides expressed their unwavering commitment to move

Continued on Page 3

Judgement at noon: full court to rule on reserved seats today

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: A controversy surrounding the allocation of seats reserved for women and non-Muslim candidates to other political parties instead of the Sunni Itehad Council (SIC), which was joined by the PML-backed independents to grab those seats under the proportional representation system, is expected to be settled today by the Supreme Court, which is set to announce the anxiously awaited decision at noon on Friday.

According to a revised case list issued by the apex court late in the evening, the 13-judge full court will assemble in Courtroom No.1 at noon to announce the landmark judgement, which will decide once and for all on how the reserved seats in the national and provincial assemblies be allocated to political parties under the proportional representation system.

Headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, the full court will consist of Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice

Continued on Page 5

ON OTHER PAGES



ANP wins Bajaur by-election

ANP's Mohammed Nisar Khan won the by-election for Foyahar Paktunkhwa Assembly seat, PK-22, by securing 11,895 votes against 10,622 received by an independent candidate Naeemullah Khan, according to provisional result announced by the PO. Jammat-e-Islami candidate Atal Khan got 10,593 votes whereas Rafiqullah of the Sunni Itehad Council, having support of PML, bagged 7,445 votes. Page 9

Flour shortage feared as millers go on strike

- Strike called to protest new withholding tax
- Small grinding units, dealers also down tools, disrupting supply

By Arjad Mahmood

LAHORE: Urban consumers are bracing for a potential shortage of flour as the All-Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) went on a nationwide strike on Thursday in protest against the newly imposed withholding tax.

Owners of atis (bakkin) (small wheat grinding units) and flour dealers in various towns have also joined the strike, leading to significant disruptions in their supply across many urban centres. PFMA Chairman Asim Raza

has vowed to continue the strike until the association's demands are met.

Mr Raza expressed his association's strong reservations on the withholding tax, explaining that the measure has made flour mills withholding agents for tax collection. He said this tax is expected to increase flour prices by Rs8 per kilogram.

"The tax measure is unacceptable and impracticable as flour dealers are refusing to lift their consignments instead of sharing their tax details for withholding tax purposes," Mr Raza said, warning that the

strike will severely disrupt the supply chain.

Describing the imposition of a Rs600 tax on a Rs11,000 flour bag as inappropriate, the PFMA chief criticised Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yasin's claim that the strike had been postponed until after Ashura (July 17).

"Neither the government nor the FBR has contacted us for talks or to reconsider the strike," Mr Raza added.

The strike has effectively halted the grinding and supply of wheat nationwide, affecting flour availability and related products.

"We don't wish to trouble

the public during Muharram, which is why the industry continued to supply flour to the market until July 10 despite bearing a tax burden of millions of rupees," Iftikhar Ahmed Matton, chairman of PFMA's Punjab chapter, said.

However, he asserted that bearing the tax burden was no longer feasible and that "extreme measures have to be taken". He said flour mills from across the country have joined the strike as the PFMA's call to ensure the industry's survival.

"We are not against the tax. But it's impossible to be a with-

holding tax collection agent for flour dealers, particularly because the tax amount to be withheld by the dealers will be more than the wheat grinding charges of flour mills," Mr Matton said.

He said millers are already under a financial strain due to rising electricity bills, and the additional 2.5 per cent withholding tax "will further ruin our business".

"The government needs to reconsider and withdraw the tax on wheat products; otherwise, it will inevitably increase

Continued on Page 11

SEAMASTER DIVER 300M
Co-Axial Master Chronometer

OFFICIAL TIMEKEEPER

At the Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024, Seamaster is already a World Record holder and winning partner who will be happy to claim to be made on the greatest sporting stage. OMEGA is proud to support Paris and all the athletes in this great city during the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. For the 13th time in history, our role as Official Timekeeper will ensure precision and exact performance at the official events of the Games.

www.omega.ch
OMEGA
www.olympic.org

NEW ERA WATCHES: Islamabad • G-8 Beverly Centre, Karachi • CDFP Centre, Lahore • Phoenix, Chokri, Chakrabarti

Ji reschedules Islamabad sit-in

LAHORE: After a call from Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday, Islamabad-based Urdu Hafia Nawaz Rehman on Thursday postponed Islamabad sit-in till July 26 "in respect for Arafat".

He announced the decision to delay the sit-in at a press conference here at Mansoorah. The sit-in plans, originally scheduled for July 12

(today), was reviewed by the Ji leadership following appeals from religious scholars.

Rehman also promised to start countrywide tour for public mobilisation to ensure participation in the sit-in. The Ji plans to organise awareness camps in all major cities on Friday and sit-in in major and small cities on July 14.

Rehman said people from Karachi, Balochistan and Far-Flung areas would start the march towards Islamabad on July 24. He reiterated the demands for reduction in electricity tariffs, withdrawal of state system for power tariffs and review of agreements with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs). — Staff Reporter

Why JCP ignored seniority in LHC CJ appointment

Says nominees must possess unchallenged integrity, unblemished reputation; Justice Neelum names first female registrar

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) in its meeting of July 2 had observed that nominees for the high office of chief justice of a high court must possess unchallenged integrity and unblemished reputation in the public.

The JCP which approved the elevation of Justice Aalia Neelum to become the first ever woman Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC), had also observed that the 1996 Al-Jehad Trust case though held that the most senior judge had a legitimate expectancy to be appointed CJ of the high court but it was not an entitlement as of right, confided a source privy to the development.

In its July 2 meeting, the JCP had also unanimously recommended elevation of Justice Shafiq Bibigir as Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court to fill the vacant seat after the elevation of Justice Anwar Ahmed Abbasi to the Supreme Court. The government has already notified the elevations through a notification on Wednesday.

Evaluating the credentials and suitability of the nominees for the appointment as LHC CJ, the source said, the JCP concluded that the nomination of Acting Chief Justice Shujaat Ali Khan and Justice Ali Razaq Nagefi was not suitable or fit to hold the office of CJ due to alleged negative public perception as to their integrity and reputation amongst the judicial and legal fraternity.

All the members of the commission endorsed this view, adding any negative perception against a judge displaced the concept of legitimate expectancy and therefore the suitability of the nominee ought not to move forward. The foundational strength of a judicial institution is public trust, the JCP unanimously held, adding the nominees must possess unchallenged integrity and unblemished reputation.

During the meeting, Justice Yahya Afridi — a member of the commission — highlighted that the nominees No.1 and No.2 were also not considered fit for elevation to the Supreme Court in the earlier meeting of the commission held on June 7.

The commission also expressed its disappointment with the limited work experience and output on part of certain nominees and also considered a reference made to certain judgments which were not aside by the Supreme Court because settled legal principles were not followed.

The cases of electricity tariff also came up during the discussion and it was observed that the court assumed the constitutional jurisdiction without any legal justification as a result astronomical loss was caused to the public exchequer.

Another judgment by one of the nominees had the potential to derail the general elections set to be held on Feb 8, 2024, including having an extra-territorial effect — a decision also set aside by the Supreme Court. The meeting also considered the incidents of protest facilities from the Foreign Ministry at airports abroad for the exhibit ion.

During the meeting, the JCP also considered the July 26 letter by six members of the Pakistan Bar Council in which the members had expressed the hope that the commission will adhere to seniority principle to promote credibility of the judicial system in the country, confided the source privy to what transpired inside the JCP meeting.

But Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Ishaq who was heading the 12-member JCP rebuffed the objection by explaining that the 1996 Al-Jehad Trust case did not ascertain that the most senior judge had a legitimate expectancy to be appointed CJ of the high court but it was not an entitlement as of right.

Moreover, Article 193 and 196 of the Constitution did not require that the most senior judge of the high court be appointed as the chief justice or the acting chief justice unlike Articles 175A(3) and Article 180 of the Constitution which refer to the appointment of the chief justice and acting chief justice. "Thus the JCP had laid to rest the nagging discussion that only seniority should be the determining factor in the elevation of the judges," commented the source.

During the JCP proceedings, Justice Muneer Akhtar — one of the members of the commission — had observed that the Al-Jehad Trust case though held down a substantive rule of constitutional law and was a binding precedent but the legitimate expectancy through creating a high threshold could be displaced if there were compelling reasons to the contrary.

Justice Yahya Afridi also observed that even if there was an Al-Jehad Trust case, still good governance principles require that no senior judge should be bypassed without considering him for the high office.

In the end, the JCP concluded

that the nominees will be considered in order of their seniority and only if the most senior nominee was not found suitable for the appointment as chief justice, the next nominee will be considered.

JUSTICE NEELUM SWORN IN: In a historic moment for the Lahore High Court, Justice Aalia Neelum on Thursday took oath as its first woman chief justice.

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan administered the oath to Justice Neelum at a ceremony attended by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, judges of the LHC including senior justice, Justice Shujaat Ali Khan, Justice Ali Razaq Nagefi, Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh and Justice Shams-ud-Din Muneer.

Pakistan Bar Council's members Anwar Abbasi, Hafizullah Rafiq, Chaudhary and Hassan Raza Pasha also attended the ceremony.

Upon her arrival at the LHC, Chief Justice Neelum was given a warm welcome and good wishes.

Chief Justice Neelum was elevated as an additional judge of the LHC in 2013 and was later confirmed as a permanent judge in 2015. Her superannuation is on Nov 31, 2028.

During her tenure, she passed over 203 reported judgments, addressing various legal issues, and a press release issued by the LHC.

Chief Justice Neelum also served as an inspection judge of various districts and monitored special courts and tribunals. She was the first woman administrative judge of the anti-terrorism courts in Punjab.

She represented the Pakistani judiciary in various international conferences held in different countries.

The appointment of Chief Justice Neelum is a significant step forward for gender equality in the judiciary and a testament to her dedication and service to the legal profession, it added.

WOMAN REGISTRAR: In her first day decisions, Lahore High Court Chief Justice Aalia Neelum appointed District & Sessions Judge Ahsan Gul Khan as first woman registrar of the LHC.

D&SJ Khan was earlier posted as director general of the directorate of district judiciary as the LHC. Before that she served as a judge of an anti-terrorism court in Lahore and heard several cases of May 9 riots.

Chief Justice Neelum also approved transfer of D&SJ Muhammad Sarfaraz Akhtar from Jhang to Lahore as director general of the directorate of the district judiciary.

D&SJ Chaudhary Muhammad Anwar was transferred from Rahim Yar Khan to Lahore in the human resource department of district judiciary at the LHC.



UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES LAHORE

ADMISSIONS

Ph.D. & M.Phil. in Basic Medical/Dental Sciences & M.S. in Nursing (Session 2024-2025)

The University of Health Sciences (UHS) Lahore, invites applications from eligible candidates for admission to Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in the following disciplines of Basic Medical and Dental Sciences, and Master of Science (M.S.) in Nursing.

Ph.D.	M.Phil. / M.S.
I. Anatomy	I. Anatomy
II. Histopathology	II. Histopathology
III. Pharmacology	III. Pharmacology
IV. Microbiology	IV. Microbiology
V. Haematology	V. Haematology
VI. Immunology	VI. Immunology
VII. Human Genetics & Molecular Biology	VII. Human Genetics & Molecular Biology
VIII. Forensic Medicine	VIII. Medical Laboratory Sciences
IX. Biochemistry	IX. Forensic Medicine
	X. Oral Biology
	XI. Physiology
	XII. Biochemistry

Duration

- The duration of Ph.D. program shall be three (03) years and that of M.Phil. and M.S. two (02) years.
- Ph.D. and M.Phil./M.S. programs shall be full-time and students enrolled in these programs shall not be allowed to undertake any employment until the completion of degree.

Eligibility Criteria

Ph.D.	M.Phil.
1. The candidate must possess at least 18 years of education with the following qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MBS/BS/PT/ Allied Health Sciences M.Phil./Master/TPS or equivalent qualification in relevant subject recognized by HEC/recognized Federal Regulatory Authority. 	1. (a) For admission to M.Phil. in Medical Sciences or M.Phil. in Dental Sciences a candidate must possess MBS and BS degrees respectively. (b) For M.Phil. in Medical Laboratory Sciences, a candidate must possess BS (Chem.) or BS in relevant subject. (c) For M.S. in Nursing a candidate must possess four (04) years General BS Nursing or two (02) years post BS Nursing or any other degree recognized by the Pakistan Nursing Council as equivalent to aforementioned degrees.
2. A minimum GPA of 3.0 (out of 4.0) in the semester system or First Division in annual system in the most recent relevant degree obtained whether from a Pakistani or foreign university.	2. The candidate has passed the UHS Admission Test for M.Phil./M.S.
3. The candidate has passed the Admission Test for Ph.D. conducted by the University.	

Admission Test

Sr.#	Test	Date & Time	Format	Time Allowed
1	Ph.D. Admission Test	Sunday, 18 th August, 2024 at 10:00 AM	Subject-Based Admission Test (consisting of 100 Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)).	2 hours
2	M.Phil. Admission Test	Sunday, 18 th August, 2024 at 10:00 AM	Total 100 MCQs; 50% General English, Analytical Reasoning and Computer Skills) and 50% Basic Sciences.	2 hours
3	M.S. Nursing Admission Test	Sunday, 18 th August, 2024 at 10:00 AM	Total 100 MCQs; 50% General English, Analytical Reasoning and Computer Skills) and 50% Basic Sciences.	2 hours

* For detail of format and ToS, please visit UHS website (www.uhs.edu.pk).

HOW TO APPLY:

- Visit the Online Admission Portal for Postgraduate Programs on the UHS website (www.uhs.edu.pk).
- Create an account by providing your Name, Father/Guardian Name, Email ID, Mobile Number, and a Password.
- First, select your degree program (e.g., Ph.D. or M.Phil. or M.S. Nursing). After choosing a program, select the discipline/subject for which you want to apply for.
- Fill in your personal details on the application form, including your name, domicile, contact information, address, nationality, gender, date of birth, etc.
- Enter your qualification details, such as your MBS/BS/Master/BS/ marks year of passing, university, etc.
- Upload scanned documents, ensuring each document is within a maximum size of 2 MB, as specified on the application.
- Read and acknowledge the Undertaking, verify the provided information and attachments before submission.
- Submit the online application. You will receive a confirmation notification on your email address. Download and print both the submitted application and the bank challan for the processing fee.
- Visit the nearest branch of the Bank of Punjab (BOP) with the fee challan to deposit the Admission Processing Fee of Rs. 7,000 (non-refundable). This fee can also be deposited through online banking. Your application process is now complete.

Admission Criteria

The admission shall be granted on merit only.

1. During the selection process for Ph.D., the following elements shall be considered:

- Academic record of relevant M.Phil./Master/Equivalent
- Relevant experience
- Research publications
- Demonstration of the ability to pursue doctoral-level research based on the "Statement of purpose" at the time of admission.

2. The admission criteria for M.Phil./M.S. shall be as follows:

Admission Criteria	Weightage
Qualifications	25%
Admission Test	50%
Experience	10%
Interview	15%

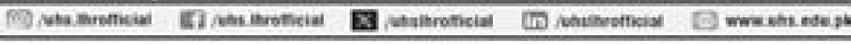
Schedule of Admissions

Description	Date		
	Ph.D.	M.Phil.	M.S. Nursing
Online Application Start Date	Monday, 15 th July, 2024 (From 09:00 AM)	Monday, 15 th July, 2024 (From 09:00 AM)	Monday, 15 th July, 2024 (From 09:00 AM)
Online Application Closing Date	Monday, 1 st August, 2024 (By 05:00 PM)	Monday, 1 st August, 2024 (By 05:00 PM)	Monday, 1 st August, 2024 (By 05:00 PM)
Download/number slip from UHS website	From Friday, 9 th August, 2024	From Friday, 9 th August, 2024	From Friday, 9 th August, 2024
Admission Test	Sunday, 18 th August, 2024 at 10:00 AM	Sunday, 18 th August, 2024 at 10:00 AM	Sunday, 18 th August, 2024, at 10:00 AM
Interviews	2 nd September – 3 rd September 2024	4 th September – 18 th September 2024	19 th September – 24 th September 2024
Final Merit List	Monday, 9 th September, 2024	Friday, 20 th September, 2024	Friday, 27 th September, 2024
Deadline for Fee Submission and Issuing	By 10 th September, 2024	By 10 th September, 2024	By 7 th September, 2024
Second Merit List	23 rd September, 2024	1 st October, 2024	1 st October, 2024
Commencement of Classes	28 th October, 2024	28 th October, 2024	28 th October, 2024
Program End Date	By 27 th October, 2027	By 27 th October, 2026	By 27 th October, 2026

Important Instructions

- Applications must be submitted exclusively through the Postgraduate Online Admission Portal. Any applications that are incomplete or are submitted in violation of the prescribed procedure shall be rejected. Failure to pay the processing fee by the specified due date shall also result in application rejection.
- While the applicant is not required to manually submit a print-out of the application, he/she must upload the paid processing fee challan or bank receipt on the portal before the application submission deadline.
- No request for change/amendment in the application shall be entertained after the final submission of the application.
- The candidate/admission of a candidate found to have submitted forged/fake/fabricated documents or incorrect/fake information shall be cancelled immediately.
- As part of the application for admission to Ph.D. programs, applicants shall be required to submit a statement of purpose, which shall form an integral part of the application.
- Admission Test Result, Interview Schedule and Merit Lists shall be made available on the UHS website (www.uhs.edu.pk).
- Selected candidates are required to deposit the prescribed fee and other dues at any branch of the Bank of Punjab (BOP). The fee can be paid through online transactions as well. Failure to do so within the stipulated time period shall result in the loss of the right to admission.
- Admission shall be granted on merit only.
- Those in service and applicants desiring to attend the course on deputation basis must apply through proper channel.
- Those having foreign qualifications are required to submit HEC/PMDC/PNE equivalence certificate.
- The detail of programs, fee structure, and faculty is available on UHS website (www.uhs.edu.pk).

REGISTRAR University of Health Sciences, Khayaban-e-Jamia Punjab, Lahore-54600


www.uhs.edu.pk

ATC bail denial verdict in May 9 cases 'Imran, other PTI leaders hatched plot to wage war against state'

By Wajih Ahmad Shabbir

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) has observed that the PTI founding chairman, Imran Khan, is not out of it for the relief of pre-arrest bail in cases of May 9 riots as he allegedly hatched a conspiracy along with other party leaders and activists with a common object of "waging war against the state".

ATC-1 Judge Khalid Arshad had on July 9 dismissed the pre-arrest bail petitions of Imran Khan in three cases of May 9 riots, including the one registered over an attack on the residence of the Lahore corps commander.

A four-page written order issued by the court says, "An extraordinary commission of pre-arrest bail is granted to an innocent person and not the petitioner who hatched, masterminded the alleged criminal conspiracy along with the senior PTI leadership and protesters/activists having common object to wage war against the state to topple the government."

The judge noted that the statements of two prosecution witnesses alleged the petitioner/Imran Khan on May 2, 2023 from 5:15pm to 6:00pm had a meeting at Zamian Park with 15 senior PTI leaders and instructed them that he had apprehensions of arrest on May 9, at Islamabad.

"On his arrest you all under the leadership of Dr. Yamin Rashid would gather PTI workers and attack military installations, government properties and the police officials to create pressure on the government and armed institutions for his release," the verdict reproduced the

prosecution witnesses' statements, which alleged that the convicted party leaders replied that he (Imran Khan) was their 'red line' and they would paralyze the government by instigating the PTI workers.

Moreover, the judge said, the petitioner on May 9, at the time of leaving for Islamabad, also sent a video message, saying "if he is arrested, the condition of country will worsen like that of Sri Lanka", and this clip was produced by the prosecution, along with its transcript.

The judge also referred to another clip of the petitioner, saying the video was broadcasted the whole day through official twitter account of the PTI on May 9, 2023 to instigate the PTI workers to come out for protest and termed it "Rasul Jibad for Rasool Burekhan (Hajj-e-Nabi Arafat)".

The judge said that contrary to the case of prosecution against the petitioner in that he hatched the alleged criminal conspiracy which was agreed upon by the top leadership of his party, and the same was conveyed through modern devices, especially online, to the protesters/convicted persons, who as a result of the alleged instigation, launched the attack, entered forcibly into the Jinnah House and set it on fire, while waging war against the state, intending to overthrow the government.

He noted that the reports of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pema), the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) cybercrime wing and internal security agencies are also available with the record.

He said the recovery of the articles allegedly used for recording

the video messages meant to instigate people is to be made from the petitioner.

Judge Arshad ruled that the alleged misuse of political violence action pleaded on behalf of the petitioner against the official complainant did not appeal to the product mind.

"A peaceful demonstrator becomes terrorist when he hatches criminal conspiracy, disseminates it and shares common object with other accused, who being armed, attack, attempt to damage or damage the state properties like Jinnah House, intending to jam government machinery as per section 6 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, and he loses the normal rights of a law-abiding citizen," the judge said, explaining the dismissal of the bail petitions.

The judge said the investigation must not be interrupted as it would curtail the collection of prosecution evidence. The judge observed that when reasonable grounds exist to connect the petitioner with the alleged offences, which fall within the ambit of the prohibitory clause, the pre-arrest bail of petitioner/Imran Khan has no merits.

The petition sought interim pre-arrest bail in the Jinnah House, Ashari Tower, and Shadmans police station attack cases.

On March 1, another ATC had confirmed the pre-arrest bail of Imran Khan in four criminal cases, including the murder of party worker Zilfa Shah, the attack on police outside Zamian Park, and the torching of PMO-N offices in Model Town, and a container at Kalma Chowk on May 9, 2023.

Significant 'decrease' in gas line losses

LAHORE: Installation of 1,470 Town Border Stations (TBS) in five major cities has greatly helped Gas Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (NGPL) to bring down its Unaccounted For Gas (UFG) losses (line losses) to 5.15 per cent which were 8.99pc four years before.

The TBS are used as a tool to trace gas pilferage, leakage in small localities, mofalias besides measuring quantity of gas available in pipelines and used by the consumers. In case of leakage, it helps field operation teams to identify such spots quickly and fix the leak within a short time.

The stations were installed under phase-1 of the TBS metering project launched a few years ago in five

major cities of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. It was revealed in a high-level meeting in Islamabad presided over by the Federal Minister Masood Malik, Federal Secretary (Petroleum Division) Momin Ali Agha, NGPL board's directors and senior officers including managing director were also in attendance.

The meeting reviewed overall performance, particularly in respect of UFG control. The participants were told that collective efforts related to TBS installation project had helped company reduce its UFG losses substantially from 8.99pc (8.99%) in FY2019-20 to 5.15pc (5.15%) in FY2022-23.

The meeting was held efforts were on to reduce UFG further. "Since the data related to UFG losses in the 2023-24 is under auditing process these days, it will be shared after verifications by the auditors," an officer privy to the meeting said.

"The company has been metering gas losses at micro level. It has completed installation of 1,470 TBS gas measurement facilities in five major cities—Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar and Mardan under Phase-1 of TBS metering project. The meters on rest of the TBS will be installed under Phase-2, for which work has also been completed," the officer said.—Khalid Hussain

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GROW. ADVERTISE IN

INDUSTRY SUPPLEMENTS

Call Manager Supplements in Karachi Lahore or Islamabad on DAWN. T: 1-800-1777

DAWN

55 YEARS OF YOUR TRUST

Producers of quality automotive and industrial lubricants.

Head Office: 021-32314000-8 Regional Offices: 042-32517758

www.hardon.com.pk

Release of TTP men was a mistake, admits minister

Naqvi says no new operation is being launched

By Ihtishar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Raza Naqvi on Thursday admitted that the release of jailed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants back in 2021 was a mistake.

During a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior held here with Senator Iftikhar Ishtiaq in the chair, Mr Naqvi said the release of the banned outfit's prisoners had been made with hopes for an improvement, but this did not happen.

He noted that the surge in terrorism cases in the country being witnessed today was because of the release of those TTP prisoners. The government had in November 2021 released over 100 TTP prisoners as a "goodwill gesture" to reciprocate the ceasefire announced by the outlawed group earlier that month.

The officials also clarified that the prisoners were not released in compliance with any demand made by the TTP, which is currently engaged in negotiations with the government.

"The Taliban prisoners were released as a goodwill gesture," Mr Naqvi said.

On November 8, 2021, the TTP announced in a statement that it had reached an agreement with the government to cease hostilities for one month.

"The ceasefire agreement between the Pakistan government and the TTP will remain in effect for one month. It could be extended should the two sides agree," the group said in a statement, adding that it would equally apply to both sides.

PTP Senator Shahzad Awan, during the Senate panel's meeting, asked as to on whose orders those under judicial custody prisoners had been released.

He also sought to know the identity of the released TTP prisoners and the charges against them.

The interior minister promised to give a detailed briefing on the matter at a separate meeting.

The minister did not give a clear

reply to Senator Iftikhar Ishtiaq's question about the status of 5000 TTP families reportedly brought to Pakistan for resettlement in the tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) during the PTE days in power.

Mr Siddiqi said the former prime minister on record talked about his plan. He said the 5000 families would mean somewhere around 50,000 individuals.

He had sought to know the exact number of TTP men brought for resettlement and the details as to how many of them had been sent back to Afghanistan.

'No new operation'

In reply to another question by Senator Iftikhar Ishtiaq about operation Amr-i-Jehad, the interior minister claimed that no new operation was being launched and blamed the media for creating such an impression.

He said that six points of the National Action Plan (NAP) had not been implemented and the plan was to implement these.

"As such no new operation was being launched," Mr Naqvi said. He also said there was no plan to carry out operations in some specific areas. The panel was also informed that Punjab and Sindh governments were carrying out joint operation against militants in khatwa area.

The secretary of interior ministry, while briefing the committee on security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan, said helicopters were now being used for surveillance of Diamer-Bhusha and Mohmand dams while bullet-proof vehicles are being used to transport Chinese engineers working on the projects.

Senator Umar Farooq said that security of common citizens and not foreigners should be the government's priority.

Mr Siddiqi, who also chairs the Senate's standing committee on foreign affairs, took exception to those remarks, and said that these Chinese were neither tourists nor partisan visitors, adding that the Chinese were playing a key role in national security and economic developments.

He said they were being targeted under a conspiracy to strain Pakistan's relations with China, and the responsibility to provide them full-proof security must be fulfilled.

Establishment of Service Tribunal registries in GB approved

By Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: Gilgit Baltistan Government Spokesperson Shabir Anjum on Thursday approved establishment of GB Service Tribunal registries in Diamer and Baltistan regions.

The Service Tribunal has also been given a special status equal to the GB Supreme Appellate Court and GB election commission.

"In exercise of the powers conferred under Article 117 of the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan Order, 2018, the Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan has given special status equal to GB Supreme Appellate Court and GB election commission," said a notification issued by the GB law and prosecution department on Thursday.

The department also issued another notification which stated "In exercise of the powers conferred upon him under Section 3(1) of the Gilgit-Baltistan Service Tribunal (Amendment) Act 2022, and on the article provided under Article 89 of Government of Gilgit-Baltistan Order, 2018, regarding Seat of the Chief Court, the Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan has been pleased to establish two Registries of Gilgit-Baltistan Service Tribunal, one each in Skardu for Baltistan Division and Chilas for Diamer-Astore Division with immediate effect."

A press release issued by the GB government said the establishment of Service Tribunal registries in Skardu and Chilas will make it possible for the authorities to provide justice to employees of both divisions — Baltistan and Diamer — at their doorstep.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan to expand investment up to \$2bn

Continued from Page 1

forward and reach higher levels of achievements in the fields of trade and investment.

He emphasized that Pakistan had always supported Azerbaijan's stand, while the brotherly country had always supported the cause of millions of Kashmiris.

PM Shehbaz hoped that the climate summit COP29 to be hosted by Azerbaijan in Baku would be a significant international event for all developing countries, including Pakistan. "We are confident that under your wise stewardship, COP29 will deliver on the climate change-related issues of developing countries like Pakistan."

He said the government was impressed by the beautification of Baku therefore it decided to copy its model.

President Aliyev said the brotherhood between the two countries was based on deep feelings between the people of the two sides.

"This connection is a big asset, we are brothers, we are friends, and we support each other in every international issue."

He added "Our state forward support on the issue of Jamana and Kashmir is our commitment to our brotherhood and also our respect to international law, the



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev shake hands at the visiting dignitary arrives at the Prime Minister House on Thursday.—White Star

rights of Kashmiris are ignored and violated for decades."

He said the UN Security Council resolutions issued from the issue must be resolved but first that unfortunately, UNSC resolutions had no mechanism of implementation.

"But we as brothers and friends will always stand side by side with you, with our brothers in Kashmir, with international law, with justice and I am sure justice will prevail," he added.

He said the two sides were analyzing the projects for the initial investment of \$2bn.

"During our today's conversation, we reviewed several projects in the areas of energy, connectivity, infrastructure and defence industry," he said, adding that "we will build strong partnerships not only on the political level but we already had had an economic and trade investment level as well."

President Aliyev landed in Islamabad earlier in the day on a two-day official visit at the invitation of PM Shehbaz. He was received by PM Shehbaz along with his cabinet members, including Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Information Minister

Araslan Turan.

He was given a guard of honour as he arrived at the PM House to meet the premier, along with his high-powered delegation.

The national anthems of both countries were played as the Azeri president stood at the state dais along with the prime minister.

Contingents of the armed forces presented a guard of honour to the president.

The Azeri foreign minister had visited Pakistan in May and held dialogue-level talks in which Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said both sides were taking measures to increase bilateral investment, especially in the energy sector.

Mr Dar — also the deputy prime minister — had expressed Pakistan's full support to Azerbaijan during its presidency of climate summit COP29.

At a joint press conference the same day, the foreign ministers of both countries had expressed a strong commitment to further strengthen bilateral strategic relations.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with PM Shehbaz, PM Shehbaz had stressed the need to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in various sectors.

The Azeri foreign minister had also met Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir.—APN Dawn Report

Several hurt as police, BYC supporters clash

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Over a dozen people, including six policemen, were injured and 27 people, including five women, were arrested on Thursday in clashes between supporters of the Baloch Yakkobi Committee (BYC) and police during a rally organised for the recovery of missing students.

Over a dozen police vehicles were damaged as police lashed tear gas and baton-charged BYC supporters. Firing was also reported during the clashes. The clashes began when police tried to push BYC supporters from the Red Zone area where the protesters wanted to stage a sit-in.

Supporters of BYC had been protesting by staging a sit-in camp for over a week in Sariah area against the disappearance of Zahoor Baloch and other Baloch missing persons.

However, on Thursday, the protesters marched on several roads of Quetta and tried to move to the Red Zone to stage their sit-in there which triggered clashes.

At a late-night press conference, Home Minister Zardari said that Zahoor Zeb Baloch, who disappeared a few days ago, is the brother of banned BLA commander Badir Zeb Baloch, who was involved in Mach, Gwadar attacks and kidnapping of gunners from Shaban area. He also claimed that Zahoor Zeb Baloch is not in the custody of any state institution.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahrang Baloch, Central Organizer of BYC, said in a video on social media that the family of Zahoor had been protesting on Sariah Road for many days, but there was no response from the government. Subsequently, they decided to move towards the Red Zone on Thursday.

"The participants of the rally were attacked, baton-charged and fired upon, resulting in severe injuries to protesters. Two of the injured are in critical condition at the Civil Hospital's trauma centre," she said, adding that six female protesters have been arrested and taken to the Civil Line Police Station. They have since been moved to an unknown location from there.

IHC reserves order on maintainability of plea to verify judge's degree

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has reserved the verdict on the maintainability of a petition to verify Justice Tariq Mehmood Jaisangri's law degree.

On Thursday, IHC Chief Justice Ameer Farooq heard the petition filed by lawyer Mian Daud.

He requested the court to stop Justice Jaisangri from exercising judicial powers till the verification of his LL.B degree.

Earlier, the registrar office had raised objections to the petition on grounds that Mr Daud was not an aggrieved person and the matter was already pending before the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC).

Arguing before the court, the petitioner said he was not seeking a writ against the SJC and that the petition could be admitted for a regular hearing.

Being a lawyer, Mr Daud said he was an aggrieved person, and he filed the petition to ascertain the veracity of the

purported letter of the University of Karachi that revoked the judge's LL.B degree invalid.

Later, the court reserved the order on the maintainability of the petition.

Last week, a letter began circulating on social media, purportedly from the University of Karachi's controller of examinations regarding the law degree of Justice Jaisangri.

The letter was shared by several social media activists and journalists, along with the subsequent complaint filed with the Supreme Judicial Council against the judge.

On Monday, an IHC full bench, comprising all seven judges, issued notices to two journalists and a social media activist for their alleged role in the campaign aimed at "vilifying" the judge.

In its detailed order, the court noted that the "scurrilous campaign" aimed to malign the judge "which amounts to an attempt to bring the Court into hatred, ridicule and disrespect and, prima facie, qualifies as contempt of Court".

President promises adequate funds for canal project in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday assured Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti that he will ask Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to allocate adequate funds for Kachhi Canal construction to overcome water shortage in Balochistan.

According to the President, the president stressed the need for timely completion of the ongoing development projects of Balochistan and urged the provincial government to take proactive measures for the welfare of the masses of the province.

"Kachhi Canal is imperative for the development of Balochistan and I will talk to the prime minister for allocation of funds for the project," Mr Zardari assured Mr Bugti.

According to an estimate, over 730,000 acres of land in the province will be irrigated through the canal project which is likely to be completed in one-and-a-half years.

President Zardari is taking keen interest in development of Balochistan and that was why he recently paid a day-long visit to the province and held meetings to get firsthand knowledge about the pace of development in the province.

In the backdrop of his recent visit, the President acknowledged that the provincial government has taken effective measures for the development and prosperity of the people of Balochistan and stressed the need for urgent completion of the Kachhi Canal with the federal government support to meet provincial water needs, boost agriculture, and to ensure food security.—Spokesman Raza

JBS wins Secure Productivity Excellence 2024 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award

The only company in Pakistan to achieve this honor in the year of 2024.

A recognition for the Secure Productivity solutions offered by JBS that provides robust security frameworks and compliance measures to organizations with its Microsoft partnership.

Selected from more than 4,700 nominations from over 100 countries, JBS sets an optimistic vision for Pakistan's future.

"Our future strategy revolves around AI and Sustainability, thus making them the cornerstone of our business for 2025 and beyond."

Vegar Ul Islam, CEO of JBS

Jaffer Business Systems

consulting@jbs.live | www.jbs.live

Punjab government seeks foreign input for Rawalpindi-Murree 'glass train' plan

By Aamir Yasir

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab government plans to hire a foreign consultant for a feasibility study on a glass train from Rawalpindi to Murree.

A senior official of district administration told Dawn that an 18-member working group has been formed for the Murree rail link project, while it was decided in a recent meeting to engage an international consultant.

Additional Commissioner Coordination from Rawalpindi Nazarat Ali Shah and Secretary Regional Transport Rashid Ali participated via video link.

The divisional administration officers reported a former feasibility study conducted for rail link from Rawalpindi to Murree.

The government would use the feasibility study from the Rawalpindi to Murree portion, provided that it is verified by an international consultant.

According to the official, it was agreed in the meeting that there is a feasibility report from 2015 of Rawalpindi to Batal Mur Murree rail link in Rawalpindi, Murree Murree Murree rail link project. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif initiated the Murree rail line from Rawalpindi to Murree in 2014-15. Initially, a station was proposed at Batal Mur in Murree but was later relocated near Jilka Gali upon Sharif's objection.

The Punjab Minister for Transport is the chair of the committee while secretaries of Transport and Mass Transit Department, Tourism, Archaeology and Museums, Environment Protection & Climate Change, Planning & Development Board, Communication and Works serve as members. Deputy Commissioners Rawalpindi, Murree, RPO, CPO, Urban Unit and Neopak representatives are also part of the group.

The working group's terms of reference include discussing project technology, design, alignment challenges and related matters with the stakeholders in order to develop better understanding about the project's contours.

This will guide the Transport and Mass Transit Department in planning a detailed feasibility study for the project and addressing issues in this regard.

"Murree Rail Link is one of the dream projects of the PML-N as it will make the hill station pollution free and increase tourism in the area as people will come to Murree from twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad," the senior official told Dawn.

"The project is feasible as Murree is situated at a height of over 2,000 metres and during the British Raj a rail link was laid at the same height in Shimla in 1906," he said.

South Asia's nuclear arms control regime at risk: experts

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a seminar on Thursday warned that South Asia's nuclear arms control regime is at risk as the era of nuclear vertical proliferation returns.

They were speaking at the launch of a book, "Nuclear Arms Control in South Asia: Politics, Postures & Practices" authored by Dr Zafar Nawaz Jangal at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee chairman retired Gen Zafar Mahmood Hayat said the book focuses on arms control in South Asia rather than the world. He said the book's sections are intellectually rich and had

excellent material. However, he said his primary attention was on chapters dealing with India and Pakistan doctrines and postures as well as their responses to nuclear control in non-proliferation. "I thought both of these chapters were intriguing and well-researched," he remarked.

He cited Amir Shah, who labelled Kashmir as a distortion of history, and added that it was an existential concern in Pakistan. Mr Hayat emphasised that nuclear deterrence is a critical component of Pakistan's security strategy since Kashmir is an existential issue and Hinduva ideology is putting a shadow over nuclear arms control in South Asia.

He said India and Pakistan's

arms control and non-proliferation may be seen in five domains and contexts. He highlighted the domains from ideological to strategic, that were casting a shadow on South Asian arms control.

He also emphasised India's behaviour, which may be unusual in Western capitals. "We have seen evidence that India is involved in transnational killings," the general said. He said India had killed 22 Pakistanis on Pakistani soil through state operators and had also been linked to killings in other countries. He also stated that India's 'rogue behaviour' was a deterrent to South Asian arms control.

India has exploited arms control for five reasons: obtaining time, political posturing, political rhetoric and looking

good strategy, he added.

Dr Jangal said nuclear arms control regime was in jeopardy as the era of nuclear vertical proliferation was back. The book has three sections which deal with politics, postures and practices.

The book spelled out India and Pakistan's nuclear postures and their rhetorical and practical approach toward nuclear arms control, non-proliferation regime and nuclear assets' safety and security. It addresses how the leaders in India and Pakistan think about nuclear weapons and how they will ensure that devastating firearms are used when, but only when they decide they should be used.

The book also discusses how India and Pakistan's nuclear armaments may destroy South

Asia if conflict escalated.

Decommissioning nuclear weapons requires changing nonproliferation and nuclear deterrence strategies. Nuclear disarmament is unachievable without changing the notion that nuclear weapons are reliable defensive weapons. Nuclear disarmament is impractical in South Asia, making weapons control the sole viable option for strategic stability in a complicated regional environment. Nuclear arms control, the goal for strategic security in South Asia, remains difficult.

Tahir Hussain Andrabi, additional secretary Foreign Office, Air Commodore Khalid Bano, Adviser Jinnah Centre for Character and Leadership, and Dr Zafar Iqbal Chishti also spoke.

Rawalpindi, Islamabad admins ban entry of almost 200 clerics

By Mohammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: The administrations of Rawalpindi and Islamabad have respectively banned the entry of 180 and 17 banned clerics from various sects in their territories on account of sectarianism, whereas the Pindi authorities also issued a gag order against 90 banned leaders to maintain law and order.

In order to maintain peace in Muzaffargarh, the Rawalpindi administration banned the entry of 180 clerics in the division and also issued a gag order against 90 clerics in four districts of the division. Of the 180 clerics whose entry has been banned in Rawalpindi, 46 are not allowed in Rawalpindi district, 77 in Attock, 36 in Jhelum, and 41 in Chakwal. The gag order restricted 26 clerics from speaking in Rawalpindi, 17 in Attock, 17 in Jhelum, and 10 in Chakwal.

In Islamabad, 17 clerics of various sects were banned from Islamabad for one month. The district magistrate was informed that the said clerics may indulge in sectarian activities, and deliver provocative sectarian sermons to create animosity and hatred between various religious sects, which was prejudicial to the maintenance of public peace and order.

The clerics whose entry was restricted belonged to Deoband, Barelvi, and Shia sects. They had from Lahore, Sargodha, Khatiwala, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Gilgit-Baltistan, Multan, Chitrawari, and Lalian. One of the clerics whose entry into Islamabad was banned was placed on the Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997.

A notification issued by the district magistrate said: "In exercise of powers conferred upon me under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 5 of the West Pakistan

Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960 do hereby direct that above-named clerics shall not enter, reside or remain in the revenue limits of District Islamabad for a period of one month... Any contravention of this order shall be punishable under section 13 of the ordinance, it added.

"Monitor hate speech"

Likewise, the federal government also asked the chief secretaries and police chiefs of all the provinces, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan to ensure strict monitoring of all sectarian outfits associated with militancy and keep a strict on their leaders to restrict them to their respective districts till the improvement in security situation. The government issued the order because it was concerned over the circulation of hateful content on social media and increasing incidents of religious incitement.

Omar Ayub moves privilege motion against police raid

By Iram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan has moved a privilege motion against Islamabad and Punjab police and the secretary home, accusing them of breaching parliamentary privileges by raiding his house.

The motion, addressed to the speaker National Assembly, stated that at 1pm on July 7 police officials from Islamabad and Punjab along with personnel in plainclothes raided his residence in F-10, Islamabad.

"This raid was conducted without prior intimation to your Honorable office, despite the issuance of bailable warrants against me."

This act not only disregards the established protocols and procedures that protect the privileges of Members of Parliament but also undermines the respect and dignity of the position I hold as Leader of the Opposition. Such actions set a dangerous precedent and disrupt the due process that ensures parliamentary privileges are upheld. In light of these events, I request that this matter be referred to the Committee on Privileges for a thorough investigation," it stated.

Mr Khan requested the presence of the home secretary and inspector general of police Punjab and the IGP and DIG operations before the committee to provide their testimonies and explanations regarding the incident.

"I trust that this motion will be given due consideration, and the necessary actions will be taken to uphold the sanctity of parliamentary privileges," he stated.

Mr Khan, who is also the PTI secretary general, on July 7 evaded arrest in a raid on his residence by a joint team of Islamabad and Muzaffargarh police after warrants for his arrest were issued by an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Sargodha.

The Muzaffargarh police, in a harassment, claimed that their assistant sub-inspector (ASI) had only gone to the residence to serve the bailable warrants, not arrest the opposition leader.

The PTI leader, who went into hiding after the raid, had lashed out at the authorities for being so "desperate" to apprehend him.

"Bailable arrest warrants were issued for me by ATC Sargodha, but Muzaffargarh police and Islamabad police teams came to my Islamabad home to arrest me a few minutes ago," he had said in a social media post.

"The federal and Punjab governments and agencies must be very desperate to arrest the opposition leader in the National Assembly," he had written on X, adding his party's struggle would continue till Imran Khan came back to power.

Meanwhile, a PTI spokesperson said PML-N senior leader Javed Latif further exposed the reality of the February 9 polls by expressing his dissociation from the Shehbaz Sharif government.

The spokesperson said as long as the Sharif family remained in politics, the constitution would continue to be trampled, and people's right to rule would be crushed.

He urged the nation to prepare for a "decisive movement" to reclaim their stolen mandate and restore their lost dignity as the time had come to hold the ruling party accountable for their actions.

THIS SUNDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS: EOS
PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIETY, CULTURE, IDEAS.
COVER: THE UDDU MOGA AND ITS SPATIAL DYNAMICS
The leading pulse of Mohenjo-daro is underpinned by the sense which is more than just a recording of the events and topology of Mohenjo-daro. The rich symbolism and poetic composition of Uddu mogha actually depicts a space, transcending it into a transcendence, a mourning, a protest against injustice and a shout of defiance for freedom.

EDUCATION: DRAWING TO ENGAGE
An art teacher's chalk drawings are generating interest from schoolchildren around Pakistan.

SPORTS: CLIMBING KILIMANJARO
A writer on mountaineering attempts to climb the highest mountain in Africa.

BOOKS/AUTHORS: Samuel Selvon's 'Mig' / Myra Ruthven Lester's 'Colonising Gardens: State-building Under Indian Disposition' and Aron Jahn's 'My War Volume 4: A Journal by Myself' / Jonathan Hill's '50 American Novels on the Literary Landscape'

PLUS: Nelson F. Paredes on 'Bending the Branch', Fard Abla's 'Ofians', The Night of Iyer's 'Larger Library', The IMF and Its Discontents, James Whitfield in 'Ivory', Deconstructing 'Burmese', Dr Naveed Ali Shahid's 'Gardening, Austin Iqbal and Saba Ching'

ICON
INSIGHT INTO ENTERTAINMENT, PERFORMING ARTS, STYLE, CELEBRITY.
THE ICON INTERVIEW: ALI KAZANI
The actor there to go international years ago, to step out of the shadow of his illustrious parents Babar and Sultana Razvi, but it was a risky decision. So how has it worked out for him? Why does he keep coming back to Pakistan? And where does he see himself in 10 years?

SOUNDICAPS: UNVEILING A HIDDEN GEM
Kaveer Fakhri Ali Khan's last album, 'Choir of Light', emerges from the shadows.

PLUS: Review of Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F, The Battle Between Record Labels and Tech Companies, 30 Years of The Don King, The Selfi Feedback Loop, The Cupcakes, The Tube and Spotify's Top Pakistan Hits.

AND SO THE INTELLIGENT CONVERSATION BEGINS...

DAWN

Tourist from Karachi killed in Neelum road accident

MUZAFFARGARH: Tragedy struck a tourist family from Karachi when a road accident claimed the life of one of its young members in the upper belt of Neelum Valley on Thursday, allegedly due to the negligence of the driver of a locally hired jeep, police said.

Muza Masroor, 34, a resident of Karachi, along with his spouse Kiana Moiz, 28, and their children—7-year-old Rohan and his twin brother Kubaan, 4-year-old Mansaf, and an 18-month-old baby—had arrived in Neelum Valley a few days ago in their own vehicle, driven by their personal driver Sultan Rehman, 35.

They had parked their vehicle in the town of Sharda, where they hired a local Toyota harling jeep for their onward journey to Eshkani, Neelum Valley's last village, located some 200 kilometers from Muzaffargarh.

On Thursday, they were returning to Sharda in the same jeep when they met the accident at Machhal, approximately 162 kilometers from Muzaffargarh, around 11:45am.

"The speeding jeep lost control, fell off the road, and overturned, resulting in the death of Rohan and minor injuries to Mr Moiz, his wife, and their personal driver," said Khawaja Nadeem, Superintendent of Police (SP) in Neelum Valley.

"The driver, Tanveer Kalia, whose negligence caused the accident, fled the scene, but we will soon apprehend him and take appropriate action," he added. He informed that the affected family left Neelum district in the afternoon in their own vehicle, carrying the Rescue 1122 ambulance which was carrying the body of the deceased boy.

The latest accident, which followed a similar, though larger, tragedy involving a public transport vehicle from Neelum Valley, once again highlighted concerns about the safety and condition of public transport in the area, as well as the alleged lack of proficiency of local drivers.

In response to Wednesday's accident, AJK Premier Chaudhary Anwar-ul-Haq had convened a meeting to address the issue of road safety.—Tariq Naqvi

College of Art & Design UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB

ADMISSION NOTICE (Academic Year 2024-25)

Admission in Bachelor Programs Semester 1 & 5

The Pre-Admission Entry Test Forms for the admissions of the Academic Year 2024-25 will be available from 3-7-2024 at the <http://111.68.103.22/admissions/> or www.pu.edu.pk. Last date for receiving the entry test forms is 5-8-2024. The result of entry test will be available on Punjab University Website: www.pu.edu.pk as well as on the notice board of the College. Appearance in the Punjab University admission test is mandatory for the admission against merit as well as reserved seats. The admission test drawing/apptitude shall be conducted according to the following schedule.

Test Dates (Morning & Evening Programs)	
BFA Fine Arts Semester 1 and Semester 5	9 th to 11 th August, 2024
BFA Graphic Arts (Print Making) Semester 1	9 th to 11 th August, 2024
BFA Sculpture Semester 1	9 th to 11 th August, 2024
BFA Graphic Design Semester 1	9 th to 11 th August, 2024
BFA Textile Design Semester 1	9 th to 11 th August, 2024

(Morning Program)

BFA Performing Arts & Musicology Semester 1	9 th to 11 th August, 2024
---	--

Note: To pass Drawing/Aptitude test announced by the College of Art & Design is also mandatory for candidates applying on reserved seats. In 1st Semester admissions, only those applicants will be entertained who have appeared in the Punjab University Admission.

Prof. Dr. Samina Nasim (Principal)
College of Art & Design, University of the Punjab, Allama Iqbal (Old) Campus, Lahore.
SPL-753 Tel: 042-99212729, 042-99211608, 042-99212730

DISCOVER BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES WITH TRADE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF PAKISTAN (TDAP)

TDAP offers an excellent opportunity to showcase your products and develop business with international buyers through this Expo.

AMBIENTE 2025
Frankfurt - Germany
February 7-11, 2025

Products in Focus
Kitchen Cutlery & towels, decorative towels, tableware, household & houseware products, interior decoration items, handicrafts, Himalayan salt products, school supplies, stationery, finished leather goods, gifts items, beauty & bath etc.

Participation fee: Rs. 780,000/-

TDAP reserves the right to revise Participation fee or change the terms & conditions of participation at any stage.

Applicants may apply online at the following link:
<https://tdap.gov.pk/min/>

Lost date to apply: 30th July 2024

Disclaimer: "The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan does not work in liaison with any private marketing company or agent for its participation in International Trade Exhibitions."

Participation will be subject to the terms and conditions available on TDAP's website <https://www.tdap.gov.pk/>

"The companies registered with Pakistan Trade Portal will be considered for selection only"
<https://pakistantradeportal.gov.pk/>

Naseer Ahmad Bhatti, Assistant Manager
Cell: 0346-7903592 | Email: naseer.bhatti@tdap.gov.pk

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE - GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
Block-A, 3rd Floor, Finance & Trade Centre,
Shaheed-e-Faisal, Karachi-75700
URL: <http://www.tdap.gov.pk/>

Misery and despair

A PERVERSIVE gloom darkens the days of almost all working-class Pakistani households. From tea shops to opinion columns in local newspapers, the conversations reflect a growing uneasiness with the status quo. Most serious economists appear increasingly alarmed that Pakistan has sailed too deep into uncharted, treacherous waters. They worry that public misery may be inevitable unless there is an immediate course correction, of which there is no sign. Meanwhile, on online discussion forums, increasing numbers of desperate mothers post queries for part-time jobs because they are no longer able to meet school fees and household expenses on one pay cheque. Heart-rending videos on social media document the desperation of street vendors, labourers, pensioners and widows as they struggle to balance their electricity bills and food expenses, while educated professionals are sharing anecdotes about the cutbacks they have been forced to implement as they wonder whether they will ever be able to get their quality of life back.

Is a life lived happily and respectably too much to ask for from your country? Many young citizens seem to believe so. A worryingly high proportion of the demographic wants nothing more than to leave. They would rather live and work anywhere than in Pakistan, which, they feel, undervalues their economic contributions, underappreciates their social needs, and suffocates them with arbitrary restrictions. The people responsible for their welfare do not care. They are too focused right now on 'economic management', which historically seems to entail little more than repeatedly selling to the IMF the idea that the Pakistani authorities are serious about getting the economy back on track. However, we have yet to see any attempt at meaningful reforms or a realisation that their efforts at 'stabilising' the economy are impoverishing millions and driving the young away.

Never before has Pakistan been tested with such severity of economic distress, nor has society ever been as demoralised as it appears now. This is not sensationalism; economists and historians agree it is a fact. It would appear, therefore, that the most serious challenge right now is restoring hope among the masses. For starters, the smouldering political crisis must be resolved urgently. Prolonging it is only exacerbating feelings of despair about the country's future. Secondly, taxation must be made vastly more equitable. A few million honest taxpayers should not be forced to foot the bill for the legislature and executive's failure; it is highly demotivating for the most productive workers. Thirdly, the political leadership must provide the youth with a vision for a better tomorrow. This does not mean promises of more motorbikes and laptops; there needs to be a bigger, more forward-looking plan in place that can help absorb millions of new entrants into the workforce in meaningful employment opportunities.

Temporary extension

THE cabinet's decision to allow 'legal' Afghan refugees — meaning those with Proof of Registration cards — to stay in the country till June 30, 2025, is a more humane choice compared to the problematic repatriation campaign initiated last year. However, it should be borne in mind that the reprieve is temporary and that one day, these individuals will have to return to their country of origin, and it is the responsibility of all stakeholders to facilitate a voluntary repatriation process, and help create the conditions in Afghanistan that can sustain the returnees. The decision will affect 1.45m Afghans in the country and was taken after the UN high commissioner for refugees visited the country to discuss the issue.

War-torn Afghans have been fleeing decades of war and persecution in their homeland, and most have either ended up in Pakistan, or used this country as a transit point to reach third countries. The latest cohort of refugees arrived in Pakistan after the Afghan Taliban rolled into Kabul in 2021, precipitating the collapse of the Western-backed government. But after decades of hosting Afghan refugees, the state has cited security concerns — militants entering the country in the guise of refugees — as a reason for initiating the repatriation campaign, while Pakistan's precarious economic situation also makes sparing resources for millions of asylum-seekers difficult. Therefore, the state, UNHCR, the Western countries that were involved in the occupation of Afghanistan as well as the Taliban regime must work together to implement a workable plan that allows the remaining Afghan refugees to safely return home. Afghans who worked for Western governments or for the Karzai and Ghani administrations — particularly those who were involved in military and intelligence activities — face danger if they go back. In such a situation, the states that employed them need to speed up their visa process so that they can leave Pakistan. Even otherwise, those states that spent billions of dollars waging war in Afghanistan must now chip in and help support Afghan refugees. The Taliban, on their part, should create a climate conducive to the return of their compatriots. This entails stunning retribution, and assuring all returnees that their fundamental rights will be respected. Moreover, the international community should help revive the Afghan economy and build infrastructure so that returnees have jobs they can take up, and a roof over their heads.

Anti-smog strategy

BY acknowledging that smog is a year-round problem, and not just a winter issue, the Punjab government has taken the first meaningful step towards tackling a public health catastrophe. However, while this 'policy shift' is indeed a positive development, will it also lead the provincial authorities to rethink their haphazard interventions to deal with the problem? No strategy will be successful unless they reorder their priorities and redesign their infrastructure development agenda with the goal of reducing the emissions responsible for the toxic air quality that we breathe every day.

As reported, the authorities are set to pursue a coordinated, cross-sectoral response to effectively cope with this perennial environmental epidemic that has taken over the entire province in recent years. The new anti-smog approach will revolve around a crackdown against all major polluters and the mobilisation of communities to create safe, smog-free spaces at home and workplaces through a multisectoral approach involving the transport, agriculture, energy, education, industries, municipal, and health departments. *Prima facie*, the plan appears to be meticulous. However, its success largely depends on a paradigm shift in the government's ability to slash its own carbon footprint by moving away from brick-and-mortar development to a green framework. In Lahore, for instance, the policy of widening roads and developing signal-free corridors, instead of ensuring effective traffic management or creating an efficient public transport network for all has not only reduced the city's green cover but has also increased vehicular emissions many times over in the last decade and a half. Likewise, the uncontrolled use of coal, waste rubber and discarded motor lubricants by industry around the city has become a major contributor to air pollution. No wonder the metropolis is now ranked among the world's dirtiest and most polluted cities. Without a major provincial development policy revamp, it would be foolish to expect the industry and people to change.

BY ZAFAR MIRZA



Health and politics

It all depends on how we understand politics.

"Science can identify solutions to pressing public health problems, but only politics can turn most of those solutions into reality." — Thomas R. Oliver

WHEN problems as well as their solutions are known, and yet people continue to suffer, then we have a bigger problem of a different kind. Unless this bigger problem is tackled, even advanced knowledge about definitive solutions will never be enough to alleviate human suffering.

Think about the two sentences above and look around you. Try to understand any major public health problem in Pakistan. You will soon reach the conclusion that the problem is clear in terms of its aetiology, pathology, epidemiology, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. If at all, there may be minor knowledge gaps, but too insignificant to hamper the implementation of proven interventions based on science and ample evidence. And yet, you would start wondering why these solutions are not being implemented here. This phenomenon, however obvious it sounds, is the problem to focus on if we are genuinely interested in resolving killer problems.

Let's dissect two public health problems to qualify the above argument.

Pakistan's last *National Nutrition Survey (NNS)* in 2018 revealed that 45 per cent of women of reproductive age and 57.4pc of adolescent girls (10-19 years) in the country were suffering from iron deficiency anaemia, ie, almost every second female. This is a national average hiding extreme differences between urban and rural and rich and poor women. Let us focus on adolescent girls as they are the future.

Anaemia in females is noted when haemoglobin goes below 12g/dl. Its manifestations include paleness, tiredness, weakness, breathlessness, etc. Imagine a girl with these symptoms becoming a woman, getting married, giving birth repeatedly, taking care of the household and, in many cases, experiencing domestic violence — a very hard life indeed.

According to NNS, anaemia was diagnosed in adolescent girls in 140 districts. The differences across districts were stark. In Punjab, 93.3pc girls were anaemic in district Bhakkar compared

to 57.4pc in Lahore, the provincial capital. In Sindh, district Tando Allahyar had 81.2pc anaemic girls whereas Karachi South, a relatively affluent district, had 45.4pc. In Balochistan, the poorest province, almost every girl in Killa Abdullah — 99.4pc — was anaemic whereas the provincial average was also high, ie, 72.4pc. Similarly, in KP it was as high as 85.3pc in Swat and 36.2pc in Peshawar.

This data confirms that districts that are poor and not a part of provincial capital districts had comparatively a much higher number of girls with low haemoglobin. It also confirms the weakness of primary healthcare (PHC) in poor areas of the country, where it is needed the most. Iron deficiency anaemia is an almost 100pc treatable condition with improvement in diet and some cheap medicines. The consequences of not addressing it are terrible for the health of women during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as for the health of newborns and child growth and development.

So how is anaemia among poor girls a political issue? It depends on how we understand politics. If we see it only in terms of gaining power at all costs and using that power for personal gain or for the benefit of cronies and coalition partners, as has been our national experience, then, of course, anaemia among poor girls is not a political issue. But if we adopt a more enlightened understanding of politics in the context of a republic, the Constitution, citizenship, human rights and equity, then 'who gets what, when, how' becomes a political issue. Only then would adolescent female citizens in Bhakkar, Tando Allahyar, Killa Abdullah and Swat become a political and social priority. Only then would governments invest in creating conditions in these districts which could prevent and treat anaemia. Only then would governments actively advance universal health coverage by strengthening PHC. Currently, Pakistan is among the lowest spenders on health globally and only around 10pc of the meagre health budget is spent on PHC.

In another example of how political determinants of health work, I remember vividly a discussion in the federal cabinet about whether the

Sabat Sabhat programme should be universalised. This is a programme which was envisaged as a targeted financial protection scheme for the poor, according to criteria set by the Benazir Income Support Programme, in cases of hospitalisation. The underlying concern was that poor people end up making catastrophic expenditure in the case of hospitalisation and fall deeper into poverty. A study published by PMD in 2021 showed that 22pc of households in Pakistan, mostly rural households, had faced catastrophic health payment issues.

In this context, it is clear that the programme was aimed at protecting the poor. However, the discussion in the cabinet eventually resulted in universalising the scheme and the fundamental argument made by a few of the more vocal PTI ministers was that our government did not have much to show on account of performance so if we made health insurance available to all, and not just to the poor, it would bring us more votes in the next election. Despite meagre resources and the obvious consequences of the poor being crowded out, the quality of services going down and corruption going up, the decision was made to universalise it in Punjab and HT. KP had already done the same. I opposed the decision but political considerations prevailed. At one stage, the programme had to be stopped even for the poor. It then resumed with modifications.

A study of healthcare systems around the world reveals that health conditions improve in countries when their political leaders make the right choices and decline or remain stagnant when health for all is not prioritised in national policies and budgets.

Meanwhile, anaemia in adolescent girls across the border in Iran is only about 8.5pc as opposed to 57.4pc in Pakistan because their leaders made decisions to set up a strong PHC system. And in the case of Sabat Sabhat programme, finally better sense has begun to prevail at least at the federal level to limit the free service to the poor. ■

The writer is a former health minister and currently a professor of health systems & population health at Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology. zafar@zafar.com

KEY FORMER ALLY TESTIFIES AGAINST IMRAN IN CORRUPTION CASE



BY REEMA OMER

Can judges speak?

ONE of the most typically expressed beliefs in Pakistan about the judiciary is that 'judges must only speak through their judgements'.

How far is this true today?

In common law countries, the idea that judges should not speak extra-judicially perhaps has roots in the 'Kilmer Rule', which largely prohibited judges from speaking to the public in the United Kingdom. In a letter to BMC's director general written in 1955 in response to an invitation to senior judges to speak about great British judges from the past, Lord Kilmer, the lord chancellor at the time, wrote: "So long as a judge keeps silent, his reputation for wisdom and impartiality remains unassailable; but every utterance which he makes on public, except in the actual performance of his judicial duties, must necessarily bring him within the focus of criticism..."

The Kilmer Rule was widely accepted for 32 years in the UK, until in 1987 another lord chancellor, Lord MacKay, stated it was "difficult to reconcile with the independence of the judiciary" and judges should decide such matters for themselves.

International law, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), also guarantees the right to the freedom of expression of all people, including judges. This right is subject only to necessary and proportionate restrictions for legitimate purposes, such as 'public order', which may include the proper administration of justice.

The ICCPR also provides for the right to a fair trial and the requirement that courts must be "independent and impartial". Among other things, this means that in addition to being free of actual bias, courts must also appear to a reasonable observer to be impartial.

This implies potential for certain special restrictions on judges' exercise of expression. Any such restrictions would nevertheless need to comply with Article 19 of the ICCPR, including that they be necessary and proportionate means for one of four permissible purposes, in this case to ensure public order.

The UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary further clarify the relationship between judges' right to freedom of expression and the independence and impartiality of the judiciary: "In accordance with the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights, members of the judiciary are like other citizens entitled to freedom of expression... provided, however, that in exercising such rights, judges shall always conduct themselves in such a manner as to preserve the dignity of their office and the impartiality and independence of the judiciary."

Judges should, therefore, reserve themselves from any case where their statements or other exercise of the right to free speech give rise to a reasonable apprehension of bias.

The test is not, however, whether anyone, with even a little knowledge about the situation 'might' believe the judge to be partial. Rather, it is whether a reasonable person, knowing all the circumstances, would doubt the judge's impartiality. A review of international standards, regional jurisprudence, and academic literature finds that as a general rule, judges are encouraged not to speak on matters relating to party politics, or when speaking publicly would directly undermine the rights of the litigants before

There are broad and important areas about which judges have a duty to speak.

them, would impede on the separation of powers, or involve the judge in public controversy.

While certain exercises by a judge of their freedom of expression could be a basis for disciplinary action, such action would itself have to comply with respect for judicial independence, including in relation to fair process and procedural safeguards. Also, any disciplinary consequences, including removal, would again need to satisfy the requirements of necessity and proportionality.

But even with these overall constraints, there are broad and important areas about which judges have a duty to speak because they have a unique contribution to make to public discourse.

In this regard, recommendations by the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE), an advisory body of the Council of Europe, on issues relating to the independence of judges, in its 2022 opinion on judges' freedom of

expression are particularly relevant.

The CCJE recommends, for example, that "in situations where democracy, the separation of powers or the rule of law are under threat, judges must be resilient and have a duty to speak out in defence of judicial independence, the constitutional order and the restoration of democracy, both at national and international level. This includes views and opinions on issues that are politically sensitive and extend to both internal and external independence of individual judges and the judiciary in general."

The CCJE adds: "By enhancing understanding, transparency and by helping to avoid public misrepresentations, judges may help to promote and preserve public trust in the judicial activity."

There may also be cases where judges consider it their 'moral duty' to speak. On this issue, the judgement by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in *López Lone vs Honduras* (2008) is instructive. The court held the rights of several judges to freedom of expression, assembly, and association were violated by their dismissal for actions they took to protest against a coup d'état and in favour of the re-establishment of democracy in Honduras.

The court noted "the prohibition of judges from participating in activities of a party nature should not be interpreted... in a way that prevents judges from taking part in any discussion of a political nature". It held "there may be situations in which a judge, as a citizen who is a member of society, considers that he or she has a moral duty to speak out" and this might indeed be seen not only as a right but an obligation of judges during a coup d'état or other "times of grave domestic crisis".

Instead of outdated prohibitions on judges speaking outside of their judgments, it is necessary for our discourse around judges' speech to be guided by the human rights framework — both the right of the judge to the freedom of expression, as well as principles of an independent and impartial judiciary and the right to a fair trial. ■

The writer is a legal adviser for the International Commission of Jurists. reema.omer@icj.org www.icj.org www.facebook.com/reema.omer

OPINION



BY ZUBEIDA MUSTAFA

Parents' concern

HERE comes yet another attempt at kick-starting a public discourse on the most neglected issue in Pakistan: public sector education. This time the initiative has been taken by Nargis Behman, the dynamic head of the Pakistan Women's Foundation for Peace, which has launched a series of seminars on the subject. The meetings have been held so far, with one more scheduled.

Nearly a dozen speakers have expressed their views on the malaise of 'neglected' public sector schools in the country. It is remarkable how a variety of problems have been addressed to give participants a better understanding of what is going on.

However, this exercise has so far not produced an answer to a frequently asked question: 'What can civil society do to get the government to get its education house in order?' Only those in office can undertake this task. All the speakers were eloquent in analysing the problems, and identifying tentative solutions. They also seemed to know full well that the policy-makers are aware of what is wrong and what needs to be done to improve the situation. After all, most of the experts who spoke in the two seminars have either worked with the power wielders, or are now engaged in some form of partnership with the government. But we were not told why the experts are failing to get the government to pay heed to their sound advice. The fact is that on such occasions no one wants to call a spade a spade.

There are two reasons for our rulers' lack of political will to put their act together when it comes to education. First, by denying the masses knowledge and education, the powers that be hope to keep the people ignorant and incapable of thinking critically and developing problem-solving skills. The neglect of family planning, the emphasis on 'English medium' education and the promotion of excessive religiosity are also designed to make people complacent and fatalistic. As a result, they accept their poverty and the oppression heaped on them without resisting. They are also more subservient and easier to control and exploit.

The second reason for our rulers wanting to maintain the status quo is that it would add to the loot that accrues to so many employed in the sector. Money is the grease that keeps the system going. There are some honest, hardworking, well-qualified and conscientious people who work within the system but they are, arguably, heavily outnumbered by the corrupt. Tales of corruption are legion, and mercifully, some speakers had the courage to focus on them. The power of

money to buy or sell 'privileges' and 'advantages' that are not legally earned is now taken for granted. It is corruption that leads to inefficiency. The examination boards are the biggest money miners and need a clean-up-operation if education in Pakistan is to survive.

Returning to the earlier question of what is to be done, I would suggest the Dr Akhtar Hameed Khan approach. Doctor Sahib launched the Orange Pilot Project in Karachi, based on his faith in the ability and active knowledge of the people, who were its beneficiaries. His philosophy was that every community has its own leaders who can solve their own problems if facilitated by outside expertise that also understands this philosophy. That is how Orange's drainage system became a success story narrated all over the world.

In the context of education, it would mean restructuring and expanding the powers of school management committees so that they act as regulatory bodies that give the community a greater say in the future of their children.

Every school should have an SMC comprising parents and informal leaders/elders of the community from where the students are drawn. Others to be included should be the school headmaster/head teacher and some members of staff and some representatives from the education department (specifically the district education officer).

Above all, some members of the public, the likes of school adopters, should be invited to join the SMC and play the role of mediators and use their good offices to mediate in the conflicts that will be inevitable. Hopefully, this will improve the working of schools as the presence of the adopters will neutralise the corrupt and inefficient.

The adopters could invest some of their funds in providing extra benefits to the school. Perhaps they could pay the salaries of one or two teachers who are needed and provide snacks to undernourished children. Some donations for libraries with librarians would also help. Personally I think this scheme is doable and should help. Not everyone is corrupt. The honest need moral support to stand up for integrity and honest work.

Of course, the question is: who will hold the cat?

www.zubeida-mustafa.com



BY ANWAR KEMAL

Possible solution

THE Russia-Ukraine conflict traces its origins back to the Soviet era when certain districts in eastern and south-eastern Ukraine, most notably Crimea in 1954, were transferred from Russia to Ukraine. At the time nobody could have foreseen the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

When Mikhail Gorbachev assumed power in 1985, he adopted policies of Glasnost and Perestroika that were meant to rejuvenate the Soviet Union. Instead, they inadvertently reshaped the European and global order, undermining Russian interests. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent reunification of Germany signalled the end of the Russian-dominated Warsaw Pact.

Remarkably, it was Russia's president, Boris Yeltsin, who clandestinely orchestrated the Soviet Union's coup de grace in 1991, in concert with the presidents of Ukraine and Belarus. Mikhail Gorbachev accused this triad of 'turning the world upside-down', but he too must share responsibility for the debacle. Consequently, the internal boundaries of the semi-independent Soviet republics became official international borders, without the exercise of due diligence. The Soviet Union's breakup set the stage for future conflicts between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Russia and Georgia, and Russia and Ukraine.

After the Soviet Union's dissolution, the West extended NATO eastward, expanding it from 16 members in 1999 to 32. President Vladimir Putin regarded NATO's expansion and Ukraine's 2014 Euro Maidan national movement, which toppled the pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich, as a strategic threat.

In April 2014, Russia annexed Crimea and backed separatists in eastern Donbas, igniting a low-intensity conflict. A full-scale war erupted in February 2022 when Russia launched an extensive invasion of Ukraine. Since 2014, the toll has been staggering: hundreds of thousands of Russian and Ukrainian troops killed or wounded, over 40,000 Ukrainian civilians dead or injured, and millions displaced or driven to seek refuge abroad.

Russia currently controls over one-fifth of Ukrainian territory. A hiatus in American aid enabled Russia to advance and further erode Ukraine's military capabilities and infrastructure. In April 2024, the US approved a \$61 billion aid package and signed a 20-year security pact, while European nations established a \$54bn 'Ukraine Facility'. Despite these efforts, Ukraine faces relentless pressure on the battlefield and a barrage of punishing Russian drone and missile strikes. Additionally, it lacks the military strength to recover its lost territories.

President Putin's recent ceasefire proposal demanded that Ukraine withdraw entirely from Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia, officially abdicating its NATO aspirations, and that Western sanctions be lifted. In June 2024, Putin visited North Korea and Vietnam, and in exchange for North Korean support, appears to have abandoned Russia's previous opposition to North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

A Nato summit meeting held in Washington, DC, on July 9-11, 2024, apart from acceding China of supporting Russia's war effort, has pledged support for "an irreversible path" to future Nato membership for Ukraine as well as additional assistance totalling \$41.5bn. The possibility of escalation between Nato and Russia, each wielding thousands of nuclear weapons, brightens the prospect of finding a just solution.

A solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict requires both sides to acknowledge that a military solution is neither feasible nor desirable. The Russian demand that Ukraine forgo Nato membership will have to be accepted, otherwise there would be zero hope of securing Russian withdrawal from Ukrainian territories, particularly Crimea, which holds substantial strategic and historical significance for Russia.

Recognition by the two sides that the exercise of sovereignty is often symbolic may help them understand that their decade-long conflict is not about annexing territory or collecting tribute-like medieval levies.

The sovereignty issue could be addressed through a formula for shared governance/sovereignty and dual citizenship in certain disputed areas transferred to Ukraine during the Soviet era. This approach would honour the historical and cultural ties between the two nations, while maintaining Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Ukraine cannot afford to become a hostile outpost bordering Russia's heartland, while Russia must regain Ukraine's trust by respecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and aiding generously in the reconstruction of its war-torn infrastructure. Pakistan, maintaining neutrality, would support a win-win solution that protects the vital interests of both nations.

The writer is a subject arbitrator. The views expressed above are for info.

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Internal trouble

BEHRIN (SWAN) Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said here this afternoon (July 11) that the Opposition was trying to create problems for the Government with a view to diverting its attention from development activities. Addressing a public meeting in Behrin ... the Prime Minister said that the Ahmad problem was being discussed by the National Assembly and his endeavour would find its correct solution. ... (He) urged the people to identify the enemies of Pakistan. ... The Prime Minister, who spoke at length on the attitude of the Afghan rulers towards Pakistan, said they should not "exceed the limit". — News agencies

Meanwhile, as reported by news agencies from the UN, [Lefebvre] told the Security Council yesterday (July 10) that Israeli attacks earlier this week against Lebanon port cities demonstrated that Israel no longer cared even to justify its aggression. Mr. Yafya Mahamane, acting chief of the Lebanese delegation, said ... "The Security Council, particularly the permanent members, and the world community cannot remain indifferent spectators when the Israeli forces carry out their policy of terror, murder and blackmail against a member State of the United Nations".

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

Pakistan's stand is just

LABOUR: "The utter unreasonableness of the ... often contradictory claims advanced ... by Afghanistan mostly through channels other than official is becoming as clear to the whole world as is the justice and fairness of Pakistan's stand vis-a-vis its claims," said Ghous-ud-Din Muhammad Zafarullah in an interview ... this afternoon (July 10) ... (He) said that from the question of changing the name of the area comprising the tribal belt and the NWFP into "Pakistani" was raised. It was made clear ... that this was something which the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan alone could take up should the inhabitants of the area move for such a change.

This was followed by allegations against Pakistan ... put out in various foreign capitals through ... the Afghan propaganda machine — of ... withholding of assistance in the economic sphere.

... (The Foreign Minister pointed out that ... Pakistan ... had ... made every possible effort to assist and co-operate. Goods for Afghanistan unloaded at Karachi are not only exempt from payment of customs duties but every possible port and rail facility is being extended to ensure their speedy ... transportation. ... — News agencies

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.

Of influencers and twisted influences



IN recent years, the rise of various social media platforms has given birth to a new generation of celebrities known as 'influencers'. These individuals, often young and charismatic, wield significant power and influence over their followers. While their content can be entertaining and inspiring, it is crucial to recognize the hidden side effects that come with the rise of TikTokers, YouTubers and other social media influencers.

One of the most pressing issues that are associated with these influencers is the impact on mental health. Influencers often project a seemingly perfect life, filled with glamour, luxury and constant excitement. This portrayal can lead to unrealistic expectations and feelings of inadequacy among their followers, particularly the young and impressionable teenagers. Several studies have shown that prolonged exposure to such content can contribute to anxiety, depression and low self-esteem.

Moreover, the influencers themselves are not immune to these effects. The pressure to maintain a flawless image and the constant scrutiny from thousands of followers can take a severe toll on their mental health. Many influencers have reported experiencing burnout, anxiety and even depression due to the relentless demands of content creation and public attention.

Social media is visual-centric, and influencers often share images and videos that highlight their physical appearance. This constant exposure to idealized body types can distort the followers' perceptions of beauty and body image. The pursuit of these unrealistic standards can lead to a range of negative outcomes, including eating disorders and body dysmorphic disorder.

One of the more insidious side effects of the influencer phenomenon is the devaluation of traditional professionalism and education. Influencers, who are

known to generally earn significant income by sharing snippets of their personal lives or engaging in viral challenges, can make more money than many professionals active in medicine, engineering or academia. This stark contrast can send a harmful message to young people, suggesting that education and hard-earned skills are less valuable than social media fame. This perception creates an imbalance in society, fostering a sense of deprivation and negligence among those who dedicate years to mastering their crafts.

In the race to gain followers and views, many influencers share intimate details of their personal lives on social media. This constant exposure can erode the boundaries between public and private life, normalizing the idea that every moment is a potential piece of content.

The quest for the desired level of virality often leads influencers to create content that is inappropriate, illegal or unethical. In the name of entertainment, some of them engage in dangerous stunts, spread misinformation, or promote unhealthy behaviours. The sheer volume of such content can overwhelm genuinely talented individuals, making it seem as though shock value and sensationalism are the most viable paths to success. This phenomenon sends a troubling message to future generations that stupidity can be normalised and celebrated as a new form of talent. The emphasis on sensational content over substance can distort young people's understanding of what constitutes meaningful achievement and contribution to society.

Despite the growing influence of social media, there is a notable lack of regulation regarding the content being produced and shared. This absence of oversight allows for the proliferation of inappropriate and harmful material, further contributing to the negative impact on society. The unregulated nature of social media content means that influencers can promote whatever they choose, without considering the potential consequences for their audience.

While social media influencers can offer entertainment, inspiration and a sense of community, it is important to be aware of the potential negative impacts of what they do and how they do it. By raising awareness and promoting responsible use of social media, we can mitigate the negative impacts and harness the positive potential of these platforms.

Qazi Faisal Ahmed
Karachi

Missing PLA crew

THIS refers to the report "Yet another PLA steward 'disappears' in Toronto" (June 25). Similar situations were witnessed in the late 1980s and the early 1990s when scores of male and female cabin crew members of the national carrier used to 'disappear' in

the United States soon after arrival in New York from Pakistan.

After the withdrawal of PIA flights to and from the US in October 2017, the culprits shifted their point of destination to Canada. I strongly feel their final destination would still be the US. It is not too difficult for a person to cross the border with the help of friends or relatives once they risk losing all the benefits of their cushy job.

Such incidents will grow manifold to evade the UN administration's amnesty to legalize all undocumented illegal immigrants. PIA has to scrutinize the individuals thoroughly before scheduling them in Toronto-bound flights. Owing to such actions by some individuals, the national carrier is slapped with fines, and earns a bad name for the country.

Munawar A. Pasha
New York, USA

Planned beautification

SOME suggestions have recently been floated regarding beautification of Shree Faisal, a vital artery of the metropolis. I believe it is crucial to consider the type of plants suitable for the city in terms of its environment, and the water management techniques used to maintain them.

As we all know, Karachi's summer temperatures often soar above 40 degrees Celsius, making it essential to choose plants that provide adequate shade, oxygen and temperature regulation. Unfortunately, plants like dates or palms, which are commonly used in landscaping, fall short in these aspects. They do not provide sufficient oxygen, shade or temperature reduction, nor do they attract clouds that are essential for the city's ecosystem.

Instead, I recommend using plants like neem, peepal, banyan, gulmohar, etc., which are well-suited to the city's environment and offer numerous benefits. All these trees are known for their ability to purify the air, provide shade, and regulate temperature. They are also drought-resistant, making them an ideal choice for the water-scarce city. It has been noticed in the last couple of years that air blowers, wedding halls and petrol pumps situated on the road have cut down big trees in front of their businesses in contravention with the authority concerned, and planted date trees so that their customers could have a clear view. This practice should be stopped immediately.

Also, I strongly recommend adopting modern watering techniques, like sprinkler systems, instead of manual watering methods using water tankers. These efficient systems minimize water waste, reduce evaporation, and ensure that plants receive the right amount of water. This approach will not only conserve water, but also reduce the carbon footprint of water transportation.

The relevant authorities really need to reconsider their plantation strategy and water management techniques. They should opt for sustainable methods that are also eco-friendly. This will truly benefit the environment and the people.

Shoaib Siddiqui
Karachi

A relevant lesson



THIS is with reference to the report 'Hunter Biden convicted on all charges in gun case' (June 12). A jury court in the United States found President Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden (seen in the accompanying image with his mother Jill Biden), guilty on various counts. The president subsequently accepted the decision and expressed respect for the judicial process. It is difficult to draw a comparison, or at least a parallel, with our own society, particularly in cases involving politicians or other powerful individuals.

Here, if a court decision happens to be in line with one's wishes, the individual or the party is all praise for the judiciary. Conversely, if the decision is not aligned with one's wishes, the verdict, regardless of its legality, is rejected. The same rule applies to election results as well.

While it may be unfair to compare the political system of a powerful, developed country with those of a weaker, developing one, there are lessons for us to be learned about strengthening judicial and political processes. It is the judiciary's responsibility to remain above political pressures, and to issue verdicts based solely on professional grounds.

Politicians and other influential groups must also recognise that an independent judiciary is crucial for upholding democratic principles. If a party puts pressure on the judiciary to act against its opponents, history shows that such institutions erode when the opponents gain power. It is important to learn from these patterns before it is too late.

Aamir Saqib Khan
Karachi

UNSTABLE INTERNET: I used to subscribe 300 gigabytes (GBs) for my monthly data usage, but was unable to utilize even half of it due to poor and unstable internet connection in the area. Unfortunately, none of the telecom operators provides secure and stable internet connection in Pakistan. This not only disrupts communication, but also adds to the country's economic woes. Pakistan's economy is reasonably dependent on freelancing, and it is considered the second biggest contributor to the national gross domestic product (GDP) after remittances. The government should increase investment in the telecom sector to ensure secure and stable network connection in the cities and far-flung areas of the country. **Nabi Raahat Noorparah**
Mianwali

COME BELIEF NEEDED: The recent electricity unit price hike is a severe blow to the consumers most of whom are already grappling with severe economic hardship. The increase has resulted in a significant surge in monthly expenses, forcing many families to make difficult choices between paying their electricity bills and meeting other essential expenditures. The impact is particularly devastating for low and middle-income families. Considering the immense burden on these consumers, the federal government should step forward and provide some relief. **Jawad Ali Memon**
Gambat

LOW PENSION: The recent federal budget has stipulated a 12 per cent increase in the pension of all retired government employees. However, the government has ignored the pensioners registered with the Employees' Old Age Benefit Institution (EOABI). Are they not Pakistan citizens? Are they not facing the impact of horrible inflation in the country? At present, EOABI pensioners receive Rs10,000 per month, which is simply not enough. A family cannot be supported with this amount. The relevant officers in Islamabad should take notice of the issue and announce a decent increase for all EOABI pensioners. **Muhammad Rafiq**
Karachi

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

ANP wins Bajaur by-poll after tough contest

By Anwarullah Khan

BAJAUR: Awami National Party's Mohammad Nisar Khan won by-elections for provincial assembly seat, PK-22, by securing 11,695 votes against 10,623 votes received by an independent candidate Najeebullah Khan, according to provisional result announced by the returning officer.

At all 91 polling stations in the constituency, results of Jamiat-ul-Islami Atad Khan received 10,593 votes whereas Bahadurullah of Sunni Bahad Council, having support of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, bagged 7,346 votes.

A total of 45,801 votes (25.59 per cent) were cast out of total 179,010 registered votes in the constituency.

Elections in this constituency as well as a National Assembly seat in Bajaur were postponed in the Feb 8 general polls due to death of a candidate, Rehmanullah Khan, a PTI candidate.

However, during by-elections both these seats were won by Khan's brother Mubarekullah, who decided to retain the NA seat and vacated the PK-22 provincial assembly seat.

Polling was held mostly in peaceful environment here in Bajaur district on Thursday.

The polling process at all the 91 polling stations, which started at 8am, continued till 5pm, the designated time without any interval. No major issue was reported

despite the fact that 43 polling stations were declared sensitive and 21 were most sensitive.

However, some minor clashes were reported among the supporters of different political parties and candidates at few polling stations. Strict security arrangements were made at almost all polling stations.

The total number of registered voters in the constituency is 307,010 including 99,038 men and 79,972 women. However, during visit to different polling stations, it was witnessed that a very small number of people were present to exercise their rights

to vote till 3pm.

Several candidates and their polling agents confirmed low turnout of voters, especially of women. They told this correspondent that the presence of voters at polling stations was against of their expectations. They said that they expected that at least 40 per cent of people voters come to polling stations.

The polling staff and candidates also expressed the fear that the turnout of women voters might remain low than the 50 per cent criteria of Election Commission of Pakistan to legalize the polling process.

There were a total 12 of candidates in the run.

Landing gear of Saudi passenger jet catches fire at BKIA



—White Star

PESHAWAR: The landing gear of a passenger plane of Saudi airline caught fire after landing at Benazir Bhutto International Airport here on Thursday.

Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials said that Saudi flight SV-792 carrying 149 passengers and crew members was safely evacuated from the aircraft through an inflatable slide, the statement said.

CAA officials said the flight operations at BKIA were suspended and all the flights were diverted to Islamabad, adding that the flight's scheduled for Thursday night and Friday morning would continue according to the plan.

Later, the passengers left for their homes.

—Bureau Report

Girl killed in Khyber landmine blast

KHYBER: A girl lost her life while three more girls sustained injuries in a landmine blast in Upper Bara area of Khyber on Thursday.

Sources in the region said that 12-year-old Aalia among with three other neighbouring girls were grazing their domestic animals in the nearby hills in Karsaw Jamat locality when she mistakenly

only stepped on a land mine buried underground.

They said Aalia died on the spot while the remaining girls Fatima, Shabana and Sharmeen sustained critical injuries.

Local residents rushed to the site after hearing the blast and shifted the injured girls to a nearby medical facility.

—Correspondent

NATIONAL BANK OF PAKISTAN INVITATION TO e-BID

PROCUREMENT OF AIR-CONDITIONERS WITH ANCILLARY SERVICES FOR NBP MAIN BRANCH KOHAT (304), R.O. PESHAWAR

National Bank of Pakistan, invites electronic bids from the original manufacturers or authorized distributors / suppliers, registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Department for aforesaid procurement.

- Inviting documents as per regulations, containing detail terms and conditions, specifications and requirements etc. are available for the registered bidders on EPADS at <https://eprocure.gov.pk>.
- The electronic bids, prepared in accordance to the instructions contained in the bidding documents along with bid security (Rs. 250,000) instrument and required documents must be submitted by using EPADS on or before July 30, 2024 at 11:30 AM. Manual bids, shall not be accepted. In case of any technical difficulty in using EPADS, prospective bidders may contact PPRA Team, Director MIS Room No.109, 1st Floor, FBC Building Sector D-5/2, Islamabad. Contact Number 051-111-137-237.
- Original Bid Security instrument MUST be submitted to the under signed before closing hours of the bids submission time otherwise respective bid will not be opened. Electronic Bids will be opened on the same day at 12:00 Noon through EPADS in the presence of Procurement Committee and bidders who opt to participate at the following venue:

WING HEAD (Central & North) Procurement Division, Logistics Communications & Marketing Group, NATIONAL BANK OF PAKISTAN, 26 Mollagan Road, Lahore-Pakistan.

Note: Notification of the GRC constituted in terms of Rule-48 of PPRA rules, 2004 is provided on EPADS at <https://eprocure.gov.pk>.

This advertisement is available on NBP website at <https://www.nbp.com.pk/TENDER> and PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk.

WING HEAD (Central & North) Procurement Division, Logistics Communications & Marketing Group, NATIONAL BANK OF PAKISTAN Regional Head Quarters, 26 Mollagan Road, Lahore-Pakistan. Direct: +92-42-99212258. FAX: +92-42-99210541 Ext: 3512, 3513, 3509.



INVITATION FOR BID

TENDER / REQUEST FOR THE PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES CENTRES AT ICT, GB & AJK

Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (M/o FE&PT), Islamabad under the PSDP project titled "Disruptive Education: Transforming Schools into Foundries of Emerging Tech" invites the bids from the eligible vendors/firms for the establishment of emerging technologies centres at ICT, GB & AJK on QCBS method.

- M/o FE&PT invites proposals from eligible vendors/firms to establish 30 x Type A, High End Digital Labs with PCs & allied equipment and 300 x Type B Labs with Chrome Books and allied equipment. 90% of the labs will be setup in FDE schools in Islamabad district within 3 months (90 days). 10% of the total labs will be established each at GB and AJK and should be setup within 120 days. The Proposals should be based on fixed rates for two types of labs, inclusive of all applicable taxes and premiums, and must meet the RFP's specifications.
- The interested Firms/Vendors are invited to submit sealed bids by following "Single Stage-Two Envelopes" bidding procedure in accordance with the PPRA Rules 36(3). Each bid shall comprise two envelopes containing financial proposal and technical proposal each along with any supplementary documents that the organization feels relevant may be submitted to the Procurement Specialist. Technical Proposals will be opened first, those who will qualify in the technical bids will be evaluated financially. Only those who are registered with legal entities are eligible to apply for the bid.
- The last date for submission of bids will be 24-07-2024 by 02:00 PM. Technical Proposals will be opened on the same date at 02:30 PM in the presence of the representative of the firms who may wish to attend. Bid security of two percent (2%) in the shape of a Pay Order, CDR, or Banker's Cheque, in the name of Procurement Specialist, is required, and must be furnished along with Financial Proposal. M/o FE&PT will not be responsible for any cost or expense incurred by the bidders in connection with preparation or submission of bids. In case of official holiday on the day of submission, next day will be treated as closing date. Bid notice has also been posted on PPRA website (www.ppra.gov.pk) Electronic proposals will not be entertained other than bids required to be submitted through PPRA e-Procurement Portal-EPADS at (www.eprocure.gov.pk). The procuring agency has right to cancel the activity any time. The detailed bidding documents/RFP can be downloaded from the PPRA and M/o FE&PT's website. Pre-bid meeting will be held at Project Coordination Unit, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (M/o FE&PT), Khyber-e-Sufrawardy, Zero Point, Pakistan Mangrove Building on 17-07-2024 at 11:00 AM.

Disruptive Education: Transforming Schools into Foundries Of Emerging Tech Procurement Specialist, Project Coordination Unit, Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (M/o FE&PT) Khyber-e-Sufrawardy, Zero Point, Pakistan Mangrove Building, Gate 3, Islamabad Email: ucma.mall.pcu@gmail.com 051-9252497

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS & COORDINATION FEDERAL DIRECTORATE OF IMMUNIZATION PROPOSALS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF COMPANIES/FIRMS FOR OPERATIONALIZATION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR INCINERATOR

The Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI), under the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, invites reputable companies/firms registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments and on Active Payers List (APL) of FBR to submit sealed Proposals for prequalification the operationalization and maintenance of an eco-friendly incinerator located in Islamabad. Companies / firms must demonstrate strong technical, financial, and managerial capabilities.

- Incinerator Specifications:** The incinerator has a daily capacity of incinerating 1000 kg of hospital waste using LPG/Natural gas. It features a double chamber system that reaches temperatures of 1200 degrees Celsius and includes a high-quality wet scrubber to control hazardous gases. It is equipped with both manual and automatic waste loading systems.
- Waste Collection Requirements:** Interested firms will be responsible for collection and transportation of up to 800 kg/day hospital waste from health facilities in Islamabad, preferably Government hospitals/Labs, on the negotiated terms and rate of collection will be finalized after bidding. Estimated maximum 200 kg/day EPI waste will be provided by DHO office for incineration without cost. Accordingly maximum feasible capacity of 1000 kg/day incinerator would be utilized.
- Scope of Services:** The scope of services is detailed in the pre-qualification document available online. Eligibility criteria and pre-qualification details are available on the FDI website (www.epi.gov.pk) and (www.eprocure.gov.pk).
- Shortlisting/ Pre-qualification:** Applicant firms will be shortlisted based on their profiles, meeting the criteria set by the FDI. Shortlisted firms will undergo further evaluation through a prequalification process. Prequalified firms must submit proposals in accordance with FDI requirements as per Rule 15 (1) of Public Procurement Rules, 2004, which will be evaluated as per the criteria defined in the eligibility/prequalification (RFP) documents.
- Submission Guidelines:** The proposal for prequalification form is available on the FDI website (www.epi.gov.pk). Interested firms must submit their proposals both electronically and manually. The original proposal, along with all required documents, should be submitted to the office of the undersigned. Additionally, firms must register on E-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (E-PADS) and submit their proposals on the designated PPRA website (www.eprocure.gov.pk). Proposals for prequalification must be submitted on 26-07-2024 at 11:00 hours and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 Hours sharp in presence of all bidders in the office of the undersigned.
- Electronic Prequalification documents, containing detailed requirements, terms and conditions are also available for the registered bidders on EPADS at (www.eprocure.gov.pk).**
- The competent authority reserves the right to reject all proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a proposal as per Rule 33 (Rejection of Bids) of PPRA Rules 2004.

Deputy Director (Procurement) Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI) Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination PM's National Health Complex, Park Road Chak Shahzad, Islamabad Phone No. 051-9253101 PFD (j) No.251/24

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Position:	Deputy General Manager (Admin & Security)
Qualification:	Bachelor's degree in business administration, Security Management, Public Administration, or a related field or a Master's degree, from Higher Education Commission recognized University.
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 10 years of experience in administration and security management. The candidate should be retired Army Officers not below the rank of Colonel.
Age:	55 Years
Key job responsibilities:	<p>ADMINISTRATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee and manage the daily operations of the administrative department. Develop, implement, and monitor administrative policies and procedures. Ensure efficient office management, including maintenance of office equipment and transport facilities. Supervise administrative staff, providing guidance and ensuring their continuous development. Coordinate with other departments to ensure smooth business operations and support service delivery. Oversee travel arrangements, accommodation, and event planning for staff. Prepare and manage the department's budget, ensuring cost-effective operations. Ensure compliance with local, state, and federal regulations. <p>SECURITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement security policies, protocols, and procedures at Corporate as well as projects level. Conduct risk assessments and audits to identify potential security threats and vulnerabilities. Oversee the installation and maintenance of security systems (CCTV, alarms, access control, etc.). Manage security staff, training, and performance evaluation. Liaison with law enforcement and emergency services as necessary. Ensure the safety and security of the premises, personnel, and assets. Conduct regular security drills and training sessions for employees. Investigate security breaches and incidents, providing detailed reports and recommendations. Maintain updated records of security-related incidents and actions taken.

Note: Departmental candidates are required to apply through proper channel. Open term contract & market based negotiable salary. The company reserves the rights to fill or not to fill the advertised positions. The last date for submission of applications is 29/07/2024. Incomplete and late applications will not be entertained. Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview. No TADA will be admissible for interview. Complete application form available at PMDC website, filled with complete supporting details including educational & experience letters be sent in envelope marked "APP, APPLICATION FOR DGM (ADMIN & SECURITY)" on the top right corner or through Email to hr@pmdc.gov.pk. Applicants can also apply ONLINE through the link www.nep.gov.pk.

FD (j) 24424 General Manager (HR&EA) Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation Head Office: Plot No.13, Sector H-9, Islamabad. Tel: 92-51-9265132, Fax: 92-51-9265127-29

INVITATION FOR BID

TENDER / REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PROCUREMENT ACTIVITY TITLED - ENGAGING SERVICES OF A PRIVATE EDUCATION SERVICE PROVIDER FOR RECRUITING, PROVISIONING AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE OF SEVENTY-FIVE (75) CODING FELLOWS UNDER THE "CODING, ROBOTICS AND AI LEARNING FOR PRIMARY GRADE STUDENTS" PROJECT

Federal Directorate of Education under Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training intends to procure the services of an Education Service Provider for recruiting, provisioning and managing seventy-five (75) Coding Fellows under the "Coding, Robotics and AI Learning for Primary Grade Students" program (detailed document is available on Ministry's website at www.mofept.gov.pk as well as on PPRA at <https://www.ppra.org.pk>). For this purpose, the Consulting services of experienced and qualified service providers are required. FDE under M/o FE&PT aims at running pilots on "Specialized coding robotics and AI Learning for Primary Skills Development Program" on short medium- and long-term basis. The purpose of this tender is to provide high-level 75 Coding Fellows requirements for the "SPECIALIZED TRAINING" evaluation process and ultimately the selection process.

- The interested service providers are invited to submit sealed bids by following "Single Stage - Two Envelopes" bidding procedure in accordance with the PPRA Rules 36(3). Each bid shall comprise two envelopes containing financial proposal and technical proposal each along with any supplementary documents that the organization feels relevant may be submitted to the Procurement Specialist. Technical Proposals will be opened first, those who will qualify in the technical bids will be evaluated financially. Only those who are registered with legal entities are eligible to apply for the bid. A Bid Security/Bid Bond is required and acceptable in the shape of a Bank Guarantee/Bank Draft/Pay Order/Demand Draft/Banker's cheque/CDR only, issued from any scheduled bank operating in Pakistan, as 2% of the project value, in the favor of Procurement Specialist MAFEPPT should be enclosed at submission of Proposals.
- The last date for submission of bids will be 26-07-2024 by 12:00 PM. Technical Proposals will be opened on the same date at 12:30 PM in the presence of the representative of the firms who may wish to attend. The bid shall comprise a single package containing two separate envelopes. Each envelope shall contain separately the financial proposal (prices must be mentioned with all applicable taxes otherwise bid will be rejected) and the technical proposal. The envelopes shall be marked as "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL" and "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" in bold and legible letters to avoid confusion. The bid shall remain valid for 120 days extendable up to 60 days the date of bid opening prescribed above, the bid security should not expire till 120 days. Financial bids of only technically qualified bidders shall be opened on a date/time to be announced subsequently. Financial bids of bidders that may not qualify technically shall be returned unopened.
- The tender documents including detailed Request for Proposal must be obtained from the undersigned during office hours before the closing date and time by presenting written request for issuance of RFP document or from Website of www.mofept.gov.pk. Valid NTN / GST Registration Certificates and ACPR Vendor Number required for collection of the tender documents. Electronic proposals will not be entertained other than bids required to be submitted through PPRA e-Procurement Portal-EPADS at (www.eprocure.gov.pk), and late bids will be rejected. M/o FE&PT will not be responsible for any cost or expense incurred by the bidders in connection with preparation or submission of bids. In case of official holiday on the day of submission, next day will be treated as closing date. Bid notice has also been posted on PPRA website (www.ppra.gov.pk). The procuring agency has right to cancel the activity any time. The detailed bidding document/RFP can be downloaded from the PPRA and M/o FE&PT's website.

Director General FDE, Project Coordination Unit, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (M/o FE&PT) Khyber-e-Sufrawardy, Zero Point, Pakistan Mangrove Building, Gate 3, Islamabad Email: ucma.mall.pcu@gmail.com 051-9252497

BUSINESS

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GROW
ADVERTISE IN

INDUSTRY SUPPLEMENTS

Call Manager Supplements to
know your options or visit our
website: www.industry-supplements.com

EPSON

Complete range of LCD Projectors
from 1,300 to 30,000 Lumens



NECOCO PAKISTAN
100-Block, Phase 1, DHA, Sector 11, Islamabad
Tel: 3730 1111, 3730 1112, 3730 1113
Fax: 3730 1114, 3730 1115, 3730 1116

Aurangzeb hopeful of deal with IMF this month on \$6bn package

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Claiming completion of almost all prior action before time and reaching an agreement, in principle, with all provisions — every agricultural income tax, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, announced on Thursday that talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would yield a deal on a \$6bn Extended Fund Facility (EFF) this month.

The government will subsequently request the lender to sign the package with climate resilience facility (CRF).

Talking to journalists after briefing an in-camera meeting of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance & Revenue about the IMF negotiations, the finance minister said Pakistan wanted to secure more

than \$6bn EFF from IMF.

Syed Naveed Qureshi, a PPP member and former finance minister, presided over the meeting.

The finance minister said government had met almost all prior actions and hopefully the issue programme would be concluded this month. In reply to a question, the minister said the EFF's size had not been finalised, but once it is in place, the government would approach the IMF staff for its agreement with CRF on the eve of the first quarterly review.

Muhammad Aurangzeb said climate financing did not come up during ongoing discussions on EFF. The CRF is a relatively new facility carrying about \$50bn total initial contributions from rich countries, at low rates, to help nations vulnerable to climate change carry out reforms for climate resilience.

The finance minister said the

provinces had agreed "in principle" over income tax on agriculture, but since it was a principal subject its process could not be completed without detailed consultations with them.

Later, Mr Naveed Qureshi said it was a question of agreement or resistance, but since "we want to take a step that has not been taken for so many years", resistance to income tax on agriculture was understandable.

The finance minister agreed during the committee meeting that inflation was expected to increase slightly, but there was still room for reduction in policy rate of the State Bank. He said central banks around the world did not like to reduce the policy rates which could go up soon and hence they take time.

Macroeconomic indicators
Muhammad Aurangzeb said

macroeconomic indicators had improved in recent months and the IMF programme had helped restore financing from other multilaterals, as evident from recent approvals for Doha Deal by the World Bank.

"Nothing is being controlled artificially, there is no restriction on imports and all examinations about devaluation have died down."

The minister said tax had been imposed on real estate, as well as developers and retailers, and pressure were being mounted from all segments as everyone wanted to stay away from the tax net.

Mr Aurangzeb said the IMF had asked for eliminating protective tax and tax on exporters was introduced because of that reason. "Exporters are worried, but we also have our own compulsions," he said.

But all tax refunds were being paid to exporters and more than Rs260bn had been cleared so far, the minister said.

In reply to question from a parliamentarian, the minister said contributory pension system had been introduced for civil employees with effect from July 1 and it would be followed by a similar regime for the armed forces with effect from July 1 next year since the government had to look into their service structure.

He said five ministries would be merged up during the current fiscal year.

Finance Secretary Imdadullah Bona said the committee that government estimates put the unemployment rate at 6.3pc in 2020-21 while the World Bank estimated it at 10.3pc, compared to 8pc by IMF and 8.2pc by the International Labour Organisation.

Provinces agree to align agri tax system with centre

Uncertainty persists on maximum tax rate on farm income

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: The four provincial governments have agreed to comply with the International Monetary Fund's demand to align the taxation of agricultural income with the federal income tax system starting from Jan 1, 2025.

The provinces have also indicated their agreement to have the legislation prepared by the end of October. However, there is still uncertainty regarding the maximum rate of tax collection on agricultural income, with options ranging from 29 per cent, 35pc and 45pc.

After proceessing for the new IMF programme is a shift in the tax policy on agricultural income, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb stated that the deal would be finalised this month as he assured the Fund of a change in the tax regime for agricultural income.

Official sources told Dawn on Thursday that the draft of the tax regime change on agricultural income had already been shared with the IMF. "There is a slight change in the text on agricultural tax of each province," the sources said, adding that a few provinces have just mentioned the subject to the cabinet's approval.

In the negotiations on agricultural income before the budget, the maximum income tax on individual incomes was 35pc. However, the rate was increased to 45pc in the budget. "We are not clear whether the maximum rate will now be 35pc or 45pc for agricultural income of provinces", the sources said.

The corporate income tax rate is 29pc. According to the sources, farmers can also start their corporations to benefit from lower tax rates.

Currently, the minimum tax on agricultural income is 15pc in Sindh, while the maximum rate in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is 17.5pc. In Sindh and Punjab, annual farm revenue up to Rs1.2 million is tax exempt. However, this exemption limit will now be Rs600,000.

The total revenue collection under agricultural income tax (AIT) is between Rs3bn to Rs3.5bn per annum.

This decision is predicted to produce two results. One, the AIT on agricultural incomes will rise to double digits, while individuals who previously declared their incomes under the federal income tax framework will now be taxed. It has become common practice for business owners with agricultural revenue to park their other income in the agricultural income category to receive reduced rates.

According to sources, the provincial revenue board will collect the tax. However, provinces have warned that agricultural produce is not a typical business and that climatic factors influence the outcomes. It was also said that agriculture's net revenue would be calculated after removing agricultural produce expenditures.

According to the sources, the four provinces have agreed to amend their AIT regimes to fully align them, through necessary legislative changes, with federal personal income (small farmers) and corporate income (commercial agriculture) tax regimes. The provinces have also agreed to fully remove any exemption on income from livestock activities by the end of October.

Each province will begin collecting agricultural income tax under this new regime on January 1, 2025. It was also agreed that if any province finds initial implementation difficult before the required deadline, it will ask the Federal Board of Revenue to collect AIT on its behalf under this new regime until it builds its revenue-collecting and administration capabilities.

According to the agreement, aligning income tax regimes will improve the tax system's fairness by taxing agricultural revenue in the same way as other income.

PM asks FBR to end corruption

Orders third-party audit of WeBOC system

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed tax authorities on Tuesday to eliminate corruption in customs operations and remove unnecessary hurdles in using artificial intelligence and biometric equipment to ensure full enforcement of customs duties.

Chairing a meeting to discuss matters related to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Pakistan Customs, the premier also called for digitisation of the taxation system to prevent the evasion of billions of rupees.

He also instructed the authorities to conduct a third-party audit of a Web-based One-Customs (WeBOC) system and bring all such projects under one umbrella.

He stressed the need to eliminate the menace of under-invoicing to protect local industries.

He also sought details of revenue collection as a result of enforcement and also instructed establishment of a regulatory framework for the operations of the shipping industry.

The prime minister was informed that the operations of the Pakistan Customs had been fully automated, and experts of international repute had been engaged to implement reforms that would feature modern AI-based systems.

While being informed of FBR's digitisation, the meeting was informed that 4.5 million individuals not part of the tax net were identified. Correspondent to the government's measures, over 300,000 more individuals have filed their tax returns within a few weeks.

Shehbaz directed to increase revenue collection through better enforcement and establish a project management unit for reforms in the customs department.

Besides, the refunds of 4,000 companies were being halted the during last two weeks, following the detection of under-invoicing and forged sales tax refunds.

The PM vowed to introduce an international taxation system in the country and called for engaging well-regarded professionals and experts to formulate the tax policy.

Absence of price tags on milk products irks buyers

By Aamir Shaikat Khan

KARACHI: Buyers of infant, fortified and packed milk products find it irritating that these items do not carry the sticker price after the post-budget imposition of 18 per cent general sales tax.

For example, the price of Lactogen 1, 2 and 3 (400 gram pack) has gone up to Rs 1,375 from Rs 1,180 before the budget.

A 375 gram pack of Cerelac is now priced at Rs 450, as against Rs 400 before the budget, while a 900 gram pack of Nido now carries a consumer price of Rs 2,350, up from Rs 1,950.

An official at a milk manufacturing company said "since liquid milk, infant formula and children's milk products are under a standard rate of 18pc general sales tax, they do not require that price be mentioned on packaging".

On the other hand, he added, since products like biscuits, chocolates, carbonated beverages, fruit juices, water, tea, toothpastes and brands are under the fixed schedule of GST (18pc), printing of final prices and tax on the packaging is required under the law.

The official said packaged products fall within the purview of Federal GST, meaning no "price intervention" in such categories. The provincial government deals with loose products like all loose milk, health, flour, tea.

Govt warned of drop in rice exports

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Rice exporters warn of a drastic drop in exports if the government sticks to its decision to shift the sector from the Final Tax Regime (PTR) to the Hybrid Tax Regime.

"We see distress among rice, maize and sesame exporters, and they are just fulfilling past commitments and are not ready to seal future orders due to apprehension of tax audits and recovery notices by the FBR."

"The shift from PTR to Hybrid Tax Regime, announced in the budget, will further damage them economically, leaving them non-competitive in the international market, which is driven by out-of-the-box competition and subsidised by competing countries," a delegate of rice exporters told the finance minister.

This discouragement will have a cyclic effect and impact the farmers due to a bumper rice crop of 35 million tonnes plus a sesame crop of 350,000 tonnes, said the exporters led by Haseeb Khan.

They feared that the FBR audits might open avenues of corruption and harassment for exporters doing business at record high markup rates and electricity costs.

They warned that exports might drop to \$2.5 billion in the current fiscal year from \$3.88bn in FY24 if the government does not withdraw the tax regime change decision.

LDI operators owe Rs24bn to USF

By Zulqarnain Tabir

LAHORE: Most Long Distance International (LDI) operators have not yet paid the principal owed for the Universal Service Fund (USF) in their 20-year licence contract, which will soon expire.

Their total outstanding principal amount reportedly stands at Rs24 billion, and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has asked them to settle their dues in order to renew their licences for the next 20 years.

The LDI operators' main function is to provide international telephony and outgoing telecom cell services. Most of the 10 operators' licences will expire in July-August 2024.

The LDI operators are Worldcell, Redtone, AIG-LEH, Telecard, Dancom, Wacom, Crochet, Watson, 4R-Guard and Multinet.

According to sources in the telecom industry, the 'defaulted' LDI operators have requested the PTA to renew their licences for another 20-year term and collect APC (access promotion charges) for the USF credits in instalments supported by post-dated cheques only without any bank guarantee.

A source in the PTA said the Ministry of Information and Technology and the PTA had formed a committee to resolve the issue of renewing the licences of these defaulter companies.

"The PTA has committed to pay the principal amount for their licence renewal. If not paid, the PTA can charge 2 per cent per month as late payment charges and terminate the existing licence and also can adopt legal recovery procedure including attachment of properties of the directors," he said. PTA spokesperson Malik Razi told Dawn that she would soon inform whatever action the authority planned to initiate in this regard.

He said at least five operators for their comments and only AIG-LEH responded. "We are paying the principal outstanding amount for the licence renewal. It is expected that others will also clear their dues before the expiry of their licence," a spokesperson for AIG-LEH said.

SBP move to promote IT firms, exports

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) announced several facilities on Thursday to support the expansion of the IT business abroad and exports.

The government aims to increase IT exports to \$25 billion by 2025. However, proceeds were estimated at around \$1.2bn in FY24.

According to an SBP circular, the foreign exchange manual has been revised to further facilitate export-oriented companies, particularly those operating in the IT sector, in expanding their footprints abroad and increasing the country's exports.

IT export companies are thriving in the GCC region, particularly in Saudi Arabia. Factors such as the SBP's relaxation of permissible retention limits, increasing them from 35 per cent to 50pc in the Exporters' Specialised Foreign Currency Accounts (ESFCAs), and rupee stability are encouraging IT exporters to repatriate a higher portion of profits back to Pakistan.

The central bank has introduced a new Equity Investment Abroad (EIA) category for export-oriented companies operating in the IT sector.

The amendment removed the requirement of prior designation of banks for exporters in listing funds for EIA from ESFCAs.

It has been permitted for export oriented companies in the IT sector to acquire interest (percentage of shareholding) in entities abroad, said the SBP circular.

It has relaxed restrictions on establishing and acquiring the entity per jurisdiction for export-oriented companies in the IT sector.

The share of IT exports in total goods and service exports has risen from 4 per cent in FY19 to almost 8 per cent in FY24.

US DOLLAR BUYING: 282.79.00 SELLING: 282.80.00	EURO BUYING: 2400.07 SELLING: 2402.98
GBP BUYING: 2326.40 SELLING: 2329.73	SAUDI DIRHAM BUYING: 36.75.01 SELLING: 36.76.34
INDIA RYAL BUYING: 16.73.86 SELLING: 16.74.00	GOLD 24K (999.9) 10 GMAS: 19211.591

Stocks recover overnight losses partially

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: The stock market partially recovered overnight losses on Thursday, thanks to selective buying amid surging resistances and automobile sales.

Ahsan Memon of Araf Holdings Corporation said stocks showed recovery led by oil, banking and auto sectors on strong earnings outlook.

He said the government's resolve to settle energy sector circular debt, 44.4pc increase in resistances to \$1.2bn and 120pc surge in auto sales in June attracted buying interest.

Topline Securities Ltd said the stock market showed a mixed pattern.

Sectors like fertiliser, power, IT, and banking drove the market's positive momentum, bolstered by companies including Fauji Fertiliser, Hub Power Company, Systems Ltd, Habib Bank, and National Bank, which collectively contributed 377 points to the index.

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

T H E T O P F I V E R S

GAINERS		LOSERS		LEADERS*	
Exide Pakistan	77.94	Data Agro	47.09	AgriTech Limited	32.04
PIA Holding Ltd	49.30	Sapphire Textile	38.00	The Hub Power Co	18.62
Hamal Industries	49.54	Matheson Maize	38.34	Air Line Company	16.81
Atlas Battery	35.82	Reliance Cotton	37.31	K-Electro	15.54
Hoechst Pakistan	30.00	Shahmuneed Sugar	21.98	PIA Holding Co	13.34

INDICATORS

	Today	Previous	Change
KSE 100 SHARE INDEX (Points)	79,902.35	79,801.08	A 101.27
KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Points)	25,644.40	25,484.55	A 159.85
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	10,682.615	10,445.115	+
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	28.824	22.118	+

SBP reserves rise to \$9.4bn

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The foreign exchange reserves of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) increased by \$15 billion to \$9.4bn during the week ended on July 5.

The reserves exceeded the target of \$9bn until the end of FY24. The IMF has been urging the central bank to improve its foreign holdings. The SBP restricted imports, managed the exchange rate, and curtailed dollar outflows from the country.

The country's total foreign exchange reserves reached \$14.644bn during the week under review. This figure includes a significant portion of \$5.239bn from commercial banks.

ACTIVITY

Total Index	532
Active	445
Gainers	181
Losers	212
PARTICIPANTS	
Foreign	A \$0.99m
Companies	¥ \$0.00m
Banks	¥ \$0.16m
Mutual Funds	¥ \$0.20m
Individuals	¥ \$0.15m

Stocks contributing significantly to the traded volume included AgriTech Ltd (22.04m shares), The Hub Power Company (18.62m shares), Air Link Communication (16.81m shares), K-Electro (15.54m shares) and PIA Holding Company (13.34m shares).

The shares registering the most significant increases in their share prices in absolute terms were Exide Pakistan (Rs27.94), PIA Holding Ltd (B) (Rs65.20), Hamal Industries (Rs49.54), Atlas Battery (Rs35.82) and Hoechst Pakistan (Rs30.00).

The companies registering significant decreases in their share prices in absolute terms were Data Agro (Rs42.09), Sapphire Textile (Rs39.00), Matheson Maize (Rs38.34), Reliance Cotton (Rs37.31) and Shahmuneed Sugar (Rs21.98).

Foreign investors remained net buyers as they bought shares worth \$0.99m.

Bosnia reburies remains of 14 Srebrenica victims

SRERBENICA The remains of 14 victims of the 1995 massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Bosnia's Srebrenica were reburied on Thursday, the 29th anniversary of what became Europe's first atrocity since World War Two: constituting genocide.

In May, the United Nations General Assembly declared July 11 an international day of remembrance for the Srebrenica massacre in a vote survivors hailed as historic and Serbia as a failure, reflecting enduring ethnic divisions in Bosnia.

The youngest of the 14 victims reburied on Thursday was a 17-year-old boy, the eldest was 68. Their remains, originally exhumed from mass graves, were laid to rest after a ceremony in a memorial cemetery outside Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia.

About 6,750 of the massacre victims are interred in the memorial cemetery, and some others at local graveyards.

"Unfortunately, while I stand here other mothers lose their children in Ukraine and Palestine," said Marina Subasic, president of the Mothers of Srebrenica association.

"The world and Europe have learned nothing," she told several hundred people who attended the ceremony.

The massacre unfolded after Srebrenica, a designated UN "safe area" for civilians in Bosnia's 1992-95 ethnic war that followed the disintegration of federal Yugoslavia, was overrun by nationalist Bosnian Serb forces.

Bosnian Serb army commander Ratko Mladic and political leader Radovan Karadzic were arrested after the war and convicted of genocide by a UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague for their role in the killings.

Bosnia was split into autonomous Bosniak Croat and Serb entities under the 1995 Dayton peace treaty and deep differences over what happened in Srebrenica linger, with both Serbs and Bosnians saying the killings could not be called genocide.

However Bosnian Serb President Milorad Dodik, known for his strident nationalism, posted an unapologetic anniversary message on social media site X on Thursday.—Reuters



STUDENTS scuffle with police during a protest in Dhaka to demand merit-based system for civil service jobs.—AFP

Bangladesh police fire rubber bullets as students stick to their guns

Amnesty calls upon authorities to 'halt the use of unnecessary and excessive force'

DHAKA Bangladesh police on Thursday fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse university student protesters demanding the scrapping of quotas they say are rigged to support pro-government job candidates.

The quota system reserves more than half of all good civil service posts, totalling hundreds of thousands of government jobs, for specific groups including children of heroes from the country's 1971 liberation war.

Students launched protests earlier this month, demanding a merit-based system, and have continued demonstrations despite Bangladesh's top court suspending the quota scheme this week.

Officers forcibly dispersed around 150 students in the eastern city of Comilla after they attempted to blockade the main highway to the capital Dhaka, police inspector

Sped Patel Rabbil said. "Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse them," he said.

Comilla Medical College Hospital director Sheikh Faiz Rabbil said that 11 protesters had been injured, with two since discharged. None of the injured had been hit by rubber bullets.

Amnesty International said in a statement that it had seen reports of at least 20 injured in the incident, and urged authorities to "halt the use of unnecessary and excessive force".

Police in Dhaka tried in vain to stop thousands of young protesters from blocking roads around the megalopolis for the second time in as many days.

Footage aired by local broadcaster Jamuna TV showed several protesters mounting a police vehicle and hundreds of others dismantling a police barricade.

"We will not leave"

In the port city of Chittagong, police charged hundreds of protesters with batons in an attempt to prevent them from marching on a major road, witnesses said.

"Police tried to stop us from holding our protests," Dipa, a student from the city who did not give her last name, said.

"We will not leave the road until our demand is met." Students are demanding that only those quotas supporting ethnic minorities and disabled people — six per cent of jobs — should remain.

Bangladesh's top court on Wednesday temporarily suspended the quotas, but protesters have vowed to continue until the parts of the scheme they oppose are scrapped completely.

Critics say the system benefits children of pro-government groups who back Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Hasina, 76, won her fourth consecutive general election in January, in a vote without genuine opposition parties that saw a major crackdown against her political opponents, who boycotted the poll.

Critics accuse Bangladesh's courts of rubber-stamping decisions made by her government. Hasina has condemned the protests, saying the matter had been settled by the court. "Students are wasting their time," she said.—AFP

Indirect N-talks with US ongoing via Oman, says Iranian FM

DUBAI Iran is still conducting indirect nuclear talks with the United States via Oman, Iran's Karam newspaper on Thursday quoted Iran's acting foreign minister as saying.

Ali Bagheri Kani's reported comments followed remarks on Monday in which a White House spokesperson said the United States was not ready to resume nuclear talks with Iran under the newly elected president, Masoud Pezeshkian.

"Indirect talks are being conducted through Oman but the negotiation process is confidential and its details cannot be revealed," Bagheri Kani was quoted as saying.

Efforts were being made to keep "suitable grounds" for negotiations for the new Iranian government that will take office in the next few weeks.

Pezeshkian, a low-profile moderate who won Iran's run-off presidential vote last week, has said he will promote a pragmatic foreign policy and ease tensions with the six powers that have been involved in now-stalled nuclear talks to revive a 2015 nuclear pact.

However, foreign policy in Iran is ultimately decided by the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei who was re-elected last month prior to elections that "one who thinks that nothing can be done without the favour of America will not manage the country well".

Pezeshkian is taking office at a time of growing Middle East tensions over the Gaza conflict as well as cross-border fire between Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, which have exacerbated disputes between Tehran and Washington.

In a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Pezeshkian's replacement on Wednesday Tehran's continued support for Palestinians against "the occupation of the Zionist regime (Israel)".—Reuters

Australian dad accused of killing children in home fire

SYDNEY An Australian father faced triple murder charges on Thursday, accused of setting his home alight and locking the door with his seven children and their mother inside.

Three of the children — two boys aged two and six and a five-month-old baby girl — died in the weekend blaze in western Sydney's Labor Park, police said.

The four other young children are in a stable condition in hospital and their 29-year-old mother has been released after treatment, police added.

The 28-year-old father, who is in hospital under police guard after emerging from an induced coma, was released bail in a Sydney court on three counts of murder and five of attempted murder, court documents showed.

"Police will allege this man is solely responsible for setting fire inside the premises," New South Wales detective superintendent Daniel Debruyere told a news conference after the court hearing.

An accelerator had shipped up "a large amount of fire and smoke" in the home and the doors "had been locked" to prevent the family escaping, he said.

A neighbour "very courageously" forced his way inside, rescuing two boys aged four and seven and a nine-year-old girl, as well as the mother, Debruyere said.

But the father allegedly prevented the neighbour from saving an 11-year-old boy. Police then arrived, however, and "had to wrestle with this man and wrestle the boy from his grasp because he was holding on to him, allegedly, and the boy was then rescued", the detective said.—AFP



POTOCARI (Bosnia and Herzegovina): A boy touches a gravestone at the Srebrenica genocide memorial, on Thursday.—Reuters

Ukraine seizes cargo ship, detains captain for exporting 'looted' grain

KYIV Ukraine seized a foreign cargo ship on the Danube River and detained the captain on suspicion of helping Moscow export Ukrainian grain from Russian-occupied Crimea, officials said on Thursday.

Kyiv has accused Russia of trading stolen Ukrainian grain since the 2022 war began. Ship seizures, however, have been rare and shipping sources said they were concerned about possible retaliation at a critical time in the year as Ukraine grain exports reach a peak.

The Cameroon-flagged UNK0 MFU was presented with an arrest order and detained along with its

Azeri captain after entering the waters of Rani, a Ukrainian port on the Danube where the river forms the border with Romania, prosecutors said.

The head of Ukraine's prosecutor's office for Crimea, Igor Panchovych, told Ukrainian TV that officials were surprised to spot the vessel on the Danube, since ships implicated in illegally carrying grain from Russian-held areas tended to steer clear of Ukraine's waters. Since 2022, Ukraine has imposed arrest in absentia on 28 ships involved in the trade, he said.

"(The seizure) should be a clear

signal for these countries that help Russia circumvent sanctions and sell agricultural products stolen in the occupied territory, that there may be responsibility for this," he said.

The vessel had reportedly checked at the Crimean sea port of Sevastopol to pick up agricultural products in 2023-24, Ukraine's SBU security service said.

An official with the vessels Turkey-based ship manager Iyem Ayta told Reuters that the vessel's current cargo was loaded in Moldova. "The ship, while under our ownership, did not take any cargo from Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine and never used Ukrainian ports, the official said.

"Ukrainian soldiers boarded the ship while it was sailing along the Danube with a Romanian pilot present. They forcibly anchored it on their side of the river, our lawyers are now pursuing the case."

Russian forces have occupied large parts of Ukraine's southern agricultural regions and Kyiv has accused Russia of stealing and destroying its grain.

The SBU said the captain and 12 crew members had helped Russia to export Ukrainian grain taken from the occupied south to the Middle

East for sale on behalf of Russia.

"The investigation is ongoing to establish all the circumstances of the crime and identify other persons involved in the illegal activity," the SBU said. Ukraine's Prosecutor's Office said that on one of its voyages in November 2023, the UNK0 MFU loaded over 3,000 metric tons of agricultural products in Sevastopol intended for a Turkish company.

The ship last reported its position on July 8 at anchor near Rani port on the Danube, LSEG ship-tracking data showed on Thursday. The captain could face up to five years in prison for violating travel restrictions governing Ukraine's Russian-occupied territories, the SBU said.

The "ban" is crucial to Ukraine's Black Sea exports, which it revived without Russia's consent after Moscow split a UN brokered deal last summer to let Kyiv sell food during the war.

Asked if there had been a change in Ukrainian policy, a source in law enforcement said on Thursday: "This is our policy. This vessel and the captain worked for the occupiers and now he entered the waters controlled by Ukraine. And we had an immediate reaction".—Reuters

NEWSMAKERS



ROUEN (France): A view of the spire of the Notre-Dame de Rouen Cathedral after it caught fire during renovation work, on Thursday.—Reuters



A COAST guard helicopter is being used to lift a woman from a tanker after she had been swept out to sea off the southern tip of Japan's Boso peninsula.—AFP



IGUALADA (Spain): Hot-air balloons take part in the European Balloon Festival, on Thursday.—AFP



HARROGATE (UK): A handler holds her Charolais sheep as it is judged on the third day of the Great Yorkshire Show in northern England, on Thursday. The agricultural show, which was first held in 1838, showcases all aspects of country life. Organised by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society (YAS), it is held every July and attracts around 140,000 visitors over four days.—AFP

Swimmer rescued 80km off Japan after 36-hour ordeal

TOKYO A woman who went swimming off a beach in Japan and was swept out to sea was rescued about 80 kilometers off the coast after 36 hours, officials said on Thursday.

The local coast guard launched a search and rescue operation after the alarm was raised for the Chinese national in her 20s in the central Chubu region on Monday evening.

"It was around 7:50pm on July 8 when we received the information after the woman's friend reported to a nearby convenience store that she 'was missing,'" a local Japan Coast Guard official said.

The woman, who was not named, told rescuers that she was swept out to sea

and could not return to the beach as she was swimming with a rubber ring.

She was finally spotted floating off the northern tip of Chiba's Boso peninsula at 2:48am on Wednesday by a cargo ship, the official said.

Two crew members of a smaller nearby tanker contacted by radio jumped into the sea to rescue her.

"There are 80 kilometres in a straight line (between the beach and rescue spot), but it is assumed she drifted for an even greater distance," the official said.

The woman was taken to hospital after the rescue but did not need to be admitted as she was clear-headed and her dehydration was not threatening.—AFP



NEW YORK: A 150-million-year-old fossil of Stegosaurus on display at Sotheby's. The fossil is expected to fetch up to \$6 million at auction on July 17, making it one of the most expensive fossils ever sold.—AFP

60 bodies found in Shujaiya after Israeli assault on Gaza City

• Erdogan says Biden is 'complicit' in war crimes, calls for sanctions against Tel Aviv
• Sullivan says still 'miles to go' before ceasefire deal

GAZA CITY: Residents of Gaza said they were trapped in houses and bodies lay uncollected in the streets under an intense new Israeli assault on Thursday, even as Washington pushed for a peace deal at talks in Egypt and Qatar.



DISPLACED Palestinians arrive in Nuseirat, central Gaza Strip, on Thursday.—Reuters

The civil defence agency in Gaza said that around 60 bodies have been found in Gaza City's Shujaiya district, decimated by a two-week Israeli offensive.

"Once the Israeli occupation forces withdrew from the Shujaiya neighbourhood, civil defence crews, with local residents, managed to recover about 60 martyrs up to now," agency spokesman Mohamed Binal said.

Israel said on Wednesday it had ended its operation against Hamas in the district.

Hamas says a heavy Israeli assault on Gaza City this week could wreck efforts to finally end the war just as negotiators have entered the home stretch. In a statement, the Palestinian group said mediators had yet to provide it with updates on the state of the talks since it made concessions last week in response to a US-backed Israeli peace offer.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency was headed to Cairo for more ceasefire talks. US envoy Brett McGurk was in Israel, where he met Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on Thursday that more details still need to be hammered out to secure a deal between Israel and Hamas for a ceasefire.

"There's still miles to go before we close if we are able to close. So I don't want to say that it's immediately around the corner, but it does not have to be far out in the distance if everyone comes in this with the will to get it done," Sullivan told reporters, adding that there has been no change in policy with regard to a US gesture of shipment of 2,000 pallets of aid to Gaza.

Sullivan also said President Joe Biden will soon give an update on the status of ceasefire talks.

'War crimes'

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said US President Joe Biden and his administration are complicit in Israeli war crimes and violations of international law in the Gaza conflict, and he called for sanctions against Israel.

In an interview with Newsweek

during the Nato summit in Washington, Erdogan said Israeli brutal murder of civilians, its strikes on hospitals, aid centres and elsewhere constituted war crimes.

"The US administration, however, disregards these violations and provides Israel with the most support. They do so at the expense of being complicit in these violations," Erdogan was quoted as saying.

"At this juncture, who will impose what kind of sanction against Israel for violating international law? That is the real question and no one is answering that," he said.

Residents of Gaza City say this week's assault is comparable to the fierce battle of the war, which destroyed the enclave's old and biggest settlement in the first weeks of fighting last year.

Home to more than a quarter of Gaza's residents before the war, Gaza City was largely razed

to the ground in late 2023, but hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have returned to homes in the ruins. They have now once again been ordered out by the Israeli military. Many say they won't go.

"We will die but not leave to the south. We have tolerated starvation and bombs for nine months and we are ready to die as martyrs here," said Mohammad Ali, 30, reached by text message.

All, whose family has relocated several times within the city, said they had been running short of food, water and medicine. "The occupation (Israel) bombs Gaza City as if the war was restarting. We hope there will be a ceasefire soon, but if not then it's God's will."

The Gaza health ministry said it had reports of people trapped and others killed inside their homes in the Tel Al-Hawa and Sabra districts of Gaza City, and rescuers could not reach them.

The Civil Emergency Service said it estimated that at least 30 people had been killed in the Tel Al-Hawa and Ramat areas and it could not recover bodies from the streets there.

The Israeli army told Gaza City residents on Wednesday to use two "safe routes" to head south. Some posted a hashtag on social media: "We are not leaving."

Just east of Gaza City in the Shujaiya suburb, residents were returning on foot to a desolate messagerie of destroyed buildings after Israeli forces withdrew following a two-week offensive there.—Agencies

Russia planned assassination of German arms maker, CNN claims

WASHINGTON: The United States filed a Russian plot earlier this year to assassinate the chief executive of a major German arms maker supplying weaponry to Ukraine, CNN claimed on Thursday.

The US cable television network, citing five unidentified US and Western officials, said the United States informed Germany of the Russian government's plan to kill Armin Papperger, the head of Rheinmetall, and he was given protection by

German security services. It said the assassination plot was one of "a series of Russian plans discovered by US intelligence" to kill European defence industry executives supporting Ukraine's war effort.

Rheinmetall produces 155mm artillery shells and plans to begin manufacturing armoured vehicles in Ukraine, according to CNN.

The CNN report comes as Nato leaders are holding meetings in Washington to mark the 75th anniversary of the

defence bloc. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said: "In view of the latest reports on Rheinmetall, this is what we have actually been communicating more and more clearly in recent months."

"Russia is waging a hybrid war of aggression," Baerbock said. "With sabotage, with cyber attacks, with the paralysis of GPS so that Baltic aircraft can no longer land in neighbouring countries.—AFP

'TTP now largest terror group'

Continued from Page 1

Chitral, they were led by a sizeable contingent from Al Qaeda.

Noting that Al Qaeda cells are operating in multiple Afghan provinces, mainly in the south-east, the report states most facilities associated with the group are mainly meant to train local fighters along with TTP operations.

Al Qaeda's support to TTP includes "sharing of Afghan fighters for its outfits. On this count, military staffing or a formation and training camps in Afghanistan. Training provided by AQIN has resulted in TTP shifting tactics and high-profile attacks against hard targets".

IS-K

IS-K, which has recently expanded its outreach in Russia, claiming a couple of daring attacks, features prominently in the UN report, which notes the Afghan Taliban's success against this threat, also highlights glaring gaps.

IS-K and its affiliates in the region are estimated to have around 4,000 to 6,000 fighters, while others assess the

core strength at 2,000-3,500. They have reportedly infiltrated the main ministries of interior, defence and intelligence while also seeking to covertly embed members in other groups such as TTP.

While acknowledging Kabul's claim that its operations had pushed IS-K personnel across its borders, the report voiced concern over the impact this displacement would have on the security situation in Pakistan, Iran and other Central Asian states.

In response to the "high attrition rates" of its fighters, the report notes how IS-K has limited its presence in Afghanistan and expanded its external operations, "with skilled operatives and suicide bombers encouraged to travel to Europe, the Russian Federation and other neighbouring countries".

Describing their operations as "tactical rather than strategic", the report notes that the Taliban's counter-terrorism capabilities are deficient to meet the nature of that threat.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TSE-2428T1495152 Only electronic bid will be submitted, no physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOS Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory for All Bidders to Get Registered at Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOS. The Project Director Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Tender Fee Rs. 10000/- and Bid Security 2%.

S.No	Name of Work	ECost
1	LINK ROAD FROM SALLAL SAMANGLI CROSS VALSHANBO TO AIRPORT ROAD QUETTA (PACKAGE 01)	STR473,190

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turnover of at least 600,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-2 and above (Up to 1000 million) in Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CE209 (Sanitary Works), CE100 (General Civil Engineering Works), CE214 (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structures), Bid Security of 2% of estimated cost. Tender processing fee of amount Rs. 1000 in account No. CE2116 having head PO, C&P&O. Only for the firms already engaged with PMA / C&P&O, it is mandatory for them to provide performance certificate. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2%, specified above in the name of the under signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bpps.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bpps.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 01 August, 2024 at 10:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM on EPPS System Address: House No. 81-A Chaman Housing Scheme Airport Road Quetta Phone no: 03337885228 - 0370-6289192 - 0333-7977122 Fax no: 0332864880 Email: dsat@bpps.gov.pk

AB No.45/11-07-2024

PROJECT DIRECTOR
CHIEF MINISTER PACKAGE FOR QUETTA

Flour shortage feared as millers go on strike

Continued from Page 1

prices, affecting consumers and retailers alike," he said.

With 1,725 flour mills in Pakistan — 1,100 in Punjab, 300 each in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 25 in Balochistan — the daily national flour consumption stands at around 45,000 tonnes, according to the PFMA.

The ongoing strike has already halted flour supply to grocery stores in Lahore, and market stocks are expected to last only one week.

An official of the Grocery Stores Association has called for dialogue between the government and flour mills to resolve the issue and avoid an extreme measure like a strike.

In Karachi and Hyderabad, flour mill owners have also joined the strike, stopping wheat grinding and causing flour shortages in restaurants.

Aamir Abbidini, PFMA's chairman for Sindh, confirmed an indefinite strike until the government withdraws the tax measures, noting that the suspension of wheat supply has also affected the bread supply for livestock.

Similar reports have emerged from Peshawar and Balochistan, where flour mills and dealers have joined the strike, causing market closures and exacerbating flour shortages.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TSE-2428T1495152 Only electronic bid will be submitted, no physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOS Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory for All Bidders to Get Registered at Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOS. The Project Director Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Tender Fee Rs. 10000/- and Bid Security 2%.

S.No	Name of Work	ECost
1	LINK ROAD FROM SALLAL SAMANGLI CROSS VALSHANBO TO AIRPORT ROAD QUETTA (PACKAGE 01)	STR473,190

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turnover of at least 600,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-2 and above (Up to 1000 million) in Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CE209 (Sanitary Works), CE100 (General Civil Engineering Works), CE214 (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structures), Bid Security of 2% of estimated cost. Tender processing fee of amount Rs. 1000 in account No. CE2116 having head PO, C&P&O. Only for the firms already engaged with PMA / C&P&O, it is mandatory for them to provide performance certificate. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2%, specified above in the name of the under signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bpps.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bpps.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 01 August, 2024 at 10:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM on EPPS System Address: House No. 81-A Chaman Housing Scheme Airport Road Quetta Phone no: 03337885228 - 0370-6289192 - 0333-7977122 Fax no: 0332864880 Email: dsat@bpps.gov.pk

AB No.45/11-07-2024

PROJECT DIRECTOR
CHIEF MINISTER PACKAGE FOR QUETTA

ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY ISLAMABAD AUCTION NOTICE - WASTE MATERIAL

Ref. No. AN No. 01/0924-25

Procurement Method: Single Stage - One Envelope

Due Date & Time for Submission of Offers: 30-07-2024, 10:00 Hours PST

Date & Time for Opening of Offers: 30-07-2024, 11:00 Hours PST

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIQU), Islamabad hereby invites sealed Offers for the disposal/ auction of following used Waste Material on "AS IS WHERE IS" and annual basis at AIQU Main Campus, Islamabad:

S.No	Name of Item	S.No	Name of Item
(1)	Off-cuts/ Shavings of White Printing Papers (without Title Cover)	(6)	Mix Raddi (Initial Printing Papers, Waste Papers, File Covers, Result Cards, Journals, Research Reports, Assignments, Shaving of Printing Paper with Title, etc.)
(2)	PS Plates (Obsolete)	(7)	Newspapers
(3)	Kingly Drums	(8)	Answer Scripts
(4)	Wrapping Papers (Batters, White/ Brown)	(9)	Admission Forms (Dit/ Used)
(5)	Art Cars Pens		

Auction Document containing detailed terms & conditions of the auction process, can be purchased from Directorate of Purchase & Stores, Storage Building, Behind Block No. 3, AIQU Main Campus, Sector H-8, Islamabad, Ph: 051-9250031, 9250030 on submission of written application, duly supported by copies of Tax Registration Certificates and an payment of Pak. Rs. 2,000/- through Chatter Form, which can be downloaded from the University website at link <https://www.aiqu.edu.pk/Chatter/Offers.aspx>.

An Offer must be accompanied with Earnest Money of the required amount(s), mentioned in the Auction Document, in favour of "Reserve AIQU" in the form of Pay Order issued by a Scheduled Bank of Pakistan.

A Pre-Offers Submission Meeting shall take place on the date, time and place as follows, enlightening the potential Offerors about the terms & conditions of the Auction Process:

Date: 22nd July 2024

Time: 11:00 hours (Pakistan Standard Time)

Address: Committee Room of Sir Syed Hall, Block No. 24, AIQU Main Campus, Sector H-8, Islamabad

The Offers, prepared in accordance with the instructions given in the Auction Document, must be submitted in the Committee Room of Sir Syed Hall, Block No. 24, AIQU Main Campus, Sector H-8, Islamabad, by or before July 30, 2024 at 10:00 PST which shall be opened same day at same place at 11:00 hours PST in the presence of the representatives of the Offerors who shall choose to be present.

No Offer shall be allowed to be the Offeror in the University's premises. Also, only one representative of an Offeror shall be allowed to enter the premises where the offers' submission & opening shall take place.

In case of submission of Offers through courier, the same must reach the Directorate of Purchase & Stores one day before the due date of submission of Offers.

An Offer received after the due date and time, either by hand or through courier, shall not be entertained in any case. Electronic submission is not allowed.

Auction shall be conducted through Single Stage-One Envelope bidding procedure, pursuant to Rule 36(a) of Public Procurement Rules 2004 (amended from time to time) and is open to all potential Offerors. The waste material shall be disposed-off as per "Schedule of Lifting" mentioned in Auction Document, as per its general use, and accordingly, a Closed Framework Agreement(s) shall be awarded for complete Fiscal Year 2024-25 basis.

The successful Offeror(s) shall have to bear all the applicable taxes related to the auction process.

This Auction Notice is only an invitation to an offer and the University reserves the right to accept or reject all offers at any time pursuant to Rule 33 of Public Procurement Rules 2004 (amended from time to time).

This advertisement is also available at PPSA's website at <https://www.ppsa.gov.pk>.

PID(0250/24)

Director (Purchase)
Directorate of Purchase & Stores
Storage Building, Behind Block No. 3,
Allama Iqbal Open University, Sector H-8, Islamabad
Phone: 051-9250031, 9250035

INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST(S) FROM REPUTED ADVISORY FIRMS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AS PANEL OF PRE-QUALIFIED FINANCIAL ADVISER FOR PRIVATISATION PROGRAMME

Government of Pakistan
PRIVATISATION COMMISSION

- The Privatization Commission (PC) is a body corporate established under the Privatization Commission Ordinance, 2000 (S.O. of 2000). PC is mandated by the Federal Government to undertake privatization and divestment transactions by virtue of which any property, right, interest, possession or management thereof is transferred to any person from the Federal Government or any enterprise owned or controlled, wholly or partially, directly or indirectly, by the Federal Government.
- Privatization Commission (PC) is implementing a Privatization Programme approved by Federal Government. The Programme is being planned to be executed in phases and will cover following sectors, in addition to any other sector approved by the Federal Government:
 - Power - Generation Companies
 - Power - Distribution Companies
 - Communication & Telecommunication
 - Petroleum
 - Industrial
 - Financial
 - Real Estate
 - Insurance
 - Wholesale & Retail
 - Hospitality
 - Others
- PC invites Expression of Interests (EOI) from firm, both national and international, for pre-qualification as a Financial Adviser under the provisions of PC (Bidding of Financial Advisers) Regulations, 2016.
 - The Pre-qualified Financial Adviser will be placed on the panel of Pre-qualified Financial Advisers on non-exclusive basis for three (03) years to support PC in preparing and implementing privatization / divestment transactions.
 - Three pre-qualified Financial Advisers will be provided with Request for Proposals (RFP) for specific transactions as approved by the Board of the Privatization Commission on terms of the PC Ordinance 2000 and rules and regulations made thereunder as amended from time to time.
 - The Pre-qualified Financial Adviser, if it chooses to respond to the RFP shall be required to submit its Technical & Financial proposals, which will be evaluated as per evaluation criteria provided in the RFP.
 - While responding to the RFP, the Pre-qualified Financial Adviser will be allowed to propose sub-contractors & intends to engage for a particular transaction in the Technical & Financial Proposals it submits in response to the RFP. The proposals submitted by the Financial Adviser, including its proposed sub-contractors, will be evaluated as per evaluation criteria given in the RFP.
 - A pre-qualified Financial Adviser, once approved by PC as a Financial Adviser, through Financial Advisory Services Agreement (FASA) for a particular transaction, will be barred from offering its services to any potential investor interested in that particular transaction.
- Information required to be submitted with EOI and the pre-qualification criteria may be accessed at the following link: <https://privatization.gov.pk/PCFA>.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

- The EOI shall submit Expressions of Interest, on or before 16:00 hours, 26th July, 2024 both electronically and in hard copy, including a non-refundable processing fee of USD 1,000/- (United States Dollars One Thousand only) or PKR 300,000/- (Pakistan Rupees Three Hundred Thousand only), via following:
 - Electronically by email to dg@privatization.gov.pk including proof of payment.
 - Hard copy addressed to Director General (I&T/P&U), Privatization Commission, 4th Floor, New Pak Secretariat Building, Kohat Road, Constitution Avenue, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- The non-refundable processing fee can be paid in the form of bank draft/pay order payable in favour of "Privatization Commission, Government of Pakistan", which should be submitted with the hard copy of the EOI or through www/electronic transfers (details for which will be available at following Privatization Commission link: <https://privatization.gov.pk/PCFA>).
- Privatization Commission in its sole discretion may seek any further information in addition to that mentioned in the EOI as part of the Pre-Qualification / Evaluation Process.
- Privatization Commission in its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel / discard the process without assigning any reason therefor.
- Privatization Commission in its sole discretion reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, QUERIES AND /OR SUBMISSION OF EOI, PLEASE CONTACT:

KAMRAN FAROOQ ANSARI Director General (I&T/P&U) Phone: +92 51 9204593 Email: dg@privatization.gov.pk	SHARZAD ASIF Director Admin Phone: +92 51 9204587 Email: dgadmin@privatization.gov.pk
--	---

Privatization Commission
Kohat Road, 4th Floor, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan
Ph: +92 51 9205146-47, Fax: +92 51 9211692
<https://privatization.gov.pk>



Pakistan again shuts door on prospects of talks with TTP

FO spokesperson says no plans to wind up repatriation scheme for Afghans

By Ihtisham A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has once again ruled out the possibility of any talks with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and once again urged Kabul to act against terrorism operating on its soil.

“Pakistan has no designs of entering into any talks with a terror group that has been involved in killings of Pakistani citizens...,” Foreign Office Spokesperson Munir Zafar Baboch told a weekly press briefing on Thursday.

Answering a question about the Afghan government spokesperson’s statement that Kabul was ready to mediate between the TTP and Pakistan, she said such statements “should be taken in the proper context of Pakistan’s position with regards to dialogue with TTP”.

She added that the two countries have been discussing the issue of terrorism “for the last several months”.

“Pakistan is concerned about the terror threat that we face from individuals and entities which have support and sponsorship from across the border in Afghanistan,” she spokesperson said.

“We respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan... We expect the Afghan authorities to uphold their sovereignty and take action against those terror groups which have fostered sanctuaries inside Afghanistan and are using Afghan territory to attack Pakistan.”

Answering a question about the repatriation of Afghan nationals, the spokesperson said the Illegal Foreign Repatriation Plan (IFRP) was being implemented in a phased manner.

“The number of illegal foreigners, including Afghan nationals, who have been repatriated to their home countries, were higher in the initial months of its implementation. These numbers are gradually coming down as more and more individuals have been returning to their home countries,” she added.

“Regarding the plan’s second phase, Mr Baboch said it pertained to Afghan nationals who possess the Afghan Citizenship Cards (ACCs) for which a re-issuance exercise was taking place.

She added that Afghan nationals with Pakistan Origin Cards will not be considered for repatriation at this stage.

“The POR cards have been extended for one year. And finally, with regards to Afghan refugees in Pakistan.”

The spokesperson added that Pakistan held discussions with several countries, including Australia, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, the United States and Italy, who have agreed “to take a certain number of Afghan nationals”.

“We have remained engaged with them and have urged them to expedite the approval and visa issuance process for these individuals so that they are relocated as early as possible.”

The spokesperson also denied any indication to the UNHCR regarding the suspension of IFRP which will be implemented “without discrimination with regards to the nationality of individuals”.

On a question about the resolution passed by the UN House of Representatives and similar motions passed by the National and Punjab assemblies, Mr Baboch said Pakistan and the US have “a multifaceted and robust relationship”.

“We have remained engaged with the United States, trying to understand each other’s perspectives, expressing and sharing with each other our mutual concerns, and identifying areas of cooperation. We believe that this relationship should move forward on the basis of mutual trust, mutual benefit, sovereign equality and non-interference in each other’s domestic affairs.”

In response to a question about ties with Russia, the spokesperson said discussions are taking place between the two countries. “The latest meeting between the leaders of our two countries on the sidelines of the SCO Summit was an important occasion for the two countries to reaffirm their commitment to further enhance cooperation in various domains, including in economic and trade matters.”

Nato boosts Asia ties to counter China

• Beijing asks alliance to stop ‘provoking rivalry’ • Erdogan warns against Nato-Russia conflict

WASHINGTON: Nato leaders on Thursday looked to bolster ties with Asian partners after blaming China as a “decisive enabler” of Russia’s war, before holding talks with Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the end of a summit in Washington.

The 32-nation alliance has used the pomp-filled set piece in the US capital to showcase its resolve against Moscow and backing for Kyiv.

The three-day gathering has been overshadowed by political uncertainty in the United States as President Joe Biden fights for his own political survival.

After spending the bulk of the summit focused on bolstering Ukraine, Nato shifted attention outwardly by welcoming the leaders of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

A strongly worded declaration from Nato released Wednesday called Beijing a “decisive enabler” of Russia’s war against Ukraine through its supplies of dual-use goods such as microchips that can help Moscow’s military.

China “cannot enable the largest war in Europe in recent his-



US PRESIDENT Joe Biden meets Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the Nato summit, on Thursday. —AP

tory without this negatively impacting its interests and reputation,” Nato leaders said.

China hit back with a spokesperson for Beijing’s mission to the European Union saying “Nato should stop hyping up the so-called China threat and provoking confrontation and rivalry, and do more to contribute to world peace and stability.”

“We urge Nato to reflect on the

root causes of the crisis and its own actions, listen carefully to the just voice of the international community, and take concrete actions to ease the situation, instead of shifting the blame to others.”

Similarly, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Thursday that any possibility of a direct confrontation between Russia and Nato was “worrying,” the official Anadolu news

agency reported.

Erdogan’s comments came as Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia was planning “response measures” to contain the “very serious threat” from the alliance.

“The possibility of a direct conflict between Nato and Russia is undoubtedly worrying,” said Erdogan, who is in Washington for the Nato summit. “Any steps that could lead to this outcome should be conscientiously avoided.”

China has refused to condemn Russia’s invasion and last year released a paper calling for a “political settlement” to the conflict, which Western countries said could enable Russia to retain much of the territory it has seized in Ukraine.

China presents itself as a neutral party in the conflict, but it has however offered a critical lifeline to Russia’s isolated economy, with trade booming since the conflict began.

The United States has been pushing its European allies for years to pay closer attention to the challenges posed by China.—Agencies

Senior lawyers challenge ISI’s surveillance powers

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The decision of the Federal government to allow the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to intercept citizens’ calls and messages, was challenged in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday by members of the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), who asked the court to declare the notification null and void.

The six PBC members who moved the court included Shujaat Mohiuddin Chaudhry, Abid Shahid Zubairi, Chaudhry Iftikhar Ahmed Khan, Munir Ahmed Kakar, Tahir Fraz Akhtar, and Abid Saqi.

These lawyers are not officers/bureaucrats of the apex council, but

belong to the opposition faction. The petition challenged the NSO 1005(1)/2024 that empowered IS-18 or other officers of the ISI to surveil citizens in the name of national security.

It contended that the notification issued under the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Act’s Section 54 was illegal and the Fair Trial Act 2023 had the complete mechanism for this matter.

“Even prior to the promulgation of investigation for Fair Trial Act, Section 54 of Telecom Act that empowered the federal government to intercept the calls was ultra vires as it suffered from excessive delegation, granting the federal government unbridled powers and unfettered discretion without

sufficient legal and constitutional safeguards,” the petitioners contended.

The petitioners requested the court to declare the notification null and void until the case is pending.

A day earlier, the Lahore High Court was also moved by a citizen against the decision of the federal government that authorised the ISI to intercept calls and messages of citizens.

It may be noted that Justice Rafiq Sattar of the IHC had been hearing a case regarding audio logs involving the former prime minister and his wife, the son of a former chief justice, and other citizens.

On May 5 last year, Justice Sattar framed a list of questions and posed them to the stakehold-

ers, asking them to explain — first and foremost — which law empowered the executive to record or surveil phone calls or telecommunication between private citizens.

The federal government, apparently in response to the questions framed by Justice Sattar in the audio logs case, empowered the ISI to “intercept calls and messages” in a bid to legalise the surveillance.

Before the notification authorising the ISI to spy on citizens was published, the IHC was informed of the existence of the Lawful Intercept Management System (LIMS), a mass surveillance system that was in place to keep tabs on millions of citizens in violation of rules and laws.

Delays in family’s meeting with man in military custody irk apex court

AGP claims authorities have been told to ensure regular meetings

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has ordered an immediate meeting between an accused in military custody — whose five-year-old son died during his incarceration — and his family.

The directions were issued on Thursday by a seven-judge Supreme Court bench, which was hearing a number of Intra Court Appeals (ICA) against the Oct 23 order of nullifying military trials of civilians allegedly involved in violence on May 9.

During the hearing, senior counsel Saadur Latif Khosa pointed out that the minor son of the accused died while he was in custody, and yet he was not allowed to meet his family.

The bench asked if court orders were issued every time a meeting had to be arranged between the accused and their families.

At the outset of the hearing, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Munir Uman Awan contended that there had been interruptions in regular weekly meetings of the accused with their family members.

He added that such disruption only took place in Lahore, and now the authorities have been told that the meetings should continue without interruption.

“I have advised them that if [meetings of the accused with their families] was a court order, which should not be discontinued,” the AGP said.

He added that analyst Babounallah Niaz was also meeting his son Hasan Niaz on Thursday.

At the last hearing on July 8, Mr Niaz

had pleaded before the court that he was not being allowed to meet his son, who has been in custody for the past 11 months.

Justice Muhammad Ali Jauhar observed that the government should ensure that the court’s earlier directions regarding the provision of food and family meetings once a week should be complied with.

During the hearing, Brig Inam from the Law Division told the court that he had been appointed as the focal person to arrange meetings between the family members.

Cross-talk between judges

The proceedings also witnessed cross-talk between the bench members when Justice Shadid Wajed observed that he wanted answers to questions like the ICA’s scope from the AGP and not bench members. “I want to seek clarification from AGP, and whatever opinion was being expressed by his brother, the judge was a different thing.”

Justice Mansoor asked the AGP to point out any error in the Oct 23 judgment since the court was hearing an ICA against a judgement delivered under Article 184(1) of the Constitution for the first time.

He also wondered if the court should stop hearing appeals until its rules were amended in light of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023.

During the proceedings on Thursday, the bench allowed senior counsel Khurwaja Haris Ahmed to represent the Ministry of Defense.

The permission was granted after the bench rejected objections raised by Faiz Siddiqui. The AGP argued that Mr Haris was hired after the law ministry authorised the appointment to plead the case in view of its sensitivity.

Later, proceedings were adjourned till the next date, which will be decided as per the availability of judges.

Bodies of two security officials found in Tank

TANK: The police recovered the bodies of two security personnel in the fields of Kirri Haider village under the jurisdiction of Shahdud Muneed Akbar police station on Thursday.

SINNO Rural said the bodies, identified as those of Constable Habib Khan and Frontier Corps Sepoy Iqbalullah from Kirri Marvi, Tank, were found around 8am. Both officials had been reported missing a day ago.

The remains were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital in Tank for post-mortem before being handed over to their families.

Militant killed

A witness wanted for his involvement in an attack on the Daraban police station has been killed in an operation by the CTD in Dera Ismail Khan, the department said in a statement on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, a CTD team conducted the operation at Jalibi Mori in Hikumatabad, within the Dera Town police station jurisdiction, and killed the militant, Khatyat Ullah, a resident of Daraban Kalan. He was implicated in the Daraban police station attack that resulted in the deaths of 24 security personnel and injuries to 33 others.

Other accomplices of Khatyat managed to escape under the cover of darkness.—Muhammad Irfan Mughal

PTI suspends membership of ‘unruly’ Marwat

By Iqbal Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: The PTI has suspended the membership of Sher Afzal Marwat, a provincial party leader who was elected to the National Assembly in the Feb 8 polls, after a meeting between incarcerated party founder Inam Khan and the top leadership in Adiala Jail, Feroz has been.

Sources said the PTI leaders met Inam Khan on Thursday where the decision regarding Mr Marwat was taken. “A formal statement would be issued on Friday (today) in this regard,” the party sources added.

They claimed that Mr Marwat was constantly violating the party discipline and over the past months, he had made several statements criticising

the party leaders and in one statement he purportedly made “scurrilous remarks” about the party founder. “During the meeting with Inam Khan, it was agreed that no leader in above the party and all other leaders would face the same fate if they crossed the party line,” they added.

It may be noted that MNA Sher Afzal Marwat was removed from the PTI core and political committee in May by Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan on the order of Inam Khan after he made a controversial statement regarding the alleged involvement of Saudi Arabia in the ouster of Inam Khan in April 2022. Inam Khan was removed from the PTI’s office through a recently change motion by the joint

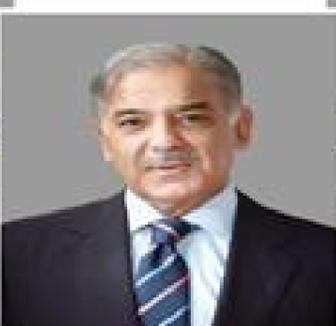
opposition alliance.

The PTI MNA, known for stirring controversies, accused both the US and Saudi Arabia of conspiring to topple the PTI government. The PTI had publicly distanced itself from his remarks, while Mr Marwat had chalked them off as his personal opinion, though he continued to stick to them.

Likewise, Mr Marwat had also lashed out at the party bigwig for what he called depriving him of the Public Accounts Committee chairmanship. He had alleged that Senate opposition leader Shabib Faraz was the person who informed Inam Khan about the Saudi ambassador raising reservations regarding his nomination for the apex parliamentary committee.

APPEAL






Appeal to the Prime Minister: Revive the Final Tax Regime (FTR)

The SME based value-added Export Sector of Sialkot is the backbone of Pakistan’s economy, driving growth and creating jobs. The recent shift from the Final Tax Regime (FTR) to the Normal Tax Regime (NTR) has placed an undue burden on our exporters, especially the SMEs.

The NTR’s complex compliance requirements would divert resources from core activities, forcing SME exporters to navigate administrative hurdles instead of focusing on production and expansion. The increase in tax rates for Companies and AOPs is not sustainable for the exporters in the international markets where they face cutthroat competition.

Increased FBR involvement raises the risk of malpractices and threatens business stability. We humbly demand to restore the Final Tax Regime to unburden our exporters, simplify taxes, and secure Pakistan’s economic future.

The Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry
The Surgical Instruments Manufacturers Association of Pakistan
Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers & Exporters Association
Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association
Pakistan Ready Made Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association
Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association
Pakistan Gloves Manufacturers & Exporters Association
Pakistan Cutlery and Stainless Utensils Manufacturers and Exporters Association

SPORT

IOC has 'full confidence in WADA' after China swimmers case

LAUNANNE: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) expressed its "full confidence" in the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on Thursday after a report said it had not influenced the case of Chinese swimmers cleared to compete after testing positive for a banned drug.

"Based on this report, the IOC reaffirms its full confidence in WADA and its leadership, who have implemented a number of initiatives that have strengthened the system in recent years," read the IOC statement.

The IOC also said WADA should receive unqualified support from its stakeholders.

Travis Tygart, head of the US Anti-Doping Agency and a longtime critic of WADA, has accused its president Wladimir Balchis of orchestrating a cover-up in the case of the Chinese swimmers.

That claim was dismissed by Balchis following the release of the report on Tuesday, telling AFP they were one of several "disgusting allegations" made about the case and adding that external lawyers were looking at the remarks.

The IOC — who partly fund WADA — called for calm to be restored and the global anti-doping body to be left alone to get on with its job.

"The IOC appeals to all stakeholders to respect the supreme authority of WADA in the fight against doping," read the IOC statement.

"This respect forms the basis on which WADA was founded by the governments of the world and the Olympic Movement. This respect is essential for any fair international competition."

The crisis arose when in April, the New York Times and German broadcaster ARD reported the swimmers had tested positive for trimetazidine (TMZ), a banned heart medicine which can enhance performance, at a domestic competition in late 2020 and early 2021.

It was determined by Chinese anti-doping authorities they ingested the substance unwittingly from tainted food at their hotel and no sanctions against them was warranted.

WADA accepted the assessment of the Chinese authorities and did not sanction the swimmers.

Some of them went on to compete in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. Zhang Yufei won two golds and Wang Shun was also crowned Olympic champion.

Eleven of the swimmers have been selected for the Paris Olympics which start this month.

The case caused a global uproar, with US anti-doping authorities accusing WADA of a cover-up.

As a result, WADA set up an independent investigation overseen by retired US prosecutor Eric Cotton, whose interim findings were released on Tuesday.

"There is nothing in the file — which is complete — to suggest that WADA showed favoritism or deference, or in any way favoured the 21 swimmers who tested positive for TMZ," the report said.—AFP



ENGLAND'S Ollie Watkins (R) scores past Netherlands goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen during their Euro 2024 semi-final at the BVB Stadion.—AFP

England's decade of development has its reward in Euro 2024 final

DORTMUND: England took a long time to get going in Germany but march on to Berlin to face Spain in Sunday's Euro 2024 final buoyed by more late drama and their best performance of the tournament to beat the Netherlands 2-1.

Ollie Watkins was the unlikely hero for the Three Lions as the Aston Villa striker smashed in a stoppage-time winner in Dortmund, having only played 20 minutes in the previous five games.

So often pilloried for his touch-line inertia despite the depth of talent at his disposal, England boss Gareth Southgate could drink in the acclaim in Dortmund as his bold introduction of Cole Palmer and Watkins as 90th-minute subs made a decisive impact.

"We all want to be loved, right? So, when you're doing something for your country and you're a proud Englishman and when you don't feel that back and when all you read is criticism, it's hard," Southgate told reporters. "No, to be able to celebrate a second final is very, very special."

With the game slipping out of his side's grasp after a dominant first half, Harry Kane, who had scored the early equaliser from the penalty spot and looked the sharpest he has been all tournament, and Phil Foden, who hit the post and had a shot cleared off the line, were booked.

It proved a masterstroke as Palmer delivered the pass and Watkins the winning finish that won the game and sent England into a second successive Euros final.

England's progression to a first ever major tournament final on foreign soil, however, is the fruit of a decade of work on a player development programme that has turned perennial under-achievers into serial contenders.

Ending a 58-year wait to win a major trophy at senior men's international level in the final hurdle left to clear for Southgate's men after serial success at youth level and in the women's game.

Just months after the Three Lions had crashed out of 2018 World Cup with one game to spare of the group stage, Southgate — then in his role as under-21 boss — appeared alongside the English Football Association's technical director Dan Ashworth.

They presented a plan termed "England DNA" that had the goal of blending the passion English football was famous for with better technique and a stronger mentality to handle the pressures of major tournament football.

The results speak for themselves at every level.

Many of Southgate's squad in Germany have already experienced winning tournaments at youth level.

Anthony Gordon and Palmer were part of the side that beat Spain in the final to win England's first under-21 Euros for 39 years 12 months ago.

Karl Knorr from the Under-20

World Cup in 2017, while the same year Foden won player of the tournament alongside Marc Guish and Conor Gallagher in winning the under-17 World Cup.

England's women won their first major tournament on home soil at the Euros in 2022 and followed that up by reaching the World Cup final last year.

The blend of an old-fashioned never-say-die attitude with players of a higher technical standard and has carried England on a rollercoaster to the Euro 2024 final.

Hyped before the tournament as one of the favourites, Southgate admitted the expectation weighed heavy as his side stumbled through the group stage, scoring just two goals in three games.

They then needed late fight-backs and individual moments of brilliance from Jude Bellingham and Bukayo Saka to keep them alive in shocking post-lunch ranked opposition in Slovakia and Switzerland to make the last four.

But in Dortmund against the Dutch, England's decade of planning had its reward in a famous win.

"It will be I would imagine a long time, if ever an English side had 60 percent possession of the ball against a side from the Netherlands. So it shows the more modern England way," said a beaming Southgate afterwards.

The ultimate test lies ahead against a Spain side that have swept all before them, including

Germany and France on the tougher side of the draw.

England have previously suffered a series of near misses under Southgate.

They defied expectations to reach the semi-finals at the 2018 World Cup before missing out on penalties to Italy in the Euro 2020 final on home soil.

More heartbreak came in Qatar two years ago when Harry Kane ballooned over a late penalty against France in a 2-1 quarter-final defeat.

But that experience has put them in a better place than ever before to become champions of Europe for the first time.

"We're more calm going into the knockout games because the first time we did it in Russia, we hadn't won a knockout game for 10 years," added Southgate.

"We hadn't been through the experience. Quarter-finals, semi-finals, we've managed a lot of those games since. The last final was the first European Championship final I've ever managed. If I didn't get anything right, apologies for that. I'm going to try and do better this week."

The Netherlands, meanwhile, will look back on a satisfying campaign when the bitter disappointment of Wednesday's defeat fades after few gave them any chance of going so deep at the tournament.

The Dutch would surely have jumped at the possibility of a final-four placing if offered before the start of the tournament but after coming so close to

Russia compensates athletes not invited to Paris Games

MOSCOW: The Russian Olympic Committee has paid compensation to 245 athletes who failed to meet the criteria allowing them to compete at the Paris Games this month, the RIA state news agency reported on Thursday.

Athletes from Russia and Belarus, Moscow's closest ally in the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, are barred from the Games unless they compete as neutrals without flags, uniforms and emblems.

Russian and Belarusian athletes have also had to undergo an additional vetting process to ensure they do not support Russia's war and have no connection to its military, which Moscow says amounts to a "conspiracy" to exclude its athletes.

"We have paid compensation to 245 athletes. These are those athletes who initially did not get the right to compete in international competitions and those who did not receive neutral status," RIA quoted Russian Olympic Committee general director Vladimir Soloviyev as saying.

Artur Dalalyan, a 28-year-old gymnast who won gold at the Tokyo Games in 2021, told RIA he had received about 200,000 roubles (\$2.6,000).

RIA did not specify which other sportspeople were compensated and how much money they received.

The list of Russian athletes who will head to Paris has thinned to just over a dozen, as several sports federations heads have said their squads will not take part under what they see as humiliating restrictions.

Only 16 Russian athletes are scheduled to appear in the Games, which run from July 26 to Aug 11, compared to 315 athletes at the last Summer Games in Tokyo in 2021.—Reuters

Bayern sign Portugal star Palhinha at second time of asking

MUNICH: Bayern Munich on Thursday finally secured the signing of Portugal midfielder Joao Palhinha from Fulham for a reported fee of 49 million euros (\$55 million) after coming close to securing him last year.

The 28-year-old, who spent two years at Fulham after arriving from Sporting Lisbon in 2022 for 22 million euros, signed a four-year contract.

Bayern had been poised to sign

Palhinha in 2023, the defensive midfielder had even posed in the club's strip, but the deal fell through just before the transfer window closed when Fulham failed to find a replacement.

In a statement, Palhinha said it was "one of the happiest days of my life," adding "this is a dream come true for me... I want to enjoy success with Bayern and win titles."

Sporting director Max Eberl said the

player was "highly sought after by Bayern even last summer — and rightly so. It was important that we never lost touch."

Palhinha, who has scored twice in 31 competitive appearances, took part in Portugal's Euro 2024 campaign which ended at the hands of France in the quarter-finals.

His signing is Bayern's third major arrival of the summer, as the club continues a massive rebuild after a first season

Gamble to attack Uruguay with 10 men pays off as Colombia reach final

CHARLOTTE: Colombia coach Nestor Lorenzo was delighted that his gamble to stay on the attack against Uruguay despite going down to 10 men paid off on Wednesday after they emerged with a 1-0 win that set up a Copa America final against Argentina.

Colombia took a 1-0 lead through Jefferson Lerma before having right back Daniel Muñoz sent off in first-half stoppage time of their semifinal at the Bank of America Stadium in North Carolina.

Down a man for the whole of the second half, Lorenzo opted to keep two forwards on the pitch to create chances instead of sitting back and "parking the bus".

"One of the main topics we discuss is that we never want to be one man down. It is almost impossible to maintain performance with 10 players on the pitch," Lorenzo told reporters.

"Teams that were dominating their opponents when they were one man down

were eliminated from the tournament. We really analysed that situation. With the formation, we only had two options of 5-4, 5-3 for to keep it 4-3-2 and create opportunities. We chose that one and God favoured us. Some of our opportunities didn't go in, but we also missed some goals and we made it."

The win means Colombia will face defending champions Argentina in Sunday's final in Miami and Lorenzo said he was relishing the match up with his homeland.

"This is going to be very nice. I am going to be [competing] with players I met during my career and who I admire a lot," said the former Argentina assistant coach.

"We have to recover and arrive in the best way. We hope we don't have any news from the medical team, because there are always blows, pain that has to be treated, but I think we are going to arrive in good shape."

Colombia's victory also set a national record of 28

matches unbeaten and Lorenzo paid tribute to former boss Francisco "Pacho" Matute, who won 27 games without defeat.

"Pacho and his group, they gave us a very important legacy. They left it for us and that was the foundation for Colombian football," he said. "So I'm not superior to him, this benefits Colombian football."

Uruguay, 15-times champions, had been one of the pre-tournament favourites and coach Marcelo Bielsa said his side had more talent in their ranks than Colombia and therefore he should be the one taking responsibility for the semifinal defeat.

"Uruguay was in a clear condition to win this match if you assess the individual talent in each squad," Bielsa told reporters. "I manage the team that, in my opinion, had the stronger individual talent vis-a-vis the opponent, and we weren't able to make the difference that I thought we were going to make if you compared both formations."

"I am personally liable for not achieving the result, despite having these players that were capable of being superior than the opponent. We were not able to seize our extra man advantage, and when a team wins with less individual talent, logically, the manager that is coaching the weaker team shows that he is superior than the coach that had the best players."

With the majority of the 70,000-plus crowd cheering on Colombia from the start, Lerma scored the winner after Uruguay forward Darwin Nunez had missed three good opportunities to put his side ahead.

In the 59th minute, Lerma rose majestically above Jose Maria Gimenez and powerfully headed home goal keeper Sergio Rochet as James Rodriguez claimed his sixth assist of the tournament.

The game took a turn in first-half stoppage time when Munoz allowed Manuel Ugarte in the chest when play was stopped and picked up a

second booking.

Uruguay gradually began to turn their numerical advantage into real pressure but misses Colombia held on for victory, reaching their first final since 2001 when they were their only title.

The semifinal ended with Colombian players confronting Uruguayan fans in the stands as security personnel struggled to restore order.

South American governing body CONMEBOL said it was investigating the incident.

Nunez unleashed a flurry of punches at Colombian supporters after jumping into the mêlée out of concern for the safety of family members and loved ones watching the game.

"This is a disaster. Our family was in danger. We had to go to the stands to take out our loved ones, with tiny newborn babies," the Atletico-Madrid player said.

"There was not a single police officer... I hope those who are organising this are a little more careful with the families. Every game it's been happening because there are people who don't know how to handle a couple of drinks."

The fighting continued for several minutes until police finally intervened.

Players and staff from both Colombia and Uruguay were also involved in a confrontation on the field after the final whistle.

"I thought that the incident ended with some argument on the midfield and when I saw that happening I went to the locker room," Bielsa said in a press conference. "I thought that they were thanking the fans for their support. But then I learned that there were some problems over their uniforms."



COLOMBIA'S Jefferson Lerma (L) heads to score against Uruguay during their Copa America semi-final at the Bank of America Stadium.—AFP

Wahab, Razaq rubbish allegations after sacking

LAHORE: Wahab Raza and Akmal Razaq, who were sacked from the Pakistan's selection committee on Wednesday, have published allegations of favouring certain national team players and forcing other selectors to toe the line in the T20 World Cup.

The decision to remove Wahab came as a surprise since he is perceived to be very close to the incumbent PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi.

Wahab had also worked as an advisor on sports with wide ranging powers in the caretaker government in Punjab run by Mohsin, until the elections were held earlier this year.

Since last year, Wahab has also worked in the PCB in various roles such as the chief selector and senior team manager.

Shortly after Wahab and Razaq were asked, it was alleged that the former, in capacity of senior team manager, had ignored uncooperative and foul behaviour from pace spearhead Shabaz Shah Afridi in the T20 World Cup, as per local media reports.

Wahab and Razaq were also alleged to have insisted on selecting some players who were not in form or fully fit.

"To make collaborative decisions as part of the seven-man panel to select the national team was a privilege — everyone's vote carries equal weight, we made selection decisions as a team and shared the responsibility of that process equally," said Wahab in a statement.

"I don't want to be in any blame game. But I don't agree with claims that I put pressure on other members of the selection committee. How is it possible that one vote prevailed over six others," said Wahab, adding that everything is documented on record in the minutes of the meeting.

Razaq said the selectors took collective decisions which were determined by the majority vote.

"So how can I sway the other selectors while selecting the team?" he said.

The PCB had appointed a seven-member selection committee in March without a chief selector in place, soon after Mohsin took over as chairman.

The committee also included former cricketers such as Muhammad Yousaf and Asad Shafiq. Wahab, Razaq along with the head coach, captain and chief analyst Bilal Afzal.

The board's analyst Hassan Chohan and director of international cricket operations Usman Wahid also attended selection committee meetings. —Agencies

Hasaranga quits as T20 skipper ahead of India tour

COLUMBO: Sri Lanka's T20 captain Warrinda Hasaranga resigned Thursday ahead of India's white ball tour of the island later this month, the cricket board said.

The 26-year-old all-rounder quit following Sri Lanka's early exit from the T20 World Cup in June.

Sri Lanka Cricket said Hasaranga decided to give up the captaincy and remain in the side as a player in the "best interest" of the team.

"Sri Lanka will always have my utmost best efforts as a player, and I will support and stand by my team and leadership as always," he was quoted as saying in his resignation letter to the board.

No replacement was announced and Kusal Mendis remained the country's ODI skipper with Dhananjaya de Silva staying on as Test captain.

Hasaranga's resignation comes days after former skipper Sanath Jayasuriya, 55, was appointed "honorary" coach until a permanent replacement for Chris Silverwood is named.

Former England coach Silverwood, 49, quit Sri Lanka's national side for "personal reasons," according to Sri Lanka Cricket, which thanked him for his "valuable contributions during his tenure".

Sri Lanka won only one match at the T20 World Cup tournament, against the Netherlands, and finished third in their group behind South Africa and Bangladesh.

Former skipper Mahela Jayawardena also stepped down as "consultant coach" last month.

India will play its first T20 against hosts Sri Lanka on July 26 with the second match the following day and the final on July 29.

All three matches will be at Pallekele.

They will play three ODIs matches starting August 1 with the second on August 4 and the final three days later.

All matches are scheduled at Premadasa Stadium. —AFP



KAZAKHSTAN'S Elena Rybakina in action against Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic during their Wimbledon semi-final at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club on Thursday. —Reuters

Krejickova stuns Rybakina to set up Wimbledon final clash with Paolini

LONDON: Czech 31st seed Barbora Krejickova will face Italy's Jasmine Paolini in the Wimbledon final after beating Rybakina 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in over four hours on Thursday.

Just hours after Paolini beat powerful Croatian Donna Vekic 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) in the longest women's semi-final in the All England Club, it was Krejickova's turn to dig deep for victory against fourth seed Rybakina in two hours and seven minutes on Centre Court.

Krejickova faces seventh seed Paolini on Saturday in what will be the second Grand Slam final of the 28-year-old's career after her French Open triumph in 2021.

"I'm so proud about my game and my fighting spirit today," said Krejickova.

The Czech started 2024 with a run to the quarter-finals of the Australian Open, but a first round exit at the French Open was a major setback.

She struggled with a back injury and illness, winning just three singles matches in the five months before finally finding her form in remarkable style at Wimbledon.

Krejickova shocked 11th seed Danielle Collins in the fourth round and former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko in the quarter-finals, before turning her sights on Rybakina.

The two-time Wimbledon doubles champion is now one win away from an unexpected triumph in the singles.

"Unbelievable. It is very tough to explain, but a lot of joy and a lot of emotions," Krejickova said. "When I broke her in the second set, I started to be in the zone and I didn't want to leave the zone."

Rybakina had been in formidable form, dropping just one set as she extended her record to 19 wins from 21 matches.

The 22-year-old, who won Wimbledon in 2022, made a fast start with two quick breaks for an early 4-0 lead in a one-sided first set against Krejickova.

In her first Wimbledon semi-final, Krejickova turned the tide in the second set, landing a priceless break in the sixth game.

She levelled the match on her sixth set point, making it the first time in 20 years that both Wimbledon women's semi-finals had gone to the final set.

The Czech held all the momentum and she eventually wore down Rybakina, who had committed over 25 unforced errors by the time she surrendered her serve in the decisive seventh game of the final set.

Earlier, world number seven Paolini, who had never won a main draw match at Wimbledon before this year, nervously saw off Vekic in two hours and 51 minutes to secure a second consecutive Grand Slam final appearance.

The 28-year-old, who lost the French Open final to Iga Swiatek last month, is the first Italian woman to reach the Wimbledon final.

Paolini, who also made the Australia Open last 16 in January, had not gone past the second round in any Slam before this year.

Without a win at the All England Club leading into the tournament, Paolini now has six victories under her belt and has dropped just two sets in the process.

"The last months have been away for me. It is a dream. I was watching finals when I was a kid on this Wimbledon," she said. "You know there is no place better than here to fight for every ball and every point. I will remember this forever."

Vekic paid the price for 57 unforced errors, with the semi-final fittingly ending on another wild forehand from the unseeded Croatian.

Unable to contain her frustration at letting 3-1 and 4-3 leads slip in the last set, Vekic broke down in tears in the closing stages of a roller coaster clash.

"I was crying because I had so much pain. I didn't know how I could keep playing," Vekic said. "I thought I was going to die in the third set. I had so much pain in my arm, in my leg." —AFP

Paolini, who also made the Australia Open last 16 in January, had not gone past the second round in any Slam before this year.

Without a win at the All England Club leading into the tournament, Paolini now has six victories under her belt and has dropped just two sets in the process.

"The last months have been away for me. It is a dream. I was watching finals when I was a kid on this Wimbledon," she said. "You know there is no place better than here to fight for every ball and every point. I will remember this forever."

Vekic paid the price for 57 unforced errors, with the semi-final fittingly ending on another wild forehand from the unseeded Croatian.

Unable to contain her frustration at letting 3-1 and 4-3 leads slip in the last set, Vekic broke down in tears in the closing stages of a roller coaster clash.

"I was crying because I had so much pain. I didn't know how I could keep playing," Vekic said. "I thought I was going to die in the third set. I had so much pain in my arm, in my leg." —AFP

Paolini, who also made the Australia Open last 16 in January, had not gone past the second round in any Slam before this year.

Without a win at the All England Club leading into the tournament, Paolini now has six victories under her belt and has dropped just two sets in the process.

"The last months have been away for me. It is a dream. I was watching finals when I was a kid on this Wimbledon," she said. "You know there is no place better than here to fight for every ball and every point. I will remember this forever."

Vekic paid the price for 57 unforced errors, with the semi-final fittingly ending on another wild forehand from the unseeded Croatian.

Unable to contain her frustration at letting 3-1 and 4-3 leads slip in the last set, Vekic broke down in tears in the closing stages of a roller coaster clash.

Paolini, who also made the Australia Open last 16 in January, had not gone past the second round in any Slam before this year.

Without a win at the All England Club leading into the tournament, Paolini now has six victories under her belt and has dropped just two sets in the process.

"The last months have been away for me. It is a dream. I was watching finals when I was a kid on this Wimbledon," she said. "You know there is no place better than here to fight for every ball and every point. I will remember this forever."

Vekic paid the price for 57 unforced errors, with the semi-final fittingly ending on another wild forehand from the unseeded Croatian.

"I was crying because I had so much pain. I didn't know how I could keep playing," Vekic said. "I thought I was going to die in the third set. I had so much pain in my arm, in my leg." —AFP

Paolini, who also made the Australia Open last 16 in January, had not gone past the second round in any Slam before this year.

Without a win at the All England Club leading into the tournament, Paolini now has six victories under her belt and has dropped just two sets in the process.

"The last months have been away for me. It is a dream. I was watching finals when I was a kid on this Wimbledon," she said. "You know there is no place better than here to fight for every ball and every point. I will remember this forever."

Vekic paid the price for 57 unforced errors, with the semi-final fittingly ending on another wild forehand from the unseeded Croatian.

"I was crying because I had so much pain. I didn't know how I could keep playing," Vekic said. "I thought I was going to die in the third set. I had so much pain in my arm, in my leg." —AFP

Paolini, who also made the Australia Open last 16 in January, had not gone past the second round in any Slam before this year.

Without a win at the All England Club leading into the tournament, Paolini now has six victories under her belt and has dropped just two sets in the process.

"The last months have been away for me. It is a dream. I was watching finals when I was a kid on this Wimbledon," she said. "You know there is no place better than here to fight for every ball and every point. I will remember this forever."

Vekic paid the price for 57 unforced errors, with the semi-final fittingly ending on another wild forehand from the unseeded Croatian.

Unable to contain her frustration at letting 3-1 and 4-3 leads slip in the last set, Vekic broke down in tears in the closing stages of a roller coaster clash.

"I was crying because I had so much pain. I didn't know how I could keep playing," Vekic said. "I thought I was going to die in the third set. I had so much pain in my arm, in my leg." —AFP

Anderson strikes as England eye massive victory over West Indies

LONDON: James Anderson led the way in his farewell international match as England closed in on a crushing innings win over the West Indies in the first Test here at Lord's on Thursday.

The West Indies had slumped to 79-6 in their second innings at stumps on the second day, still a mammoth 171 runs behind England's first innings 371, with Anderson having taken a minority 2-11 in 10 overs.

England great Anderson came into his 186th and last Test before international retirement having already taken 700 wickets — the most by any last bowler in the 147-year history of the format.

Yet the 41-year-old had to wait until dismissing last man Jayden Seales in the first innings to extend that tally to 701.

But it was a different story on Thursday as Anderson reduced the tourists to 12-1 by bowling West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite with a ball that ripped back off the seam.

England captain Ben Stokes then had Kirk McKenzie bow for a duck as he became only the third man, after West Indies great Garry Sobers and South Africa's Jacques Kallis, to take both 200 wickets and score 6,000 runs in Test.

Anderson's first Test on Thursday was his 24th birthday on Friday. The West Indies were now 55-5, with England eyeing a repeat of their celebrated two-day win over the Caribbean side at Headingley back in 2000.

The tourists avoided that embarrassment but lost Jason Holder to what became the last ball of the day when the former captain was brilliantly caught at short leg by a diving Ollie Pope after finding an edge.

Earlier Smith, averaging over 50 in the County Championship this season for title-holders Surrey, made an eye-catching 70 during an earlier 119-ball innings that included eight fours and two sixes.

It was the fifth 50 of England's innings, with Smith following Zak Crawley (76), Joe Root (68), Pope (57) and Harry Brook (50) to the land mark.

England resumed on Thursday on 189-3, already 68 runs ahead and they again scored briskly against the wayward West Indies spinners before left arm spinner Gudakesh Motie briefly attacked the flow of runs by bowling both Stokes and former skipper Root with sharply turning deliveries.

Smith had been chosen as England's wicket-keeper ahead of Ben Stokes in part because the selectors felt he was better

already marked his Test debut by top-scoring with 27 in the West Indies' meagre first innings. 121, was going on the attack when pulling a six off Holder's Joseph — who later left the field with what appeared to be a hamstring injury — before launching another off Stokes over the stumps.

After Stuardus Bishoi was brilliantly run out by Lewis' direct hit from point, No 11 Anderson walked out to a standing ovation from MCC members in the Pavilion for what could well be his last Test innings.

Anderson was left on his hands and knees facing a ball, however, when Smith belted one in the deep off last bowler Seales, who took 4-77. —AFP

Paolini, who also made the Australia Open last 16 in January, had not gone past the second round in any Slam before this year.

Without a win at the All England Club leading into the tournament, Paolini now has six victories under her belt and has dropped just two sets in the process.

"The last months have been away for me. It is a dream. I was watching finals when I was a kid on this Wimbledon," she said. "You know there is no place better than here to fight for every ball and every point. I will remember this forever."

Vekic paid the price for 57 unforced errors, with the semi-final fittingly ending on another wild forehand from the unseeded Croatian.

"I was crying because I had so much pain. I didn't know how I could keep playing," Vekic said. "I thought I was going to die in the third set. I had so much pain in my arm, in my leg." —AFP

Paolini, who also made the Australia Open last 16 in January, had not gone past the second round in any Slam before this year.

Without a win at the All England Club leading into the tournament, Paolini now has six victories under her belt and has dropped just two sets in the process.

"The last months have been away for me. It is a dream. I was watching finals when I was a kid on this Wimbledon," she said. "You know there is no place better than here to fight for every ball and every point. I will remember this forever."

Vekic paid the price for 57 unforced errors, with the semi-final fittingly ending on another wild forehand from the unseeded Croatian.

Unable to contain her frustration at letting 3-1 and 4-3 leads slip in the last set, Vekic broke down in tears in the closing stages of a roller coaster clash.

"I was crying because I had so much pain. I didn't know how I could keep playing," Vekic said. "I thought I was going to die in the third set. I had so much pain in my arm, in my leg." —AFP



ENGLAND pacer James Anderson celebrates after dismissing West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite during the first Test at Lord's on Thursday. —AFP

Scoreboard	
WEST INDIES (1st innings) 127 (20 overs) (44)	
ENGLAND (1st innings) over 120-6	79
1. Crawley 5 (10)	3
2. Stokes 16 (10)	1
3. Pope 16 (10)	1
4. Root 16 (10)	1
5. Smith 16 (10)	1
6. Brathwaite 16 (10)	1
7. Holder 16 (10)	1
8. Joseph 16 (10)	1
9. Holder 16 (10)	1
10. Holder 16 (10)	1
11. Holder 16 (10)	1
12. Holder 16 (10)	1
13. Holder 16 (10)	1
14. Holder 16 (10)	1
15. Holder 16 (10)	1
16. Holder 16 (10)	1
17. Holder 16 (10)	1
18. Holder 16 (10)	1
19. Holder 16 (10)	1
20. Holder 16 (10)	1
TOTAL (all out) 127	217
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20 (Crawley), 2-23 (Pope), 3-23 (Crawley), 4-24 (Stokes), 5-24 (Stokes), 6-27 (Pope), 7-28 (Smith), 8-32 (Anderson), 9-37 (Smith)	
WEST INDIES (2nd innings) 10-0 (0 overs)	0
ENGLAND (2nd innings) 10-0 (0 overs)	0
WEST INDIES (3rd innings) 10-0 (0 overs)	0
ENGLAND (3rd innings) 10-0 (0 overs)	0
TOTAL (all out) 10	10
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Anderson), 2-0 (Anderson), 3-0 (Anderson), 4-0 (Anderson), 5-0 (Anderson), 6-0 (Anderson), 7-0 (Anderson), 8-0 (Anderson), 9-0 (Anderson), 10-0 (Anderson)	

Girmay wins again as Roglic suffers costly fall

VILLENEUVE: LEFT: Biniam Girmay won stage 12 of the Tour de France in a man dash for the line on Thursday to extend his lead in the sprint points race with his third triumph so far, while Primož Roglic was left bloody after another fall.

Girmay became the first black African to win a stage on the Tour on the third day of this year's edition at Tourin and was first again on stage night.

He then proved fastest in a bunch sprint finish in stage 12 as he topped the podium ahead of Wout van Aert and Pascal Ackermann.

Girmay now has 328pts to Jasper Philipsen's 217 with few real sprint stages remaining, with the exception of the one on Friday.

Title pretender Roglic had been fourth overnight but crashed home 2min 27sec behind Girmay after a fall that left his shoulder bleeding.

Overnight leader Tadej Pogacar remains 1min 56sec ahead of Roman Evenepoel in second, with Jonas Vingegaard in third at 1min 18sec.

Pogacar's teammate Jan Almeida is now fourth in the overall standings at 4min 20sec, with Ineos rider Carlos Rodriguez in fifth at 4min 48sec.

Roglic started the day 2min 15sec ahead but looked haggard as he crossed the line after struggling home over the final 12.5km.

The fall happened outside the zone where late crashes are overlooked for overall times.

Roglic was involved in a crash for a second consecutive day after an Aramco rider failed to see a slender traffic island and took down some dozen riders.

The 34-year-old four-time Grand Tour winner took a couple of minutes to get back in the saddle.

The Tour lost two further participants on Thursday.

First, the bulky Belgian sprinter Fabio Jakobsen found it too hard to keep up with the swift 2024 Tour pace and fell off the back to retire.

Spanish rider Pello Bilbao was also ill in the 33C heat and pulled out halfway through the stage unable to maintain the pace.

Four early attackers opened a gap of almost four minutes

after getting away at 14km and only being reeled in at 16km.

Jonas Abrahamsen is level with Pogacar in the Mountain classification on 36 points.

However, the nominal leader is to be the Slovenian due to his higher standing.

Stage 13 is one of the last obvious sprint stages on a flat run on Friday from Agde to Pau, the gateway to the Pyrenees.

"Between Pau and Nice there is hardly any flat terrain at all," said route architect Thierry Gouvenou. —AFP



INTERMARCHÉ-WANTY team's Eritrean rider Biniam Girmay celebrates after crossing the finish line to win the 12th stage of the Tour de France, a 203.6km distance from Aurillac to Villeneuve-sur-Lot, on Thursday. —Reuters



Krejčíková stuns Rybakina to set up final clash with Paolini Pg.18 SPORT

KARACHI

Weather forecast table for Karachi: Sunset 07:29 pm, Sunrise (tomorrow) 05:50 am, Minimum 30°C, Maximum 33°C, Humidity 72%, Outlook Partly Cloudy.

METRO South

MQM-P calls for deregulation of power sector

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) on Thursday called for the deregulation of the power sector and demanded incentives for more electricity supply companies across the country to end the "authoritative and dictatorial" control of the existing companies and bring relief to people.

Addressing a press conference, MQM-P leader Mustafa Kamal said that the country's overall development budget was set at Rs1,400 billion, while the payable amount to the power companies had crossed Rs1,700 billion. He stated that the time had come to end the monopoly of electricity companies to promote healthy competition and provide cheaper electricity to consumers.

"Anywhere in the world, there are several [power supply] companies operating in one area," he said. "It brings competition and finally offers consumers the opportunity to pick the power supply company of their choice, depending on its performance and price. Doesn't it sound like a joke that the government has to pay more than the development funds to power companies? There's a need to privatise DISCOs [distribution companies] after thoroughly studying the experiment of K-E privatization."

He added that the majority of people regularly pay their bills but are still unfairly charged for electricity theft by others, and the electricity supply is reduced as a means to control these losses. Even in major urban areas, residents endure up to 18 hours of load shedding, affecting those who pay their bills. The MQM-P leader also suggested that the government engage with institutions and friendly nations to restructure debt payments owed in dollars.



DEBRIS of a building, which has been declared 'dangerous' by the Sindh Building Control Authority, lies scattered along the pavement near Burns Road on Thursday. The building authority has started to demolish the structure from the inside and sent eviction notices to residents of 40 other such 'dangerous' buildings located in district South — Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

Granite extraction planned from area near Karoonjhar Hills

Cabinet designates 3.6 sq km for mining, subject to clearance from forest dept

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: In an attempt to protect the entire Karoonjhar Hills as a cultural and heritage site, forest, and a wildlife sanctuary, the Sindh cabinet on Thursday designated a 3.6 square kilometre area, located 25 km from Nagarparkar for granite mining, subject to clearance from the forest and wildlife department.

According to a press release, the cabinet meeting, held with Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in the chair, was informed that the Sindh High Court had on Oct 16, 2023 banned excavation in Nagarparkar due to the presence of cultural and heritage sites, forests and Ramsar sites.

It was further informed that the provincial government had filed an appeal against the SHC

judgement in the Supreme Court which was informed that any government policy for mining in Karoonjhar hills would consider the competing interests of wildlife, forest, environment, and heritage.

The mines and mineral department told the cabinet that the Geological Survey of Pakistan's 2015 report said that there were around 14 billion tonnes of granite in Nagarparkar spread over 11 different locations.

The cabinet was informed that

a proposal was initiated during the caretaker government to launch the granite excavation project at Nagarparkar.

The cabinet committee identified the Khisar Area, located 25 km away from Nagarparkar, where the potential for granite excavation indicated an area of 3.6 sq km, as per the GSP Report 2015.

The committee found that the Khisar Area had no overlapping with forest areas. Subsequently, the cabinet approved Khisar as

granite mining area subject to the clearance of forest and wildlife departments.

Later, at a post-cabinet press conference, Information Minister Sharjeel Memon and Education Minister Syed Saadullah Shah said that the issue of mining in Nagarparkar had persisted for a long time.

The information minister said that mining of granite would not proceed without the consent of the local residents, reflecting the core vision of the Pakistan Peoples Party's leadership.

Shahid Shah clarified that the caretaker mines and mineral minister had proposed generating significant funds through the export of granite, but this plan was deemed impractical and opposed by the local community. "Nagarparkar granite mining site has already been designated as a cultural and heritage site and it is firmly established that there are no plans to permit mining in Karoonjhar," he added.

The minister said that the cabinet had decisively resolved to safeguard this historical heritage.

Continued on Page 15

Unregistered vehicles

KARACHI: The provincial cabinet has decided that no unregistered local or imported vehicle will be allowed on roads, prohibiting car dealers and showroom owners from selling unregistered vehicles.

The cabinet approved the amendment to the Provincial Motor Vehicle Ordinance (PMVO) 1965 to ensure strict registration of vehicles, enhance public safety by preventing the misuse of unregistered vehicles for illegal activities.

According to the amendments, driving unregistered vehicles in the province will be prohibited. The cabinet also prohibited dealers and showroom owners from selling unregistered vehicles and warned that responsibility for registration irregularities would be placed on dealers and showroom owners. — Staff Reporter

SHC questions maintainability of plea against proposed allotment of coastal land to DHA

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday directed a lawyer for the petitioners to satisfy the court about the maintainability of a petition filed against a provincial government's plan to allot 5,000 acres to the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) in Hawkesbay.

A two-judge bench comprising Justice Arshad Hussain Khan and Justice Sana Akram Mirhas also asked the counsel to file documents about the title of the land being claimed by the petitioners.

Last month, a similar petition had also been filed in the SHC and another division bench had issued notices to the chief secretary, administrator of DHA and other respondents as well as a provincial law officer for a date to be fixed after summer vacation.

In the latest plea, Ghulam Qadir and nine others petitioned the SHC for declaring the proposed actions of the Sindh government regarding allotment of the land to DHA in Hawkesbay null and void.

Citing the chief secretary of DHA, administrator of DHA, senior member board of revenue,

secretary of land utilization department, Kotwari deputy commissioner and others as respondents, the petitioners submitted that they were residents of various golfes located in Hawkesbay since their birth and associated with fishing while their ancestors had also resided there.

At the onset of the hearing, the SHC questioned the maintainability of the petition and also asked about the locus standi of the petitioners.

Representing the petitioners, advocate Asif Rajper asserted that his clients were residents of the area in question and if the

proposed allotment was made, they would be dispossessed of their land and houses.

However, the petitioners have not attached the documents of such land with the petition.

The bench asked the lawyer to file the title documents of land, said to be belonging to petitioners, if any and also sought arguments about the maintainability of the petition at the next hearing.

The hearing was for a date to be fixed later by the office of the court.

The petitioners asserted that they came to know about a letter written by the administrator of

DHA in December last year to the Sindh chief secretary requesting allotment of 'bulk number' of land (measuring 5000-6000 acres) to DHA Karachi for its expansion in vicinity of Hawkesbay.

Thereafter, they maintained that the chief minister took up the matter and directed senior member board of revenue to examine the same and in compliance whereof, a letter, dated Jan 30, 2024, was addressed to the secretary of land utilization department and senior member for taking further necessary action with regard to the letter of DHA.

'Robber' shot dead near Teen Hatti

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A suspected robber was killed while his alleged accomplice arrested with bullet wounds in the Teen Hatti area on Thursday, police said.

East-SSP Dr Farrukh Raza said two armed men tried to loot people at Teen Hatti. However, citizens put up resistance meanwhile a police party also arrived at the spot.

The alleged muggers opened fire on the people and police upon which the police returned fire, added the SSP.

The citizens who had weapons also retaliated resulting in injuries to the alleged robbers, the officials added.

Both the suspects were arrested with bullet wounds and taken to the Dr Ruth Flau Civil Hospital Karachi, where one of them was declared dead on arrival while the other suspect admitted for treatment.

The police claimed to have recovered two 9mm pistols and one motorcycle from their possession.

It transpired that the seized bike was also snatched in Liaquatnagar recently.

Decapitated body found

A decapitated body was found from a garbage dump in the old city area on Thursday.

Risala police said that the body of an unidentified man in his early 40s was recovered from a garbage dump near a church on Nishtar Road.

The man appeared to have died around three to four days ago, the police said.

The remains were taken to the Civil Hospital for medico-legal formalities.



Naqvi calls on Syedna Mufaddal

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has called on Syedna Mufaddal Sarfuddin, the leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community, at the Barhain Palace during his visit to the metropolis.

Syedna's son, Shahzada Hussain Burhanuddin, was also present during the meeting.

According to a press release issued here on Thursday, the interior minister expressed good wishes for Syedna and welcomed him to Pakistan.

He said: "Your arrival is an honour for us. We have a relationship of respect and admiration with you, which will always remain the same."

Syedna Mufaddal thanked the interior minister for resolving issues related to the Dawoodi Bohra community and presented him with a beautiful chador and tabarruk.

Meanwhile, Mr Naqvi visited an imambara in Soldier Bazaar and reviewed the security arrangements.

He also met with Ayatullah Aqeel al-Gharavi and former caretaker Chief Minister Marjboob Isagar.

Sindh Labour Code draft termed 'conspiracy' against workers

Labour leaders describe the code as an attempt to end workers' solidarity; vow to resist its implementation

By Shazia Hassan

KARACHI: Leaders of representative labour organisations held a press conference at the Karachi Press Club on Thursday to reject the 'anti-workers' draft called 'Sindh Labour Code' presented by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Sindh labour department without consulting the labour bodies.

The ILO has provided technical assistance to the Sindh government in drafting the labour code.

The labour leaders declared that any attempt to legislate it will be strongly resisted.

Nasir Manzoor, general secretary of the National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) said that the code

draft was a conspiracy to impose anti-labour laws on workers of Sindh without the established tripartite consultation process.

He further said that the Sindh Labour Code draft aims to curtail basic rights of workers, which they had achieved through struggle of over a century.

"It is a blatant violation of the core conventions of the ILO, where the identity of a worker and their relationship with the employer has been eliminated."

Mr Manzoor said that the current labour laws grant the right of permanent employment for workers, but the Sindh Labour Code seeks to legalise the "illegal contract labour system", thereby imposing a wage slavery system in workplaces and providing capitalists with a legal excuse to evade their responsibilities.

Nasim Rao, Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Workers Federation, said that instead of making the definition of workers modern, comprehensive and better aligned with current needs, this code is making it more complicated, leaving workers entirely at the mercy of contractors, sub-contractors, or third-party recruiting agencies, which will reduce millions of workers to unrecognised wage slaves.

Liaquat Ali Shah, general secretary of the State Bank of Pakistan CBS Union, said that the proposed Sindh Labour Code "obscurely" redefines factory owners into different categories, exempting them from their legal responsibilities and informalising the formal sector.

As a result, in the event of any industrial dispute, workers will be deprived of all basic rights such as legal action, social security, pension, minimisation, bonuses, working hours and gratuity.

Hussain Badshah, general secretary of People Labour Forum, said that the labour code also proposes to legalise the inhumane system of advance payments, allowing owners to buy and sell workers, which will degrade the lives of workers in cities and agricultural fields to worse than that of animals. The advance payment system is a modern form of slavery and a clear violation of the ILO conventions.

Farihat Parveen, secretary of legal affairs of the All Pakistan Lady Health Programme Workers Union, said that the worst aspect of the code was that it attempted to strip many employees in government institutions from grades one to 15 of their right to unions and collective bargaining, violating ILO con-

ventions 87 and 98.

Furthermore, she said that the Sindh Labour Code aims to end worker solidarity by eliminating their identity and dividing them into several layers and categories.

Zehra Khan, general secretary of Home Based Women Workers Federation, said that the code, imposed by the ILO and the Sindh Labour Department, places restrictions on the right to strike, making it practically ineffective and nearly impossible, even though it is a fundamental right.

She further said that the 'Sindh Labour Code' significantly increases bureaucratic powers.

Instead of simplifying the procedure for resolving industrial disputes, it makes it more complicated, time-consuming and impractical, she added.

Imran Ali, general secretary of the Pakistan Federation of Chemical, Energy and Mines, said that the code severely undermines workers' basic rights to health and safety and finds ways to exempt owners from their responsibilities.

He also rejected the undemocratic process made by the Sindh government and the ILO.

PRAYER	
Fajr	4:20
Juma	12:37
Asr	3:24
Maghreb	7:38
Isha	8:53
Starting time in Karachi	

REFLECTIONS

CC TO GUARD WHAT YOU ALREADY POSSESS IS BETTER THAN TO BEG FROM OTHERS...

Suspected TTP militant remanded in judicial custody

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: A day after the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) claimed arresting a suspected commander of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Thursday remanded the suspect to judicial custody in a case pertaining to possessing illicit weapons and explosives.

On Thursday, the investigating officer (IO) of the case brought the suspect before the ATC judge in Clifton and requested for his physical remand for more probe. But the court rejected the IO's request and remanded him in judicial custody as the IO failed to satisfy the court.

According to the CTD, they had received information that a commander of the TTP Darra Adam Khel, who was allegedly involved in multiple terrorist incidents, had been spotted near Makki Masjid in Itiwal Town.

Acting on a tip-off, the CTD arrested Shoaib Khan, alias Babu, and during the search recovered one Kalashnikov, two hand grenades, explosive material and one improvised explosive device from his possession.

On Wednesday, CTD DSG Aamir Iqbal Shaukh claimed in a press conference that — said to be one of the most-wanted commanders of the TTP — the suspect was allegedly involved in many serious crimes, including the murder of 16 miners in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He was planning a suicide attack on a procession scheduled in Deangri Town for Muharram 7.

"Shoaib is a commander of the TTP Darra Adam Khel for whose arrest the KP government has announced a \$2 million reward," he said, adding that he had kidnaped 16 coalminers in Khyber Agency and demanded ransom from their families. Over non-payment of the ransom, the suspect shot dead all 16 miners and buried them in a mass grave in Gool Targi Jiwaki area.

The hold suspect's son, Zakariya, along with other TTP men, was shot dead in an encounter with the army, the officer said. "He is the most-wanted militant by the KP police, CTD and other law enforcers."

Two separate FIRs were registered against him under sections 21(D) of the Sindh Arms Act 2013, 4-5 of the Explosive Substances Act read with Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997 at the CTD station Civil Lines.

Year's second case of Naegleria detected

By Faiza Raza

KARACHI: A 25-year-old man is currently under treatment for Naegleria fowleri, commonly called brain-eating amoeba, at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), sources told Dawn.

The patient is a resident of Bhaiton Colony, Bin Qasim Town.

"His condition is serious. He reported to us yesterday with high fever, headache and mental disorientation. He has no history of swimming," shared JPMC's Deputy Executive Director Dr. Yousaf Jamil, also a senior neurologist, adding that the patient had been ill for three days.

"The family has informed us that he is an avid cricket player, often using tap water for washing his face and hand in an attempt to beat the heat during the game."

Source said this year at least two people died of Naegleria fowleri which claimed at least 10 lives in 2023.

Popularly known as 'brain-eating amoeba', Naegleria fowleri is responsible for the disease called Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM). The infection is fatal in 98 per cent of the cases.

Since 2012, according to health department officials, over 100 cases of Naegleria fowleri have been reported in Karachi. Of them, only one patient survived for three months. In another case reported in 2023, the patient recovered.

A free-living amoeba, Naegleria, is commonly found in warm fresh water (such as lakes, rivers, and hot springs) and soil. Only its one species, Naegleria fowleri, infects people.

It infects people when water containing the amoeba enters the body through the nose. This typically happens when people go swimming, drink, or when they put their heads under fresh water, like in lakes and rivers.

The amoeba then travels up the nose to the brain where it destroys the brain tissue and causes the PAM. The first symptoms of the PAM usually start about five days after infection that may include headache, fever, nausea, or vomiting. Later symptoms can include stiff neck, confusion, lack of attention to people and surroundings, seizures, hallucinations, and coma.

After symptoms start, the disease progresses rapidly and usually causes death within five days. The germ cannot survive in cool, clean and chlorinated water.

FIA allowed to search Sarim Burney trust's office

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A judicial magistrate allowed a federal agency to search the office of Sarim Burney Welfare Trust International in a case pertaining to "child trafficking by way of illegal adoption".

Social worker Mr Burney appeared before the court via video link from the central prison.

During the hearing on Thursday, the investigating officer of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Bilal Ahmed, requested additional time to complete the probe in the "child trafficking case".

He submitted two applications before Judicial Magistrate (East) Yousaf Ashfaq, seeking the issuance of a search warrant and permission to record statements from trustees and a prosecution witness.

In his applications, the IO stated that the trust had not provided the remaining register records.

"It is earnestly prayed before the court that a search warrant may kindly be issued for procuring the remaining register from Mr Sarim Burney Welfare Trust International Karachi and its offices/shelter homes," the application said.

The IO also informed the court that he needed to record statements from trustees Advocate Ejaz Khattak and Advocate Qadir Hussain, and from a parent of an allegedly trafficked girl.

After hearing the IO and Mr Burney's counsel, the court allowed both FIA applications, directing the IO to record the remaining statements and granting permission to search the trust's offices.

In its order, the court said: "The IO is directed to ensure the proceeding of search and seizure as per law and protocols, and submit the report within 48 hours." Meanwhile, the court adjourned the hearing until July 25.

A case was registered against Mr Burney and others under sections 420 (cheating) and dishonestly, inducing delivery of property, 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (using as genuine a forged document), 109 (abatement) of the Pakistan Penal Code read with sections 3 (trafficking in person), 4 (aggravating circumstances) and 5 (abetment and criminal conspiracy) of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018.

Plane makes emergency landing in Karachi

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A Colombo-bound commercial flight made an emergency landing at the Karachi airport on Thursday morning after a Sri Lankan passenger suffered a heart attack mid-flight.

According to the Civil Aviation Authority, the 57-year-old woman passenger died by the time the Flydubai flight (FZ-569) landed here.

The CAA sent its medical team to examine her. However, it pronounced her dead.

Later, the aircraft was allowed to fly for Colombo with the body after completion of required medical and legal formalities.

Ji asks govt to get all storm-water drains cleared in city

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Thursday demanded that the government get cleared immediately all 528 storm water drains in Karachi in order to avoid disasters and calamities in the monsoon season.

Addressing a press conference at the party office Shara Noori-Haq, the JI Karachi chief Muneeb Zafar said that around \$600 million should have been allocated for the cleaning work and criticised the Pakistan People Party government for "significant cut" on the budget as compared to the last year for clearing the drains.

He demanded the authorities to set a deadline for especially clearing Gogjar nullah. Further, he said that the affected of Gogjar nullah as well as the

Orangi nullah had not received any compensation. He asked the authorities to grant plots in replacement as well as amount for construction of houses to the affected families.

He said that the process was yet to be initiated in the major storm water drains, whereas works had started the cleanliness process in small scale drains. However, he maintained, the works were not provided with the required machinery.

For the past five years, Karachi has had been mired in the name of cleanliness work in storm water drains, he said, highlighting that Gogjar nullah, Shikhar nullah, Orangi nullah, and Mahmoode nullah had overflowed even after a small amount of rain.

Talking about the issue of landholding, he said that the JI will continue chasing those responsible for it.

PAKISTAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISLAMABAD

PUBLIC HEARING FOR AWARD OF TELEPORT (BROADCAST) SERVICE LICENCE

In pursuance of Section 24(2) of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance 2002 as amended by the PEMRA (Amendment) Act 2023, the Authority intends to hold Public Hearing in connection with the grant of licence for Teleport (Broadcast) Service. The grant of licence shall be subject to completion of all legal requirements. The detail is as under:

City	Venue	Date & Time
Karachi	PEMRA Regional Office, House # D-71, Block-7, Boat Basin, Clifton, Karachi Phone # 021-99332349, E-mail: gsm.sh@pemra.gov.pk	26 th July, 2024 (Friday) 11:30 AM

Stakeholder including general public and interested person who intend to participate in the said Public Hearing may register their names along with details i.e. CNIC number, contact number etc. on the above mentioned address as well as on address given below through telephone or email.

Deputy Director (Technical)
PEMRA Headquarters
Meevie Area, Sector D-8-7, Islamabad, Phone # 051-9107123
E-mail: publichearing@pemra.gov.pk

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Country: Pakistan
Project: Balochistan Human Capital Investment Project (Education Component)
Loan No./Credit No./Grant No.: CA-6713-PK-0679-PK
Assignment Title: Hiring of firm for Technical Assistance for Implementation of Continuous Professional Development of Teachers in Balochistan
PK-502-C08-436655-C8-C08

Reference No. 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 this 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) to implement a model of Continuous Professional Development through a blend of online teachers training modules for capacity development of teachers with the in-job support in project-identified schools. 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) for the aforementioned assignment to a firm having the capability to implement this model which includes establishment of a Center Unit in Provincial Institute for Teachers Education (PITE), engage coaches for the teachers on job support and help teacher improve their capacity in content knowledge and pedagogy. Interested registered firms may download the TORs and selection criteria from the project website <https://www.pdit.gov.pk> and can be obtained at the below address during office hours i.e. 9AM to 5PM. 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 12:30 pm 05th August, 2024 at the address below.

AN No.4211-07-2024
Project Director Balochistan Human Capital Investment Project (Education Component) P-4
Chaman Housing Scheme Airport Road, Quetta Tel: 0912-844295 Fax: 0912-844297
Email: gsa.pdit@gmail.com
www.pdit.gov.pk info@pmit.gov.pk procurement@pmit.gov.pk procurement@pmit.gov.pk

JI asks govt to get all storm-water drains cleared in city

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Thursday demanded that the government get cleared immediately all 528 storm water drains in Karachi in order to avoid disasters and calamities in the monsoon season.

Addressing a press conference at the party office Shara Noori-Haq, the JI Karachi chief Muneeb Zafar said that around \$600 million should have been allocated for the cleaning work and criticised the Pakistan People Party government for "significant cut" on the budget as compared to the last year for clearing the drains.

He demanded the authorities to set a deadline for especially clearing Gogjar nullah. Further, he said that the affected of Gogjar nullah as well as the

ADVERTISER

TO ADVERTISE IN DAWN

For display advertisements please contact:
Landline: +92-21-3561-3047
Mobile: +92-333-3644591
E-mail: info.dawn@dawn.com

For classified advertisements please contact:
Landline: +92-21-35613278 / 3127
E-mail: classified@dawn.com

LOST & FOUND

KARACHI

THIS is to inform the general public and concerned authorities that I, Abuzar Qazi, holder of Pakistan Passport Number 02677907, issued at Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan, have lost my above mentioned ID/Passport. I have taken the necessary steps by reporting the loss to the local Police Station and obtaining a copy of the Police Report. I would contact me at 0300-4932056 (0207279609).

MACHINERY FOR SALE

KARACHI

GENERATOR

CRANES / HOISTS Electric Hoist / Chain Hoists, lifting capacity 500, 1000 kgs, available from Block 5/4 Jaffer & Co. Karachi. Phone: 3285790-85, Fax: 32851160, 03006778781.

GENERATOR

DIESEL GENERATORS from Block C-0200 KVM with installation and maintenance services, spare available 5 M Jaffer & Co. Karachi. Phone: 3285790-85, Fax: 32851160 (0207279609).

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

KARACHI

I, Khan Muhammad Sir Shar Muhammad has contracted to purchase Burgundy No. 1-127 Block 12, Clifton, near Jaffer Karachi measuring 400 yards from Mr. Aghar Ali Sir Shar Ahmad. CNIC No. 4202794920299 free from all claims, objections and encumbrances. Any Person, Bank, Authority having any objection who aware should notify to Sub-Registrar, Clifton Town Karachi or me, with documentary evidence within Seven days from this Publication, along Muhammad Shauq 0333-3892154. (0302796094).

OUR client has agreed to purchase from Mr. Lazzari Restaurant, a partnership firm registered under the laws of Pakistan, having its principal place of business at D-1, Block 16, main Road, Shikhar Road, Clifton, Karachi, all that piece and portion of the land bearing Plot No. D-1, situated at Block 16-A, Road, Shikhar Road, KDA Scheme No. 34, Clifton, Karachi, Pakistan, measuring 1500 sq. yards, along with related construction of Basement, Ground and 4 storied building, thereon, (hereinafter referred to as the "Property") free from all encumbrances, liabilities, mortgages, claims, liens, mortgages, charges, disputes and outstanding dues of whatsoever nature with transfer of title and delivery of vacant and peaceful possession. Any Person or Persons, Banks and Financial Institutions having any objection, claims, rights, title, charge, lien, mortgages, mortgages, interest or disputes with regard to sale / purchase / transfer of the above-mentioned Property should to ensure the same in writing along with documentary evidence at following address by Registered Post within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which sale / purchase / transfer shall be completed hearing objections (if any) as stated and foretold. Moinuddin Ali and Zul, Advocates, C-15, Block-2, Clifton, Karachi-Pakistan. Tel: (92-21) 3897981-2. (0302796094).

OUR client has contracted to purchase Burgundy No. 123, Shikhar Road, Phase IV, Clifton, Karachi, measuring 450 square feet, from Mr. Zubair Khan Sir Shar Ahmad, CNIC # 42051-0129021-2, resident of Karachi, free from all claims, liens, mortgages, disputes, dues, charges, liabilities etc. Any Person / Bank / Authority having any objection / application, should notify Sub-Registrar, Clifton Town, Karachi and us with documentary evidence within seven days of this publication, otherwise the transfer shall be completed in favor of our client. **PROPERTY PRIME TIME, 40-C, Sultan Center, Lane-5, Phase-VI, Karachi, 021-111-3781-111, PARAL, BAHAR, 0321-8288884, 11064787054.**

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 400, 4th Floor, Plot No. 20-C, Lane 1, Marine Commercial Area, Phase IV, Clifton, Karachi, measuring 450 square feet, from Mr. Muhammad Ashraf Sir Shar Ahmad. CNIC No. 420109730052. Free from all claims, demands, disputes, litigation, mortgages, with transfer of title and delivery of vacant possession etc. Any Person or Persons, Banks / Authority having any objection whatsoever should notify us and Sub-Registrar 1, DDA Clifton Town Karachi with documentary evidence within Seven days of this Publication. **MR. BIRWAN ASSOCIATES 0332-2663007, Ahsan Mangro, 11-102785521.**

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 5-R-825, 25763, Plot No. 115, Sector 4-5, DHA, City Karachi, measuring 2000 yards from Mr. Muhammad Zubair Khan Sir Shar Ahmad. CNIC No. 4201743483021. Free from all claims, objections and encumbrances. Any Person, Bank, Authority having any objection whatsoever should notify to Administrator DHA, City Karachi with documentary evidence within Seven days from this Publication. **SADAF ESTATE Muhammad Ahsan Jamal 0321-2205511, Office No. 1, 1st Floor 20-C, Subhan Lane 4 / 11 (Clifton) Phase IV, DHA Karachi (0322796092).**

MY client has contracted to purchase 10 Shop No. 7-09, First Floor, 82-25 square feet from Mr. Abdul Latif Sir Shar Ahmad Khaliq Khan, CNIC No. 420112485017, 4 / 10, Shop No. 8-01, First Floor, 82-25 square feet from Mrs. Nurjhan Butt Sir Shar Ahmad Khan CNIC No. 42051-0943207, 2, both in Continental Trade Centre, Plot No. 4-4, Block-4, Clifton, Karachi with peaceful physical and vacant possession, free from all sorts of encumbrances, whatsoever nature. Any Person / Authority having any objection / claim should notify the Sub-Registrar 1 Clifton Town Karachi and undergo with documentary evidence under Registered A/D within seven days from the date hence failing which any claim / objection if any shall be deemed to have been waived and transfer of the said properties shall be completed in favor of my client. **SHARBUKH A. SADIQ CHOWDHURY ADVOCATE, HIGH COURT Clifton No. 7, Ground Floor, Hammad Clifton Complex, Plot No. Q-1, Block 7, Near New Talwar Clifton, Karachi, 0201-913789, 110682778905.**

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 8-07, (Industrial) measuring 10-50 Acres along with construction, irrigation, situated in North Western Industrial Zone, Port Qasim Authority Karachi from 03 Javed Par Son of Muhammad Inayat Khan, holding National Identity Card No. 42061293875-7. 03 Javed Inayat Khan Par Son of Muhammad Inayat Khan, holding National Identity Card No. 42061293875-7, Karachi. Free from all encumbrances. Any Person, Bank, Authority having any objection should notify us and to the Director Industrial Management Port Qasim Authority Karachi with documentary evidence, under Registered A/D cover within Seven (7) Days after the publication of this notice. Failing which any claim, objection shall be deemed to have been waived and the transfer shall be completed in favor of our client. **MOHIB TARIQULLAH & CO., Advocates & Legal Consultants, 2nd Floor, Dine Centre, 8C-4, Block-9, Bahadur, Clifton, Karachi, Phone No. 32629971, 03074832, 32622890, 32666254, 32671750, Fax: 32671800, 1106280308.**

THE public is hereby notified that our client has contracted to purchase an industrial land bearing Plot No. 12 19 14 measuring 9 Acres situated at Moulvi Shauq, Jaffer Hall, District Larkana, Block-10, measuring 9 Acres and boundary wall constructed between ("Subject Property") from **MAJ CRISTE (PRIVATE) LIMITED**, a private limited company, incorporated in Pakistan under the laws of Pakistan and having its registered office at 8-09, Saira Trade Centre, 11, Ghumrigh Road, Karachi through its Chief Executive Officer, **MR. SHAKEEL AHMED MIMON** son of Muhammad Umar Mimmon, Mian, holding CNIC No. 42002262042-5, resident of Sukkur, free from all mortgages, charges, encumbrances, litigation, claims or objections whatsoever and together with marketable title with vacant physical possession. Any person, company, authority bank or financial institution having any claim, right, title, interest, lien or objection, whatsoever should notify the same in writing with documentary evidence under registered A/D cover within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim, lien or objection, whatsoever, shall be deemed to have been waived and the sale transfer, action shall be completed and the above Subject Property validly transferred and conveyed in our client's favor. **MOHIB TARIQULLAH & CO., Advocates & Legal Consultants, 2nd Floor, Dine Centre, 8C-4, Block-9, Bahadur, Clifton, Karachi, Phone No. 32629971, 03074832, 32622890, 32666254, 32671750, Fax: 32671800, 1106280308.**

40 year property No. 140/2F, Government Survey No. 417082/2F, (2) upper storey house comprising of one room, measuring 140-00 square feet, constructed over property No. 190/2, Government Survey No. 417082/1F, (1) undivided inherited share in single storey house on First Floor, along with its open roof, bearing property No. 190/2, being part of Government survey No. 417082/1F, measuring 1340/00 square feet, all situated at Block-16, Clifton, Karachi. Mr. Sir Shar Ahmad Khan, (1) Naz Hussain (2) Salamullah, (3) Mir Shauq (4) Mir Shauq (5) Mir Shauq (6) Mir Shauq (7) Mir Shauq (8) Mir Shauq (9) Mir Shauq (10) Mir Shauq (11) Mir Shauq (12) Mir Shauq (13) Mir Shauq (14) Mir Shauq (15) Mir Shauq (16) Mir Shauq (17) Mir Shauq (18) Mir Shauq (19) Mir Shauq (20) Mir Shauq (21) Mir Shauq (22) Mir Shauq (23) Mir Shauq (24) Mir Shauq (25) Mir Shauq (26) Mir Shauq (27) Mir Shauq (28) Mir Shauq (29) Mir Shauq (30) Mir Shauq (31) Mir Shauq (32) Mir Shauq (33) Mir Shauq (34) Mir Shauq (35) Mir Shauq (36) Mir Shauq (37) Mir Shauq (38) Mir Shauq (39) Mir Shauq (40) Mir Shauq (41) Mir Shauq (42) Mir Shauq (43) Mir Shauq (44) Mir Shauq (45) Mir Shauq (46) Mir Shauq (47) Mir Shauq (48) Mir Shauq (49) Mir Shauq (50) Mir Shauq (51) Mir Shauq (52) Mir Shauq (53) Mir Shauq (54) Mir Shauq (55) Mir Shauq (56) Mir Shauq (57) Mir Shauq (58) Mir Shauq (59) Mir Shauq (60) Mir Shauq (61) Mir Shauq (62) Mir Shauq (63) Mir Shauq (64) Mir Shauq (65) Mir Shauq (66) Mir Shauq (67) Mir Shauq (68) Mir Shauq (69) Mir Shauq (70) Mir Shauq (71) Mir Shauq (72) Mir Shauq (73) Mir Shauq (74) Mir Shauq (75) Mir Shauq (76) Mir Shauq (77) Mir Shauq (78) Mir Shauq (79) Mir Shauq (80) Mir Shauq (81) Mir Shauq (82) Mir Shauq (83) Mir Shauq (84) Mir Shauq (85) Mir Shauq (86) Mir Shauq (87) Mir Shauq (88) Mir Shauq (89) Mir Shauq (90) Mir Shauq (91) Mir Shauq (92) Mir Shauq (93) Mir Shauq (94) Mir Shauq (95) Mir Shauq (96) Mir Shauq (97) Mir Shauq (98) Mir Shauq (99) Mir Shauq (100) Mir Shauq (101) Mir Shauq (102) Mir Shauq (103) Mir Shauq (104) Mir Shauq (105) Mir Shauq (106) Mir Shauq (107) Mir Shauq (108) Mir Shauq (109) Mir Shauq (110) Mir Shauq (111) Mir Shauq (112) Mir Shauq (113) Mir Shauq (114) Mir Shauq (115) Mir Shauq (116) Mir Shauq (117) Mir Shauq (118) Mir Shauq (119) Mir Shauq (120) Mir Shauq (121) Mir Shauq (122) Mir Shauq (123) Mir Shauq (124) Mir Shauq (125) Mir Shauq (126) Mir Shauq (127) Mir Shauq (128) Mir Shauq (129) Mir Shauq (130) Mir Shauq (131) Mir Shauq (132) Mir Shauq (133) Mir Shauq (134) Mir Shauq (135) Mir Shauq (136) Mir Shauq (137) Mir Shauq (138) Mir Shauq (139) Mir Shauq (140) Mir Shauq (141) Mir Shauq (142) Mir Shauq (143) Mir Shauq (144) Mir Shauq (145) Mir Shauq (146) Mir Shauq (147) Mir Shauq (148) Mir Shauq (149) Mir Shauq (150) Mir Shauq (151) Mir Shauq (152) Mir Shauq (153) Mir Shauq (154) Mir Shauq (155) Mir Shauq (156) Mir Shauq (157) Mir Shauq (158) Mir Shauq (159) Mir Shauq (160) Mir Shauq (161) Mir Shauq (162) Mir Shauq (163) Mir Shauq (164) Mir Shauq (165) Mir Shauq (166) Mir Shauq (167) Mir Shauq (168) Mir Shauq (169) Mir Shauq (170) Mir Shauq (171) Mir Shauq (172) Mir Shauq (173) Mir Shauq (174) Mir Shauq (175) Mir Shauq (176) Mir Shauq (177) Mir Shauq (178) Mir Shauq (179) Mir Shauq (180) Mir Shauq (181) Mir Shauq (182) Mir Shauq (183) Mir Shauq (184) Mir Shauq (185) Mir Shauq (186) Mir Shauq (187) Mir Shauq (188) Mir Shauq (189) Mir Shauq (190) Mir Shauq (191) Mir Shauq (192) Mir Shauq (193) Mir Shauq (194) Mir Shauq (195) Mir Shauq (196) Mir Shauq (197) Mir Shauq (198) Mir Shauq (199) Mir Shauq (200) Mir Shauq (201) Mir Shauq (202) Mir Shauq (203) Mir Shauq (204) Mir Shauq (205) Mir Shauq (206) Mir Shauq (207) Mir Shauq (208) Mir Shauq (209) Mir Shauq (210) Mir Shauq (211) Mir Shauq (212) Mir Shauq (213) Mir Shauq (214) Mir Shauq (215) Mir Shauq (216) Mir Shauq (217) Mir Shauq (218) Mir Shauq (219) Mir Shauq (220) Mir Shauq (221) Mir Shauq (222) Mir Shauq (223) Mir Shauq (224) Mir Shauq (225) Mir Shauq (226) Mir Shauq (227) Mir Shauq (228) Mir Shauq (229) Mir Shauq (230) Mir Shauq (231) Mir Shauq (232) Mir Shauq (233) Mir Shauq (234) Mir Shauq (235) Mir Shauq (236) Mir Shauq (237) Mir Shauq (238) Mir Shauq (239) Mir Shauq (240) Mir Shauq (241) Mir Shauq (242) Mir Shauq (243) Mir Shauq (244) Mir Shauq (245) Mir Shauq (246) Mir Shauq (247) Mir Shauq (248) Mir Shauq (249) Mir Shauq (250) Mir Shauq (251) Mir Shauq (252) Mir Shauq (253) Mir Shauq (254) Mir Shauq (255) Mir Shauq (256) Mir Shauq (257) Mir Shauq (258) Mir Shauq (259) Mir Shauq (260) Mir Shauq (261) Mir Shauq (262) Mir Shauq (263) Mir Shauq (264) Mir Shauq (265) Mir Shauq (266) Mir Shauq (267) Mir Shauq (268) Mir Shauq (269) Mir Shauq (270) Mir Shauq (271) Mir Shauq (272) Mir Shauq (273) Mir Shauq (274) Mir Shauq (275) Mir Shauq (276) Mir Shauq (277) Mir Shauq (278) Mir Shauq (279) Mir Shauq (280) Mir Shauq (281) Mir Shauq (282) Mir Shauq (283) Mir Shauq (284) Mir Shauq (285) Mir Shauq (286) Mir Shauq (287) Mir Shauq (288) Mir Shauq (289) Mir Shauq (290) Mir Shauq (291) Mir Shauq (292) Mir Shauq (293) Mir Shauq (294) Mir Shauq (295) Mir Shauq (296) Mir Shauq (297) Mir Shauq (298) Mir Shauq (299) Mir Shauq (300) Mir Shauq (301) Mir Shauq (302) Mir Shauq (303) Mir Shauq (304) Mir Shauq (305) Mir Shauq (306) Mir Shauq (307) Mir Shauq (308) Mir Shauq (309) Mir Shauq (310) Mir Shauq (311) Mir Shauq (312) Mir Shauq (313) Mir Shauq (314) Mir Shauq (315) Mir Shauq (316) Mir Shauq (317) Mir Shauq (318) Mir Shauq (319) Mir Shauq (320) Mir Shauq (321) Mir Shauq (322) Mir Shauq (323) Mir Shauq (324) Mir Shauq (325) Mir Shauq (326) Mir Shauq (327) Mir Shauq (328) Mir Shauq (329) Mir Shauq (330) Mir Shauq (331) Mir Shauq (332) Mir Shauq (333) Mir Shauq (334) Mir Shauq (335) Mir Shauq (336) Mir Shauq (337) Mir Shauq (338) Mir Shauq (339) Mir Shauq (340) Mir Shauq (341) Mir Shauq (342) Mir Shauq (343) Mir Shauq (344) Mir Shauq (345) Mir Shauq (346) Mir Shauq (347) Mir Shauq (348) Mir Shauq (349) Mir Shauq (350) Mir Shauq (351) Mir Shauq (352) Mir Shauq (353) Mir Shauq (354) Mir Shauq (355) Mir Shauq (356) Mir Shauq (357) Mir Shauq (358) Mir Shauq (359) Mir Shauq (360) Mir Shauq (361) Mir Shauq (362) Mir Shauq (363) Mir Shauq (364) Mir Shauq (365) Mir Shauq (366) Mir Shauq (367) Mir Shauq (368) Mir Shauq (369) Mir Shauq (370) Mir Shauq (371) Mir Shauq (372) Mir Shauq (373) Mir Shauq (374) Mir Shauq (375) Mir Shauq (376) Mir Shauq (377) Mir Shauq (378) Mir Shauq (379) Mir Shauq (380) Mir Shauq (381) Mir Shauq (382) Mir Shauq (383) Mir Shauq (384) Mir Shauq (385) Mir Shauq (386) Mir Shauq (387) Mir Shauq (388) Mir Shauq (389) Mir Shauq (390) Mir Shauq (391) Mir Shauq (392) Mir Shauq (393) Mir Shauq (394) Mir Shauq (395) Mir Shauq (396) Mir Shauq (397) Mir Shauq (398) Mir Shauq (399) Mir Shauq (400) Mir Shauq (401) Mir Shauq (402) Mir Shauq (403) Mir Shauq (404) Mir Shauq (405) Mir Shauq (406) Mir Shauq (407) Mir Shauq (408) Mir Shauq (409) Mir Shauq (410) Mir Shauq (411) Mir Shauq (412) Mir Shauq (413) Mir Shauq (414) Mir Shauq (415) Mir Shauq (416) Mir Shauq (417) Mir Shauq (418) Mir Shauq (419) Mir Shauq (420) Mir Shauq (421) Mir Shauq (422) Mir Shauq (423) Mir Shauq (424) Mir Shauq (425) Mir Shauq (426) Mir Shauq (427) Mir Shauq (428) Mir Shauq (429) Mir Shauq (430) Mir Shauq (431) Mir Shauq (432) Mir Shauq (433) Mir Shauq (434) Mir Shauq (435) Mir Shauq (436) Mir Shauq (437) Mir Shauq (438) Mir Shauq (439)

Children's dispute leads to murder of four family members

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA: Armed men of Zargajo clan stormed into a house in Neach village, over nine kilometers from here on Thursday and sprayed the inmates with bullets, killing a man, his two brothers and a son over a petty dispute between children of the two families. One of the attackers also suffered gunshot wounds.

Police shifted the dead identified as Shaban Ali Zargajo, 40, his brothers Ali Hassan, 40, and Ali Abbas, 38, and his son Shaikat Ali, 28, and the injured, Waqar Zargajo, who was believed to be one of the attackers, to Trauma Centre Larkana. Waqar was later taken into custody, said police officials.

Ms Zainab Zargajo, wife of late Shaban, told journalists with tears in her eyes that a petty dispute between their children and those of their rivals on Wednesday escalated into the attack.

"Our side called on the rivals on Thursday and offered them to resolve the issue through talks but they responded with this brazen attack on our house and killed four of our loved ones," she said.

She feared if police did not take preventive measures, the opponents might attack them again. Hence, she appealed to Sindh DSP, DPO and Larkana SSP to immediately arrest the attackers.

SSP Dr Mr Faisal Khan Khoso took notice of the incident and asked SP Haseeb Javed Soomro Meron to visit the crime scene and probe the circumstances leading up to the episode. Saddar DSP Mohammad Hanif Khoso, Bakara DSP Ghulam Mustafa Ahró and in-charge CIA Muzammil Soomro would be members of the SP's team, he said.

Besides Waqar Zargajo, police picked four other suspects for interrogation, said sources.

'Delicate' process of replacing Sukkur Barrage's gate No. 47 begins

By Wassam Shamal

SUKKUR/HYDERABAD: The remainder parts of the damaged gate No. 47 at Sukkur Barrage were dismantled by engineers on Wednesday night and the process for installation of parts of the new gate being manufactured at Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works started on Thursday.

According to Sukkur Barrage's Chief Engineer Mansoor Meemon, the parts including horizontal and vertical girders and skin plate have arrived. The installation process had been started and it would take a few days to complete as it was a delicate procedure, he said.

A cofferdam and a column gate for facilitating replacement of the gate were built around the gate No. 47 on June 27 and dewatering machines continued to pump water out of the pit, still around 13-foot water remained there, according to the CE.

Seven of the barrage's gates

suffered damage on June 20. Of them, upper part of the gate No. 47 was washed away by the flows, which also caused a bend in gate No. 44, while the remaining five gates had developed cracks. Except for gate No. 47, the other gates had been repaired without having to remove them from their place.

The new gate being installed now will be replaced again under the World Bank-funded Sindh Barrages Improvement Programme under which only one gate (gate No. 36) has been replaced recently by a Chinese firm, which is undergoing trial.

Sindh irrigation authorities had announced that Karachi Shipyard would deliver the new gate by July 20 but it manufactured the parts 10 days earlier which were being brought to the barrage, said sources.

The barrage received 121,954 cusecs flows at the upstream and 51,910 cusecs at the downstream on July 11 and the canals on the right bank presently faced water shortage.



THE new gate for Sukkur Barrage's arch No. 47 being installed on Thursday.—Dawn

Water supply into Khirthar Canal had not yet been restored completely since the two gates were damaged, heightening concerns of growers whose standing crops of rice, cotton, sugar cane and other crops

other crops were withering without water.

Growers protest at the barrage: A large number of growers from Qambar/Shahdadkot district arrived in procession at

Sukkur Barrage and staged a demonstration against irrigation department's officials, accusing them of causing water shortage.

They raised slogans of "Give us water" and complained that since the June 20 incident at Sukkur Barrage, water supply into Khirthar Canal had not been restored fully.

The protesters' leaders Muhammad Moosa, Ali Masud, Ali Dero and others feared that growers would incur unbearable financial losses and consequently thousands of farmers might become jobless if water was not released into the canal immediately.

They held the irrigation department officials responsible for the situation and demanded strict action against them.

The demonstrators had also staged a sit-in on the road but dispersed peacefully after the irrigation officials entered them of the restoration of water supply soon.—Mohammad Hussain Khan in Hyderabad also contributed to this report.

Irsa angry at official over short supplies to Balochistan

Secretary's strongly-worded letter tells Sindh irrigation dept to follow directives

By Mohammad Hussain Khan & Saleem Shahid

HYDERABAD/QUETTA: After visiting Sukkur Barrage a couple of days back, the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) secretary has finally come up with strongly-worded letter to demand release of 1/3rd share of Balochistan from North Western Canal (NWC) of the barrage, which has been undergoing rehabilitation in the wake of the June 20 incident that had left seven of its gates damaged.

An IRSA team led by its Chairman Abdul Hamid Mengal, who is from Balochistan, had visited the barrage on July 8 and held a detailed meeting with Chief Engineer Mansoor Meemon, CE, Right Bank Region Makhran Area and other barrage officials, besides inspecting the rehabilitation work at some gates.

The visit was undertaken on a directive of Khudai Magal, the Chairman of National Assembly's Standing Committee on Water Resources.

Irsa Secretary Khalid Mirza Rana (in its director of operations), has in his July 10 letter to the Sindh irrigation secretary complained that the "CE Right Bank Sukkur Barrage is not implementing directions issued by secretary irrigation and as of today water availability at Garang regulator is 31pc and 53pc less than 1/3rd share i.e. 5,050 cusecs of NWC and 2,400 cusecs of Irsa allocation respectively."

He reminded the irrigation secretary that on July 8 the CE was directed that till completion of repair works at the barrage, 1/3rd share of water available in the NWC should be released at Garang Regulator. The regulator is located at RD-102 of the canal's Khirthar branch from where Balochistan receives water.

Mr Rana pointed out that 5,050 cusecs were available on July 10 and as per the decision for the current period, Garang supplies should be 1,683 cusecs against which 1,128 cusecs were received in

of western Sindh were badly affected due to the inadequate water supplies in recent weeks.

"Our share in water flows from the barrage is 2,400 cusecs but the Khirthar Canal through which we receive supplies is getting just 1,000 to 1,100 cusecs," he told Rana to convey Irsa's statement that it was releasing 1/3rd share of Balochistan into the canal. The minister alleged that Sindh was stealing Balochistan's water, and lamented that paddy growers in western Sindh were badly affected by the situation.

He also called for immediate measures to clear Khirthar Canal of silt, that had been getting up since the 2023 floods. Balochistan gets supplies from Godhra Barrage's (right bank) Pat Roster Canal as well where a flow of 6,700 cusecs was available on July 11 and where 1/3pc shortage was also being observed, according to Mr Rana.

Minister of July 8 meeting at barrage: Irsa is said to have issued minutes of the July 8 meeting which states that Irsa's director of operations (Mr Rana) referred to several letters regarding short supplies to Balochistan canals but [Sindh's] irrigation department reportedly didn't take notice of it. Irsa released full incident report to Balochistan canals as per 10 directives approved by the Irsa Advisory Committee (IAC), which had approved share of Balochistan canals with consensus on April 2.

After temporary restoration of damaged gates, Irsa started releasing full intended supplies to Sindh and Balochistan provinces, yet Khirthar Canal was and is still running with 700 cusecs.

Balochistan officials complained of chronic short supplies at Garang despite releases of five water shares by Irsa, according to the minutes.

It mentioned that the [Sindh] irrigation secretary assured the meeting that his department would make efforts to address water shortages in Balochistan by acting upon Irsa's recommendations.

"For immediate redressal of issue and forthwith providing relief, [Irsa] secretary asked CE Right Bank to ensure maximum water availability at Garang by adjusting NWC supplies intermediately," the minutes mentioned.

Holding of jirgas challenged

SUKKUR: Justice Anjad Ali Bodo of the Sindh High Court, Sukkur bench, on Thursday admitted a petition against holding of jirgas (tribal courts) to decide murder cases involving members of tribes, clans and communities.

The petitioner, Kaleemullah Khoso, through Advocate Shahid Sihar, has maintained that Justice Rehman Hussain Jafri of Sindh High Court had in 2004 declared jirgas unlawful and later Justice Salahuddin Panhwar of the same high court also issued a similar judgement in 2016.

Admitting the petition, Justice Bodo issued notices to respondents for July 10.

The court has been moved days after a jirga at Gohar Palace of Sarder Ali Gohar Mahar in Mirpur Mathelo, Ghotki district, settled a murder dispute between Seward and Sundani communities. Heads of most tribes, clans and communities in upper Sindh had attended the jirga and endorsed its ruling.—Correspondent

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION AND DESPATCH COMPANY LTD.
INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: July 12, 2024 Bid Reference No.: TUC-18-2024

1. National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC), "the Employer", intends to get the works done for Contract No. TUC-18-2024 through NTDC team resources. The Scope of Work is construction and completion of Civil Works, Erection, Stringing, Testing & Commissioning of 500kV DVC Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Sangal to 500kV Main Switching Station (approx. 83.5km), using ACSSR "Bunting" Conductor. The details are as follows:

Lot-4: 500kV Double Circuit Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Tower No. 01 Near Sangal to Tower No. 69 Near Pitha (Shaf) (23.5 km)

Lot-5: 500kV Double Circuit Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Tower No. 69 Near Pitha Shaf to Tower No. 135 Near Ratti Gali (23.5 km)

Lot-6: 500kV Double Circuit Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Tower No. 135 Near Ratti Gali to 500kV Main Switching Station (26.5 km)

2. The Employer invites sealed bids from eligible firms or persons licensed by the Pakistan Engineering Council in the appropriate category for the above scope of works. National Competitive Bidding (NCB) will be conducted in accordance with PEC Single Stage-Two Envelope (SSTI) procedure.

3. Bidders may obtain further information from, inspect at and acquire the Bidding Documents from the office of the Employer, at:

Chief Engineer (MP&M) NTDC,
8th Floor, Shaheen Complex, Egerton Road, Lahore-Pakistan
Telephone No. 92-42-99220587, Fax No. 92-42-99202173, E-mail address: compem@ntdc.com.pk

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by an interested bidder on submission of a written application in the above office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 5000 from Office of CE (MP&M), method of payment will be by bank draft from any scheduled bank in Pakistan in favor of CE (MP&M) NTDC, 8th Floor - Shaheen Complex, Egerton Road, Lahore for TUC-18-2024.

5. The bidder as a main contractor (as single entity or as JV partner) must have substantially completed construction contracts comprising of detailed survey, sub-soil investigations, construction of tower conventional foundations, erection of towers, stringing, testing & commissioning of at least 25km of 220kV or higher voltage bundled transmission lines string by controlled tension method during last ten (10) years.

6. The Bidder has executed (during last ten (10) years) as a JV partner, he shall have carried out all the activities mentioned herein below:

(i) Such transmission lines must have been operating successfully for at least two (02) years prior to its deadline for submission of bids.

(ii) In case the bid is submitted by a joint venture under this bidding process, lead partner shall meet the above experience criteria.

(iii) Each JV partner other than the lead partner must have completed as a main contractor or approved sub-contractor construction contracts comprising of detailed survey, sub-soil investigations, construction of tower conventional foundations, erection of towers, stringing, testing & commissioning of at least 25km of 220kV or higher voltage bundled transmission lines string by controlled tension method during last ten (10) years.

(iv) The Bidder shall submit with the bid evidence in this regard including inter alia copies (with English translations of the contract agreements), substantial completion certificate and Defects Liability Certificate, duly notarized, for the contract(s).

(v) The bidder shall have his own quad bundle tension stringing equipment along with associated T&P and critical equipment duly supported with documentary evidence/catalogues/drawings for undertaking such line works in good working condition. Alternatively, if not so, the bidder will identify the confirmed source of the said machinery, T&P etc. along with documentary evidence/catalogues/drawings and shall provide necessary guarantee/assure that he will arrange the said equipment in good working condition through its own resources prior to start of stringing activity. The aforementioned documentary evidence shall be submitted with the bid.

6. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount specified for respective Lot in the Bidding Data in the format of bank guarantee on bid security form provided or in the form of deposit at call or from a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan in favor of Employer.

7. The bids must be delivered to the above office on or before August 15, 2024 at 11:00 am. Bids will be opened at 11:30 am on the same day, in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the same address.

8. Pre-bid meeting will be held as per the following schedule:
Date: July 25, 2024, Time: 12:00 hrs
Venue: 8th Floor - Shaheen Complex, Egerton Road, Lahore - Pakistan

9. NTDC reserves all its rights regarding rejection of bids as defined in Clause 33(1) of PPA Rules 2004.

CHIEF ENGINEER (MP&M) NTDC

Granite extraction

Continued from Page 13

ensuring that both Karoo-pier and Nagpur-pier remained completely secure.

On the recommendation of the health department, the cabinet approved a Rs1.84 billion grant-in-aid to the Patients Aid Foundation for the procurement of medical equipment and supply of utilities for a new 12-storied 312-bedded medical complex (PMU).

The cabinet was told that a certain number of infections, whose houses had collapsed during the floods, were excluded during the joint survey.

Since the validation was the purpose, inclusion was not encouraged. The CM said that there were 15,000 cases of infection lying with the Sindh People's Housing for Flood Affected (SPHFA).

The CM with the consent of the cabinet directed the CEO of SPHFA to start considering the cases excluded earlier.

In an important decision, the CM on the instructions of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also decided that people with houses on government land near the flood-affected areas would be given land titles.

Electrocution

MIRPURKHAS: A teenage boy was electrocuted after he accidentally touched a live wire near 78-Mori, in Sindh's Sukkur on Thursday.

Sakdam Marri, 16, a resident of Khan Muhammad Marri village, was transported to the Mirpurkhas Civil Hospital where he died during treatment.—Correspondent

EXTENSION IN BID SUBMISSION
BID OPENING

Approx the tender published in the dates vide AB No. 525/21-05-2024 under TSE-23240544 1484 Due to technical issue observed in the website of SPPRA, Transport Department Government of Balochistan is going to extend the Bid Submission Bid Opening for one week in respect of FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR METRO BUS ROUTE IN QUETTA from July 10, 2024 to July 15, 2024.

MANAGING DIRECTOR
BALUCHISTAN MASS TRANSIT AUTHORITY

AB No. 47/11-07-2024

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COMMITTEE DAUR
No. TC-Daur/766/ of 2024 Daur
TENDER NOTICE
Dated: 07/06/2024

Sealed tenders are invited from all the interested contractor/firms/agencies as per SPPRA Rules 2010 for the Financial Year 2024-25 in connection to execute following work within jurisdiction of Town Committee Daur District Shahdadkot District.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Tender Cost	Call Deposit %	Tender Fee	Period
1	Sanitation of Flood-Streets Clean of Open Drains and Sewerage Lines of Town Committee Daur Ward No. 01 in 07 (Detailed in 01-06-2024 to 20-06-2024)	Quoted Rate	50%	3000/-	10 Months

1. SCHEDULE FOR ISSUE & OPENING OF TENDERS

1. Bids to be signed, dated and stamped by the authorized person of the firm along with authentication letter.

2. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT (SINGLE STAGE ONE ENVELOPE)

2. Bidding/Tender Documents:

1. Contract documents and offer forms and conditions can be seen or downloaded from the official website of SPPRA i.e. "sppra@tdc.gov.pk". The bid security 2% in shape of cash deposit from any scheduled bank of Pakistan in favor of District Council Mirpurkhas should be original attached with the bids, otherwise such tenders will not be entertained.

2. Master of Bid Security other than CDF will not be accepted.

3. The tenders should be submitted along with the above required documents/information before the deadline, otherwise such tenders will not be entertained.

3. TERMS & CONDITIONS

a. In case of delay or any unforeseen circumstances on opening date, the bids shall be submitted and opened on the next working day of the same time.

b. If any late document is found, the tenders will be rejected at any time without any further notice.

c. Contractors/firms/agencies have to accept all above mentioned terms & conditions without any change.

d. Conditional and non-conditional tenders will not be accepted.

e. In case any member of procurement committee happens to be out of the headquarters on the date of opening, the bids will be submitted and opened on the next working day on same schedule.

f. Bid validity period 90 days.

g. The procurement authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders/ bids as per SPPRA Rules 2010 (amended up to date).

TOWN OFFICER
TOWN COMMITTEE
DAUR

846/ 8076/ 2385/04

METRO

North



Krejčíková stuns Rybakina to set up final clash with Paolini
Pg.18 SPORT

ISLAMABAD
Sunset: 07:27pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow): 05:03am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum: 28°C
Maximum: 34°C
Outlook: Partly Cloudy



VENDORS examine the gutted shells of H-9 weekly bazaar in Islamabad on Thursday. The shells were burnt to ashes after fire broke out in the bazaar on Wednesday. — Photo by Mohammed Aslam

Rawalpindi, Islamabad admins ban entry of almost 200 clerics

By Mohammed Asghar

RAWALPINDI: The administrations of Rawalpindi and Islamabad have respectively banned the entry of 180 and 17 firebrand clerics fleeing from various sects in their territories on account of Muharram, whereas the Feroz authorities also issued a gag order against 90 firebrand leaders to maintain law and order.

In order to maintain peace in Muharram, the Rawalpindi administration banned the entry of 180 clerics in the division and also issued a gag order against 90 clerics in four districts of the division. Of the 180 clerics whose entry has been banned in Rawalpindi, 45 are not allowed in Rawalpindi district, 77 in Attock, 16 in Jhelum, and 41 in Chakwal. The gag order restricted 26 clerics from speaking in Rawalpindi, 37 in Attock, 17 in Jhelum, and 10 in Chakwal.

In Islamabad, 17 clerics of various sects were banned from Islamabad for one month. The district magistrate was informed that the said clerics may indulge in sectarian activities, and deliver provocative sectarian sermons to create animosity and hatred between various religious sects, which was prejudicial to the maintenance of public peace and order.

The clerics whose entry was restricted belonged to Deoband, Bareilly, and Shia sects. They hail from Lahore, Baggodha, Keberwala, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Gilgit-Baltistan, Multan, Chichawatni, and Lalian. One of the clerics whose entry into Islamabad was banned was placed on the Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997.

A notification issued by the district magistrate said, "In exercise of power(s) conferred upon me under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 5 of the West Pakistan Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960 (do hereby direct that above-named clerics shall not enter, reside or remain in the revenue limits of District Islamabad for a period of one month. . . . Any contravention of this order shall be punishable under section 13 of the ordinance, it added.

Likewise, the federal government also asked the chief secretaries and police chiefs of all the provinces, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan to ensure strict monitoring of all sectarian outfits associated with militancy and keep a strict on their leaders to restrict them to their respective districts till the improvement in security situation. The government issued the order because it was concerned over the circulation of hateful content on social media and increasing incidents of religious incitement.

In a communique to the province, the interior ministry directed the authorities concerned to undertake surveillance and monitoring of cyberspace for pre-emption and effective control of the circulation of hate material.

It further said that the country was confronted with a new wave of militancy and extremism and the circulation of hate material on social media, and the prevailing security situation might not be able to afford any sectarian chaos in the country. It also called for community engagement initiatives, particularly through the activation of all regional, provincial, and national peace committees, along with the involvement of "elders/Ulema of different sects" to encourage inter-sect harmony and tolerance.

The federal government directed to ensure compliance with the direction in letter and spirit to avoid any untoward incident.

CDA okays two mega projects to streamline traffic

Underpasses to be built at Serena Chowk, PTCL Chowk for Rs8 billion

By Kashif Adnan

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has approved PC-I for two mega projects in the federal capital worth over Rs8 billion under which underpasses would be built at Serena Chowk and PTCL Chowk - the junction of Jinnah Avenue and 9th Avenue. The development working party (DWP) in a meeting at the CDA headquarters on Thursday approved a project worth Rs4.56 billion for the construction of underpasses on Siranagar Highway and Khayaban-i-Suhrawardi, besides the construction of three loops. According to the PC-I, this project will be completed in six months.

The DWP also approved a project worth Rs3.9 billion to construct an

underpass and flyover at the junction of Jinnah Avenue and 9th Avenue near Sector F-8. Both projects will be completed in six months. These two sites are sources of constant traffic jams, particularly during rush hours. The CDA has been making arrangements for several years, however, work on these projects could not start.

Recently, Interior Minister Mubashir Nazki directed the CDA to start these two projects as soon as possible. The Serena interchange project was not to begin last year but at the eleventh hour, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (during his first stint) refused to inaugurate it.

He had sought the credentials of the Railways which had won the project because of its lower bid of Rs2.1 billion. Now, the PC-I of the new project is Rs4.5 billion.

About the twofold increase in the cost, a CDA official said that the design of this project was "comprehensive" and different from the previous one.

It may be noted that traffic from different routes, including Constitution Avenue, Khayaban-i-Suhrawardi, Chab Road (Murree Road), Siranagar Highway, and Ataturk Avenue converge on this intersection (Serena Chowk), leading to congestion during peak hours.

PTCL Chowk

The story of PTCL Chowk is the same as Serena Chowk. During peak hours, commuters have to wait for a long time at the traffic signal, and those whose vehicles do not have air-conditioning face the worst. "Now, the CDA-DWP has approved the PC-I and within a few weeks we will award tenders of this project to get it completed within six months," a CDA official claimed.

The officials said that the civic agency had allocated funds for these two projects in the budget for this fiscal year going to be passed by the CDA board in its meeting on Friday (today). The board will also approve the hiring of consultants for these two projects.

Meanwhile, the DWP also approved PC-II to hire a consultant for a real-time data centre in Islamabad for Rs53 million. According to a working paper, the CDA wants to conduct a feasibility study to establish the first-ever Tier-4 data centre.

The CDA board previously approved 16 km for the project. The facility aimed to address the growing demand for secure and reliable data storage and management solutions in the region, especially as businesses and government agencies increasingly rely on digital infrastructure.

Similarly, the DWP also approved PC-I worth Rs6.88 million regarding the Enterprise Resource Planning/ Financial Management System. According to the working paper, "ERS is a software for centralised database for financial management, complete check and balance of receipts, expenditure, allocation, budgeting, HR components, and fixed assets of the CDA."

Meanwhile, the CDA board, which will meet on Friday (today) will approve the financial budget of the civic agency of Rs99 billion for the financial year 2024-25. "The official figure is to be presented before the CDA board on Friday (today). . . the figure is not clear yet, but it is said that our budget for this year will be around Rs100 billion," said an official in a comment on the budget. The board will also take up 29 agenda items.

Tribunal stopped from hearing three election petitions

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) chief justice on Thursday stopped the election tribunal from hearing the three petitions of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) candidates seeking to deny the election results of three NA seats from Islamabad in which PM, I-N candidates were declared winners.

IHC Chief Justice Ameer

Farooq while hearing the petitions of PTI's candidates Shauq Shahwan, Muhammad Ali Bukhari and Amir Manzoor Maghal issued the restraining order against the trial proceeding, however, he did not stop the tribunal from summarising the record from the respondents.

CJ Farooq was of the view that since the petitioners have challenged the verity of the Presidential Ordinance that changed the process for the appointment of presiding

judge for the Election Tribunal by amending the relevant provision in the Elections Act, therefore, it would be unfair if the matter would decide without hearing the other side.

Justice Farooq pointed out that the petitioners also challenged Section 151 of the Elections Act, that empowers the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to transfer the Election Tribunal from a tribunal exercising suo motu powers or deciding an application.

The counsel for PM, N law-

maker argued that the court had rendered the Tribunal without sitting inside the domains of the ECP that transferred the Election Tribunal from the tribunal headed by Justice Tariq Mehmood Jhangir to the tribunal comprising retired Justice Ashraf Shaukat Farooq.

He claimed that the ECP being a constitutional forum exercised the legal course to transfer the Election Tribunal.

Mr Shaukat pointed out that the court order was not com-

plied with so far and the relevant record has not been transferred to the tribunal.

Justice Farooq remarked that he would pass an appropriate order in this matter and hinted that the case would be heard on daily basis from the next date of hearing on July 22.

Earlier, Election Tribunal comprising Justice Jhangir directed the Returning Officer to submit Form 45, 46 and 47.

Further hearing in this matter has been adjourned till next week.

Punjab government seeks foreign input for Rawalpindi-Murree 'glass train' plan

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab government plans to hire a foreign consultant for a feasibility study on a glass train from Rawalpindi to Murree.

A senior official of district administration told Dawn that an 18-member working group has been formed for the Murree rail link project, while it was decided in a recent meeting to engage an international consultant.

Additional Commissioner Coordination from Rawalpindi Nazam Ali Shah and Secretary Regional Transport Rashid Ali participated via video link. The divisional administration officers reported a former feasibility study conducted for rail link from Rawalpindi to Muzaffargarh. The government would use the feasibility study from the Rawalpindi to Murree

portion, provided that it is verified by an international consultant.

According to the official, it was apprised in the meeting that there is a feasibility report from 2015 of Rawalpindi to Basal Moe Murree rail link in Rawalpindi, Murree Muzaffargarh rail link project. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif initiated the Murree rail line from Rawalpindi to Muzaffargarh in 2014-15. Initially, a station was proposed at Basal Moe in Murree but was later relocated near Jhika Gali upon Sharif's objection.

The Punjab Minister for Transport is the chair of the committee while secretaries of Transport and Motorist Department, Tourism, Archaeology and Museums, Environment Protection & Climate Change, Planning & Development Board, Communication and Works serve as members. Deputy Commissioners Rawalpindi, Murree, RPN, CPN,

Urban Unit and Nespak representatives are also part of the group.

The working group's terms of reference include discussing project technology, design, alignment challenges and related matters with the stakeholders in order to develop better understanding about the project's contours. This will guide the Transport and Motorist Department in planning a detailed feasibility study for the project and addressing issues in this regard.

"Murree Rail Link is one of the dream projects of the PM, N as it will make the hill station pollution free and increase tourism in the area as people will come to Murree from twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad," the senior official told Dawn.

"The project is feasible as Murree is situated at a height of over 2,200 metres and during the British Raj a rail link was laid at the same height in Shimla in 1905," he said.



A BANNER inscribed with four millioners' demand seeking abolition of withholding tax hangs outside a mall in I-8 Industrial Area in Islamabad on Thursday. — White Star

Omar Ayub moves privilege motion against police raid

By Iqram Jureidi

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan has moved a privilege motion against Islamabad and Punjab police and the secretary home, accusing them of breaching parliamentary privileges by raiding his house.

The motion, addressed to the speaker National Assembly, stated that on July 7 police officers from Islamabad and Punjab along with personnel in plainclothes raided his residence in F-80, Islamabad.

"This raid was conducted without prior intimation to your Honourable office, despite the issuance of bailable warrants against me.

This act not only disregards the established protocols and procedures that protect the privileges of Members of Parliament but also undermines the respect and dignity of the position I hold as Leader of the Opposition. Such actions set a dangerous precedent and disrupt the due process that ensures parliamentary privileges are upheld. In light of these events, I request that this matter be referred to the Committee on Privileges for a thorough investigation," it stated.

Mr Khan requested the presence of the home secretary and inspector general of police Punjab and the IGP and DMZ operations before the committee to provide their testimonies and explanations regarding the incident.

"I trust that this motion will be given due consideration, and the necessary actions will be taken to uphold the sanctity of parliamentary privileges," he stated.

Mr Khan, who is also

the PTI secretary general, on July 7 evaded arrest in a raid on his residence by a joint team of Islamabad and Mianwali police after warrants for his arrest were issued by an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Sargodha.

The Mianwali police, in a handset, claimed that their assistant sub-inspector (ASI) had only gone to the residence to serve the bailable warrants, not arrest the opposition leader.

The PTI leader, who went into hiding after the raid, had lashed out at the authorities for being so "desperate" to apprehend him.

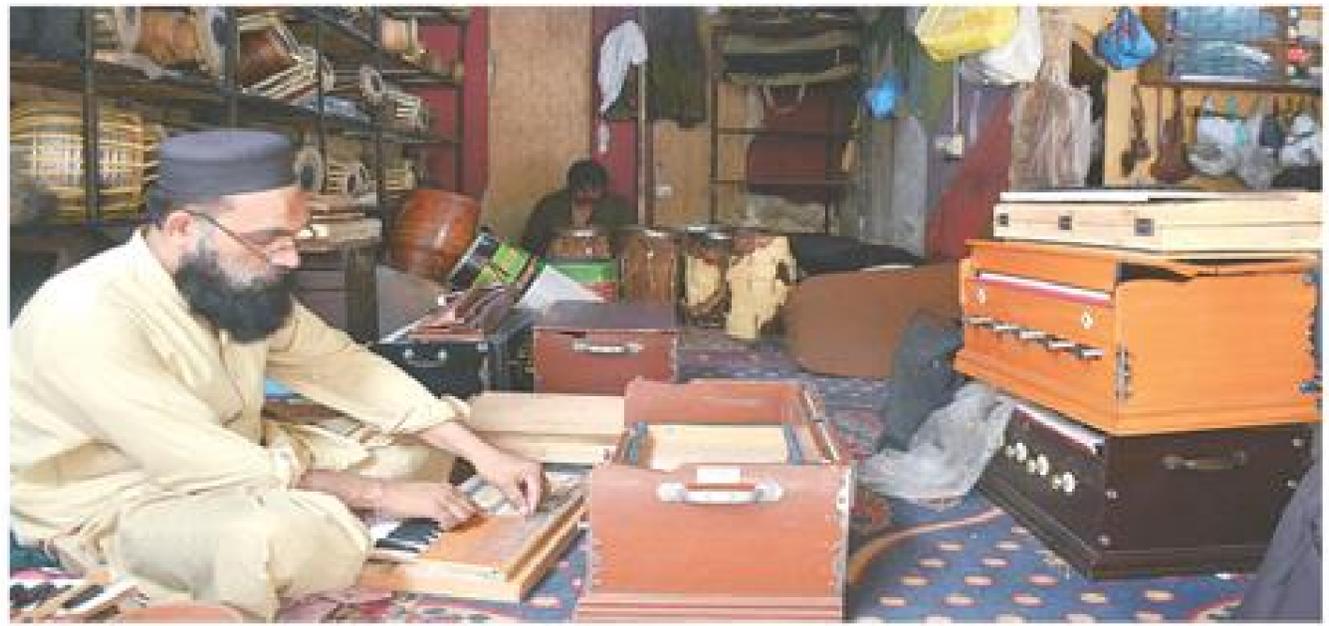
"Bailable arrest warrants were issued for me by ATC Sargodha, but Mianwali police and Islamabad police teams came to my Islamabad house to arrest me a few minutes ago," he had said in a social media post.

"The federal and Punjab governments and agencies must be very desperate to arrest the opposition leader in the National Assembly," he had written on X, adding his party's struggle would continue till Imran Khan came back to power.

Meanwhile, a PTI spokesperson said PMI-N senior leader Javed Larif further exposed the reality of the February 8 polls by expressing his dissent from the Sholeh Sharif government.

The spokesperson said as long as the Sharif family remained in power, the constitution would continue to be trampled, and people's right to vote would be crushed.

He urged the nation to prepare for a "decisive movement to reclaim their stolen mandate and restore their lost dignity as the time had come to hold the ruling party accountable for their actions."



A VENDOR prepares a harmonium for customers at his shop at Bugh Sardaran in Rawalpindi on Thursday. — Online

South Asia's nuclear arms control regime at risk: experts

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a seminar on Thursday warned that South Asia's nuclear arms control regime is at risk as the era of nuclear vertical proliferation matures.

They were speaking at the launch of a book, "Nuclear Arms Control in South Asia: Politics & Practice" authored by Dr Zafar Nawaz Jangal at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee chairman retired Gen Zafar Mahmood Hayat said the book focuses on arms control in South Asia rather than the world. He said the book's sections are intellectually rich and had excellent material.

However, he said his primary attention was on chapters dealing with India and Pakistan's doctrines and postures as well as their responses to nuclear control in non-proliferation. "I thought both of these chapters were interesting and well-researched," he remarked.

He cited Amit Shah, who labelled Kashmir as a demarcation of history, and added that it was an existential concern in Pakistan. Mr Hayat emphasised that nuclear deterrence is a critical component of Pakistan's security strategy since Kashmir is an existential issue and

Hindutva ideology is putting a shadow over nuclear arms control in South Asia.

He said India and Pakistan's arms control and non-proliferation may be seen in five domains and contexts. He highlighted the dominance from ideological to strategic, that were casting a shadow on South Asian arms control.

He also explained India's behaviour, which may be treated by Western capitals. "We have seen evidence that India is involved in transnational killings," the general said. He said India had killed 22 Pakistanis in Pakistan and through state operatives and had also been linked to killings in other countries. He also stated that India's 'yugan behaviour' was a detriment to South Asian arms control.

India has exploited arms control for five reasons: obtaining time, political posturing, political rhetoric and looking good strategy, he added.

Dr Jangal said nuclear arms control regime was in jeopardy as the era of nuclear vertical proliferation was back. The book has three sections which deal with politics, postures and practices.

The book spelled out India and Pakistan's nuclear po-

stures and their rhetorical and practical approach toward nuclear arms control, non-proliferation regimes and nuclear assets' safety and security. It addressed how the leaders in India and Pakistan think about nuclear weapons and how they will ensure that devastating arsenals are used when, but only when they decide they should be used.

The book also discusses how India and Pakistan's nuclear arsenals may destroy South Asia if conflict ensues.

Decommunitising nuclear weapons requires changing reconciliation and nuclear deterrence strategies. Nuclear disarmament is unachievable without changing the notion that nuclear weapons are reliable defensive weapons. Nuclear disarmament is impractical in South Asia, making weapons control the sole viable option for strategic stability in a complicated regional environment. Nuclear arms control, the goal for strategic security in South Asia, remains difficult.

Tahir Hussain Anshari, additional secretary Foreign Office, Air Commodore Khalid Bhattar, Advisor Jureidi Centre for Character and Leadership, and Dr Zafar Iqbal Chishti also spoke.

Court orders FIA to assist police in tracing two children of owner of famous eatry

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday directed the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to assist the police in ascertaining the whereabouts of two children of the owner of a famous eatry whom he took abroad without the consent of their mother. The court also ordered to block his computerised national identity card (CNIC).

IHC Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan issued the order on a petition filed by the first wife of the owner of the famous eatry of the capital.

The court directed the

FIA to "disclose the requisite information to the station house officers to ascertain the country to which the respondents No 1 [the owner] and 2 [the owner's second wife] have travelled along with the two children of his first wife."

The court also directed the FIA to contact the Pakistan Consulate in that country to inform the immigration authorities therein that respondents are required to ensure the production of the children before this court by the next date. Further hearing in the matter was adjourned till July 18.

The SRO informed the court that on receipt of a notice from the IHC, he visited the eatry own-

er's house and was informed by a security guard that he along with his wife and the two children had gone abroad.

The security guard was, however, not aware of the country they had gone to.

The court noted: "It does appear for now, in any event to the extent of the minor, respondent No 2, that she has been removed from the jurisdiction of IHC and that her mother has been deprived of her custody."

He ordered the SRO

"to proceed immediately with steps to block the CNIC and passports of respondents No 1 and 2 for which all authorities shall cooperate with the SRO on production of a copy of this order. For the purposes of their travel back to Pakistan, they will be issued emergency travel documents (ETDs)."

The court also directed to place the owner, his second wife and two children on the Exit Control List (ECL) and sought a compliance report by July 15.

Tourist from Karachi killed in Neelum road accident

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: Tragedy struck a tourist family from Karachi when a road accident claimed the life of one of its young members in the upper belt of Neelum Valley on Thursday, allegedly due to the negligence of the driver of a locally hired jeep, police said.

Mrs Mansoor, 34, a resident of Karachi, along with her spouse Kiran Moin, 38, and their children—7-year-old Rehan and his twin brother Rehan, 4-year-old Masahid, and one-and-a-half-year-old Moinaba—had arrived in Neelum Valley a few days ago in their own vehicle, driven by their personal driver Sultan Rehan, 35.

They had parked their vehicle in the town of Sharda, where they hired a local Toyota hardtop jeep for their onward journey to Tinkari, Neelum Valley's last village, located some 200 kilometres from Muzaffarabad.

On Thursday, they were returning to Sharda in the same jeep when they met the accident at Machhal, approximately 162 kilometres from Muzaffarabad,

around 11:45am. "The speeding jeep lost control, fell off the road, and overturned, resulting in the death of Rehan and minor injuries to Mr Moin, his wife, and their personal driver," said Khawaja Siddique, Superintendent of Police (SP) in Neelum Valley.

"The driver, Tameer Kala, whose negligence caused the accident, fled the scene, but we will soon apprehend him and take appropriate action," he added. He informed that the affected family left Neelum district at the afternoon in their own vehicle, escorting the Rescue 1122 ambulance which was carrying the body of the deceased boy.

The latest accident, which followed a similar, though larger, tragedy involving a public transport vehicle from Neelum Valley, once again highlights concerns about the safety and condition of public transport in the area, as well as the alleged lack of proficiency of local drivers.

In response to Wednesday's accident, AJK Premier Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq had convened a meeting to address the issue of road safety.

CHEHLUM

*My Lord, Have Mercy Upon them as they brought me up (When I was) small,
Say, surely my prayers and my sacrifice, and my life, and my death
are for Allah, the Lord of the worlds.*

Our Dearest, most Beloved, most Perfect Father

MIAN ASAM HAMID

passed away on Thursday, June 13, 2024

His Chehlum will be on Saturday, 13th July 2024

Quran Khwani at 05:00 P.M &
DUA at 06:00 P.M

Location: 291 Peshawar Road, Rawalpindi

Bereaved Family:

Yasir Hamid	0302-8444220
Nasir Hamid	0300-8568815
Zainab & Ail Saeed	
Hajira Hamid	

058-PT

چھوٹا خاندان خوشحال پاکستان

محکمہ بہبود آبادی پنجاب کا عزم پیہم

محکمہ بہبود آبادی، حکومت پنجاب

SPL-752

LAHORE
Sunset 07:12 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:05 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 26.0°C
Maximum 33.0°C
Outlook Th-9 storms
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 182

METRO Central



Krejčíková stuns Rybakina to set up final clash with Paolini Pg.18 SPORT



A VENDOR creates safety hazards by displaying his merchandise on electricity poles near railway station. — White Star

Why JCP ignored seniority in LHC CJ appointment

Says nominees must possess unchallenged integrity, unblemished reputation; Justice Neelum names first female registrar

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) in its meeting of July 2 had observed that nominees for the high office of chief justice of a high court must possess unchallenged integrity and unblemished reputation in the public.

observed that the 1996 Al-Jehad Trust case though held that the most senior judge had a legitimate expectancy to be appointed CJ of the high court but it was not an entitlement as of right, confided a source privy to the development. In its July 2 meeting, the JCP had also unanimously recommended elevation of Justice Saif-ur-Rahman as Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court to fill the vacant post after the elevation of Justice Asad Ali Khan to the Supreme Court. The government has already notified the elevation through a notification on Wednesday.

their integrity and reputation amongst the judicial and legal fraternity. All the members of the commission endorsed this view, adding any negative perception against a judge displaced the concept of legitimate expectancy and therefore the candidacy of the nominee ought not to move forward. The foundational strength of a judicial institution is public trust, the JCP unanimously held, adding the nominees must possess unchallenged integrity and unblemished reputation. During the meeting, Justice Yaqub Aftab - a member of the commission - highlighted that the nominees No.1 and No.2 were also not considered fit for elevation to the Supreme Court in the earlier meeting of the commission held on June 7. The commission also expressed its disapproval with the limited work experience and capacity of certain nominees and also considered a reference

made to certain judgments which were set aside by the Supreme Court because settled legal principles were not followed. The cases of electricity tariff also came up during the discussion and it was observed that the court assumed the constitutional jurisdiction without any legal justification as a result astronomical loss was caused to the public exchequer. Another judgment by one of the nominees had the potential to derail the general elections set to be held on Feb 8, 2024, including having an extra-territorial effect - a decision also set aside by the Supreme Court. The meeting also considered the incidents of protocol facilities from the Foreign Ministry at airports allowed for the adult son. During the meeting, the JCP also considered the July 26 letter by six members of the Pakistan Bar Council in which the

Continued on Page 14

Publisher's body found under mysterious circumstances

LAHORE: The owner of a known publishing house, Fiaz Abdul Fatah, was allegedly kidnapped from Lahore and his body was found in a canal near Faisalabad under 'mysterious circumstances'. The deceased was well-known in the local community for his contributions to the literary world as he was running a progressive publishing house, Book House, near Sahiwal Creek, Multan. He was said to be in his native village of Chak 29-D2, Sahiwal District. Shocked at the tragic demise of Fatah, the literary circles criticised the role of police in the case, demanding Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz take notice of the police's delayed response in recovering him 'alive'. According to the initial reports, the deceased had disappeared as he left his house in Nishat Colony for his office on Tuesday and his body was found in a canal near Sahiwal, his native place, the next day. The police were unable to respond to the question as to how he reached from Lahore to Faisalabad and why the police showed negligence in timely search for him despite being informed. Many people blame the police for taking the matter as routine. A relative of the deceased said that it was shocking for the family when Fatah went missing from the Nishat Colony area on July 9 and the SHO concerned made the family members wait outside the police station for hours on excuse of handling another minor case. There were reports that the SHO had left the matter to be inquired by the family itself as to where the elderly man had gone, he said and added that the Nishat Colony police did nothing except to lodge a complaint. The SHO asked the family members of Fatah to search for him in hospitals, residences of their relatives and all possible places and let the police know. Investigation DIO Zameer Asghar told this reporter the investigation police was awaiting the reports of the post-mortem to find out the cause of the death. — Staff Reporter

Jl reschedules Islamabad sit-in

LAHORE: After a call from Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday, Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Thursday postponed Islamabad sit-in till July 26 'out of respect for Ashura'. He announced the decision to delay the sit-in at a press conference here at Mansoorah. The sit-in plan, originally scheduled for July 12 (Friday), was reviewed by the JI leadership following appeals from religious scholars. Rehman also promised to start countrywide tour for public mobilisation to ensure participation in the sit-in. The JI plans to organise awareness camps in all major cities on Friday and sit-ins in major and small cities on July 14. Rehman said people from Karachi, Balochistan and far-flung areas would start the march towards Islamabad on July 24. He reiterated the demands for reduction in electricity tariffs, withdrawal of slab system for power tariffs and review of agreements with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs). "The JI all-in in Islamabad on July 26 is for the rights of the people, against inflation, and unjust taxes imposed in the recent budget," he told media. He criticised the government for depriving the masses of basic health and employment facilities and imposing additional taxes on the poor. He said the IPPs were paid billions in the shape of capacity charges. — Staff Reporter

Significant 'decrease' in gas line losses

By Khalid Haqani

LAHORE: Installation of 1,470 Town Border Stations (TBS) in five major cities has greatly helped Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) to bring down its Unaccounted For Gas (UFG) losses (line losses) to 5.15 per cent which were 8.99pc four years before.

The TBS are used as a tool to trace gas pilferage, leakage in small localities, misbillings besides measuring quantity of gas available in pipelines and used by the consumers. In case of leakages, it helps field operation teams to identify such spots quickly and fix the fault within a short time.

The stations were installed under phase-I of the TBS metering project launched a few years ago in five major cities of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. It was revealed in a high-level meeting in Islamabad presided over by the Federal Minister Mansoor Malik, Federal Secretary (Petroleum Division) Momin Ali Akbar, SNGPL board's directors and senior officers including managing director were also in attendance.

The meeting reviewed overall performance, particularly in respect of UFG control. The participants were told that collective efforts related to TBS

Continued on Page 14

Rs25bn scholarship scheme announced CM inaugurates e-bike programme, benefiting 27,200 students

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Thursday inaugurated the Punjab government's electric bike (E-Bike) programme, especially for girl students, by handing over the key of a motorcycle to a college student of Jangpura, besides announcing a Rs25 billion scholarship scheme for students, along with early launch of a laptop initiative. The chief minister also gave the first e-bike to a student of a college in Jangpura, besides announcing a Rs25 billion scholarship scheme for students, along with early launch of a laptop initiative.

The chief minister also gave the first e-bike to a student of a college in Jangpura, besides announcing a Rs25 billion scholarship scheme for students, along with early launch of a laptop initiative. The chief minister also gave the first e-bike to a student of a college in Jangpura, besides announcing a Rs25 billion scholarship scheme for students, along with early launch of a laptop initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, she asked other provinces to follow suit. "Today, the E-Bike Project has been

launched and we will further increase its [beneficiaries] number in the next phase. The Punjab government will pay Rs20,000 out of Rs40,000 down payment of each e-bike."

She said the government had received more than 100,000 applications for the scheme, of which 27,200 students would be given e-bikes. The CM said all districts had equal representation in this scheme and there was no quota of women in any scheme of the Punjab government.

"We received applications of 8,000 female students and we are giving bikes to all of them. Our daughters should learn to drive bike for their empowerment," the CM said.

Ms Nawaz said the government would also give laptops to the students in coming days. "For the students who can't afford to acquire higher education, we are introducing a scholarship programme worth Rs25 billion. No child will sit at home for

being to pay fee. For the children whose parents are not alive, we have identified the guarantee condition."

The CM announced the government would establish solarized e-bike charging stations across Punjab, while the bike recipients' would also get battery insurance cover in case of theft or fire eruption.

She said that a single bike under the scheme had been given an error recommendation, adding that e-banking had been conducted for their distribution.

Meanwhile, Ms Nawaz met with PFI-C Group President and CEO Hameed Samad and Group Chief Regulatory Officer Naveed Khalid (left) and discussed cooperation for digitization and digital communication in Punjab. — Staff Reporter

ATC bail denial verdict in May 9 cases

'Imran, other PTI leaders hatched plot to wage war against state'

By Wajih Ahmad Shaikh

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) has observed that the PTI founding chairman, Imran Khan, is not entitled to the relief of pre-arrest bail in cases of May 9 riots as he allegedly hatched a conspiracy along with other party leaders and activists with a common object of "waging war against the state".

ATC Judge Khalid Arshad had on July 9 dismissed the pre-arrest bail petitions of Imran Khan in three cases of May 9 riots, including the one registered over an attack on the residence of the Lahore corps commander.

A four-page written order issued by the court says, "an extraordinary concession of pre-arrest bail is meant for an innocent person and not the petitioner who hatched, materialised the alleged criminal conspiracy along with the senior PTI leadership

and protesters/accused having common object to wage war against the state to topple the government."

The judge noted that the statements of two prosecution witnesses alleged the petitioner/Imran Khan on May 7, 2023 from 5:15pm to 6:00pm had a meeting at Zaman Park with 25 senior PTI leaders and instructed them that he had apprehension of arrest on May 9, at Islamabad.

"On his arrest you all under the leadership of Dr. Yasmin Rashid would gather PTI workers and attack military installations, government properties and the police officials to create pressure on the government and armed institutions for his release," the verdict reproduced the prosecution witnesses' statements, which alleged that the co-accused/party leaders replied that he (Imran Khan) was their 'red line' and they would paralyse the government by instigating the PTI workers.

Moreover, the judge said, the petitioner

on May 9, at the time of leaving for Islamabad, also sent a video message, saying "if he is arrested, the condition of country will worsen like that of Sri Lanka", and this clip was produced by the prosecution, along with its transcript.

The judge also referred to another clip of the petitioner, saying the video was broadcasted the whole day through official twitter account of the PTI on May 9, 2023 to instigate the PTI workers to come out for protest and termed it "Real Jihad for Real Freedom (Haqueqi Azadi)".

The judge said that actually the case of prosecution against the petitioner is that he hatched the alleged criminal conspiracy which was agreed upon by the top leadership of his party, and the same was conveyed through modern devices, especially online, to the protesters/accused persons, who as a result of the alleged instigation, launched the attack, entered forcibly into the Jinnah House and set it on fire, while

waging war against the state, intending to overthrow the government.

He noted that the reports of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pera), the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) cybercrime wing and internal security agencies are also available with the record.

He said the recovery of the articles allegedly used for recording the video messages meant to instigate people is to be made from the petitioner.

Judge Arshad ruled that the alleged making of political victimisation pleaded on behalf of the petitioner against the official complainant did not appeal to the prudent mind.

"A peaceful demonstrator becomes terrorist when he hatches criminal conspiracy, disseminates it and shares common object with other accused, who being armed, attack, attempt to damage or damage the state properties like Jinnah House, intending to jam government machinery as per

section 6 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, and he loses the normal rights of a law-abiding citizen," the judge said, explaining the dismissal of the bail petitions.

The judge said the investigation must not be interrupted as it would curtail the collection of prosecution evidence.

The judge observed that when reasonable grounds exist to connect the petitioner with the alleged offences, which fall within the ambit of the prohibitory clause, the pre-arrest bail of petitioner/Imran Khan has no merits.

The petition sought interim pre-arrest bail in the Jinnah House, Askari Tower, and Shadman police station attack cases.

On March 1, another ATC had confirmed the pre-arrest bail of Imran Khan in four criminal cases, including the murder of party worker Zafar Shah, the attack on police outside Zaman Park, and the torching of PM-N offices in Model Town, and a contractor at Kalma Chowk on May 9, 2023.

Three arrested for setting man ablaze

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Metro police claimed on Thursday to have arrested three suspects, including a woman, in connection with the brutal murder and burning of a man in the Nang Shah area.

The police recovered charred remains of an unidentified man in Nang Shah on May 27 and registered a murder case against unidentified suspects. The victim was later identified as Khalid Masroor Ali, a car mechanic, who had been missing since May 26.

Further investigation led the police to recover video footage from Raza's mobile phone. The footage implicated two other suspects, Umaira Masith

and Sami Masith, in the murder and subsequent burning of the body. Police conducted raids and arrested both suspects, who also confessed to the crime. Additional video evidence of the killing was recovered from their phones.

The three suspects were presented before the court, which remanded them to jail. Metro City Police Officer (CEO) Saad Ali Dogar commended the police team for solving what he described a "brutal murder".

According to Dogar, the motive for the killing was Ali's relationship with Umaira Masith, who was also having a relationship with another suspect, Sami Masith.

He said that the police had gathered substantial evidence against the suspects and had sent the video footage to a forensic science laboratory for verification. The police are currently awaiting the forensic report.

Two die, three injured in car-bus collision

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: Two persons died and three others of the same family were injured after their car collided with a bus near Chak 225-G8 on the Samamra Road, Faisalabad, on Thursday.

Rescue 1122 said the bus driver was trying to overtake a rickshaw when it collided head on with the car coming from the opposite direction. As a result, the car was completely damaged and its riders, Naseem Bibi, 55, and Muhammad Umer, 18, were killed. Naseem's husband Muhammad Shadiq, 60, daughter Fatima Bibi, 21, and a niece, Androon Siddiq, were injured and they were shifted to the Toba Headquarter Hospital, Samamra.

The deceased and the injured were pulled out by cutting the car. The family belonged to the Tarighat locality of Faisalabad.

ARRESTED: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested and re-handled an assistant busman of the Faisalabad Electric

Supply Company (Fesco) while taking bribe.

An FIA official said Akbar Ali, posted in Mansuwa sub-division, had received Rs20,000 for arranging a job for the complainant in Fesco. He added that previously the accused had also received Rs200,000 from him and now demanded Rs30,000 more.

In another case, the FIA team arrested Muhammad Arshad from the locality of Eden Orchards for selling fake and unregistered medicines to medical stores.

The FIA confiscated a heavy stock of fake and unregistered medicines and handed over the medicines as well as the accused to the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) officials for further legal action.

A case has been registered against the accused.

SUICIDE: A bus committed suicide at Chak 255-JR, Kalamowala, in the Mochiwala Police Station area at Jhang.

Reports said Muhammad Asif, son of a farmer Muhammad

Yousaf, had a fight with his father over a monetary issue and consumed poison. When family knew about it, they shifted him to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital where he expired.

TEXTILE: The textile workers cancelled their protest for increase in their wages after an agreement between the representatives of the All Pakistan Textile Sizing Industrial Units Association and the Labour Quota Movement (LQM).

LQM chairman Babu Latif Ansari told a press conference that 15pc wages of the workers of different categories had been raised with effect from July 1 by the owners.

He said that 15,000 workers of 110 units of Faisalabad division would benefit from the increase. He added that the agreement explained that the owners would get dilapidated buildings of their factories repaired and earth bows are worked for installation for the safety of workers from electrocution.

He said it was also agreed that owners will arrange social security cards of all their workers.

Woman, minor daughters die in wall collapse

By Our Correspondent

SAHIWAL: A woman and her two minor daughters were buried alive when the boundary wall of an old house collapsed on them while they were crossing a street at Kohiana village in Pakpattan tehsil on Wednesday night.

According to Rescue 1122 sources, Zakiya, along with her daughters - Aqsa (5) and Asma (6) - were passing through the street when the dilapidated wall, made of mud and concrete, which was further weakened by the rain, collapsed on them.

When the rescuers, called on the scene by locals, pulled the woman and the minor girls out of the debris, they had already died.

As the victims' relatives refused to take any legal action against the house owners, the police closed the case forming an accident.

ACQUITTED: Chichawatni Judicial Magistrate Ashraf Gondal on Thursday acquitted PTI MPA retired Maj Chaudhry Saadwar in a case of taking out a rally in protest against alleged rigging in Feb 8 elections. Maj Saadwar and scores of PTI workers were booked by Rawalpindi police for taking out a rally in Chichawatni city, under section 16 Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance (MPO).

Nine booked for torture of youth

SARGODHA: A young man was tortured by nine suspects who made a video of their crime and posted it on social media.

According to sources, nine influential persons, including two brothers, Muhammad Hyan, Muhammad Ahsan, set up their court in the town of Sahiwal and threatened the young man, Haidar.

They subjected the victim to severe torture and threatened him dire consequences if he made complaint to police. A case has been registered against nine suspects, including Hyan, Ahsan, Asim, Ashtar and Haidar. A case has been registered and investigation is underway.

DPO Dr Asad Malik also took notice of this incident. — Correspondent

Human traffickers gang unearthed

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) claimed to have unearthed a gang involved in the visa scam and human trafficking in Gujrat as foreign countries driving business, fake visa stickers and other such material have also been recovered from the suspects.

A spokesman for FIA said Gujrat is a member of the gang identified as Mushtaq Ahmed Nasir had been arrested during a raid near GTB Chowk.

He said the gang had been involved in preparing fake documents for the international travel and the members of that gang were active from various cities of Pakistan.

He said the driving licenses of Brazil and Malaysia had also been recovered during the raid whereas the fake passports of Pakistan and Brazil were also found from the suspect. The FIA raiding party also confiscated the fake visas of Canada, Greece, Switzerland, Thailand, Serbia, Korea, Italy, Spain, Germany, Nepal and Sweden from the place where it had arrested the suspect. The laminated sheet and other things used in preparing the fake passports and visas, have also been recovered during the raid. The spokesman said that FIA had initiated the further investigation from the suspect and raids were being conducted to trace and arrest the remaining suspects.

Admin says only five cows died after eating grass

By Our Correspondent

RAHIM YAR KHAN: The district administration says only five cows died after eating 'toxic grass' near a fertilizer unit in Goth Machi and not 80, as reported by Durrum on Wednesday.

According to a report submitted by the veterinary officer of Rahimyar Khan to the Deputy Director of Livestock, the animals fell sick after eating grass. Owner Abdul Shakoor called a private vet but five cows expired. The remaining animals were in good health and provided medicines.

District Officer Industries Hamood Jatoi said the actual cause of death of cows would be shared soon.

CHEHLUM

*My Lord, Have Mercy Upon them as they brought me up (When I was) small.
Say, surely my prayers and my sacrifice, and my life, and my death are for Allah, the Lord of the worlds.*

Our Dearest, most Beloved, most Perfect Father

MIAN ASAM HAMID
passed away on Thursday, June 13, 2024

His Chehlum will be on Saturday, 13th July 2024
Quran Khwani at 05:00 P.M &
DUA at 06:00 P.M
Location: 291 Peshawar Road, Rawalpindi

Bereaved Family:

Yasir Hamid 0302-8444220
Nasir Hamid 0300-8568815
Zainab & Ail Saeed
Hajira Hamid

(LHR-F)

Boy feared drowned in canal

By Our Correspondent

SAHIWAL: A boy is feared drowned in the canal near Chak 134-L.

Eyewitnesses said three friends were taking bath in the canal when incident happened.

Rescue 1122 sources said they had recovered two boys but they could not save the third one.

Rescue 1122 said they are searching the body of 13-year-old boy who could not be identified.

The two recovered boys were shifted to Sahiwal Teaching Hospital for treatment.

DAWN
the complete newspaper

ELECTRICITY THEFT
(ZERO TOLERANCE) (FULL ENFORCEMENT)

GEPSCO
TENDER NOTICE

Scaled Tenders are invited for the supply of following items on the basis of Single Stage Single Envelope bidding procedure as per PPRR Rules from Prequalified/Registered and Un-Registered firms as per Specifications detail given in bidding documents without any element of foreign exchange and for free delivery at GEPSCO Computer Centre, Gujranwala. The tender will be opened in public in the office of undersigned as per following schedule.

Tender No.	DESCRIPTION	Unit/Qty.	Amount of Bid (Maximum Allowed) (Rs.)
60/2024-25	Control Panel Computer Case (2) UPS Connection	No. 100	1,000,000
61/2024-25	UPS 65KVA	No. 100	150,000

Tender submission Date & Time: 06-08-2024 At 11:30 A.M.
Tender Opening Date & Time: 06-08-2024 At 11:30 A.M.

- Tender documents can be obtained from the office of undersigned after payment of Rs. 4,000/- each tender (non-refundable) up to a day before tender opening date.
- The offered bid shall remain valid for acceptance for 120 days from the tender opening date and must accompany Bid Guarantee/CDR as mentioned above issued by any Scheduled Bank of Pakistan valid for 120 days from the tender opening date.
- The firms must be on active taxpayers list (VAT) of FBR Government of Pakistan and also have Sales Tax Registration Certificate.
- Conditional tender or tender without Bid Guarantee will not be accepted.
- GEPSCO reserves all rights to reject any/all bids as per PPRR Rules.
- The said tender notice will also be available on PPRR Web Site & GEPSCO Web Site.
- For further details / information contact on any working days during office hours.

Manager (MMO)
605-A Model Town, Gujranwala, Ph-030-9288227, Fax-030-9288228
Gujranwala Electric Power Company Limited (GEPSCO)

چھوٹا خاندان خوشحال پاکستان

محکمہ بہبود آبادی پنجاب کا عزم پیہم

تعمیر خاندان

محکمہ بہبود آبادی، حکومت پنجاب

SPL-752

METRO

North



Krejčíková stuns Rybakina to set up final clash with Paolini
Pg.18 SPORT

PESHAWAR
Sunset 07:29pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:09am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 28°C
Maximum 38°C
Outlook Partly Cloudy



COUNTING of votes under way after completion of polling process for by-election on PK-22 in Bajaur on Thursday. — Dawn

DHOs warned of action over 'casual' attitude towards polio eradication efforts

DG health issues letter to 10 district health officers for not attending meetings

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: Health department has expressed concerns over lacklustre attitude of district health officers in 10 districts regarding polio eradication and has directed them to mend their ways or be ready to face disciplinary action as per rules.

"During a recent meeting of Provincial Task Force (PTF), held with Chief Secretary Nadsoom Adam Chaudhry in the chair, it was observed that you haven't been taking part in the meeting of district polio eradication committees (DPEC), readiness and review committees during the campaigns," said Dr Muhammad Saleem Khan, the director-general health services Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in a letter issued to the DHOs on Thursday.

The district health officers (DHOs) of South Waziristan Upper, Peshawar, Tank, Bannu, Dir Lower, Khyber, Swabi, Lakki Marwat, Swat and North Waziristan remained absent from the meeting meant to review progress of polio campaigns in June and July.

The letter said that being heads of district health management teams and

part of DPEC, it was mandatory for the DHOs to attend the district level meeting and help in eradication of polio.

"Keeping in view the significance of polio drive, you are directed to ensure 100 per cent presence in the meeting and improve your attitude towards your official responsibilities and attend the same meetings without fail," it added.

In the June campaign, the DHOs of Peshawar, Bannu and Khyber didn't attend readiness meetings while the attendance in evening meetings in Peshawar was recorded 80pc, in Khyber 40pc, in Lower Dir the DHO remained totally absent during all five days of the campaign and in Swat and Lakki Marwat the presence of DHOs was 80pc each.

The letter said that in the July vaccination campaign, DHOs of Tank and South Waziristan Upper stayed away from DPEC's meetings while the latter skipped readiness meeting. Attendance was recorded 80pc in evening review meetings in each Tank, North Waziristan and Swat districts, it said.

The provincial government, it said, was putting relentless efforts to wipe out the paralyzing childhood disease by conducting vaccination campaigns on regular basis and meetings of PTF held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Nadsoom Adam Chaudhry, which were attended by the representation of all the line departments in cognate with the challenges posed by poliomyelitis.

The letter said that for successful implementation of polio vaccination,

regular DPEC, readiness and review meetings were held at district level under the chairmanship of respective deputy commissioners and DHOs.

All the DHOs have been instructed to ensure their presence and 100 per cent attendance in all the meetings. "Failing to comply will lead to the disciplinary action as per rules," said the letter.

The health director has asked them to seek prior approval from health secretary health along with submitting genuine reasons if they needed leave. In order to do away with the crippling childhood ailment from the province, the health department will take all measures to safeguard children.

Sources said that in the latest PTF's meeting, chief secretary had expressed the government's strong resolve and commitment to eradication of poliomyelitis from the region through well-coordinated efforts at all levels to give a final push to the mission. He appreciated the efforts of law enforcement agencies for their support to polio eradication efforts but at the same time showed anger over the casual attitude of some officers towards the cause of national emergency.

They said that despite acts of violence against polio teams, the province so far reported no case and all eight confirmed cases were national level imported from Baluchistan and two from Karachi.

"Therefore, the government is tightening the staff to ensure that the province remains polio-free," they added.

ANP wins Bajaur by-poll after tough contest

By Anwarullah Khan

BAJAUR: Awami National Party's Muhammad Nisar Khan won by-elections for provincial assembly seat, PK-22, by securing 11,595 votes against 8,522 votes received by an independent candidate Najeebullah Khan, according to provisional result announced by the returning officer.

At all 91 polling stations in the constituency, candidate of Jamiat Islami Ahad Khan received 10,595 votes whereas Najeebullah of Sunni Ittehad Council, having support of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, bagged 7,146 votes.

A total of 45,801 votes (25.59 per cent) were cast out of total 179,010 registered voters in the constituency.

Elections in this constituency as well for a National Assembly seat in Bajaur were postponed in the Feb 8 general polls due to death of a candidate, Syed Hashim Khan, a PTF's decision. However, during by-elections both these seats were won by Khan's brother, Muhammad, who decided to retain the NA seat and vacated the PK-22 provincial assembly seat.

Polling was held mostly in peaceful environment here in Bajaur district on Thursday.

The polling process at all the 91 polling stations, which started at 8am, continued till 5pm, the designated time without any interval. No major issue was reported despite the fact that 43 polling stations were declared sensitive and 23 were most sensitive.

However, some minor clashes were reported among the supporters of different political parties and candidates at few polling stations. Strict security arrangements were made at almost all polling stations.

The total number of registered voters in the constituency is 1,07,910 including 99,038 men and 79,972 women. However, during visit to different polling stations, it was witnessed that a very small number of people were present to exercise their rights to vote till 5pm.

Several candidates and their polling agents confirmed low turnout of voters, especially of women. They told this correspondent that the presence of voters at polling stations was against of their expectations. They said that they expected that at least 40 per cent of people voters come to polling stations.

The polling staff and candidates also expressed the fear that the turnout of women voters might remain low than the 10 per cent criteria of Election Commission of Pakistan to legalize the polling process.

There were a total 12 of candidates in the run.



Landing gear of Saudi passenger jet catches fire at BKIA

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The landing gear of a passenger plane of Saudi airline caught fire after landing at Bacha Khan International Airport here on Thursday.

Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials said that Saudi flight SV-792 carrying 148 passengers arrived from Riyadh and was about to land when the air traffic controller communicated sparks in the landing gear to the pilot. The fire brigade and rescue services were also alerted.

The left landing gear of the plane caught fire just after touchdown. The fire tenders rushed to the plane after it came to a halt and swiftly extinguish the fire and prevented any major accident, a statement issued by CAA said.

All the 276 passengers and 21 crew members were safely evacuated from the aircraft through an inflatable slide, the statement said.

CAA officials said the flight operations at BKIA were suspended and all the flights were diverted to Islamabad, adding that the flights scheduled for Thursday night and Friday morning would continue according to the plan.

Later, the passengers left for their homes.

Man kills three sisters in Swabi

By Our Correspondent

SWABI: A man allegedly shot dead his three sisters here on Thursday morning while two others saved their lives by hiding in a room, the police and Rescue 1122 officials said.

When contacted, SHO Zaida police station Alamgir Khan told Dawn that soon after receiving the information about the incident, a police team reached the spot in Mansoor Mohammad of Zaida city.

"When we entered the house, we found the dead bodies lying in different parts of the building. It seemed that when the accused shot one of the three sisters, the others started running for life, but they could not escape," said another official.

According to SHO, the victims included Sorbia, 18, Sumbal, 22, and Zargha, 24. The other two teenage sisters hid in another room and remained unharmed.

The bodies were shifted to Bacha Khan Teaching Hospital Shuhansoor for autopsy.

According to the police, one of the slain sisters was recently engaged to a man who was already married and she expressed resentment over her engagement, which angered her brother.

Registering an FIR, Abdul Haleem, father of the victims, said that the accused, Noshad Khan, started arguing with his sisters over the engagement, but soon he took out a Kalashnikov and opened fire on the three sisters.

Meanwhile, dead body of a 22-year-old man, identified as Zahid Khan of Gandaf village, who had drowned in the Patur High Level Canal Canal, was recovered by rescue team here on Thursday.

Girl killed in Khyber landmine blast

KHYBER: A girl lost her life while three more girls sustained injuries in a land mine blast in Upper Bari area of Khyber on Thursday.

Sources in the region said that 12-year-old Aalia among with three other neighbouring girls were grazing their domestic animals in the

nearby hills in Karawan Jumbani locality when the mistakenly stepped on a land mine buried underground.

They said Aalia died on the spot while the remaining girls Fatima, Shahida and Shamsama sustained critical injuries. Local residents rushed to the site after hearing the blast and shifted the injured girls to a nearby medical facility.

Alamshahidi, father of the deceased girl, said later that they had been requesting local authorities for clearing the land mines planted by suspect militants a decade ago but no action was taken so far.

He said local residents took their livestock for grazing while at her collect firewood for their domestic use almost on daily basis and there was always a danger of such incidents as the area was infested with landmines which always posed a threat to their lives.

— Correspondent

Mob ransacks Naurang grid station, forces feeders to resume supply

Peshawar grid station also ransacked by protesters

By Ghulam Muhammad Marwat

LAKKI MARWAT: A violent protest erupted here on Thursday as the residents ransacked a grid station and attacked the Peshawar Electric Supply Company's installations in the Naurang town to protest prolonged power cuts.

Also in the day, a mob forcibly entered a grid station in the provincial capital and restored power sup-

ply from feeders.

In Lakki Marwat district, the residents of the Mamsakhel area, carrying banners, stormed the EERY grid station, sub-divisional offices and warehouses, and damaged the building with stones.

A video clip circulating on social media platforms showed young protesters pelting stones and bricks on the building, smashing windows panes and other goods.

The attack also caused damage to electricity meters, furnaces, computers and other equipment, besides office records.

The ransacking of the grid station halted power supply to the entire town.

Earlier, the protesters gathered near a local flour mill and staged a

demonstration.

The protesters criticised PESCO over "excessive" power outages.

Their elders said the rural areas linked with the Mamsakhel feeder were badly hit by the prolonged power outages in the hot and humid weather.

They said the unscrupulous load shedding had troubled the rural population, especially women and children.

The elders said the residents regularly paid utility bills but even then, they're subjected to prolonged power suspension.

They demanded the PESCO crack down on power thieves and defaulters instead of suspending electricity supply to consumers regularly paying bills.

A resident told Dawn that the protesters marched to the Bannu BIK Khan Road and closed it to traffic after their talks with authorities failed.

He said the power supply wasn't restored until the evening.

The closure of the busy road led to the long queues of vehicles, in the misery of people travelling between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

In a statement, the PESCO said protesters attacked the grid station, field office store, and sub-divisional office.

"The mobsters wielding banners and carrying stones vandalised our premises. They also threw out electricity meters, causing a loss of several hundred thousand of rupees to us," it said.

The power utility said the protesters also stopped the power supply from the grid station to the entire Naurang town.

It added that the people from the area in the limits of Mamsakhel feeder moved the power installations.

"The Mamsakhel feeder has over 68 per cent line losses and therefore, we have to carry out routine load management in the area," it said.

Meanwhile, the power protesters closed a road and staged a sit-in before storming the Dalazak Road grid station in Peshawar.

They forcibly switched off feeders to restore electric supply.

In a statement, the PESCO said

around 200 people barged into the grid station and forced the Dalazak and Muhammadiala feeders to resume power supply.

It said the protesters were being led by local government member Akhtar Ali of the PTF and leaders Idris Khan, Haji Nizamuddin and Malik Roshan.

"The mob also roughed up our staff members," it claimed.

The PESCO said line losses on the Muhammadiala feeder totalled over 71 and those on the Dalazak feeder over 80 per cent.

It said that it had contacted the relevant police stations for the registration of FIR against protesters.

Mansoor Ali in Peshawar also contributed reporting.

Action sought against police for arresting tubewell mechanics

By Our Correspondent

SWAT: The members of Public Health Workers Welfare Association on Thursday demanded legal action against police for arresting some mechanics of the department, who were working on a water supply scheme in Matta tehsil.

They threatened to close all water supply schemes in the area after 10 days if no action was taken against the police officials involved in the act.

During a press conference at Swat Press Club, PSHWA provincial general secretary Subhan Ali, district president Ahmad Farooq Khan and contractor Jawad said that on Tuesday night, five workers were arrested by police when they were returning to their office after completing repair work on a water supply scheme in Tattar area of Matta tehsil late in the evening.

They said that police arrested them without any inquiry, took them to Matta police station and began investigating them about a theft. They alleged that police tortured them and left them in critical condition.

Incidentally, the clerk of Matta police station, when contacted, said that several transformers were stolen in the area and police were searching for thieves. "Police found transformer poles and electrically wires in their vehicles. So they were brought to police stations. After investigation, all of them were let to go," he told Dawn. He denied inflicting violence on mechanics and other staff.

KILLED: The mother and grandparents of a girl, who was reported to have committed suicide some days ago, alleged on Thursday that she was killed by her step-mother.

The mother and grandparents of deceased Zarbil, 15, told journalists that on June 22, the stepmother of Zarbil, Sana, took all family members for cutting but left Zarbil inside the house at night.

"Zarbil insisted that she also wanted to go with them, but Sana told her to stay home. When we returned, we found Zarbil dead and her body showed marks of torture. Sana declared that she had committed suicide," said Nadia, the mother of the deceased girl.

She said that they went to Khatmalbad police station but police did not file an FIR and said that they would resolve the issue. They appealed to DPO and chief justice of Pakistan to provide justice to them.

After getting information about the matter, DPO Dr Zahidullah formed an inquiry committee to investigate the case.

A ray of hope for children with hearing loss

CHARSAUDA: Sudeas Medical Centre presents a ray of hope for the hearing impaired children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as such children are being operated upon successfully with cochlear implant surgery and now they can live a normal life with all the abilities of hearing and speaking.

Talking to media persons at the SMC, chief executive officer (CEO) Amratullah Anar said that cochlear implants were not only the most advanced but also the most expensive treatment for deaf and dumb kids. Surgery of one child could cost Rs2.5 million which was beyond the reach of poor people, he said.

He said the hospital administration had inked an MoU with Baitul Maad for the provision of funds to the poor patients for implants. He said renowned surgeon Dr Maqbool Baloch had performed successful surgeries of about 34 speech and hearing impaired children so far in this hospital.

It merits a mention here that there are two such hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: one in Charsadda and the other in Saidu Sharif, Swat, which have the facilities to perform cochlear implants and most of the operations are successful in children aged between three to five years.

Children with this illness are being brought to the medical center at Charsadda from across the country. The media in the hospital told media persons that the surgery takes four hours, after which the children are put under observation for 24 hours in the hospital and then they are shifted home. Later therapy is started in which the parents play an important role, and after a year with their full attention, the child becomes able to return to school in a normal position.

Surgeon Dr Maqbool Ahmad Baloch told local media persons that this cochlear implanting facility was available in most hospitals of Punjab and Sindh, but unfortunately, the hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan had no such facilities.

He said that no successive governments allocated any funds for this purpose. He stressed the need to include the cochlear implant surgery in government-sponsored health card scheme.

On this occasion, Balochar Khan of Khatlang, Mandar, Shabbir Khan of Baitar, Jamn Khan of Khatlang, Charsadda and others told media persons that they had brought their speech and hearing impaired children to Sudeas Medical Center Charsadda for treatment and their surgeries were successful. — Fair Muhammad

Haripur social activist Taj Lala dies at 79

HARIPUR: Renowned social activist Muhammad Taj aka Taj Lala passed away here on Thursday. He was 79.

He left behind a widow, four daughters and a son to mourn his death. Family members said that Taj Lala had been admitted to Ayub Medical Complex Islamabad for the last over two weeks for treatment of his lung infection but he could not survive and passed away on Thursday morning.

He was buried at his ancestral graveyard in Jama village. Social activists, poets, journalists and locals participated in his funeral.

Taj Lala was one of the founding members of Sangi Foundation, the civil society organization that late Omar Asghar Khan founded in early 1980s. He was one of the close aides of Omar Asghar Khan and took part in a number of movements orchestrated by Sangi against mega dams, deforestation and environmental degradation caused by fertilizer factories in Haripur.

Taj Lala served Sangi till the death of Omar Asghar Khan. He was known for his mobilization skills, required for implementation of projects. He was a part of Hindus and also penned down his autobiography in Urdu titled "Zindagi Ka Anokha Afsar".

The 370-page biography of Taj Lala has been divided into three parts. The first part is about his early education, countryside culture, famous Hindus songs, Taggoy and Mahaney, local traditions and words that were on the verge of getting out of use. The second part depicts the circumstances of 25 years of struggle of Taj Lala as a social activist.

In the last part of his book, he shared the details of his efforts for poverty reduction, social, political and economic rights of citizens and how he was part of activities meant for social development from the platform of Sangi Foundation. — Correspondent



A MAN arranges mangoes in crates at Peshawar fruit market on Thursday. — White Star

Contempt plea filed against food secretary for not complying with court order

Candidate claims appointment on a post in Halal Food Authority not re-decided

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A candidate for the post of administration officer in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (PSHEFA) has filed a contempt petition in Peshawar High Court against provincial food secretary and officials of the authority for not imple-

menting court's order of re-deciding appointment against the said position.

The candidate, Tabir Muhammad Khan, has requested the high court to initiate contempt proceedings against the food secretary and chairman, director general and director administration of PSHEFA for violating the May 8 judgement of the court wherein they were directed to re-decide the appointment against the post of administration officer from the merit list strictly in accordance with law within one month.

The petitioner had earlier challenged the appointment of another candidate named Shah Faizal as administration officer.

The petitioner, who was represented by Advocate Shahab Khattak, stated that five candidates had qualified for the said post out of which Shah Faizal was placed at first position as he had secured 83 marks. He said that the said candidate was awarded 10 marks for experience. He stated that the experience certificate produced by the candidate was that of Iqra National University, which was forged.

During hearing of that petition, the said university had initially stated that the certificate was genuine, but subsequently informed the bench that it was fake. The university had informed the bench that it had investigated the matter through an inquiry panel headed by the registrar and the

probe transpired that the candidate was never employed by the university.

A bench consisting of Justice Syed Muhammad Atiqur Shah and Justice Syed Arshad Ali had accepted that petition on May 8, 2024, and had ruled that the appointment of Shah Faizal was result of fraud and misrepresentation and was not sustainable in the eyes of law.

The bench had ruled that it was now for the authority to reconsider the merit list, keeping in view the inquiry report submitted by Iqra National University.

The bench had set aside the appointment order issued on Feb 26, 2018, of Shah Faizal, and the matter was remitted to

PSHEFA's director general for re-deciding the said appointment.

The petitioner stated in the contempt petition that after obtaining the amended copy of the judgement, the same was provided to the respondents through an application on May 20 for implementation. He said that the judgement was also transmitted to the authority for implementation by the deputy registrar of the high court, but till now it had not been implemented.

He contended that the acts of the respondents clearly fell within the ambit of contempt of court and as such they were liable to be proceeded against for violating this court's judgement.

Khyber police still clueless about journalist's killers

KHYZER: The Khyber police are yet to find any tangible clue to the killers of journalist Khalid Jibran despite lapse of three weeks since his murder took place.

Speaking to reporters at the Shah Khas Police Training Centre here the other day, district police officer Saleem Abbas Kulachi said that the investigation team had so far investigated 13-14 suspects, but it was not yet to reach a conclusion about the actual identity of the assailants.

"The issue is of a grave nature, and the police are seeking in close coordination with other law enforcement agencies in order to make a breakthrough," he said. He expressed his optimism about finding a clue to the identity of the armed attackers as the police had increased patrolling of the area where Jibran was assassinated on June 28.

He said that increased police patrolling had helped alleviate fear among the common people and enhanced their trust on the police.

DPO Kulachi also talked about threatening letters issued to some policemen, local elders and at least four journalists, and insisted that he could not verify the authenticity of the letters issued by comparatively new militant groups, Lashkari Al-Jihad and Charawat Hind. — Correspondent

CHEHLUM

*My Lord, Have Mercy Upon them as they brought me up (When I was) small,
Say, surely my prayers and my sacrifice, and my life, and my death
are for Allah, the Lord of the worlds.*

Our Dearest, most Beloved, most Perfect Father

MIAN ASAM HAMID

passed away on Thursday, June 13, 2024

His Chehlum will be on Saturday, 13th July 2024

Quran Khwani at 05:00 P.M &
DUA at 06:00 P.M

Location: 291 Peshawar Road, Rawalpindi

Bereaved Family:

Yasir Hamid	0302-8444220
Nasir Hamid	0300-8568815
Zainab & Ail Saeed	
Hajira Hamid	

058-PT

چھوٹا خاندان خوشحال پاکستان

محکمہ بہبود آبادی پنجاب کا عزم پیہم

سنگی فاؤنڈیشن

تعلیمی سرگرمیاں

صحت کی دیکھ بھال

سماجی سرگرمیاں

عورتوں کی سرگرمیاں

نوجوانوں کی سرگرمیاں

بزرگوں کی سرگرمیاں

(ISB-G) | 058-PT | SPL-752