



Nawaz calls on SC to 'rethink' judgements

- Acknowledges burden on citizens amid soaring electricity bills
- Punjab information minister terms PTI's existence a threat to Pakistan's integrity, sovereignty

By Zulfikar Tahir

LAHORE: PML-N President Nawaz Sharif on Saturday urged the Supreme Court judges to reconsider their decision to ban his party.

Speaking during a Punjab government meeting on the solar programme alongside his daughter, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Mr Sharif referred to the apex court's ruling in the reserved seats case, urging the judiciary to focus on the welfare of the masses.

"These giving decisions, like the case in the reserved seats case, need to rethink as they must take care of people," he said.

The former prime minister recalled the Supreme Court's role in the Panama Papers case in 2017, which led to his removal from office after PTI leader Imran Khan filed a petition.

"A man (Imran Khan) roaming the roads was written to the Supreme Court for justice, which ultimately led to my ouster. Why was this justice done to the country?" Mr Sharif questioned.

On the issue of soaring electricity bills, Mr Sharif acknowledged the financial burden on the population. "No one can pay the electricity bill, it has become a burden on everyone. By 2017, bills were lower, and

it was the dollar rate. Since 2018, the poor have suffered greatly," he noted, promising his party would take all possible measures to provide relief to citizens.

Nawaz Sharif has maintained a low profile since his party failed to secure a majority in the controversial Feb 8 polls, and his younger brother, Shehbaz

in parliament and elsewhere. She warned the judges of severe consequences for attempts to destabilise the country.

"The Supreme Court's decision (in the reserved seats case) is an attempt to destabilise the country. The judges who delivered this verdict have, in fact, sold their consciences," she alleged. "Decisions should be based on law and the Constitution, not personal biases."

She warned, "I want to tell the judges of the Supreme Court, let this country function smoothly. We will not allow you to disrupt its progress. Anyone who attempts to do so will be dealt with firmly."

On Saturday, Punjab Information Minister Ahsan Bokhari also criticised the judges, declaring that those supporting the May 9 verdict would be seen as facilitators.

"There is no place in Pakistani politics for the rioters and terrorists of May 9. Anyone standing with them will be considered an accomplice and no constitutional facilitator will be tolerated anymore," Mr Bokhari said in a statement.

She said the existence of a party (PTI) that had become a threat to Pakistan's integrity and sovereignty was intolerable.



DHAKA: Bangladeshi soldiers disembark armoured vehicles as they patrol the streets to disperse the protesters, on Saturday.—AFP

Army patrols streets as BD police fire on curfew violators

- Week-long violence has left at least 115 dead • 150 cops hospitalised
- Hasina conceals foreign trips

DHAKA: Soldiers patrolled Bangladesh's streets on Saturday to quell growing civil unrest sparked by student demonstrations, with riot police firing on protesters who defied a curfew.

This week's violence has killed at least 115 people so far, according to a count of victims reported by police and hospitals, and poses a momentous challenge to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's autocratic government after 15 years in office.

A curfew went into effect on Friday midnight and the premier's office asked the military to deploy troops after police again failed to subdue widespread mayhem.

"The army has been deployed nationwide to control the law and order situation," an armed forces spokesman said.

Streets of the capital Dhaka were

almost deserted at daybreak, with troops on foot and in armoured personnel carriers patrolling the sprawling metropolis of 20 million.

Thousands returned to the streets later in the day in the residential neighbourhood of Bampora, with police firing live rounds at the crowd and wounding one person.

All Pakistani students in Bangladesh safe: FO — Page 12

"Our backs are to the wall," protester Nazrul Islam, 52, said at the scene. "There's anarchy going on in the country... They are shooting at people like birds."

Hospitals have reported a growing number of deaths.

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Panel defers 'N' review petition as CJP seeks early hearing

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: A three-judge committee formed under the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 has decided that the PML-N's petition to recall the July 12 court order in the reserved seats case will be addressed after the summer recess to ensure the availability of all 13 judges involved in the original ruling at the principal seat in Islamabad.

SJC moved for removal of CRC, ECP members: Page 5

However, the minutes of the 17th meeting of the committee, held on July 18, suggested that Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, dissented from the majority opinion filed by senior justice judge Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Muzib Akhtar.

On a separate note, the CJP emphasised that the right to review, as provided by the Constitution, should take precedence over the convenience of judges on leave or vacation.

Justice Isa argued that judges, having sworn to uphold the Constitution, should prioritise urgent hearings of review petitions, even if it necessitated the reopening of the court or the cancelling of vacations.

Conversely, Justice Shah and Justice Akhtar, supporting the majority

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Imran rules out talks with PPP for no-trust move against govt

By Malik Asad

RAWALPINDI: Former prime minister Imran Khan has ruled out talks with PPP to topple the government through a no-confidence motion in the National Assembly.

While talking to journalists after the hearing of the 150 million pounds corruption reference on Saturday, the PTI founder called the PPP — which is part of the ruling coalition led by the PML-N — "a product of Form-47".

"I should talk with the PPP for no-confidence motion if I intend to form a government," Mr Khan said, and ruled out any such move as "holding of free and fair elections were the only solution to bring the country out of the crisis".

While talking about the government's plan to ban PTI, he said the move was tantamount to "slaughtering the democracy". "The

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ON OTHER PAGES



Parents get Dua Zehra's custody

A family court has permanently handed over the custody of Dua Zehra to her parents. She was reportedly kidnapped from Karachi and married in Punjab in 2022. Welfare of the minor is best served by placing her permanent custody with her biological parents until she reaches the age of majority, the court said. It also directed the parents to refrain from causing any harm to her. Page 13

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KP forms body to reach Bannu commission consensus

- Tarar says PTI govt has 'no right' to investigate incident
- Opposition alliance seeks judicial probe; plans to hold rally on Friday
- Bannu sit-in demands accountability, action against 'good' and 'bad' Taliban for peace

By Umar Farooq, Ghulam Mursalin Marwat and Ikram Jureidi

ISLAMABAD / LAKE MARWAT / PESHAWAR: As an opposition alliance at the Centre led by the PTI demanded a judicial commission to investigate the shooting which killed one person and injured almost two dozen at the Bannu peace rally, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government led by the party leader Ali Amin Gandapur on Saturday formed a committee to check up on feasibility for the commission it announced to probe the firing at the protest.

On the other hand, the federal government said the KP government

should have no right to investigate the violence at the peace rally because the ruling party's 'own supporters' were involved in the incident.

Civil unrest: Editorial on Page 6

Chief Minister's aide Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said the committee comprising the peace march organisers, police, and the district administration officials would be formed to evolve a consensus on the formation of the proposed commission.

"Initially, we will form a committee. They will devise a plan and later a commission would be formed in consultation

with the same committee members to probe the incident," Barrister Saif told Dawn. He said, "Whatever the commission will do will be done in consultation with these committee members."

In an earlier statement issued by his office, the CM's adviser said that the commission would identify those responsible for the Bannu incident. Barrister Saif said CM Gandapur was "monitoring" the situation in Bannu and was in close contact with the district administration.

The statement also said that the chief minister had formed a jirga comprising members from the district administration, and political and local elites. "The situation was controlled and

peace restored after the jirga was formed," the statement quoted the chief minister's aide as saying.

The adviser said the committee was formed to devise a strategy for durable peace in the area and put a stop to such incidents in future, adding that the report of the commission would also be made public. "The unfortunate incident occurred at a sensitive place (in Bannu Cantonment) where a suicide attack had taken place," he said, adding that security always remained on high alert at sensitive places.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar took exception to the announcement of

Continued on Page 5

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Courts urged to stop PTI social media activists' abduction

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has launched a social media campaign seeking attention of the superior courts towards abductions of its social media activists and their close relatives across the country.

The party has posted pictures of its 10 social media activists, including its international media coordinator Ahmed Waqas Jarjua who was picked up in west hours of Saturday from his residence in Islamabad. Mr Jarjua has also been a media adviser of PTI founder Imran Khan.

The PTI has also posted a CCTV footage of Ahmed Waqas Jarjua's enforced disappearance by persons in plainclothes and police officials.

"The judiciary has a job to do, and that is to prevent Pakistan from becoming a lawless territory,"

the PTI tweeted from its official X handle and urged the judiciary to protect Pakistan and its citizens. PTI leader Syed Zulfi Bukhari tweeted that Jarjua and three other social media activists were abducted early Saturday morning. During the past two weeks, he stated, there had been a serious crackdown on party's social media activists.

"Since the social media team was constantly doing international reporting of all the atrocities taking place in Pakistan, now my team is being abducted along with others. This continuous deterioration of basic human rights won't be allowed to continue for long," he stated.

PTI's Punjab general secretary Hameed Azhar stated that a panel of senior lawyers had been constituted which would take up the matter of enforced disappearance of party's social media activists.

He said the unrepresentative mindset of the incumbent rulers and their sponsors was fast deteriorating the political scene in the country.

"There will be no use of venting their anger on the abducted social media activists. Release them," Mr Azhar stated.

The PTI has posted pictures of 10 social media activists and close relatives, who have been abducted from their residences by plainclothesmen.

They are international media coordinator Ahmed Waqas Jarjua, PTI coordinator Malik Riazwan Ahmad and his brother Malik Nauman Ahmad, social media activists Atiqur Rehman, Farid Malik, Malik Farhan and Madhwar Chaudhry, PTI leader Shahbaz Gill's brother Ghulam Shahbaz, social media activist Adnan Mashtani's brother Zahoor Mashtani and Mashtan Mashtani.

Physical remand LHC to hear Imran's plea tomorrow

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A Lahore High Court (LHC) division bench will hear on Monday a petition of PTI founding chairman Imran Khan challenging his 10-day physical remand in 12 cases of May 9 riots, including the attack on the corps commander house.

The bench comprises Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh and Justice Anwarul Haq Parasit.

The petition filed through barrister Salman Sabharwal stated that on July 15, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) had granted Imran Khan's custody to police in a hearing, which he attended on a WhatsApp video call from Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi.

It stated that the order issued by the ATC was tantamount to misreading established principles of the law of remand and urged the court to set it aside for being unlawful.

The petition said the remand was unjustifiable as the sole allegation against the petitioner was of absence and conspiracy and his participation in the investigation was not required as the FIR was silent about his specific role.

It further said the prosecution didn't arrest the petitioner for more than a year after May 9, 2023, even when his whereabouts were known

to the police authorities as he was in custody of the state at Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi.

The petition said the FIR contained allegations related to public protests following Mr Khan's arrest and when the said offences for which he had been charged occurred, he was absolutely incommunicado as he was in the unlawful custody of National Accountability Bureau.

The trial judge was informed that the petitioner's physical remand would not serve any useful purpose as he was alleged by only an abettor and was not present on the scene, the petition added.

QJee's bail plea dismissed

An anti-terrorism court on Saturday dismissed the bail petition of incarcerated PTI Senator Ejaz Chaudhry in a case of torching police vehicles near Rahat Bakery in the aftermath of the May 9 riots.

During the hearing, a prosecutor opposed the bail and presented evidence against the PTI leader. He read a post of the senator made on X, formerly Twitter, saying the suspect incited his party workers to violence. He asked the court to dismiss the bail petition.

A lawyer for the senator contended that the petitioner was wrongly implicated in the case. He said the petitioner was not even present

at the alleged occurrence.

After hearing both sides, Judge Khalid Arshad dismissed the petition of Senator Ejaz Chaudhry, who is in jail for alleged involvement in multiple cases related to the May 9 riots.

Narwar Road police had registered the case against leaders and workers of the PTI on charges of torching police vehicles near Rahat Bakery during the violent protests on May 9, 2023, following the arrest of former premier Imran Khan in a graft case by the NAB.

Separately, Judge Khalid Arshad dismissed the pre-arrest bail of former federal minister Faisal Chaudhry, MPA Farhat Abbas, and others in a case of torching police vehicles near Lahore's corps commander residence. The judge gave a last opportunity to the investigating officer to complete the investigation report at the next hearing.

The judge observed that the court would decide the bail petitions on merits if the police failed to submit their investigation report at the next hearing.

The judge adjourned the pre-arrest bail of the suspects till Aug 7.

The judge also adjourned the bail petitions of PTI Punjab President Dr Yasmin Rashid, former governor Umar Sarfaraz Cheema, and former provincial minister Mian Mahmood-ud-Din in the cases of the May 9 violence.



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Al Qaeda leader remanded in CTD custody for three days

By Wassam Ashraf Butt

GUJRAT: An Anti-Terrorism Court in Gujranwala on Saturday awarded a three-day physical remand of Dr Arshad Haq, an Afghan national and believed to be 'low-rank' of Al Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden, who had been arrested by the Counter Terrorism Department from Sara-i-Ahleghir town of Gujrat district on Friday.

A joint investigation team of CTD produced Dr Haq, the former security officer of Al Qaeda chief, in a local ATC and sought the physical remand of the suspect for further investigation.

An official of the team informed the court that the suspect had been

arrested during a raid in Sara-i-Ahleghir and a case was lodged against him with CTD Gujranwala police station under different sections of ATA 1997.

He told the court that the CTD had to further investigate the suspect about his other accomplices as well as to ascertain the facts about how he had managed to get the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) of Pakistan while being an Afghan national.

He also said that the suspect had been planning to conduct more terrorist activities in Pakistan as weapons were also recovered from him. However, the court handed over the suspect to the CTD on three-day physical remand.

The CTD official said the authori-

ties had constituted a joint investigation team comprising at least six senior officials from various intelligence and law-enforcement agencies to investigate the suspect.

Strict security measures were made in and around the Gujranwala ATC.

Dr Arshad had been included in the list of global terrorists issued by the UN since 2001.

A CTD official told reporters outside the court that the Nadra staffers, who had helped Dr Haq in the issuance of his CNIC around 12 years ago, would also be traced and the Nadra authorities would be recommended to take action against those officials as per law and departmental rules.

Residents endure long outage due to fault in Kot Lakhpat grid

By Khalid Hashain

LAHORE: A large population in various city localities had to put up with power outage for several hours, including the entire Friday night, due to a fault in the 220kV Kot Lakhpat grid station.

Though the engineering teams tried hard to engineer the grid station in the shortest time, they failed to do so. "We spent the entire night without light in hot and humid weather. We also tried hard to contact the respective area office of Lenco but no one answered calls," says a resident of Attari Saroba.

"The Lenco officers should at least send the officials deputed to receive calls from the complainants," the annoyed consumer said.

Similar complaints were reported from other localities. According to a consumer, a resident of a locality

near Attari Darbar, power supply was restored for a while during night hours. But, it again broke down. "We, after two hours, came to know that a major fault developed at grid station caused power suspension in our area," he said.

According to a spokesman for the Lahore electric supply company, the fault developed at a transformer of Kot Lakhpat grid station at about 12am, causing suspension of power supply for hours in several localities receiving electricity from 11kV feeders namely Hamon Town, Bahkhi, Hassan Sadq, Anand, Attari Darbar, Saroba and Industrial 1.

The spokesman said the teams restored power supply at about 4pm. But, another fault occurred at the grid (triple fault) on Friday night. "The teams again rushed to rectify the fault and succeeded in getting it removed at 11am on Saturday," he

maintained.

Meanwhile, the Lenco management on Saturday suspended from service its two officials on account of corruption.

According to spokesman, Assistant Ghulam Muhammad (Tajpora sub-station) and motor worker Khalid Zaman (Cavalry Ground) were suspended from service. On the other hand, Lenco teams detected another 500 connections from where the consumers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana, Kamur and Okara) on the 194th day of anti-power theft campaign.

The Lenco spokesman told the media on Saturday that the company has also submitted applications against electricity thieves, out of which 372 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 21 suspects have been arrested by the respective police.



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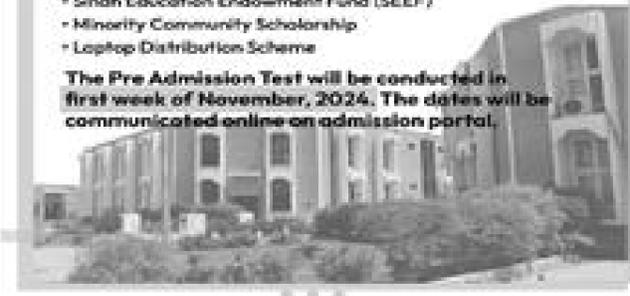
JI demands forensic audit of IPPs

By Our Staff Reporter

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LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) emir Hafiz Nawazur Rehman has demanded a forensic audit of independent power producers (IPPs) and the public disclosure of their agreements.

He said that the JI sit-in in Islamabad, scheduled for July 25, would not conclude until the government provides relief to the masses.

In a statement issued from Marseekhah on Saturday, Mr Rehman said that the majority of the IPPs are owned by those currently in government. He said that a few ruling families are exploiting the masses and transferring their money to foreign countries.

According to Mr Rehman, people are paying billions in capacity charges to IPP owners every month, with some IPPs being paid without producing a single unit of electricity.

Mr Rehman said that the present tariff in Pakistan is 18 cents, compared to 4 cents in China and 8 cents in India. He said that there are more than a dozen types of taxes included in electricity bills. Furthermore, he criticized the government for raising subsidies on gas bills and increasing the petrol levy to Rs70 per litre. He said the ruling elite enjoys free electricity, petrol, and gas.

He condemned the government for imposing massive taxes on the salaried class in the recent budget while exempting the civil and military business crony. He also noted that feudal lords in Pakistan never pay taxes.

Mr Rehman said that the JI sit-in is being held for the rights of the people and against this injustice. He said that the sit-in would continue until the government provides relief in terms of electricity and ends unjust taxes.

The JI has no objection to any political party joining the sit-in and assured that the protest would be peaceful. He appealed to the masses to join the sit-in for their rights.

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Poliovirus cripples another child in Balochistan

Hangu added to list of districts with positive environmental samples

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: Another child has been paralysed by polio in the Zhoib district of Balochistan, bringing this year's total number of polio cases to nine.

Also, sewage samples from one new district, Hangu, and six previously infected districts have tested positive for wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1). With the latest addition, the number of districts where poliovirus has been found in the environment samples has jumped to 21.

This development comes shortly after Pakistan's health team participated in the Independent Monitoring Board meeting in Geneva, where they assured that all possible steps would be taken to eradicate the virus.

According to the National Institute of Health, wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) was detected in the samples collected from an 18-month-old child in the Hassan Zai union council of Zhoib district. The affected child developed weakness in their legs, and subsequent testing of samples

collected from them were positive for WPV1. Genetic sequencing of the isolated virus is currently underway.

Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Bharrat said poliovirus has now affected nine children, seven of them in Balochistan alone.

"The re-emergence of poliovirus in this region is highly concerning and the government is focusing on implementing high quality polio vaccination campaigns and improving routine vaccination rates to boost children's immunity," he added.

PM's local person on polio eradication Ayazul Haq said the virus has been found in over 50 districts, making it a constant threat for children, particularly those with weak immunity due to missing vaccination. "Polio has no cure, the only way to protect children is through repeated doses of the oral polio vaccine," she said, urging parents to vaccinate all children under the age of five against polio.

"This is the ninth polio case of the year from Pakistan, seventh from Balochistan and first from Zhoib in over four years," she said.

Muhammad Arsalan Haq, coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication, said the polio pro-

gramme was focused on finding populations that may have been missed in polio campaigns and making sure that they received the protective vaccine. "We have already conducted six polio campaigns this year and are continuing to implement strategies to keep children protected," he said.

Also, the regional reference laboratory for polio eradication at the National Institute of Health notified that environmental samples collected from Hangu, Karachi's Karami area, Chaman, Pishin, Hyderabad, Jamshoro and Larkana contained WPV1.

All positive samples are genetically linked to the YB1A genetic cluster of WPV1, which has been detected in all positive cases and sewage samples reported this year.

Just this week a delegation from Pakistan at a meeting of the Independent Board meeting of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) assured that the Pakistan Polio Programme was determined to deal with the re-emergence of wild poliovirus in the country and was implementing a comprehensive plan to interrupt poliovirus transmission.

The meeting held in Geneva from July 15-19 reviewed global polio eradication progress, including progress in polio-endemic countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan.



MULTAN: Labourers load iron sheets onto a truck at Loha Market, on Saturday.—APP

PM urges UN to implement ruling against Israeli actions

Congratulates climber Naila Kiani on her latest achievement

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday welcomed the historic International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling on Israel's illegal actions in Palestinian territories.

"The ICJ ruling that Israel must end its occupation & illegal settlements is a vindication of the legitimate struggle of the brave Palestinian people," said a post on PM's official X account.

He urged the international community and United Nations to implement the ruling, ensuring Palestinian self-determination through a two-state solution in line with relevant UN resolutions. "Proud that Pakistan contributed to the case, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause," he added.

The UN's top court on Friday ruled

that Israel's decades-long occupation of Palestinian territory was "illegal" and needed to end as soon as possible.

The ICJ's statement, called an "advisory opinion", is not binding, but it comes amid mounting concern over the death toll and destruction in Israel's war against Hamas sparked by the group's Oct 7 attack.

Naila Kiani calls on PM

Meanwhile, mountaineer Naila Kiani called on the premier who congratulated her on becoming the first Pakistani woman to conquer 15 peaks of over 8,000 metres.

PM Shehbaz commended her work as an honorary ambassador for education and her efforts to promote professional training in the field of mountaineering. He said the government was determined to provide equal opportunities to all women.

Ms Kiani thanked him for his focus on women's development and proposed proposals for specialised training in the mountaineering sector.—APP

'N' women leaders seek reserved seats order review

ISLAMABAD: Three women leaders of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawan, who were elected on reserved seats, have filed a joint petition against the Supreme Court order on reserved seats in the case filed by Sana Ullah-Council.

In their review petition against the July 12 majority judgement by the full bench of the apex court, PML-N leaders Huma Akhtar Chughtai, Mahjabeen Akhbar and Syeda Ameer Barood argued that the decision, issued without their presence, violated their rights and ignored key provisions of the Elections Act, 2017.—Nour Iqbal

GB court stops FBR, Customs from taxing imports through Khunjerab

Judge notes region is exempt from taxes on imported items

By Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: The income tax, sales tax and additional sales tax collected by revenue authorities on goods imported from China through the Khunjerab Pass is illegal, the Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Court declared on Friday.

The court stopped the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Customs from collecting these taxes.

The order was issued by Justice Sajid Shaukat Ahmad on a petition filed by GB Importers and Exporters Association president Muhammad Iqbal through his counsel.

The trader challenged the taxes collected at the Sost Dry Port on Chinese goods imported through the Khunjerab Pass.

The petitioners said the FBR, through a 1996 notification—which is still operational—had suspended the collection of sales tax on imported goods in GB.

He also referred to the subsequent orders by the GB Council Secretariat in Islamabad, the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and the GB law department, which declared the region exempt from these taxes.

Still, the FBR and Customs were "illegally" collecting these taxes in violation of their authority, the petitioner pleaded.

Following the proceedings, Justice Ahmad issued a short order and admitted the petition for regular hearing.

He noted that GB was indeed exempted from all kinds of taxes, and the issue has been decided by courts in the past.

The petition will now be fixed for hearing after summer vacations.

While talking to Dawn, Advocate Adnan Hussain, one of the petitioner's lawyers, said federal and

regional authorities had issued several notifications exempting GB from sales tax, income tax, and additional sales tax.

Additionally, the region's chief court has already decided that GB is exempted from these taxes.

"Despite [these] exemptions, FBR has been illegally collecting and deducting the taxes from GB traders on imported items from China at Sost Dry port," he added.

"Mr Iqbal, the petitioner, said GB traders were ready to pay the custom duty and other taxes, but they will continue their struggle against "all illegal taxes at Sost Dry port".

The discontent among GB traders over these taxes has already resulted in numerous strikes and halting of trade activities in the region since April, with the latest strike earlier this month.

Earlier in June, the GB Assembly also passed a resolution demanding the federal government stop collecting taxes on goods imported from China through the Khunjerab Pass.

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Week-long wet spell from tomorrow: Met Office

RAWALPINDI The Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast a week-long wet spell in different parts of the country from tomorrow (Monday).

It asked the local administrations to make arrangements to deal with any possible emergency situation.

According to a weather advisory, the Met Office said strong monsoon currents were likely to penetrate from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal into upper parts of the country from July 22. Under the influence of this weather system, rain with thunderstorm (with few heavy falls) are expected in Kashmir (Neelum valley, Muzaffargarh, Rawalakot, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sothian, Koh, Mirpur, Mirpur) from July 21 (evening) to July 27 with occasional gaps.

Rain, with thunderstorm (with few heavy falls) are also expected in Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Mirpur, Gallian, Attock, Chakwal, Talagang, Jhelum, Mianwali, Rahowalia, Dajal, Gujranwala, Hafiznagar, Wazirabad, Lahore, Sheikhpura, Sukkur, Narowal, Sahiwal, Bahawal, Toba Tek Singh, Narokata, Bahawal, Chiniot, Faisalabad, Okara, Pakpattan, Kasur, Khushk, Sangolli, Bhakkar and Muzaffargarh from July 22 to 25 with occasional gaps.

Rain with thunderstorm is expected in Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Khushk, Lodhran, Muzaffargarh, Kot Addu, Rajapur, Bahawalpur and Layyah on July 21 and July 24.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, rain with thunderstorm (with few heavy falls) are expected in Dir, Chitral, Swat, Kohistan, Malakand, Bajaur, Shangha, Baragram, Buner, Kohat, Bajaur, Mardan, Khyber,

Manshera, Abbottabad, Hattian, Peshawar, Swabi, Nowshera, Mardan, Charsadda, Hangu, Korrora, Orakzai, Waziristan, Bannu, Lakki Marwat and Dera Ismail Khan from July 22 (evening) to July 24.

Mainly hot and humid weather is expected in most districts of Balochistan. Rain with thunderstorm is expected in north/western parts of the province including Khuzdar, Kallar, Ladhak, Awaran, Ziarat, Zhob, Barkhan, Mirsai Khel, Shirani, Kohlu, Barma, Nasirabad and Jaffarabad with occasional gaps.

In Sindh, mainly hot and very humid weather is expected in most districts while rain with thunderstorm is expected in Mirhi, Sanghar, Unarok, Tharparkar, Mirpur Khas, Sukkur, Larkana and Dado on July 23 and 24 with occasional gaps.

Partly cloudy to cloudy weather conditions are expected in Gilgit-Baltistan. However, rain is expected in Diamir, Astore, Skardu, Gilgit, Chusote, Shigar from July 22 to July 27.

The advisory said heavy falls may generate flash flooding in hills/slopes of Mirpur, Gallian, Manshera, Kohistan, Malakand, Dir Swat, Shangha, Bannu, Korrora, Orakzai, Khyber, Mohmand, Nowshera, Swabi and Kashmir on July 21 and 24. Heavy falls may cause urban flooding in low-lying areas of Punjab and KP on July 23 and 24. Landslides may disrupt roads at the vulnerable hilly areas of KP, Mirpur, Gallian, Kohistan and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Travelers and tourists are advised to remain extra cautious and manage their travel plans according to the weather conditions to avoid any untoward situation during the wet spell.—Staff Reporter

Army's advice sought on Leh Nullah project

RDA unable to pick a proposal for the project initially launched in 2007

By Aamir Yasir

RAWALPINDI The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) has sought technical advice from the Pakistan Army's Engineering Branch after it failed to pick a revised proposal to mitigate flooding in the watercourse and construct a road beside the nullah for an alternative route between Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

According to an RDA official, advice from the military was sought on the recommendation of the Divisional Development Working Party (DDWP) as there were three proposals for the development of Leh Nullah.

These proposals include a Rs444 million flood mitigation and road component project, a Rs1.1 billion project to turn the nullah into an eco-friendly, cost-effective resource through a hybrid solution, and a Rs1.5 billion project which envisages the construction of a flood channel from Ammar Chank and Kattarian Bridge along with the Leh Expressway.

For the past year and a half, the RDA could not consider a proposal despite discussions at different forums and that was why the advice was sought from the army, which was also a stakeholder in this project. Sharing background about the Leh

Expressway project — that included land acquisition — devised in 2007 for Rs20 billion, the cost was supposed to be split between the federal and the Punjab governments, but the project was stalled at the initial stage due to funding problems. It was eventually wrapped up in Nov 2010 by the Punjab government. Subsequently, the project was revamped on the public-private partnership (PPP) mode for Rs100 billion and its scale was extended from the Kattarian Bridge on I.J.P. Road to the Lahore High Court building on the G.T. Road.

A transaction advisory consultant M/s NESPAK/EPMS/Axis Law was hired on December 7, 2019 for the preparation of the project proposal on the PPP mode. However due to the non-availability of the project on the PPP mode, the mode of financing was shifted to the Annual Development Programme and accordingly, the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) authority designated the project from the PPP mode January 14, 2023, he said.

In Dec 2023, the PC-II for the land acquisition and structure compensation was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council and the administrative approval was issued on Jan 19, 2024.

Only a year later, the Punjab government decided that the cost of the project required a large amount of funds and it was decided in March 2023 that the RDA would only take up the sewerage component of the project and drop the Expressway which required hefty funds for the acquisition of land.

During the meetings attended by all stakeholders, including the Cantt administrations and the Engineer-in-Chief Branch of the army, the need for a feasibility study was stressed for optimal utilization of resources and capital cost.

Subsequently, the RDA prepared the PC-II amounting to Rs48,920 million, which was approved in the Punjab Development Working Party meeting on January 19, 2024.

The administrative approval was issued in May 2024 by the Housing, Urban Development and Public Health Engineering Department. Meanwhile, a note to the Planning and Development Board chairman was also initiated on March 22, 2024, with the request to hire a consultancy under direct contracting with the government agencies. The chairman declined the proposal and said that the consultant should be hired through competitive bidding.

Furthermore, a series of meetings were held in April 2024 at the commissioner's office wherein it was decided that instead of taking up only a single component in the PC-II, flood mitigation and road components should also be made part of PC-II. The road under this proposal is from Muzaffargarh to Kattarian Bridge and also includes a sewage treatment plant.

Accordingly, the RDA prepared additional TORs along with the revised PC-II amounting to Rs54,420 million and submitted it to the Housing, Urban Development and Public Health Engineering Department where it was still under consideration.

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PM wants IT park completed before deadline

ISLAMABAD Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed the project team of Islamabad Technology Park and the information technology ministry to complete the project within the current year (instead of the set deadline of June 2025).

The prime minister, during his visit to the under-construction site of the country's largest technology park, said the project was launched in 2022 during the PDM coalition government and the contract was awarded to a South Korean company.

He said the project was being completed at a cost of Rs25 billion out of which \$70 million (soft loan) was being provided by the South Korean government.

"Soon after taking charge of my office, I issued directions to continue work on the project round the clock," he said, adding as the chief minister Punjab he had introduced the system of 24 hours work on development projects.

Expressing satisfaction over the progress of work on the project, he asked the project management to try their best to complete the project by September or October this year.

He said after completion of the project, some 120 offices of different companies would be established in the park.

Similarly, he said, an incubation centre with 15 offices and startups would also be part of the technology park with a business support centre where legal marketing and financial support facilities would be provided.

Around 10,000 productive jobs would be created in the IT park for skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

The prime minister said that as a result of the construction of the IT park, the country's exports would be increased by around \$70 million per year.

He said a level three data centre — one of the highest and first ever in Pakistan, would be established in the IT park.

He said the technology park would create synergy between domestic and foreign academia, researchers, industry and planners.

He vowed to replicate such projects in other parts of the country with cooperation of the provincial governments.—APP

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SJC moved for removal of CEC, ECP members

Complaint filed by PTI Sindh president, others in wake of SC decision on reserved seats

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: A complaint was filed before the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on Saturday seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja and four members of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The complaint has been filed by Haleem Aftab Sheikh, retired Justice Nazim Haq Qureshi and MPA Mahamood Shahid through Barrister Ali Tahir stating that an irregularity be commenced and the com-

plaint be disposed expeditiously. The complaint alleged that the July 12 order of the Supreme Court has held that the ECP used powers in violation of the Constitution with malice and made a skewed interpretation of the Jan 13 judgement of denying election symbol of 'hat' to the PTI.

Thus, ECP members misdirected themselves in law, the complaint stated, adding that voters had been deprived of the most fundamental right to participate in the governance of the state through their chosen representatives.

According to the complaint, people were being governed allegedly by an "unaffected government" in violation of the Constitution and their fundamental rights.

They were victims of the wrongful exercise of the public powers and reckless disregard for duties

imposed under the Constitution and statutes upon the respondent ECP, it stated.

The complaint alleged that the CEC had taken oath under Article 214, read with the Third Schedule to the Constitution, but over 1.25 million registered voters were deprived of their right.

"When the transgressors and those responsible for wrongful exercise of public powers become unaccountable, it creates impunity for even the most serious infringement of the Constitution and the freedoms and rights of the people."

"Such impunity renders the Constitution unworkable and a farce," the complaint said, adding such impunity for deprivation of constitutional rights and serious violations of the Constitution should be checked at all costs.

Panel defers 'N' review petition

Continued from Page 1

view, cited Order 26, Rule 8 of the Supreme Court Rules 1980, which mandates that review petitions be presented before the same 13-judge bench that initially heard the case. Given the ongoing summer vacations and the absence of many judges, they recommended scheduling the hearing post-summer recess.

They also pointed out that review petitions could not proceed until the detailed judgement on reserved seats was released, which was still awaited.

Justice Akhtar also contended that summer vacations were provided under Order 2 of Rule 3, which suggested that the judicial year of the court will commence on the second Monday in September

each year and continue until the start of vacations the next year.

Likewise, Rule 4 provides that the Supreme Court's summer vacations will begin on June 15 or on such date as may be fixed each year by the CJJ and notified in the gazette.

"Irresponsible loss"

In his dissenting note, CJJ has referred to the review petition seeking the suspension of the July 12 order with a plea that the balance of convenience lies in favour of the petitioner and if the operation of the order under review was not suspended, the petitioner will suffer irreparable loss.

CJJ has said that the July 12 verdict was by a majority of eight to five and the detailed reasons of the order by the majority was awaited. If the urgent applications were

not granted and the review petition was not filed in the court before the expiry of the stipulated 15 days, as granted by the majority judgement to 41 members who contested the Feb 8 general elections as independent candidates, the review petition will become infructuous.

The CJJ said Section 7 of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 stipulates that an application pending urgency or seeking interim relief should be filed for hearing within 14 days from the date of its filing.

Releasing the detailed judgement is a matter within the determination of the judges themselves, the CJJ observed, adding that it was an established jurisprudential principle that no one's right can be adversely affected on

account of an act of the court, which in the present case was the court's overruling.

If such a scenario was accepted, it would be equally valid that detailed reasons are purposely delayed or never provided and thus render the Constitution, which provides for a review petition and the law which mandates urgent hearing, utterly meaningless, he said.

The CJJ also highlighted that 26 months have elapsed, but the review petition against the interpretation of Article 32A of the Constitution has not been decided. Therefore, the same should be fixed for hearing in the next 10-days-before-a-bench in which Justice Shah, Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Aminuddin Khan should also be members.

KP forms body to reach Bannu commission consensus

Continued from Page 1

the KP government and alleged the people from the PTI were involved in the protest; therefore, the government should not have the right to investigate the incident. He said their people were involved in the protest so how could they do justice, according to a report in Jang newspaper.

The minister claimed that the situation was coming back to normal but some political forces allegedly wanted to take advantage of the situation and paint it in a different colour.

The information minister said a terrorism incident on July 15 took place in Bannu Cantonment and traders started to organise a protest rally against terrorism but some political forces tried to spoil the march.

While talking to reporters after the hearing of the corruption reference in Adiala jail on Saturday, PTI leader Imran Khan also condemned the violence in Bannu

and demanded a judicial probe. **Bannu sit-in**

On Saturday, people staged a sit-in at Mastura Abdul Sattar Chowk in Bannu city and demanded a cross-board accountability as well as an action against 'good and bad Taliban' for the restoration of peace in the region. They also sought medical facilities for the persons wounded in Friday's firing.

The sit-in was attended by people from the neighbouring Lakki Marwat district and other areas to show solidarity with the people of Bannu and their demand for peace in the district.

An elder from Lakki Marwat and JUI-F leader Manzoor Agha Ali told Dawn that his party delegation visited the sit-in to express solidarity with the elders and people of Bannu district. "Our party supports the demand of residents for peace in the area," he said.

PTI demands judicial probe

The Tehreek Talafuz Ayoombi

Pakistan, a group of opposition parties led by the PTI, demanded a judicial commission to probe the Bannu violence. In a meeting chaired by Peshawar-based Milli Awami Party Chairman Muhsin Khan Achakzai, the participants also demanded the release of former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi.

The opposition leaders said the commission should be headed by a serving judge so that it could work without any external pressure and interference.

They also demanded the removal of the KP police chief and the chief secretary for their failure to ensure peace in the province.

They also demanded the government withdraw the increase in electricity and gas bills and curb inflation.

The alliance also announced nationwide protests on Friday (July 26) following the afternoon prayers for the acceptance of their demands, particularly the release of political prisoners, including Mr Khan.

Imran rules out talks with PPP

Continued from Page 1

PTI is already under siege. What more does the government want to do?"

Mr Khan said the ruling elite had compromised the country's interests for their vested interests and never wanted free and fair elections.

Bashir criticises jail officials

Mr Khan also called on Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for free criticism of judges, and said PM-N supported judges when they were "extending relief" to the party.

In response to a question about the imposition of emergency in the country, Mr Khan said Pakistan is

already being governed in the "martial law style" and questioned the efficacy of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which he said was "working above the civil regime".

Meanwhile, Mr Khan's spouse, Bushra Bibi, criticised the jail administration for their alleged discriminatory treatment of her husband.

While talking to reporters after the hearing of the case in which she's a co-accused, Ms Bibi censured PTI's Barrister Naveed Ali Zafar for not attending her call following the arrest of Mr Khan last year.

She said Barrister Zafar enjoyed all protocol in the Adiala Jail, but he "could not even

arrange a mattress for the former premier".

Ms Bibi said she offered prayers after her acquittal in the Muttal case and said she was leaving the jail when a National Accountability Bureau team re-arrested her in a new case.

Case proceedings

Earlier, the defence counsel requested the cross-examination of Mr Khan's former principal secretary, Azam Khan.

Later, Accountability Judge Muhammad Ali Warisakh adjourned further hearing till July 22 when the defence's cross-examination of former ministers Pervez Khattak and Zubaida Jaleel.



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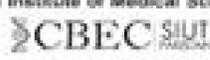
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Civil unrest

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA and Balochistan are smouldering. Civil unrest has rocked the two provinces in recent days, with large protests culminating in violent confrontations between security forces and unarmed protesters in Khuzdar, Quetta and Barren. So far, the protests have focused on various security-related matters in Balochistan, activists have agitated against continuing enforced disappearances, while KP has seen major disturbances over the killing of a poet as well as the Azad-i-Itihaam operation announced recently by the government. However, with the impact of the new taxation regime becoming more pronounced as the first month of the new fiscal year draws to an end, there remains a very real possibility that public dissatisfaction over rising costs of living could also spill into the streets soon. This is a serious challenge for the government, which currently seems to be too preoccupied with legal and political developments to be paying enough attention to the deteriorating law-and-order situation.

What has been happening recently in both KP and Balochistan is important to understand. The protesters agitating in the two provinces have been sending a similar, clear message to the state: we have had enough. Be it the state's long-condemned policy of disappearing citizens for extrajudicial "punishments" or security operations that end up inflicting immense costs on ordinary citizens; the people are now intent on pushing back and regaining greater control over their lives. In Balochistan, where years of brutal repression by the state have followed out the provincial political structure, it is women who are increasingly taking centre stage and taking the fight for civil rights forward. In KP, one of the key recruiting grounds for military forces, ordinary people are now adamantly insisting on peace and refusing any further part in Pakistan's long wars. Unless the state lends its people a sympathetic ear, these troubles will continue to grow.

It is most unfortunate that the country's democratic political system has been viciously undermined over the past few years. The parliamentary structure is supposed to act as a pressure release valve for public frustrations by giving people's representatives a platform to share their grievances. Instead, it has been gradually distorted to the point that it now seems to represent the will of the few, instead of the aspirations of the many. There is, consequently, little faith in either its legitimacy or ability to solve ordinary people's problems. Faraway Bangladesh, which is currently witnessing a massive public uprising led by students, is one example of what can happen when adverse economic conditions collide with entrenched sociopolitical dissatisfaction. Pakistan cannot continue to sleepwalk through its crises. The government must start putting out fires instead of fanning more flames. This necessarily entails allowing the public to make itself heard. More suppression may only result in a bigger explosion of discontent.

Grave concerns

PUNJAB Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's open assault on the Supreme Court for ruling in favour of the PTI in the reserved seats case came as a shock. Although neither her provincial government nor the federal government seems to be at any risk of losing power, Ms Nawaz on Friday appeared to accuse Supreme Court judges of trying to bring Imran Khan back to government by "rewriting" the Constitution. Addressing the superior judiciary, she said: "If a government has been installed [...] you should let it run. We will not let this be easy for you. God willing, this government will complete five years. If someone tries to destabilise it or subvert it or create political instability, they will be dealt with iron hands." As if this wasn't enough, she implied that the judges of the apex court had "sold their consciences". This attack seems to be part of the PML-N's strategy to 'go on the front foot' against the Supreme Court and the PTI following the denial of a two-thirds majority in parliament. The ban announced on the PTI was part of this strategy, but it found few takers, including, it seems, from within the PML-N.

In Plan 'B' meant to provoke the judiciary with open threats, even if the PML-N has no good reason to do so? It is true that both Ms Nawaz and her father, Nawaz Sharif, were once made to suffer several unfair decisions by the courts. One of those decisions had robbed Mr Sharif of his government. However, that was then. More recently, the Sharifs have been either the direct or indirect beneficiaries of a slew of important decisions made by the superior courts, and their "good fortune" has seen all their legal worries melt away, almost by miracle. In short, the PML-N has had little to complain about till this particular judgement. Why, then, did Ms Nawaz choose to make herself vulnerable to contempt charges? The judiciary has, in recent months, grown increasingly protective of its independence — something that the PML-N itself was campaigning in favour of till last year. Amidst growing concerns about interference from state institutions, the judges are unlikely to view such comments favourably. Supreme Court decisions are, after all, binding under Article 185. Defiance is contempt. The PML-N should proceed with extreme caution.

Olympics contingent

FROM 10 in Tokyo the last time, it is now down to seven in Paris, and split across just three disciplines. When Pakistan's contingent marches out for the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics next week, it will be the country's smallest in the history of the Games — matching the seven athletes sent to Rio de Janeiro in 2016. The failure of the hockey team to qualify for three Olympics straight has contributed to the downsizing of the contingent, but it is also reflective of how Pakistan has fallen behind as a sporting nation. Countries across the world, smaller in size and population, have used sports as a tool to promote a soft image. In Pakistan, however, there has been all talk and little action. Hardly any attention is paid to reforming a crumbling sports structure; policies for its revival remain stuck on the table and rarely take to the field. Despite all that, however, and relying purely on natural talent, Pakistan do have a genuine medal hope at the Olympics. Javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem not only qualified for the Games but also has a realistic chance of ending Pakistan's 32-year Olympic medal drought. Shooter Kishmala Talal, Pakistan's first marksman to qualify for the Games and who won bronze at the Asian Games last year, holds an outside chance. But that's about it.

For a country that once prided itself on its athletes, it is a sign of how fast matters have declined. It also indicates the lack of a proper national sports policy or framework. Federations for each sport run on their own, most claiming they are only answerable to their respective global bodies and not to the government. Athletes are complaining about the lack of funds and sporting events. It is a situation that must be urgently addressed. The government should work with the federations to formulate a national sports code to ensure greater participation and more medal chances.

OPINION

BY MUHAMMAD AMIR RANA



Dichotomous behaviour

The primary objective of our power elites is to maximise their benefits.

PAKISTAN'S power elites are grappling with a 'Jekyll and Hyde syndrome', showcasing markedly different behaviours in their attitudes and actions. Their purported focus on fixing the economy is contradicted by their actual measures, and the same applies to their efforts in addressing political and security issues in the country.

Recently, an interesting piece by Shabbaz Rana in an English daily talked of the experience of a British economist dealing with the power elites in the country. According to the writer, Stefan Dercon "had impressed Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif to such that he immediately hired him to help prepare a 'home-grown' economic plan. But while Stefan Dercon was holding meetings with Shabbaz Sharif, the premier's financial team... was preparing a budget that would benefit those same elites and throw the country's marginalised classes under the bus". According to the writer, Mr Dercon reached the conclusion "that the motivations of Pakistani elites would not allow the economic growth and development of the country to be prioritised", and found "an underlying elite bargain for the status quo among powerful elite groups", which, he said, comprised leading figures in politics, business, civil society, the military, civil service, intellectuals and journalists.

The full and half-page advertisements by the federal and Punjab governments highlighting their tall claims about their first 100 days of achievements may reflect their desire. However, their practice of crushing the middle and lower classes of the country while obliging the power elites are a reflection of the Jekyll and Hyde syndrome. The latter term has been inspired by R.L. Stevenson's famous tale of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, in which the respectable scientist Dr Jekyll develops a potion which turns him into the evil Mr Hyde. This concept is sometimes associated with certain clinical personality disorders associated with mood swings.

The concept is also reflected in the dichotomous behaviour of our power elites. An excellent example is the Bollywood dark comedy *Marru Ki Bihav Ki Mandola*. In this film, Pankaj Kapur portrays Harry Mandola, a shrewd businessman who wants to turn a village into a symbol of his success. He can only do so if the residents sell their land to the government at three-way prices, so that it can be turned into a Special Economic Zone. Harry's alter ego emerges when he is seen as intimidated in this state, he advocates for equality and an improved life for the villagers.

Pakistan's power elites often act like Harry Mandola. Their primary objective is to maximise their benefits, but when faced with public anger, they pose as reformers and engage experts. This is evident in their economic policies, which favour the elite while claiming to be for the benefit of the entire nation.

In the article referred to earlier, Dercon finds that "growth and development [are not] core motivations for the dominant political class or the military — and that economic policies are driven by a quest to retain power as part of a clientelist patronage-based state".

Meanwhile, political analyst Muhammad Wassan sees the strength of the power elite as a dynamic political conflict in Pakistan, where all political actors are in accord with 'establishmentarian democracy'. This concept refers to a system where the establishment, which includes the military and other powerful institutions, plays a significant role in shaping the political landscape. In his book, *Political Conflict in Pakistan*, Dr Wassan explains the conflict along four dimensions: the state's conflict within, ethnicity, religion, and subethnic (non-conflict).

The power elites are playing with these four-layered conflicts and have defined the boundaries for insiders and outsiders. The insiders control power, while ethnic and sub-ethnic as well as religious minorities, including the Baluch, Ahmedi, Christians, Hindus as well as the

Shia and Zikri sects are outsiders, according to this concept.

But gradually, power elites are losing their touch. The elites always relied on the conventional notion of cohesion: religion could provide the bond. However, the religious card has been exploited so often that it has lost the power of glue, and even a commander under stands what the real motives of the recently concluded TLP sit-in in Islamabad were.

The economic policies of the power elites have failed to improve even the average global economic. Their political manoeuvring has lost its strategic edge, and their security measures are instilling more insecurity in the minds of the masses, raising serious concerns about the state of affairs in Pakistan.

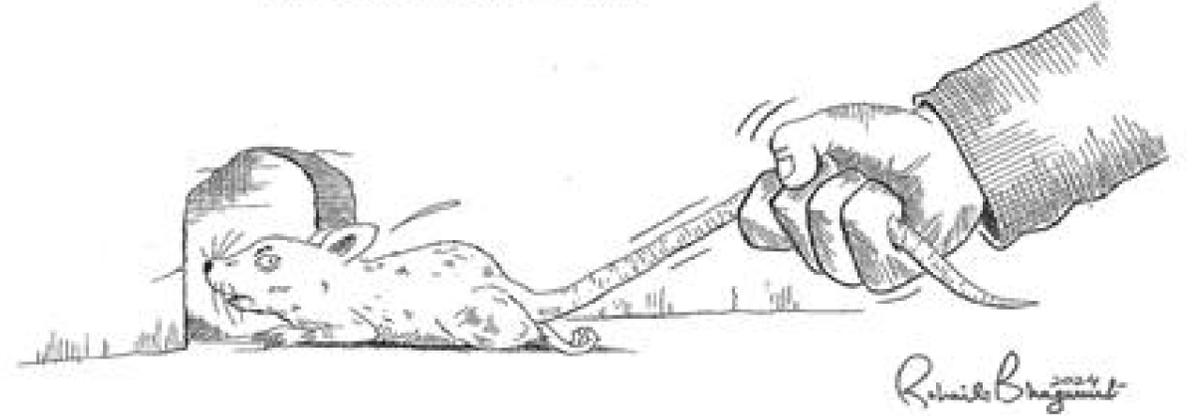
The power elites have already created a gulf between the masses and the state, and it may not surprise anyone that more and more people want to leave the country. Norways suggest that most Pakistanis lack faith in the government and consider elections an exercise in futility.

Political analysts constantly discuss the country's weakening social contract, but power elites have not changed the rules of the game and are using the same tactics to fix politics and the economy. Their actions have brought the country into a state of decline, but they have no empathy. They are solely focused on their personal benefits and are not ready to give up an inch of what has already been acquired. This stark reality may disillusion many about the current state of Pakistani politics.

In the final chapter of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, Dr Jekyll explains his experiments as an attempt to separate the good and evil aspects of his personality. He initially enjoys the freedom of becoming Mr Hyde, but soon loses control over the transformations, which begin "occurring spontaneously". Unintentionally, it is the evil nature of Mr Hyde that becomes more dominant and harder to repress. ■

The writer is a security analyst.

CTD PUNJAB ARRESTED SENIOR AL-QAEDA LEADER AMINUL HAQ



BY ABBAS NASIR

Armageddon beckons?

If someone were to say we have moved a step closer to the abyss, one can be certain there'll be many critics who would accuse that person of indulging in the art of the understatement, because they believe the country has already taken a freefall into a bottomless pit. So how is it?

In a nation of nearly a quarter of a billion people wracked by poverty and all the ills that flow from it, it is easy to become a prophet of doom and gloom and lose all hope and perspective. That Pakistan is polarised, each one of us can see, but few of us can see a way out of this quagmire.

One can focus on the dire, fragile state of the economy, look at the dismal state of governance, assess the ramifications of the confrontation between the various potent players of the state, each of whom wares a greater chunk of power for themselves — no matter how worthy the terms in which they couch their efforts — and one can only cover in fear at the deteriorating security situation/terror attacks.

Despite these factors, this columnist remains an optimist. Being an optimist is far better than being a pessimist, especially waiting for the next disaster, or Armageddon. However, there is a fine line between seeing a silver lining in every cloud and being overly delusional.

More directly, it means that Pakistan's key institutions and players are set on a collision course and, over the coming days and weeks, it is going to become abundantly clear whether any one of them is willing to take a step back, take stock and realign their positions — if they don't, a total breakdown is inevitable.

So far, the signs have not been encouraging. The biggest sign came in the vocal outburst of the PML-N leader and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, who called on the Supreme Court judges to rethink their "rehabilitation" of Imran Khan and others in his party who, in her view, had badly damaged the country and were 'waspies' (criminals).

In an address to a live audience in Punjab, Ms Nawaz used language such as 'we will

resist', to 'I am requesting' the Supreme Court, to saying those who don't heed their ways will be dealt with an iron hand. This statement spoke of her desperation and fear.

Desperation because she is locked in a zero-sum game. Any ground gained by her opponent, namely Imran Khan, is at her expense. I suspect the PML-N feels that the direction in which things are headed on the legal-constitutional front could eventually lead to an annulment of the February election and an order of fresh polls.

This is the position or fear of some senior PML-N leaders, I must stress. They privately say their fears are based on the rapid-fire verdicts coming from the judiciary, which have granted relief to Imran Khan and the PTI. In

Pakistan's key institutions and players are set on a collision course.

their opinion, the verdicts are not based on the merits of the cases.

PML-N insiders cite the reserved seats ruling, the acquittal of the former prime minister in a number of cases, and the Lahore High Court's over-ruled justice's decision to stick with her predecessor's ruling on the right of the court to decide on the number of electoral tribunals and who will run these instead of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

If their fears are well founded, it would be safe to assume that the PML-N's days are numbered. However, in the Islamic Republic, things are never that uncomplicated and simple. PML-N is now aligned with the establishment and so would be safe in assuming that the words Maryam Nawaz spoke were not hers alone.

Apart from the Punjab chief minister's publicly aired concerns, there are other signs of

pariah too. While stating that it will implement the Supreme Court ruling on the reserved seats, the devil in the detail of the ECP statement suggests a number of caveats.

One is reminded of the fate of the Supreme Court verdict on the conduct of general elections within a stipulated time frame. The election eventually happened well after this deadline and there wasn't much anyone could do about it. Pakistan and Pakistanis live with a certain amount of anarchy in their lives.

But imagine a scenario where the Supreme Court delivers a verdict and those charged with implementing it in the executive start dragging their feet. If a government, backed by the establishment, were to appear unwilling to help, wouldn't it create a constitutional breakdown?

I know I'll come in for flak for spelling out things as I see them and will be accused of not standing on the right side; ie, on the side of the Constitution and the rule of law. To me, it is far more important to warn of the dangers rather than say things that meet with general approval.

It can't be stressed enough that the well-being of vast swathes of the poor and the middle class in the country is inextricably tied to political stability, as the economy can only have a chance of growing and flourishing in such an environment.

With all our good and mighty protagonists put off their proverbial goals for another day and agree on some sort of truce for now, at least, for the sake of the dozens of millions who live below the poverty threshold; for the sake of our country and its future?

If we continue down this path, the only guaranteed destination is disaster. The one optimistic twist one can put on that is perhaps we will rise, Phoenix-like, from the ashes and find a workable new social contract. But as a nation, the price for getting there may be just way too high and bloody. ■

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

OPINION



BY MUNA KHAN

Past the point

THROUGHOUT not from a very religious family, I take the 9th and 10th of Muharram pretty seriously. It's a sombre time — and one that has been observed for generations, according to the stories the elders share. We had a relative who was famed for her recitation of *nobats* at *majlis* in our ancestral village in UP. Not all traditions have been maintained — we're not setting up *shahids*, fasting on the 9th or 10th, wearing sober colours in the first 10 days, and we're not making and sharing *halwa* with neighbours.

Now we watch TV, which airs regular programmes, unlike when we were growing up. We still watch *Mah-e-Gharib* and *Akbar Salteen* transmissions, even though the actors are less skilled than *Hasb-e-Torabi* or *Nasir Jahan*. We certainly do not attend *parties* — which I was stunned to discover, once. Two friends — one who is Shia — were separately invited to a large get-together because their hosts wanted to make the most of the break. This speaks to a lot of insensitivity that's crept in, more so in the last decade.

Also, when did we start wishing a happy new year on the first of Muharram? And being so vocal against cellular and traffic 'disruptions' on the 9th and 10th of the month? The anger is misdirected at a community that is vulnerable to violence. If taking a different route ends up saving lives, what is the big deal?

Am I sounding like a grinch, lamenting the end of traditions that made this country so great?

Meanwhile, there are certain other traditions that should be sanctioned to the dustbin of history because they are tedious to progress. 'Yeh *harama* culture hai' (this is our culture) has been used to force people into making decisions against their will. Almost all traditions related to women are just attempts to control her body and mind. Thankfully, attitudes towards marriage are changing here — the more women have access to education, the more they want financial independence and choose to marry, or not, whenever they want, or don't. Divorce is not the end of the world. They will speak about abuse and violence they faced. They will demand justice.

Of course, we have miles to go before we can root out the patriarchal values that keep us in the dark ages, but it's inspiring to see the brave young women and men challenging norms told to us as 'yeh *harama* culture hai'.

But those aren't the traditions I'm speaking of. I'm talking of a culture that lived with differences, by it came and

creed or opinion. Our parents/grandparents often participated in celebrations during *Dussehra*, Christmas, *Narroz* and other festivals. Their homes were open during *Eid*. But the change has been sad to watch, especially because it's been replaced with tightness.

When I was first taught one term at a private school in Karachi in 2001, all students from all backgrounds participated in the annual *melodrama*. When I returned to teach a term in 2014, a significant portion of students sat the melodrama on religious grounds — which is their right. I only quote that example here to demonstrate the shift in practices.

A few years later, the same school dropped plans for students to perform *fragments* by John Lennon — a long-standing tradition — because a journalist at an Urdu newspaper tweeted his objection, saying the song encouraged atheism. Lennon imagined a world without hate in his song, but the talking heads on prime TV, who took the story up, said the school was encouraging secularism.

Every year that passes, I think of young folks having less of a connection to what we were like once; how we coexisted, shared in our happiness and grief as multicultural communities do.

I feel this way about the stories I hear of Karachi before my birth — of *dinns* and *darans* and *handis* flying in to perform. There only seem the city as violent and raw descript. It's wild to see ads for cultural performances in Karachi in the 1950s and 1960s printed in this paper. I doubt anyone liked these events, but there was a culture of live and let live.

Now it's about dictating how others should live. Is it any wonder that people want to leave?

I'm not naive to think that tolerance is a pill that'll fix us, but perhaps adopting a zero-tolerance attitude, if not policies, may be a good place to start. Refuse to tolerate misogyny, hate crimes, bullying by any one group that thinks its ideology is threatened and sanctions violence in the name of religion. We have lived side by side in the past and can find our way back and we know no leader is gutsy enough to lead us. So, it must be us, who record our stories, and lead by example. ■

The writer is a journalism instructor. ✉ Ledingshady



BY AIZAZ AHMAD CHAUDHRY

75 years of Nato

AT the Nato Summit in Washington this month, marking 75 years of the alliance's existence, the Russia-Ukraine war dominated discussions. The summit declaration condemned Russia for its "brutal war of aggression" against Ukraine, and its "irresponsible nuclear rhetoric and coercive nuclear signalling".

Expressing full solidarity with Ukraine, Nato's 32 members pledged long-term security assistance for Ukraine, including a new baseline funding of 40 billion euros within the next year. Nato has deployed combat-ready forces on its eastern flank; over 500,000 forces are in high readiness. The declaration also announced that "Ukraine's future is in Nato" and the alliance would take further steps to support Ukraine's "irreversible path to full Euro-Atlantic integration".

The Nato-Russia rivalry goes back to the time of the Cold War between the US and Soviet Union. Nato was born on April 4, 1949, when 12 countries from Western Europe and North America came together in Washington, DC, to sign the North Atlantic Treaty. Under Article 5 of the treaty, the members committed to defend each other through political and military means and counter the threat posed by the Soviet-led communist world. President Harry S. Truman's historic address to the US Congress in March 1949 is noted as the start of the Cold War.

Moscow reacted by forming a political and military alliance between the Soviet Union and East European states — the Warsaw Pact of 1955. A bitter rivalry ensued, which ended only with the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Nato recalled its mandate and began expanding outwards, much to the discomfort of Russia, the Soviet Union's successor state.

Explicitly Russian concerns, a Nato-Russia Permanent Joint Council was formed in 1997, and Russia was admitted to G7, making it G8. However, Russia's leadership, particularly President Vladimir Putin, had concerns that Nato wasn't sensitive to Russian security needs and was violating its commitment not to move "an inch eastwards". Some Western scholars have argued that this commitment was only stated but never agreed. However, Moscow's main concern, that lethal missiles should not be deployed in areas bordering Russia, was never addressed.

When Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, Nato suspended cooperation with Russia and started deploying multinational battle-groups in the Baltic states and Poland. In February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. The Nato countries declared Russia "a direct threat to Euro-Atlantic security" and decided to lend full support to

Ukraine's war effort. However, fearing global escalation, Nato chose not to deploy its own troops in Ukraine.

After the summit, the Nato secretary general announced that four additional battle-groups had been deployed in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. As if to provoke Russia further, Bosnia, Georgia and Ukraine were also recognised by Nato as "aspiring members". The summit declaration affirmed an "ironclad" commitment that every inch of allied territory would be defended as per Article 5 of the treaty.

A notable feature of the summit was a commitment by Nato members to strengthen partnerships in the Asia-Pacific. Five non-Nato countries (Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea) were invited to the summit as "Indo-Pacific partners". Will Nato expand its ambit to the Indo-Pacific region? The summit declared that "Indo-Pacific is important for Nato given that developments in that region directly affect Euro-Atlantic security".

While the summit declaration criticised China for being "a decisive enabler of Russia's war", it made no reference to India, even though India has maintained close economic and military ties with Russia and Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's recent visit to Moscow coincided with the Nato summit. Some American analysts have argued that the Indo-Russia relationship serves as a "smoke shield" on a growing Russia-China partnership.

As for financing of Nato operations, the Wales summit in 2014 decided that each member state would spend at least two per cent of its GDP on defence. However, nearly one-third of Nato members have still not met this commitment. US leaders, particularly Donald Trump, have often admonished Europeans for not paying enough for Europe's defence.

As per Nato's website, the alliance seeks to promote democratic values, cooperate on defence and security-related issues, and undertake crisis management operations. This is a mandate broader than the one Nato had started out with. Nato appears to have become an instrument in the hands of the US-led West to assert its dominance over the world order. Since major centres of power have emerged in Asia, particularly China, Nato's further political and military involvement in Asia Pacific cannot be ruled out. ■

The writer is a former foreign secretary and chairman of Strategic Institute, Islamabad

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Turks in Cyprus

ANKARA: Turkish Premier Bülent Ecevit told Parliament this afternoon [July 20] that the Turkish landing on Cyprus ... today was proceeding successfully. ... By nightfall, Turkish paratroops, marines, and an armoured force had secured the port of Kyrenia, the ... road to the capital, Nicosia, Nicosia's airport, and most of the town itself. Turkish paratroops were dropped and a marine force had also landed later in the Limassol area and were last reported rapidly advancing into the interior meeting little resistance. Cyprus Radio, however, denied this. — News agencies

[Meerut, ... news agencies from Islamabad add.] Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto ... sent a message of support to his Turkish counterpart, Bülent Ecevit, who acknowledged it with profound gratitude. In his message ... the Prime Minister said: Pakistan stands by Turkey in its decision to fulfil its obligations in accordance with the 1959 agreements and render all possible assistance. ... An official spokesman said Prime Minister Bhutto's message was verbally conveyed to the Turkish Ambassador Erdem Ermer who was called to the Foreign Office soon after the news of the landing of Turkish troops in Cyprus broke.

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

Nishtar to be governor

KARACHI: Sardar Akbar Rab Nishtar, Pakistan Minister for Communications, has been appointed Governor of the West Punjab, it was officially announced on Wednesday [July 20] He will succeed Sir Francis Mudie...

[Editorial adds.] The appointment of Akbar Rab Nishtar as Sir Francis Mudie's successor completes the rationalisation of gubernatorial offices in West Pakistan. Public opinion will hail the choice as particularly felicitous, although the transfer of Sardar Nishtar to this new sphere will deprive the Central Cabinet of an older statesman.

... In the present state of West Punjab's affairs the new Governor's task does not promise to be a simple one. The suspension of the Constitution last January solved some problems but created others, and the instability of Sir Francis Mudie to outgrow the ways of untried bureaucracy made matters worse. An urgent need has been increasingly felt by the well-wishers of that province for a complete cleaning of the state and writing on it afresh. That will be the new Governor's initial task and in this the Provincial Muslim League should be able to extend to him its full and unreserved co-operation.

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.



An electoral lesson we must not ignore

DISILLUSIONED with the 13-year rule of the Conservative Party resulting in high inflation and economic woes, voters in the United Kingdom returned the Labour Party to power with a thumping majority that condemned the Tories to their worst-ever electoral defeat.

The smooth conduct of the polls in the UK contrasted glaringly with parliamentary elections in Pakistan that were held earlier this year and whose results are still being challenged in the courts.

The elections in the two countries serve as crucial events that determine the course of governance in their respective domains. Even though they share the foundational principle of democratic elections, their electoral processes show some notable differences in terms of their structures, procedures and political contexts.

With a population of around 60 million, the party with the majority of seats in the 650-seat House of Commons forms the government, typically led by the party leader. Conversely, having a population of some 240 million, Pakistan has a mixed electoral system. This includes 266 directly elected seats, 60 seats that have been reserved for women, and 10 seats for religious minorities. Together, the 336 seats constitute the National Assembly.

While the UK has a stable political system dominated historically by the Conservative and Labour parties, Pakistan has a more volatile political landscape, featuring numerous parties and military interventions. Political parties in Pakistan often form alliances to secure majority support, adding complexity to the electoral dynamics.

Moreover, pre-election campaigning in the UK involves debates, televised speeches, as well as extensive media coverage, with parties relying on manifestos to outline policies. In contrast, Pakistan's elections see vibrant street rallies with intense media campaigns in shaping the public opinion.

The UK typically experiences a high voter turnout, aided by a strong tradition of civic engagement and accessible polling stations. Pakistan faces challenges, such

as voter apathy in some regions, logistical issues, and security concerns. This affects turnout rates. The UK also boasts a robust electoral administration system, overseen by an independent electoral commission, ensuring fairness and transparency. In Pakistan, challenges relate to electoral management, including allegations of irregularities and electoral fraud.

In essence, what Pakistan may learn from the UK is how to navigate its democratic journey based on free and fair elections that reflect the true aspirations of the voters without undue interference from non-political entities.

Fazal Hashmi
Lahore

Privatising schools

THE School Education Department in Punjab province has decided to privatise government schools under a public-private partnership model. However, there are several concerns about its consequences. Initially, around 1,000 schools facing teacher shortages will be privatised, but the plan has a target of 13,000 government schools.

The decision was taken in response to alarming statistics showing that 567 government schools have no teachers and around 25,000 schools have only one teacher.

To counter this shortage, the department has decided to hand over all such schools having at least 50 enrolled students to a

non-governmental organisation (NGO). This move has sparked agitation from various quarters, particularly teachers' unions.

However, the privatisation plan raises questions about its compatibility with Article 25-A of the Constitution, which guarantees the fundamental right to free education for children aged 5-16 years. The government must address this crucial issue by taking onboard all those who are relevant stakeholders in this matter.

On the other hand, the quality of current education can only be improved in government-run schools by adopting different effective and comprehensive measures, like recruitment of teachers, better monitoring of schools, imparting refresher courses as well as training to teachers, evaluating the examination system, and involving various well-known educational scholars to motivate teachers and students. Moreover, the government must allocate a sufficient budget for the education sector in order to improve the quality of education across the province.

Zahid Nadeem
Rafiq Yar Khan

Wither austerity

WITH piling up domestic as well as international debt and declining foreign exchange reserves, a financial emergency should have been declared with a number of austerity measures in the country, but that has not been the case.

It is not surprising that the cost of tax collection is the highest in the region, if not the whole world, due to heavy reliance on withholding taxes. In this scenario, we have government officials who run their offices as their private fiefdoms. As such, a BPS-17 officer has a long list of staff, and when it comes to those in BPS-19 and above, even the sky is not the limit.

The camp office of director-general, Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) in Punjab, located at 4 Bridge Colony, Lahore Cantonment, is a case in point, where a BPS-19 public servant runs his 'fiefdom' having hundreds of security and support staff with air-conditioners running all day long even when the DG is not in office. Who bears this extra cost? Obviously, the national exchequer and taxpayers.

Now, if the federal and provincial governments simply wind up entities like ACE, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) as well as the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), I believe there will be a marked reduction in corruption on its own because these organisations have only been promoting corruption, and have not contributed to the elimination of widespread corruption in the country.

Tamoor Haseeb
Lahore

► **DEADLINE EXTENSION:** Against the advertisement published by the Sixth Public Service Commission (SPSC) for the vacancies of lecturers, I paid the challan fee on June 27. Meanwhile, a family tragedy in early July left me in a state of deep grief, and consequently, the entire process of submitting my online application remained incomplete. I thought the extended submission date might be July 11 because that was the deadline for all the other posts that were advertised. But it was not so. Different cut-off dates for different posts only caused confusion, and there are many who suffered on this count. The SPSC should, therefore, consider extending the cut-off date so that all the aspirants may submit their applications. Samera Majeed
Shikargarh

► **SECURITY PERSONNEL:** This refers to the report '5 security personnel martyred in KP' (July 10). I wonder why we cannot see international drones, like the Americans do while siring thousands of miles away in Arizona and controlling and monitoring from there without being a single word. Is that too hard for us? If Iran can use and supply these drones to Azerbaijan, why can we not do the same? When we can let the Americans use our bases to do the same, how come we are unable to do that ourselves? Why do we have to continue losing our security personnel again and again? Asad Akbar
Rawalpindi

► **TRANSPORTATION ISSUE:** Huh, the industrial area of Bahochistan, lacks a proper transportation system. Students, teachers and workers face difficulties while commencing to their destinations every day. Recently, while walking home from the library, not a single bus was available, and I had to rely on an auto-rickshaw, which was in poor condition and had no proper seats. As a result, I spent the entire night with leg pain and mental distress. Local and provincial authorities need to launch a public bus service in Huh city on an urgent basis in order to address this pressing issue. Rasheed Raheeb
Khasler

► **External Ombudsman:** Veteran journalist Muhammad Ali Siddiqi 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 EEO who takes notice of any alleged violations of Dawn's code of ethics, and informs the Editor for appropriate action. Email: muhammadali@msd.com

The menace of underage driving

A TRAGIC incident occurred in Lahore's Defence Housing Authority (DHA) area in which two boys on a motorcycle were killed by a 17-year-old underage, unlicensed driver. The news sent shockwaves throughout the community. It was yet another stark reminder to one and all of the consequences of negligence and the lack of accountability regarding underage drivers.

Parents and guardians should exercise stricter supervision over their children's driving habits. It is imperative that we, as a society, reinforce the importance of adhering to traffic laws, and underscore the dire implications of allowing unlicensed minors to operate vehicles.

The role of parents in this regard cannot be overestimated. They must ensure that their children understand the gravity of driving without a licence and the potential harm it can cause to themselves and others.

Furthermore, it is essential that justice is served to the victims of this tragedy. Their families deserve closure and the reassurance that the law will take its course without prejudice. The enforcement of stringent penalties for underage driving and the violation of traffic regulations is crucial in deterring such incidents in the future.

We need to actively advocate the enforcement of existing laws pertaining to underage driving. It is only through collective effort and awareness that we can hope to prevent such needless loss of life, and uphold the safety of our roads.

M. Abid Rafique
Lahore



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Implementing new IMF deal a challenge as political pressure mounts

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: The current fiscal year's tax-taken budget and the Supreme Court's ruling on reserved seats have shifted the focus of politics on the economy, casting doubts over the country's ability to meet the new IMF conditions for a \$7 billion loan.

Analysts indicate that the government is seeking China's help to restructure its substantial \$28bn debt. However, sources suggest China is unlikely to restructure these loans, fearing that other nations, like Sri Lanka, may also seek debt re-profiling

from Beijing.

"This is crucial to determine if the government can meet the conditions for a \$7bn IMF loan agreement. Nonetheless, I am confident the government will sign the deal at any cost," said a senior researcher.

Bankers and analysts agree that the country faces significant challenges, with political pressure mounting to provide relief to the public.

"The government has failed to offer any relief, instead exacerbating the situation by repeatedly increasing fuel and electricity prices," remarked a senior banker, noting that only banks and the equity market are enjoying the "sweet economy", recording historic profits.

In contrast, sectors like textiles are calling for tax reductions and price controls. Exporters are also dissatisfied with the new taxes on their exports.

The annual inflation rate for FY24 stood at 23.4 per cent, leaving the real interest rate negative by 1pc. "How can we expect any big cut in the interest rate in future to stimulate the economy?" the banker questioned.

Sources said the IMF has asked the State Bank to maintain fiscal discipline, implying no substantial relief in interest rates soon.

The high cost of doing business has already led to economic contraction in FY23, with a mere 2.4pc growth in FY24.

"If the political situation remains unstable, significant growth in FY25 is unlikely, which will increase unemployment and deepen political uncertainties," noted an analyst. The IMF projects 3.5pc growth for FY25, while Fitch Ratings estimates 3.2pc.

Faisal Mammad, CEO of Transmark, remains optimistic that the IMF deal will unlock additional funding sources, stabilize the rupee and bolster foreign exchange reserves.

However, he expressed con-

cerns about the political and social challenges in the country, which could complicate the successful implementation of IMF conditions.

"Moody's points out that Pakistan has historically struggled with implementing the structural reforms required by IMF programmes, which casts doubt on the current deal's effectiveness," he said.

Despite campaigns for deals with Saudi Arabia, UAE and China, no substantial progress has been made, nor has privatisation of any government entity gone through, Mr Mammad said, adding that the anti-poor budget may not be sustainable in the long term.

Save Pakistan from IPPs' exploitation: KATI chief

Says power plants run by 40 families get more money than defence budget

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Trade and industry leaders frustrated by the high capacity payments to independent power producers (IPPs) have asked the government to review the power purchase agreements and demanded a reduced electricity tariff of 9 cents per unit for industry survival.

Karachi Association of Trade and Industry President Johar Ali Qandhari and other office-bearers and former presidents told a press conference at the KATI office on Saturday that "the IPPs are receiving more money than the nation's defence budget. The interests of the 240 million people of Pakistan should take precedence over the interests of the 40 families running these IPPs."

The KATI chief asked the government to cancel contracts with unnecessary private companies and a forensic audit of the IPPs' financials. "Do we prioritise the interests of 40 IPP-running families, or do we care more for the 240m citizens?" he questioned.

While the total production capacity of electricity installed in 45,000 megawatts, only 22,000MW are being utilised. The cost of a unit of electricity for industrial customers, without tax, is Rs15, which rises to Rs40 after tax. Out of the Rs35, he said approximately Rs18 per unit is paid in capacity charges for electricity not even used, pushing the economy towards destruction.

Mr Qandhari said that Rs2,000bn would be paid in capacity charges, putting severe pressure on the economy. He proposed changes to the capacity conditions of government-owned IPPs, which account for 45pc of the market, including reducing management costs and shifting from the London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) to the Karachi Interbank Offered Rate (Kibor) for payments. He also suggested renegotiating contracts with the privately owned IPPs, which make up 25pc of the market, to shift from "Take or Pay" to "Take and Pay" agreements.

The KATI chief advocated for establishing an electricity market in Pakistan, suggesting that the government step back from electricity production and purchase and entrust these to private companies to foster competition. "Consumers should have the option to choose their electricity provider, allowing them to select companies offering better terms and cheaper rates," he said, urging the government to halt new IPP projects and improve capacity through negotiations with existing IPPs.

Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awan Laghari has been asked to examine the IPP contracts that make these agreements public liabilities carrying out their financial audits by international companies.

F.B. Area Association of Trade and Industry (JFATI) President Syed Raza Hussain urged the government to take decisive action and terminate or renegotiate the agreements with these power producers to regulate tariffs in a fair and sustainable manner for both consumers and businesses.

"IPPs are jeopardising the future of our country as high power tariffs due to these IPPs are rendering closure of industries and causing immense suffering to the people," he said.

United Business Group (UBG), Riyadh Zameer, Chairman Khalid Taseer appealed to the government to revisit the agreements with IPPs, reduce electricity tariffs, and help industries and exporters survive.

He said the revised tax collection target of Rs12.5 trillion is impossible to achieve under the present economic situation, while the export target of \$100bn by 2030 is also not to be implemented due to the high power tariff.

Port offices to remain open on weekends

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: As per the directive of Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif, the shipping companies' offices have started operating on Saturdays and Sundays.

According to a KPT's press release, the trade bodies including Customs Clearing Agents have highly appreciated the above decision and its implementation, resulting in substantial cost saving taking place due to delay and demurrage charges by the shipping companies.

On a recent visit of the Karachi Port Trust (KPT), the trade bodies had raised the issue of delay in issuance of delivery orders due to closure of offices of shipping companies on Saturdays and Sundays.

PM orders swift implementation of agreements with China

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif on Saturday directed the authorities to expedite the process of implementing the agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) made with the Chinese government and companies, saying that any further delay would not be tolerated.

"China is a time-tested friend of Pakistan who helped Pakistan in every hour of need, said Mr Shabbaz while chairing a review meeting regarding Pak-China cooperation at the PM House.

The prime minister pointed out that the transfer of the Chinese industry to Pakistan would help improve the country's overall economy, increase Pakistan's exports, and create new employment opportunities.

During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on the progress of different projects launched with Chinese cooperation.

The prime minister was told that the Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway would be completed through a Public-Private Partnership.

It was informed that the plan to send 1,000 students for modern agricultural vocational training at government expense had been completed. The first batch of students was sent to China at the beginning of this academic year, while the next batch would be sent to modern Chinese agricultural universities after learning Chinese in Pakistan.

A comprehensive road map regarding the transfer of Chinese industries to Pakistan was presented at the meeting.

"Around 78 Pakistani companies have initially expressed deep interest in cooperation for the transfer of Chinese industries to Pakistan," the meeting was informed. The Board of Investment also presented a comprehensive report on the progress and action plan which was appreciated by the PM.—APP

Non-textile exports surge 25pc in FY24

ISLAMABAD: Exports of non-textile products increased by 24.95 per cent to \$14.02 billion in 2023-24 from \$11.22bn in the preceding year.

According to data compiled by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the main driver of non-textile product exports was raw food items and a few value-added products in FY24, up from a year ago. In contrast, textiles and clothing goods exports increased by only 0.59pc in FY24 compared to the previous year. The growth in non-textile products is a healthy sign of getting more orders from the international market.

The export of engineering goods increased 14.69pc in FY24 from a year ago, followed by 46.34pc growth in cement. In the engineering sector, the growth was recorded in exports of electric fans, transport equipment, auto parts, and rubber tyres.

In contrast, footwear exports dropped 5.22pc and leather garments 11.25pc year-on-year in FY24. The decline was also observed in leather gloves. The exports of raw leather also decreased by 15.92pc during the said period.

Pakistan is one of the main suppliers of global surgical instruments. However, the export value of these instruments remains negligible in FY24 over the preceding year as foreign brands re-marketed these in Western countries. It recorded a negative growth of 0.64pc during the ongoing fiscal year.

According to PBS data, raw food exports increased by 46.37 per cent in FY24 over the preceding fiscal year. The value of raw food exports reached \$7.37 billion in 2023-24, up from \$5.02bn over the corresponding period last year. —Mubarak Zeb Khan



PAKISTAN Bureau of Statistics data shows gold imports during the first eight months of the previous fiscal year stood at \$17 million, compared to \$27m in the preceding year.—Dawnfile

FBR's 'wrong decision' halts gold imports

Doubling of advance tax to 2pc triggers relocation of businesses abroad

By Azeem Shafiq Khan

KARACHI: The country's official gold import remained suspended in the last quarter (March/June) of outgoing 2023-24 due to a policy change in February.

According to data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), gold imports during the July-February FY24 stood at 262 kg (\$17 million), compared to 342 kg (\$21 million) in FY23.

Pakistan Gems Jewellery Traders and Exporters Association (PGJTEA) Habib-ur-Rahman told Dawn that under SRO760, two schemes exist for gold import — the Entrustment Scheme and the self-assignment (locally procured) scheme.

On Feb 23, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), without any prior notification, lifted the 18pc sales tax exemption on the import of gold (under SRO760), leading to a complete halt in the import of advanced gold (procured from foreign party) starting from the date mentioned in point number 2 (above) until July 8.

He said the association had sent numerous requests to the government for necessary action, and later, the government restored the sales tax exemption (18pc GST), but only for the "Entrustment Scheme" in the Finance Bill 2024.

He believed that from February to July, a wrong decision taken by the FBR had incurred losses to the government in gold jewellery foreign exchange amounting to approximately \$15m.

Mr Rahman said the government still has not completely resolved the issue of including sales tax exemptions in the gold jewellery sector, as the exemption only remains for the Entrustment Scheme and not for the self-assignment (locally procured) scheme.

Increasing the advance income tax in the finance bill from 1pc to 2pc has made it almost impossible for the jewellery sector to thrive as the value addition formula of 8pc, 12pc and 18pc is pegged to the gold value. He added that clause (10) of the SRO760 is a wrong formula as the gold rate fluctuates.

He said the association had been arguing on this issue for the past 11 years, urging that the value addition (labour charges) should be fixed to \$1, \$1.5, and \$2.5 per gram so that when the gold price changes, we don't face the repercussions of paying more labour charges.

As per the current gold rate, value addition adds up to \$10 per gram. The government should realize that even foreign buyers (jewellery retailers) don't sell the jewellery at \$10 per gram. This wrong calculation for the last 11 years in the SRO760 has proved a disadvantage to jewellery exports.

Now, the government has sensibly also added a 2pc advanced income tax, which was 1pc previously. How does the government expect that this industry will survive? Unfortunately, they are unaware that due to this senseless decision, gold jewellery manufacturers have started shifting their businesses to other countries, including Oman and Dubai.

Despite all odds, the country's jewellery exports had surged by 41pc in FY24 to \$11m from \$7.7m in FY23.

Oil industry seeks Rs26bn compensation

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Oil Marketing Association of Pakistan (OMAP) has written to the prime minister requesting the release of Rs26 billion to compensate for the industry's loss due to deficiencies in the current foreign exchange gain/loss recovery mechanism.

The OMAP has said that the matter had already been brought to the notice of the PM's Office, and it was a matter of concern that has been pending for a considerable time.

The letter highlighted that the industry has accumulated significant un-recovered exchange losses amounting to Rs26bn due to deficiencies in the current foreign exchange gain/loss recovery mechanism.

Despite acknowledging these facts and recognizing the losses incurred by companies, the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) has been reluctant to address the matter promptly," the OMAP has said.

It added that to address this issue, the Director General (DG) convened a meeting on April 8 and the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) developed a concept paper, which was forwarded to Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) for comments on April 22.

Stocks eke out gains amid growing political noise

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: The stock market remained in the green zone during the short week due to a new deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Following the apex court's ruling on reserved seats and the government's defiance to comply with the directions, political uncertainty has been growing, which has worried market players. As a result, many investors opted to take profits in the last session.

Meanwhile, economic uncertainty is growing as trade and industry leaders nationwide have urged the government to review the agreements with Independent Power Producers. They argue that

the current capacity payments are unjust and illogical, leading to high electricity costs and making it nearly impossible for businesses to operate.

They complained that the government has already raised the base electricity tariff to an unprecedented level under the IMF conditions to secure a new loan deal, crucial for the country to meet its debt obligations in the current fiscal year, at the cost of slowing business and economic activities.

Arif Habib Ltd (AHL), in its market commentary, said the market showed positive momentum in the three-day trading week, driven by the reaching of a Staff Level Agreement (SLA) with the IMF for a new 37-month Extended Fund Facility amounting to \$7 billion.

Optimism about the economic outlook following the IMF pact pushed the index to an all-time high of 81,839 points on Thursday. However, political noise wiped out most of the gains made during the week, resulting in the index shedding 1,222 points on the last working day.

On the economic front, the current account deficit narrowed by 79 per cent to \$700 million in FY24, the lowest in 13 years. In addition, Large-Scale Manufacturing output expanded by 7pc year-on-year in May. The State Bank of Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves (including up by \$19m to \$9.8bn week-on-week during the period ending on July 12). The rupee appreciated against the US dollar by 27 paise

or 0.1pc to Rs278.13. As a result, the benchmark KSE 100 index settled at 80,118 points after giving 174 paise or 0.22pc weekly gain.

Sector-wise, positive contributions came from E&P (200 points), technology and communication (193 points), fertilizer (83 points), cement (80 points), and automobile parts (57 points). However, the sectors that mainly contributed negatively were power (240 points), tobacco (51 points), engineering (47 points), pharmaceutical (45 points), and banking (41 points).

Script-wise positive contributors were Pakistan Oilfield Ltd (329 points), Engro Corporation (126 points), MCB Bank (115 points), United Bank Ltd (79 points) and

Lucky Cement (68 points). Meanwhile, script-wise negative contributions came from Hub Power (155 points), IHL (19 points), Fertilizer Company (73 points), National Bank of Pakistan (63 points) and Packages Ltd (51 points).

Foreigner buying continued, clocking in at \$9.3 million compared to a net buy of \$4m the preceding week. Major buying was witnessed in all other sectors' (\$5.2m) and technology (\$2m). On the local front, selling was reported by insurance companies (\$7.7m), followed by companies (\$4.4m).

The average trading volume rose 5.0pc to 464m shares, while the average value traded surged 29.2pc to \$96m week-on-week. During the week, the govern-

ment raised petrol and diesel prices by Rs9.99 and Rs8.18, drawing a strong reaction from trade and industry, who were already crying for revisiting high energy prices, especially electricity and natural gas.

According to AHL, the market will stay positive as it anticipates the IMF Executive Board's approval and the disbursement of the first tranche of the new programme. Additionally, the market will closely monitor the start of the results season next week.

AKD Securities Ltd, however, noted that escalating political tensions could dent investors' sentiment. Meanwhile, market participants will focus on upcoming corporate results, inflation figures, and the next MPC meeting.

Bridge collapse in China leaves 12 dead, 30 missing

BEIJING: A bridge collapse caused by torrential rains in northern China killed 12 people and left more than 30 missing, state media said on Saturday.

Large parts of northern and central China have been battered in recent days by rains that have caused flooding and significant damage. The bridge in the northeastern Shaanxi province buckled "due to a sudden downpour and flash floods" on Friday night, according to state news agency Xinhua.

All 12 victims in the city of Shaoguan were found inside five vehicles that were recovered from the river below the bridge, Xinhua said. At least 31 people remained missing and initial investigations indicated that 17 cars and eight trucks had fallen into the river, it added.

Images on state television showed a partially submerged section of the bridge with the river rushing over it. One witness told local media that he had approached the bridge but that other drivers started "yelling at me to brake and stop the car".

"A truck in front of me didn't stop" and fell into the water, the witness, unnamed Ma, said. Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged "all-out rescue and relief efforts" to find those still missing, Xinhua said.

China is enduring a summer of extreme weather, with heavy rains across the east and south coming as much of the north has sweltered in successive heatwaves.

Climate change, which scientists say is exacerbated by greenhouse gas emissions, is making these types of extreme weather phenomena more frequent and more intense.—AFP

EU hails ICJ ruling on Israeli occupation

BRUSSELS: The top UN court's ruling that Israel's 57-year occupation of Palestinian land was "illegal" is "largely consistent with EU positions", the bloc's foreign policy chief said on Saturday.

The opinion on Friday by the Hague-based International Court of Justice — which called for the occupation to end as soon as possible — was immediately slammed as a "decision of law" by Israel.

But the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs said that the bloc had taken "good note" of the court's ruling and urged further backing for the court's opinion.

"In a world of constant and increasing violations of international law, it is our moral duty to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to all ICJ decisions in a consistent manner, irrespective of the subject in question," Josep Borrell said.

He added in a statement that the opinion "will need to be analysed more thoroughly, including in view of its implications for EU policy".

The ICJ's ruling is not binding, but it comes amid mounting concern over the death toll and destruction in Israel's aggression against Hamas. Its intervention is likely to increase diplomatic pressure on Israel as will the EU's backing.

In June 1967, Israel seized the three Jordan-annexed West Bank and East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt in a crushing six-day war against its Arab neighbours.

It then began to settle the 70,000 square kilometres of seized Arab territory.—AFP



A DEMONSTRATOR throws back a tear gas canister at police during a rally against the construction of a giant water reservoir in La Rochelle, western France, on Saturday.—AFP

Protests against reservoirs turn violent in France

LA ROCHELLE: Environmental protesters clashed with police in France's western port of La Rochelle on Saturday, journalists say, as conservationists and small farmers mobilised against massive irrigation reservoirs under construction.

A 2,000-strong march, one of two through the city, was turned back and broke up at around 2pm after being charged by police. Running battles erupted around barricades and burning rubbish bins as some threw projectiles and police-fired tear gas grenades.

"We were in the dunes, they started hocking ahead and behind. They isolated us off to one side to charge everyone else," said Lilia, a 25-year-old who declined to give her second name.

A police source said around 400 participants in the march were so-called "black bloc" far-left radicals. Protesters in La Rochelle said one policeman suffered burns and five lightly-wounded demonstrators received medical care. Several shops were damaged or looted, along with bus shelters and advertising hoardings.

The second more peaceful march, made up of around 3,000 people including some families, moved

from the city centre towards the commercial port. Some used kayaks or inflatable boats to approach the La Pallée agricultural export terminal, singled out by organisers as the target for the demonstrations.

By 3pm, around 3,500 people from the two marches were still gathered at the seaboard, a police source said. Police had earlier used tear gas to clear around 200 people who entered the terminal at dawn, including farmers with old tractors. That confrontation broke up mostly peacefully.

The protests in the city in France's Atlantic coast were intended to show that new "reservoirs aren't being built to grow food locally, but to feed international markets," said Julien Le Guen, a spokesman for the "Reservoirs, No Thanks" movement.

Activists say the reservoirs, set to be filled from aquifers in winter to provide summer irrigation, benefit only large farmers at the expense of smaller operations and the environment.

Several dozen are under construction in western France, with backers saying that without them farms risk vanishing as they suffer through repeated droughts.

Last year, mass clashes between thousands of demonstrators and police in Seine-Saint-Denis, around 50 kilometres inland from La Rochelle, left two protesters in a coma and injured 30 officers.

Further clashes broke out Saturday as demonstrators returned to La Rochelle's centre from the agricultural port, with some launching fireworks at the police, who responded with tear gas and water cannons. "Cautious, there are children in the march," Le Guen shouted. "Don't make the same mistake as at Seine-Saint-Denis".

Fears of clashes had been high all week, with more than 1,000 police deployed around a "Water Village" protest camp in Melle, a few kilometres from Saint-Nazaire, an authority warned of a risk of "great violence". The prefecture had sought to ban demonstrations in popular summer tourist destination La Rochelle, but organisers went ahead.

On Saturday, "our aim wasn't to clash with law enforcement, it's often law enforcement who aim to clash with us," said Juliette Riviere, an SLT member. Protesters said that six people had been held in custody by anti-riot police Saturday.—AFP

Three cops injured in Dublin riot against migrants

LONDON: Three police officers were injured and one man was arrested on Friday in the latest anti-immigration protests at a site earmarked for housing asylum seekers in Dublin, authorities said.

It was the latest in a series of clashes at the site in a deprived northern suburb of the Irish capital over the past week. Police said a planned public gathering at the site on Friday initially "passed off peacefully" before turning into an "incident of public disorder".

A fire broke out at the building site, with police subjected to "both verbal and physical abuse including rocks, concrete bricks and other objects being thrown at them", they said in a statement.

The Garda — Ireland's national police force — said officers used pepper spray and batons to "defend themselves".

"Three members of An Garda Síochána have been injured. One member has been transferred to hospital tonight for treatment of their facial injuries," the statement read. One man in his 20s was arrested, accused of public order offences. The protest came just days after violence broke out at the site for the planned accommodation in a former paint factory in the Coolock area. It is intended to house around 500 asylum seekers.

On Monday, at least 21 people were arrested after police cars were attacked and machinery set on fire, Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris called Monday's violence "repugnant" and "criminal".

The latest violence comes amid rising far-right sentiment as the government struggles to respond to a surge in asylum-seeker arrivals and a water housing shortage.

Last November, central Dublin was engulfed by riots after far-right social media accounts invited protests following a knife attack on schoolchildren by an Irish citizen from an immigrant background.—AFP

Senegal intercepts over 250 migrants

DAKAR: Senegal has intercepted more than 250 "irregular migrants" in two days, the army said on Saturday, after nearly 90 died when attempting the dangerous Atlantic crossing earlier this month.

The West African country's navy detained a boat on Friday carrying 262 people trying to reach Europe in fishing waters near Lougheed, northwest Senegal, the army posted on X. Five women and a child were among those hoping to make the perilous journey, the post added.

On Saturday, the army said a navy patrol had arrested 57 "would-be irregular migrants" in the southwest coastal town of Saint-Louis.

Fifteen women were among the group, made up of Senegalese, Ivorian, Malian and Guinean citizens, the army added, also on X.

In early July, a boat carrying around 170 people who set off from Senegal capsized off the coast of Mauritania, killing nearly 70 people.

The disaster prompted Senegal's President Ousmane Sow to urge people not to risk the Atlantic Ocean's currents in overcrowded vessels that often are not seaworthy. But the route is increasingly used as authorities step up surveillance in the Mediterranean.

"I once again make a plea to the young men solution is not to be found in boats," Sow told a crowd of youths in Saint-Louis.—AFP

Pakistan pushes for preventing any state from dominating regional peace organisations

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan stands for boosting cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organisations in maintaining world peace and security, a top Pakistani diplomat has said, while also stressing that no state should be allowed to dominate regional organisations.

"We must strive for a collective vision that benefits all," Ambassador Muneer Akram told the UN Security Council which held a debate on Friday under the chairmanship of Russia, the 15-nation body's president for July. In this regard, the Pakistani envoy underscored that the particular national interests of member states do not hinder regional integration.

"The quest for regional hegemony by

one large state has undermined the potential of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc)," the Pakistani envoy said in an obvious reference to India.

In his remarks, Ambassador Akram said: "Regional integration represents the next phase of institutional development in international relations particularly in the realms of trade and industry".

He therefore recognised the crucial role of three bodies — the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) — in fostering economic growth and cooperation across borders, as well as in combating terrorism and

drugtrafficking.

Highlighting SCO's "immense promise and potential", the Pakistani envoy said that with some of the world's largest emerging economies as its members, this organisation is poised to advance integrated regional cooperation, especially by enhancing trade and investment opportunities. "This was evident at the recent SCO plus Summit meeting in Astana, in which Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif participated actively," Ambassador Akram said.

In addition, he said that CSTO can enhance connectivity between the East and West, fostering a more secure region. Ambassador Akram said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a flagship project, noting that Pakistan will expand

this effort including to Afghanistan, to realise its full potential for investment.

Pakistan, he said, believes that other regional organisations such as the African Union (AU), the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), along with cross-regional groups, like the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), should also work towards expanding global integration through appropriate association agreements, and welcomed the establishment of the AU-AOIC Trilateral Commission.

"Such regional and inter-regional initiatives in association with the UN are crucial for fostering greater cooperation and understanding among diverse regions, and

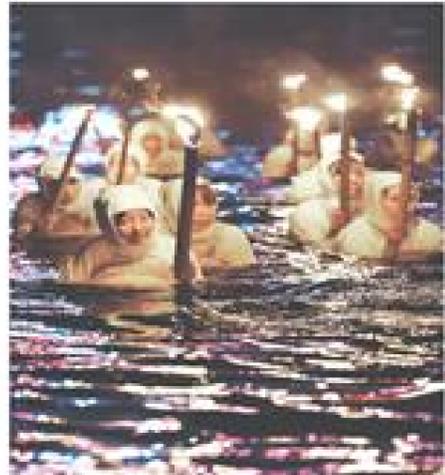
contributing to global harmony and collective progress," Ambassador Akram said.

"Now, more than ever, a more effective UN relies on stronger and deeper cooperation with regional and sub-regional organisations," said Elizabeth Spolansky, Assistant Secretary General for Peacebuilding Support in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

Detailing rising tensions and emerging threats in the Eurasian region that require joint action, she said that such organisations offer much-needed avenues for bridge-building and urged strengthened regional frameworks for dialogue and cooperation in regions where long-standing security architecture and mechanisms are collapsing or mixed in statements.—AFP



BYBLOS: A Palestinian flag and a chequered headscarf (kaffiyeh) hang on a banner as fans cheer during the Egyptian band Galokoko's first concert in Lebanon.—AFP



MINAMIBOSO (Japan): Participants in the annual Ama, the female free divers who harvest sea life from the ocean, swim with torches. During the annual festival, first held in 1984, participants pray for safety and productivity in the sea.—Reuters

NEWSMAKERS



PILOTS of Papua New Guinea's air force pose during an exercise at a base near Katherine, Australia.—Reuters

World's youngest air force takes to skies during war games

DARWIN: The world's youngest air force is taking part in war games alongside cutting-edge stealth fighters just as the Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea boosts defence ties with Australia and the United States.

Papua New Guinea's trainee pilots have queued for take-off with US F-22 Raptor and Australian Joint Strike Fighter jets in northern Australia this week in the 20-nation Pitch Black war games.

"It is a learning experience for us as a small air force and it helps to build our air force," said Major Randall Hopena, one of six PNG Air Force pilots flying three small F750 turboprop aircraft.

At home, the New Zealand-made plane can take off and land in very short spaces and transports supplies and troops to border areas in treacherous

mountain terrain. Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Vuar, the commanding officer of PNG Air Wing, said Pitch Black offered exposure to the world's best pilots and was helping PNG learn how to integrate with a large coalition force.

"We are becoming an air force. Flying in Papua New Guinea is a treat," he said in an interview on Saturday at RAAF Base Darwin. "Eighty percent of the population live in rural areas — so the only way you can get access to them is to fly." The PNG air force could land closer to the site of the Enga landslide disaster in May to deliver aid than larger Royal Australian Air Force planes, he said.

"We have been training with the Royal Australian Air Force for several years and the Enga landslide was the first time we had to deploy," he said.—Reuters



HONG KONG: Over 1,000 drones illuminate the sky above Victoria Harbour during the Doreamon drone show, on Saturday.—Reuters



KELANIYA (Sri Lanka): Buddhist devotees offer prayers on the occasion of Poya, a religious festival to mark the full moon, at a temple on Saturday.—AFP

Trump says he had 'very good call' with Zelensky, pledges to end war

WASHINGTON: US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said in a post on Truth Social that he had a "very good call" on Friday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and pledged to end the war pitting Kyiv against Moscow through negotiations.

Zelensky also reported his conversation with Trump and expressed thanks for US military assistance. But he made no reference in a post on social media platform X to efforts to end the 28-month-old conflict.

Trump has said he will end the war in Ukraine before he even takes office in January should he win the Nov 5 election. He has also said that had he been in office when the Kremlin sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022, the war would not have taken place.

In his Truth Social post, Trump said that as presi-

dent he "will bring peace to the world and end the war that has cost so many lives." "Both sides will be able to come together and negotiate a deal that ends the violence and paves a path forward to prosperity," Trump said.

Though Trump has put forward few tangible policy proposals, he said in an interview last year that Ukraine might have to cede some territory to reach a peace agreement.

In his post, Zelensky said he congratulated Trump on becoming the Republican nominee and condemned the assassination attempt on him last week.

"I wished him strength and absolute safety in the future," Zelensky said. "I noted the vital bipartisan and bicameral American support for protecting our nation's freedom and independence." —Reuters

Newborn saved from dead mother's womb in Gaza

GAZA STRIP: Doctors in Gaza described delivering a newborn baby against incredible odds on Saturday, pulling him from his mother's womb moments after she died of wounds sustained in an Israeli air strike.

At nine months pregnant, Ola Adams had already managed to survive just long enough to reach Al-Awda Hospital in central Gaza after an overnight strike hit her home in the Nasserin refugee camp, medical staff said.

Emergency department doctors rushed into action when they saw the heavily pregnant woman arrive in critical condition, the head of the obstetrics and gynaecology department, Roud al-Sassif, said. She was taken to the operating room, but was already "almost dead", surgeon Akram Hussein said.

Unable to save the mother, who they said was in her 20s, doctors detected a heartbeat and a trace of consciousness and surgeons were called. "An emergency caesarean section was performed, and the fetus was extracted," Sassif said.

Kurd was among at least 30 people killed across the Gaza Strip in a punishing 24 hours of Israeli bombardment that killed six members of one family in a neighbourhood north of Gaza City, rescuers and medical staff said.

At least seven people were killed in overnight strikes on the Nasserin refugee camp, a civil defence spokesman said.

Medical workers at Al-Awda Hospital said four children from



BABY Kurd in an incubator at a hospital in Deir El-Balah. He was delivered by C-section after his mother succumbed to injuries sustained during an Israeli strike. —AFP

Nasserin were wounded while playing on a roof, with one requiring an amputation.

Kurd's husband was also wounded in the missile attack that hit their home, said surgeon Hussein. After surviving the C-section, baby Malek Yusif faced further medical hurdles. Born in critical condition, he was stabilised after receiving oxygen and medical attention, Sassif said.

The war in Gaza has made childbirth increasingly perilous, with pregnant women facing nearly daily strikes that hamper access to health facilities. If they are able to reach a hospital, they find facilities that

humanitarian groups say are stretched to breaking point.

Just 1,500 hospital beds are currently available in Gaza's more than two million people, compared with 2,500 beds before the conflict, UN agencies have said.

Al-Awda Hospital in Nasserin is the only medical facility that has been able to provide obstetric and gynaecological care in central Gaza since the conflict began last year.

Pre-term deliveries and maternal complications, including eclampsia, haemorrhage and sepsis, have been rising, Doctors Without Borders said. —AFP

Army patrols streets as police fire on violators

Continued from Page 1

number of gunshot deaths since Thursday.

"Hundreds of thousands of people" had backed police across the capital on Friday, a police spokesman said.

"At least 150 police officers were admitted to hospital. Another 150 were given first aid treatment," he said, adding that two officers had been beaten to death.

"The protesters torching many police boats... Many government offices were torched and vandalised."

A spokesman for Students Against Discrimination, the main group organising the protests, said two of its leaders had been arrested since Friday.

A second senior official from the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was arrested in the early hours of Saturday.

Hassina had been due to leave the country on Saturday for a planned diplomatic tour, but abandoned her plans after a week of escalating violence.

"She has cancelled her Spain and Brazil tours due to the prevailing situation," her press secretary said.

"Not about students anymore"

Since the first deaths on Tuesday, protesters have begun demanding Hassina leave office.

"It's not about the rights of stu-

dents anymore," business owner Hossain Sheikh, 24, said at the scene of the Rampara protest.

"We are here at the general public too," he added. "Our demand is one point now, and that's the resignation of the government."

"Shocking indictment"

Hospitals and police reported an additional 10 deaths on Saturday from clashes the previous day, with 105 other deaths reported since Tuesday.

Police fire was the cause of more than half of the deaths reported so far this week, based on descriptions given by hospital staff.

"The rising death toll is a shocking indictment of the absolute intolerance shown by Bangladesh authorities to protest and dissent," Babu Ram Pant of Amnesty International said in a statement.

Authorities imposed a nationwide internet shutdown on Thursday which remains in effect, severely hampering communication in and out of Bangladesh.

Government websites remain offline and major newspapers, including the Dhaka Tribune and Daily Star, have been unable to update their social media platforms since Thursday.

RIAC arrests Bangladeshis

The United Arab Emirates said on Saturday it had arrested several Bangladeshis organisers for protest-

ing against their government on UAE soil, where demonstrations are banned.

The authorities alleged that the Bangladeshis "committed crimes of gathering in a public place and protesting against their government with the intent to incite hatred".

"The public prosecution has ordered their pre-trial detention pending further investigations," the statement said, accusing the suspects of endangering the interests and security of the UAE and disrupting public order.

Travel advisory

The US State Department said on Saturday it had raised Bangladesh's travel advisory to level three, which urges people to reconsider travel to the country due to "civil unrest".

"Travellers should reconsider travel due to civil unrest in Dhaka. Ongoing demonstrations and violent clashes have been reported throughout the city of Dhaka, its neighbouring areas, and throughout Bangladesh," the US State Department said in a statement on Saturday.

"Due to the security situation, there may be a delay in provision of routine consular services," it added.

The United States and Canada have called on Bangladesh government to uphold the right to peaceful protest and expressed concern over violence that has occurred in the country in recent days. —Agencies



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	Entomology	
	Horticulture	
Art & Humanities	Art & Design	
	Archaeology	
	English	English
	History	History
	Philosophy	
Behavioral & Social Sciences	Sports Science & Physical Education	Sports Science & Physical Education
	Political Science, International Relations	Political Science
	Applied Psychology, Health Psychology	Applied Psychology
	Sociology	
	Gender Studies	
Commerce	Clinical Psychology	
	Speech Language and Pathology	
	Social Work	
	M.Phil Commerce, M.Com, 1.5 year MS Sales & Marketing	Commerce (Halley College of Commerce)
	MS Accounting & Finance	
Business, Economics and Administrative Sciences	MS Entrepreneurship & Innovation (Halley College of Commerce)	
	M.Phil Commerce (Gagrawala Campus)	
	M.Phil Business Management (HCBF)	Business Management (HCBF)
	Economics	Economics
	Business Administration (BA)	Business Administration (BA)
Computing and Information Technology	MSI via BBT	Administrative Sciences
	Business Administration (Gagrawala Campus)	
	Computer Science	Computer Science
	Data Science	Data Science
	Artificial Intelligence	Artificial Intelligence
Education	Education	Education
	Special Education	
	Chemical Engineering	Chemical Engineering
	Metalurgy & Materials Engineering	Metalurgy & Materials Engineering
	Polymer Technology, M.Sc (Engg) / textile Engineering, M.Sc (Engg) / Polymer Engineering	
Quality & Industrial Systems Engineering	Total Quality Management	
	Industrial Engineering & Management	
	Electrical Engineering	
	Energy and Environmental Engineering	Energy and Environmental Engineering
	Energy and Environmental Engineering	
Information and Media Studies	Information Management	
	Media & Communication Studies	Media & Communication Studies
	Media and Development Communication	Media and Development Communication
	Public Relations & Advertising	
	Journalism Studies	
Islamic Studies	Broadcast Journalism & Media Studies	
	Islamic Studies	Islamic Studies (SDE)
	Islamic Studies (SDE)	Islamic Studies (SDE)
	Environmental Sciences	Environmental Sciences, Applied Hydrology
	Centre for Geographical Information System (GIS and GPS)	
Geo-Sciences	Geo Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development (GEMD)	Geo Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development (GEMD)
	Geography	
	Biological Sciences (MS)	Biological Sciences (MS)
	Molecular Biology (MNB)	Molecular Biology (MNB)
	Applied Molecular Biology and Forensic Sciences (CAMS)	Applied Molecular Biology and Forensic Sciences (CAMS)
Life Sciences	Microbiology and Molecular Genetics	Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
	Botany	Botany
	Zoology	Zoology
	Biochemistry, Biotechnology	Biochemistry, Biotechnology
	LLM	
Law	Kashmiriyat	Kashmiriyat
	Arabic	Arabic
	Urdu	
	Punjabi	
	Persian	
Oriental Learning	Mathematics	Mathematics
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	Statistics	
	High Energy Physics	Statistics
Science	Physics	High Energy Physics
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PALESTINIAN relatives grieve over the body of 20-year-old Ibrahim Hamza Zaqqa, the day after he was hit by a bullet during an incursion by the Israeli army into the village of Beit Ummar in the occupied West Bank, on Saturday.—AFP

Over 30 Gazans killed as Israel steps up strikes

Yemen's port targeted in air strike by Israeli forces

CAIRO: Israeli forces pounded several areas across the Gaza Strip on Saturday, killing 30 Palestinians, as tanks advanced deeper into western and northern parts of Rafah.

Among those killed on Saturday were journalist Mohammed Abu Jasser, his wife, and two children, in an Israeli strike on their house in the northern Gaza Strip.

Gaza's Hamas-run media office said Abu Jasser's death raised to 161 the number of Palestinian media personnel killed by Israeli forces since Oct 7.

Israeli military strikes across Gaza killed 37 Palestinians in the past 24 hours and destroyed several houses. In Al Nasserat, a camp in central Gaza Strip, an air strike on a multi-floor building wounded several people, including two local journalists, rescue workers said.

In Rafah, where Israel said it aimed to dismantle the last battalions of Hamas's armed wing, residents said tanks advanced deeper into northern areas of the city and took control of a hilltop in the west, amid fierce gun battles with Hamas.

The Israeli army said troops continued operations in Rafah, claiming that it had eliminated many Hamas members near Tel Al Sultan, on the western side of the city. In central Gaza, the military claimed, it conducted raids on infrastructure.

The Israeli military also said it "hit a structure" used by Palestinians in Deir Al Balah, central Gaza Strip, alleging that Hamas members were operating from a "humanitarian area".

A ceasefire effort led by Qatar and Egypt, and backed by the United States, has so far failed due to disputes between the combatants, who blame each other for the impasse.

Israel claimed earlier this week that it had eliminated the leadership of Hamas. Tel Aviv also claimed that 126 of its soldiers have been killed in Gaza since October last year.

Lebanon's state-run National News

On the other hand, Hezbollah and its ally Hamas said they launched rocket barrages at Israeli positions on Saturday to avenge a strike that injured civilians in south Lebanon.

Lebanon's state-run National News

Agency said Syrian nationalists, including children, had been injured after an "airstrike" targeted an empty four-story building "near their home, less than four kilometres from the border."

Dr. Moussem Kalkash, who heads the Marjoun government hospital, said a woman and her three children, two of them minors, had been admitted for shrapnel injuries after the strike outside Barj Al Mubak.

Among them was an 11-year-old boy in critical condition after he sustained shrapnel injuries and a head wound.

Hezbollah said it launched "dozens of Katyusha rockets" on Dufna, an area in Israel's north that the group said it was targeting for the first time, "in response to the attack on civilians."

On Wednesday, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah had warned his fan-backed group would hit new targets in Israel if more civilians were killed in Israeli strikes.

Later on Saturday, Hamas said it fired a rocket salvo from south Lebanon towards an Israeli military position in the Upper Galilee "in response to the Zionist massacres against civilians in Gaza Strip."

The Israeli army said a total of 45 "projectiles" had been fired from Lebanon on Saturday afternoon towards the occupied Golan Heights and the Galilee.

Israeli strikes target Yemen's port

Israeli air strikes targeted the Houthi-held Yemeni port of Hudaydah on Saturday, according to Al Masrah TV, the main television news outlet run by the Yemeni-based movement.

The strikes against oil facilities in the port caused fatalities, Al Masrah TV said.

On Friday, a long-range drone hit the centre of Tel Aviv in an attack claimed by Houthis and which killed one man and wounded four others, the Israeli military said.

Asked about the latest incident, the Israeli military said: "We do not comment on reports in foreign media."

The Houthis have stepped up attacks against Israel and Western targets, saying they are acting in solidarity with the Palestinians.

They began attacking Western ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden after Israel invaded the Gaza Strip on Oct 7.

Nearly 29,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's assault on the Gaza Strip, according to health authorities in the enclave.—Agency

All Pakistani students in Bangladesh safe: FO

By Iqbal A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: All Pakistani students in Bangladesh are safe and have been moved to safer locations, Foreign Office said on Saturday.

"The High Commission has accommodated students at safe locations. These include the High Commission, ambassador's residence and some other safe locations," said Foreign Office spokesman Muzammar Khatun Baloch in a statement.

"Our mission in Dhaka is in contact with all students. DHM has visited Chittagong to meet the students there as well. All students are safe," she said.

The remarks come as the violent protests against civil service hiring quota in the country intensified, with the death toll surging to over 100 compelling the government to impose nationwide curfew and call in army to quell the protests.

While responding to a question a day earlier, she said Pakistan was following the developments in Bangladesh. "Our High Commission is in close contact with Pakistani students and with the Bangladeshi authorities to ensure safety of Pakistani students."

"We have issued advisories for our students. Our students remain in contact with our High Commission, which has facilitated many students who needed safe lodgings. We will continue to assess

the situation and make a determination about the continued presence of our students in Bangladesh.

"We are confident that the people of Bangladesh have the capacity to resolve their domestic affairs and find a peaceful solution to the ongoing situation."

The ongoing nationwide unrest in Dhaka and other cities—the biggest since Hattis was re-elected for another term this year—aims to challenge the system of 30 per cent quota in public sector jobs.

Pakistan loses dedicated friend in US Congress

PM Shehbaz says Sheila Jackson was a champion for stronger Pak-US ties

By Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, known for her unwavering support of Pakistan, has passed away at the age of 74.

Her chief of staff, Lillie Conley, confirmed that Jackson Lee, who had been battling pancreatic cancer, died in Houston on Friday night with her family by her side.

Jackson Lee, a lifelong Democrat and advocate for progressive causes, was a formidable presence in the US Congress.

As the founder and co-chair of the Pakistan Caucus, she championed Pakistan's role as a crucial ally in the global war on terror.

During her 15 terms in Congress, she worked closely with the Pakistani-American community to

foster a genuine partnership between the United States and Pakistan.

The congresswoman campaigned vigorously for enhancing economic and trade ties with Pakistan.

In a condolence message issued, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his deep sorrow over the passing of Congresswoman Jackson Lee. He remarked, "I am deeply saddened to learn about the sad demise of Congresswoman Jackson Lee."

PM Shehbaz highlighted her role as co-chair of the Pakistan Caucus in the US House of Representatives, noting that she was a champion for stronger ties between Pakistan and the United States.

"Her contributions will be remembered and missed for years to come. May her soul rest in peace. My heartfelt condolences to her family and her supporters," he added.

Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar also paid tribute to the late Congresswoman, describing Jackson Lee as "a steadfast friend of Pakistan". He acknowledged her tireless efforts as



SHEILA Jackson Lee

chairperson of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, stating, "Her relentless efforts to enhance Pakistan-US relations will never be forgotten."

Born in Queens, New York, Jackson Lee graduated from Yale University and the University of Virginia Law School. She worked as a lawyer in private practice and as staff counsel for the House Select Committee on Assassinations before serving in Houston's local government as a City Council member and municipal judge.

Funeral arrangements are pending. She is survived by her husband, two children, and two grand-children.

Users face 'disruption' in WhatsApp services

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: WhatsApp users across Pakistan faced issues in sending media files through the messaging app while connected to mobile data, on Saturday.

The telecom regulator, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), issued no statement on the issue, while cellular mobile operators (CMOs) also claimed they had not received any complaints.

There were reports that users were unable to upload media files while connected to mobile data, but voice messages and video files could be sent and viewed through Wi-Fi connections.

Experts linked the issue to the suspected installation and testing of the firewall to keep a check on the internet.

JUI-F, PTI at odds over dissolving KP Assembly, mass resignations

Fazl claims moves aimed at forcing new, 'transparent' polls; Rasool, Gohar say no such action on the cards

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: The JUI-F and PTI made contradictory claims on Saturday about dissolving the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and resigning from other assemblies to force the government to call for new elections.

In a statement released by its media cell, JUI-F claimed that PTI was willing to dissolve the KP Assembly and resign from other assemblies to hold fair and transparent elections in the country.

The PTI issued a swift denial, with its information secretary, Rasool Hassan, saying that no such move is currently on the cards.

"I cannot talk any further over this subject. Even the JUI-F has not released this [statement] on its behalf," he said while replying to Dawn's query.

Later, PTI Chairman Barrister

Gohar Ali Khan issued a statement saying that the issue of resignations was not discussed in meetings with the JUI-F leadership.

PTI-JUI-F 'reconciliation'

The JUI-F statement also claimed that the party's emeritus Maulana Faruk Rehman, has formed a committee to negotiate with PTI.

The committee, as it was stated, would be headed by Senator Kamran Murrat and include Khyber Lawler Rehman, Faraz Ghaffoor, Aslam Ghori, and Maulana Anwar.

The JUI-F also conceded that relations between its party and the PTI had been "strained in the past", and the JUI-F was "ready to normalise them".

The discussions are "moving in a positive direction," the statement quoted the JUI-F chief as saying.

Mr Rehman claimed that PTI believes that fresh elections and a true representative government are the only solutions to the country's problems.

He added that all issues will be resolved "if the establishment distances itself from elections". "There will neither be economic

stability nor the law and order situation under control without fresh, impartial and transparent elections," Mr Rehman was quoted as saying.

Without naming any entity or group, he said that the situation cannot be brought under control through emergency or martial law.

"The situation has slipped out of their hands," he said. "The establishment has to reconsider their policies as the country cannot be run this way."

He said the establishment intended to make institutions and parliament "subservient" to it and warned that the prevailing situation could result in further disintegration of the country.

The JUI-F emeritus said politicians, including PTI founder Ishaq Khan, should not be prosecuted.

The JUI-F statement also announced a series of future events to be organised across the country next month.

A nationwide Black Day will be observed on Aug 5 to protest India's actions in held Kashmir, followed by a farmer's convention in Mardan on Aug 10, a trader's convention in Peshawar on Aug 11, and a peace convention in Lakki Mawath on Aug 18.

SINDH BUILDING CONTROL AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR THE INSTALLATION OF QUICK RESPONSE CODE (QR-CODE) ON ALL SITES / PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Sindh Building Control Authority has already advised to all Builders & Developers for the installation of Quick Response Code (QR-Code) on all sites / projects (under construction) vide SBCA letter No: SBCA/PS to DG/2022/49, dated: 21.06.2022, which was also published in leading newspapers on 16.10.2020. But QR-code have not been installed by the Builders / Developers.

All the Builders / Developers are once again advised to install Quick Response Code (QR-Code) on the sites / projects (under construction) containing relevant project information about the approved building plan, for the awareness of the general public, within 07 days.

Sr. No.	PARTICULARS	DETAILS	Sr. No.	PARTICULARS	DETAILS
1	Project Name		09	No of Flats & Shops	
2	Plot No		10	Total Covered Area	
3	Builder Name		11	Date of Completion	
4	License Architect		12	Construction Permit Approved Volo. No	
5	Licensed Structure Engineer		13	Sales & Advertisement NOC Approved	
6	Contractor		14	ABAO Membership	
7	Resident/Sit Engineer		15	Verification by QR Code	
8	No of Floors Approved				

If the Builders / Developers fail to install the Quick Response Code (QR-Code) within 07 days, necessary legal action shall be taken against them in accordance with the KB&TPR-2002.

SINDH BUILDING CONTROL AUTHORITY

Civic Centre, Annex University Road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi-5 (Pakistan) Phone: Tel: 021-9923029 Fax: 021-99230326 www.sbca.gov.pk

SPORT



NOAH LYLES (C) OF THE US SPRINTS ON HIS WAY TO VICTORY IN THE MEN'S 100M EVENT DURING THE LONDON DIAMOND LEAGUE AT THE LONDON STADIUM ON SATURDAY.—REUTERS

Lyles runs 100m personal best in final Olympic tune-up

LONDON: Noah Lyles warmed up for his assault on the Olympic 100 metres title in impressive style on Saturday when the American world champion ran a personal best of 9.81 seconds in the final Diamond League meeting before the Paris Games.

Lyles, probably the biggest name in the sport at the moment, delivered on his promise in the final race of the day in front of a sell-out crowd of 60,000, easily the largest at the Diamond League circuit, clipping two hundredths off his best.

South African Akani Sindi took second in 9.86 and Botswana's Letsame Tsepo was third in 9.88 as the first five broke 10 seconds.

Lyles has developed into the biggest personality in athletics and, having taken the 100m world title in Budapest last year to add to three, and an Olympic bronze, over the 200m, he is becoming the man to beat in the blue riband event.

Another home favourite stepped up in the men's 400m as Matthew Hudson-Smith won in a spectacular 47.74 — a European record and world lead.

Argentina apologises to France in football-chant row

BUENOS AIRES: Buenos Aires apologised to France after Argentina's vice president called the European country "colonialist" and its people "hypocrites" in an argument over alleged racist chants by Argentine footballers.



MCLAREN'S driver Lando Norris (front) and Haas' Nico Hulkenberg compete during the qualifying session for the Hungarian F1 Grand Prix at the Hungaroring racetrack on Saturday.—AFP

Norris takes Hungary pole in McLaren front row lockout

MOSCOW: Hungary's Lando Norris took pole position at the Hungarian Grand Prix on Saturday with team-mate Oscar Piastri qualifying alongside to secure McLaren's first front row lockout since 2012.

Howe pledges Newcastle commitment amid England links

LONDON: Newcastle United manager Eddie Howe said he is dedicated to the club and will remain as long as he is "happy and feels supported", amid reports linking him to the England head coach position following Gareth Southgate's exit.

Southgate, in charge since 2016, announced his departure on Tuesday after England's second straight European Championship final defeat, this time a shattering 2-1 loss to Spain.

It has been speculated that England will look for another homegrown replacement, with Howe or former Chelsea boss Graham Potter as frontrunners but they might also be open to a stand-out replacement from elsewhere.

"Really, there has been no thought in my mind on anything else and I have been very committed to the job here," Howe told BBC Radio on Friday from Newcastle's training camp in Germany.

"For me, as long as I am happy and feel supported and feel free to do the work that I love to do at Newcastle, I'll be very happy — and I am very happy. I'm absolutely honoured and privileged to be manager of Newcastle. I hope that in for many, many years. I am determined to win a trophy for the football club — that is in my psyche every day."

Bangladesh 'A' fight back after Shaheens dominance

DARWIN: Bangladesh 'A' put up a fighting display with the host against Pakistan Shaheens as their scorecard read 203-4 in 62 overs, trailing by 264 runs, when the struggle was drawn on the second day of the first four-day match here at the DCC Arena on Saturday.

Ukraine launches Olympic postage stamp

KYIV: Ukraine launched a new postage stamp to support its Olympic athletes as it sent its smallest-ever national team to the Paris Games amid the war with Russia which is nearing the 29-month mark.

'France coach Henry wants attacking football'

PARIS: Alexandre Lacazette said he was proud that head coach Thierry Henry, his idol growing up, had given him the responsibility of leading the France Olympic team, and hoped the home support would fuel the team's medal ambitions.

'Great feeling' as Nadal makes first final in two years

BANFAT: Rafael Nadal reached his first final on Saturday since winning the 2022 French Open, defeating Croatian qualifier Duje Ajkovic in a three-set thriller in Roland Garros of the Paris Olympics.

His most recent triumph came two years ago at Roland Garros, when he won the tournament for a record-extending 14th time.

The former world number one appeared in complete control in the third set when he surged 3-0 ahead only to lose his serve twice in succession, suffering a repeat of the struggle that nearly cost him on Friday.

Nadal is using the event in Bastad as a tune-up for the Olympic Games, where the tennis will be played on the clay at Roland Garros. He won gold in the singles in Beijing in 2008 and gold in the doubles at Rio 2016.



SPAIN'S Rafael Nadal celebrates after winning the Bastad Open semi-final against Duje Ajkovic of Croatia on Saturday.—AFP

Brook leads England into strong position against WI

NOTTINGHAM: Harry Brook's unbeaten fifty guided England into a strong position at stumps on the third day of the second Test against the West Indies at Trent Bridge.

England were 248-1 in their second innings on Saturday's close, already a lead of 207 runs.

Brook was 71 not out and star batsman Joe Root was on 37, with the Yorkshire duo having shared an unbeaten stand of 108 in 23.4 overs.

England had been in control against a wayward West Indies attack as Ben Duckett made 76, his sec-

ond Ashing fifty of the match, and Ollie Pope added 51 to his first-innings 121.

But a change of ball led to a change of tack for the West Indies, with paceman Alzarri Joseph continuing lastly batsmen as England's 127-1 was soon transformed into 140-3.

Root and Brook, however, restored England's grip on the match as they scored briskly against a tiring West Indies pace attack, with a third-day pitch still providing an excellent surface for batting.

England opened their second innings 41 runs behind after being frustrated by an aggressive batsman stand of 71 between Joshua Da Silva (82 not out) and Shamar Joseph (33) that took the West Indies to 457.

It was the first time the West Indies had made 450 in a Test innings for nearly a decade.

Zak Crawley, dismissed for a duck in England's first innings, was then unluckily run out for three after Jayden Seales deflected a Duckett drive onto the stumps at the bowler's end.

But Pope underlined England's determination to wrestle back the momentum with three fours off successive Seales deliveries.

Left-hander Duckett was also in fine touch, sweeping off-spinner Kevin Simlar for three fours in his way to a 55-ball 50.

But the first delivery following the change of ball ended a second-wicket partnership of 119 when Pope edged an Alzarri Joseph delivery low to Simlar in the gaps. The bowler's excellent inverting yorker then had Duckett bow.

But Brook counter-attacked by advancing down the pitch to drive towering all-rounder Jason Holder for four.

Brook then completed the third fifty of the innings by stylishly check-driving Alzarri Joseph to the long-off rope for a fifth four in 62 balls total.

Even so, the West Indies could take heart from a batting performance all the more creditable given they had been dismissed for just 121 and 136 during an innings and 104-run defeat by England at Lord's.

That left them 1-0 down in this three-match series.

DA SILVA RAMPAGE

West Indies resumed on 351-5, 65 runs behind, after Kevin Hodge (120) and Alick Athanaze (82) shared a stand of 175 that revived them from 84-3.

England, in their first home Test since 2012 without retired duo James Anderson or Stuart Broad — who between them took 3,308 Test wickets — had struggled on Friday.

But an overcast Saturday morning promised to aid England's pace attack, armed with the new ball, as Jason Holder (23 not out) and Da Silva (32 not out) looked to narrow the deficit.

Chris Woakes removed Holder and then dismissed Alzarri Joseph and Seales with successive deliveries before Shamar Joseph survived the hat-trick ball, with the Warwickshire seamer taking 4-88 in his 50th Test.

Da Silva, however, completed an 87-ball 50 in spectacular style when he launched fast bowler Mark Wood high over extra cover for six.

And the wicketkeeper then took West Indies past



ENGLAND batter Harry Brook reaches after being hit during the second Test against the West Indies at Trent Bridge on Saturday.—Reuters

400 with an extravagant apparent six off Wood.

Boundaries came at both ends, Shamar Joseph pulling fast bowler Gus Atkinson — fresh from 12 wickets on debut at Lord's — for six to level the scores.

Two balls later Atkinson

again dropped short as Shamar Joseph blasted him for another six that knocked sides off the roof of the Larwood and You Tavern.

England captain Ben Stokes turned to Root to break the stand but Da

Silva chided the part-time spinner for three fours and a six off successive balls.

Wood eventually had Shamar Joseph chipping to mid-on, his only wicket of an innings where he topped 50 mph (156 kmh) and beat the outside edge.—AFP

'Out of this world' Pogacar on brink of third Tour de France title

NICE: Tadej Pogacar soon for a fifth time on this year's Tour de France on Saturday, moving to the brink of a third title, with an "out of this world" performance in the 20th stage ahead of defending champion Jonas Vingegaard and Remco Evenepoel.

With just Sunday's concluding time trial to come, two-time champion Pogacar has a five-minute, 14-second lead over Vingegaard as he effectively made sure of becoming the first man in 26 years to capture the Giro d'Italia-Tour de France double in the same season.

"Tomorrow can still be dangerous so I will try and come safely into Nice," said Pogacar.

The Slovenian won the Tour de France in 2020 and 2021 before his attack-minded tactics backfired as Vingegaard beat him into second place in 2022 and 2023.

"Five wins. If you had told me that before the Tour then I would not have believed you," said Pogacar. "It's out of this world, I'm super happy."

The day's action culminated on the tough Col de Couillole climb where Evenepoel's Quick Step team set the tempo and attacked Vingegaard in an attempt to take second place overall.

Instead Evenepoel dropped around 500m on the Dams, making it less likely the Belgian can claim second place after Sunday's time trial, where he is favourite for the stage win.

Vingegaard said he had not been targeting a win on Saturday's penultimate stage after admitting on Friday that his title hopes were over when Pogacar also pocketed the 19th stage.

"I was riding more to put more time into him [Evenepoel] rather than going for the stage today. He's the best time triathlete in the world so you never know," said the 27-year-old Dane.

"I felt really good yesterday, completely empty, so to bounce back like this is really nice."

Evenepoel virtually guaranteed third place overall and the white jersey as best young rider.

Olympic champion Richard Carapaz, regarded as the most combative rider on the 2024 Tour, will win the climb points jersey.

Carapaz came third Saturday, won a stage and even took the yellow jersey



TEAM Visma-lease a Doha's Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard cycles ahead of UAE Team Emirates' Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, during the final ascent of the Col de la Couillole during the 20th stage of the Tour de France on Saturday.—AFP

Lowry pegged back as Horschel, Brown move into share of British Open lead

TRON: Shane Lowry saw a three-shot advantage slip away during his third round on the British Open on Saturday as American Billy Horschel and unheralded Englishman Daniel Brown moved into a share of the lead at six under.

Lowry, who claimed his sole major victory at the 2019 British Open, began the day with a two-shot lead and stretched his advantage to three with a birdie at the par-five fourth.

However, he was the latest big name to fall foul of the 130-yard Postage Stamp eighth as he was penalised for finding a bunker off the tee with a double bogey five to drop back to six under.

Horschel was one of the big movers on a day that allowed for lower scoring on Scotland's west coast despite the heavy rain.

Starting at two under, Horschel produced a sublime four under 32 on the front nine thanks to birdies at four, six, seven and nine.

Brown continued to defy his lack of experience as the major rookie made the turn at one under for the day as three birdies more than atoned for two dropped shots at the first and on the infamous Postage Stamp.

Behind the leaders, some of the star names to make the weekend are assembling.

Fresh from his maiden major win at the USPGA Championship, Nasser Schanfle is opening

another as he closed to within two shots of the lead, alongside Justin Rose at the midway point of their

third rounds.

All eyes were on world number one Scottie Scheffler, expecting a

Saturday charge from the man who has already won six times this year.

The Masters champion, though, has been steady if unspectacular, picking up just one shot in his first 11 holes to move to three under.

South Africa's Thriston Lawrence and American duo Sam Burns and Russell Henley made the most of the benign early morning conditions to shoot through the park to three under.

Lawrence and Burns posted six under 65, while Henley made 66 to move into contention with the leaders not to face a tricky back nine in history conditions.

Two-time major champion Justin Thomas and former Masters winner Adam Scott also impressed to move to level par and remain on the fringes of the battle for the Claret Jug.

But the challenge from the big names on the breakaway LIV circuit failed to materialise.

Jon Rahm slipped back to two over, while Brooks Koepka was six over for the day and seven for the tournament with three holes to play.

One of the loudest cheers of the week so far was reserved for Si Woo Kim after the South Korean produced the first hole-in-one of the 152nd Open on the 17th that brought him back to five over for the tournament.—AFP



ENGLAND'S Daniel Brown hits an approach shot on the 10th hole during the third round of the British Open at the Royal Troon Golf Club on Saturday.—Reuters

Paris Olympics preparations move up a gear

PARIS: Preparations for the Paris Olympics stepped up a gear on Saturday as security teams secured the banks of the Seine ahead of Friday's opening ceremony and top International Olympic Committee officials met in the French capital.

Police with sniffer dogs checked the six-kilometre (four-mile) route along the Seine for the ceremony in which around 6,000-7,000 athletes will sail on nearly a hundred barges and river boats in front of 300,000 spectators.

French police will be bolstered by cob legions from several countries, including Spain, Britain and Qatar.

Early on Saturday, a rehearsal for the ceremony was held on the river but security barriers and police screened it from the eyes of residents and media.

The stakes are high for the waterborne parade; the first time the opening ceremony of a Summer Games will take place outside a stadium.

The preparations for the ceremony have caused extensive disruption to residents of central Paris, who must have a pass with a special QR code to cross the Seine.

"We've had far fewer customers than usual for the last two weeks. There aren't many tourists and lots of Parisians have left town. All our local clientele has gone," said Bahi Samadine, 65, in a boutique in Saint-Germain-des-Freres.

Team delegations have started to check into the athletes' villages but some arrivals were delayed by Friday's global IT crash.

"Like a lot of organisations, we suffered this global Microsoft outage," the Games chief organiser Tony Estanguet told reporters on Friday. "All of our servers were affected this morning."

However the accreditation systems were working again by Friday evening.

In better news for organisers, the ticketing systems were not affected.

Organisers say 8.7 million tickets have already been sold, beating the record from the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and that figure will rise because tickets are still on sale for some of the 45 sports.

Some of the athletes expected to be the biggest stars of the Games, including American sprinter Noah Lyles, will compete for a final time before the Olympics at

the Diamond League meeting in London on Saturday.

The IOC's top brass, led by President Thomas Bach, will meet on Saturday to prepare for the larger IOC Session later this week.

Behind the scenes, the allocation of the 2020 Winter Olympics to the French Alps — they were the only candidates — risks being delayed by a row over the French government's reluctance to give binding guarantees.

Russia will be the big absentee from the Paris Games, with just 15 Russians and 16 Belarusians accredited as most sports have turned their backs on the Russians after the invasion of Ukraine.

Those allowed to compete at the Games have had to meet strict criteria on neutrality, but Global Rights Foundation, a Human Rights Foundation, said two thirds of the Russians selected had expressed support for Moscow's invasion of Ukraine or have links to the military.

In a statement to AFP, the IOC said Friday it would not comment on individual cases.—AFP

Palaeontologists are winners by just being at Games, say athletes

PARIS: The presence of Palestinian athletes at the Paris Olympic Games is already a major victory for the team amid the conflict in the Middle East, they said on Saturday, less than a week before the start of the Olympics.

The Palestinian team for the Games starting on Friday consists of six athletes who will be competing in boxing, judo, taekwondo, shooting and swimming, with aims hopes of a medal.

"Whether a medal or not, we already win," said veteran Yasser Al-Bawwaba, who will be the team's flag bearer during the opening ceremony, said. "The fact that we're here. The fact that people don't want us to be here, they don't want us to play sports. They don't want us to exist. People don't want Palestinians to exist. They look at the flag and they don't want it. So to be here is a win."

About 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 were injured and taken as hostages in Gaza in an attack on southern Israel led by Hamas last Oct 7, according to Israeli bodies. The Israeli military offensive launched in response in Hamas-governed Gaza has killed almost 39,000 Palestinians, Israeli officials in the Palestinian enclave say. Israel says 326 of its soldiers have been killed in Gaza.

In the run-up to the Paris Olympics, Palestinian athletes had been given support by Arab states, including Kuwait, Qatar, Libya and Egypt, to allow training in those countries.

Palestinian sports officials have said that since the start of the conflict in October 2023 more than 300 athletes, referees and sports officials have been killed and all sports facilities in Gaza demolished.

"I said I'd be here but I'm one of the luckiest people in the world," summed Valente Tazul said. "I have the opportunity to compete for my country, to raise the flag for my country. My heart is with them. Every time I jump in the pool, I'm thinking about the people of Palestine, their struggles. And I just want to represent them in the best way possible."—Reuters



Brook leads England into strong position against WI

KARACHI

Rained	07:23 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	05:54 am
NEXT 24 HRS	
Minimum	30°C
Maximum	37°C
Humidity	68%
Outlook	Mostly Sunny

METRO South



SHAHBAH 4 Sher Shah Suri in North Nazimabad is submerged by floodwater after torrential rains, on Saturday. — Fahim Siddiq / White Star

Murad ponders sewer tunnels to control urban flooding

Asks KWSC to conduct master-plan study on different options, including tunnelling, to establish urban flooding control system in Karachi

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday directed the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation to conduct a master-plan study within six months to control urban flooding mainly caused by clogging of drains with solid waste, lack of outfall infrastructure and growing squatter settlements and encroachments in the city.

Presiding over a meeting at CM House, he emphasised the need for establishing an urban flooding control system in the city and identifying low-lying vulnerable hotspots so that the design of sewer tunnels leading to the main intercepter tunnels at Lyari and Malir Rivers could be made.

According to a press statement, the meeting was attended among others by Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani, Mayor Barrister Mustafa Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Principal Secretary to CM Agha Waqif, L&I Secretary Khalid Hyder Shah, KWSC Chief Executive Officer Syed Salahuddin Ahmed and Karachi Metropolitan Corporation Municipal Commissioner Aftab Zafar.

The CM said that there was a need for a master plan study to control urban flooding in Karachi. He added that the study should include a tunnelling option and be completed within six months.

"Once the study is conducted, a financial model would be developed," he said.

He said that first, hotspots of low-lying prone to urban flooding areas needed to be identified. "The sewer tunnels will be designed including their alignment and outfall points so that the tunnels bring water to the main intercepter tunnels at Lyari and Malir River," he said and added that to achieve the objective, rejuvenation of Lyari and Malir Rivers by making them free from all sewer outfall structures might also be undertaken.

During the discussion, it was observed that some of the leading causes of urban flooding were clogging of drains with solid waste, obstruction of flow in drains, lack of outfall infrastructure, growing squatter settlements and encroachments.

The CM said that efforts were made to tackle this problem by removing unauthorised settlements or

Continued on Page 14

Two dead as parts of city receive heavy showers

• Boy dies from electrocution in SITE, another drowns in flash flood • Rain fails to break hot, humid spell • Many areas remain without electricity after rain • Met Office says sea breeze to resume tomorrow

By Faiza Ilyas and Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI Two minor boys died in different incidents as many areas of the metropolis received moderate to heavy showers on Saturday.

The rain, however, failed to break the hot spell that city has been facing for the past many days as the Met Office forecast hot and humid weather for Sunday (today) with chances of isolated thunderstorms/light rain with maximum temperature likely to range between 36-38 degrees Celsius.

Saturday's rain also exposed the performance of the K-Electric as power supply was disrupted in many areas as soon as the downpour started and took many hours to restore.

Mayor Mustafa Wahab paid a

visit to different parts of the metropolis and inspected the work to drain out rainwater accumulated in city arteries.

Highest rainfall in Nazimabad

According to the Met department's data, the maximum rain was recorded in Nazimabad: 25.2mm, Kiamari 20.5mm, PAF Masrora Base (Mawqaf) 20mm and Korangi 22mm.

Other areas including Quaidabad received 12mm, PAF Faisal Base 7mm, DHA Phase II 6.5mm, Orangi 4.5mm, Jinnah Terminal 1.2mm, Durrani Hydrol 3mm, Met Complex 2.4mm, old airport area 1.7mm and Gulshan-e-Hadeed 1mm.

"Trace" was recorded in Gulshan-e-Maymar, Hassan Square and Saadi

town. No rain was recorded in Gdapp, North Karachi, Sabaqah, Malir Halt and Saklan.

Boy drowns in flash flood from Kati Pahari

An eight-year-old boy was swept away and drowned in a flash flood from Kati Pahari on Saturday evening.

Rescue-1122 official Hassan Khan told Dawn that a boy identified as Sabir drowns in raging torrents coming down from Kati Pahari near North Nazimabad.

The official said that the boy was a resident of the hilly area of Kati Pahari.

The bodies both there are without

Continued on Page 14

Priya Kumari is alive and we have evidence, says home minister

Zia Larjar meets parents of missing girl at CM House

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI Sindh Home Minister Zia Larjar on Saturday evening met the parents of missing minor girl Priya Kumari and assured them that the police had evidence that she is alive.

The meeting was held at the Chief Minister House and also attended by members of a negotiating team formed after Friday's protest at Town Talwar.

They were briefed by DSI Javed Jilani about efforts of a joint investigation team for the recovery of the missing girl.

The home minister observed that it was a 'blind case' but the Sindh police had revived the hope of solving it.

"Priya Kumari is alive and we have evidence," the minister told the grieving parents, according to a state-

ment issued after the meeting.

He added that the investigation team would achieve a breakthrough.

Four policemen suspended for assaulting journalists

Four policemen were suspended over charges of beating media persons during coverage of a protest by civil society organisations at Town Talwar roadblock on Friday night for recovery of seven-year-old Priya Kumari who went missing from Sakkar three years ago while distributing Sabeel on 10th March, officials said.

"We condemn torture against journalists and no one would be allowed to misuse their powers," a police spokesperson said, adding that during an initial probe, four policemen were found responsible for "misbehaviour" against the newsmen and that they had been suspended by SSP South and an inquiry had been initiated for further legal action.

He said all legal requirements would be fulfilled and departmental action would be taken against the four suspended officers.

KMC asked to work out renovation cost of its 28 CNG buses

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI The provincial government on Saturday decided to add 28 air-conditioned CNG buses of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation to the Peoples Bus Service fleet after the city's municipality failed to bring them on roads.

The defunct City District Government Karachi had purchased 75 dedicated CNG buses at a total cost of around Rs375 million and operated them efficiently during the initial period giving a heavy subsidy. Later, the subsidy was withdrawn and the buses were left rusting at a terminal in Surjani Town.

On Saturday, Chief Minister Mushtaq Ali Shah while chairing a meeting directed Mayor Mustafa Wahab to work out a proposal to add the KMC's 28 air-conditioned CNG buses to the PBS fleet so that they could be put on any existing or new routes in the metropolis.

The mayor told the meeting participants that out of 75 buses, 14 buses were donated to different organisations.

He said that 51 buses were in different stages of decay and were available with the KMC, adding that 26 buses, if repaired, could be put in operation.

He said that KMC had reconditioned one of the buses through private sources. "The repaired vehicle has been converted to diesel fuel and the bus has been reconditioned for Rs1 million," he added.

Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani proposed in the meeting that the cost estimates for the renovation of 28 buses might be carried out first and then reconditioning be started, if feasible.

It was proposed that these 28 buses, after renovation, may be used as a shuttle service from Nazimabad up to old Radio Pakistan building or Tower which ultimately would be the route of Red Line BRT.

The CM directed the KMC to work out a plan for the renovation of its 28 buses for the provincial government. "If the renovation proposal is approved, the transport department would be putting the task of upgrading them and getting them on the route or turning them into shuttle service as suggested."

Suspected thief beaten to death

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI A suspected thief was beaten to death in Korangi on Saturday morning, police and rescue services said.

An ESH Foundation spokesperson said that the tortured body of a man, later identified as Mohammed Hussain, 24, was found from the roadside in Sector-50, Korangi and it was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

Zaman Town SHO Malik Ashraf Awan said that some four persons caught the man at around 4am in the area over suspicions of him being a thief.

They subjected him to beating despite the fact that people in the vicinity asked them not to take law in their hands and hand over the suspect to police for legal action. However, they did not stop and beat him to death.

The SHO said that some witnesses told the police that the four men dumped the body outside his home at 6am and fled.

The suspects had been identified and the police would register a murder case against them, the SHO said.

Family court grants Dua Zehra's permanent custody to her parents

Child protection officer has informed court that the teenage girl is leading a content life with her parents

By Ishfaq Tanzeel

KARACHI A family court has permanently handed over the custody of Dua Zehra, the teenage girl who was reportedly kidnapped from Karachi and married in Punjab in 2022, to her parents.

The court said the "welfare of the minor is best served by placing her permanent custody with her biological parents until she reaches the age of majority".

It also directed the parents of the girl to submit a personal bond, along with an undertaking, to ensure the girl's "happiness in all aspects of life" and to refrain from

causing her any harm.

The parents of Dua Zehra had waged a legal battle after their daughter's disappearance from Karachi in April 2022. Following strong criticism on social media and strict orders passed by the Sindh High Court (SHC) that also saw packing an acting inspector general of police over his failure to recover the child, the police finally recovered the minor girl from Bahawalpur. She was later shifted to a shelter home in the city on a court directive.

In January last year, the SHC had granted interim custody of the girl to her parents subject to a final decision in an application filed by her parents for permanent custody pending before a guardian and ward court/family court.

The parents had filed the application in 2022 seeking permanent custody of their daughter. After examining the record and hearing both sides, Judge Saleem Ali Soomro of the Guardian and Ward Court/Family Court (East) pronounced the order,

The court in its order noted that all the documents including the marriage certificate of the girl, Form-B and school record of Dua Zehra indicated that she was born in April 2008 while a special medical board, convened to determine her age, in its report issued in July 2022 also concluded that she was between 15 and 16 years of age.

The permanent consideration before the guardian court was the welfare of the minor in deciding the custody, the court observed.

From review of the record, it is undisputed that the minor was currently enrolled in 9th grade and, subsequent to being granted temporary custody to her parents, she has excelled academically, securing second position in her school, the court order said.

It also noted that the recently reports of the child protection officer also affirmed that the girl was leading a content life with her parents and performing her daily activities calmly. She is also in good health while there was no record of neglect in the

upbringing of the minor by her parents, it added.

The underage girl also appeared before the court and "her intelligent preference has been recorded as she unequivocally expressed her love for parents and desired her life with parents as happy", it added.

The family court also stated that the main respondent, Zabeer Ahmed, the alleged husband of the underage girl, had failed to demonstrate that the minor girl was not well-treated by her parents, the applicants, or her future would be jeopardised if the custody was retained by them.

As per record, one of the applicants, minor's father, has made substantial efforts to secure the custody of his daughter "by pursuing legal avenues underscoring his love and dedication" to his daughter while the main respondent had not even effectively contested this application, the judge remarked.

The SHC had already entrusted temporary custody of the minor to the applicants

and no complaint had been lodged against them and "disturbing this custody arrangement could have adverse effects on the minor's mental well-being", it added.

"It has been brought on notice that the minor has also filed a suit for justification of marriage against the main respondent, which is pending before this court," the judge noted.

"Based on the foregoing discussion, I am inclined to conclude that the welfare of the minor is best served by placing her custody with her biological parents. It is therefore in the minor's best interests for the applicants to retain permanent custody until she reaches the age of majority, or an otherwise face of marriage is determined in pending suit for justification of marriage and other litigations," it concluded.

Zabeer Ahmed, along with his relatives and other persons, has also been facing trial before a sessions court under various provisions of the Pakistan Penal Code and the Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Act, 2013.

'Exorcist' held after girl dies during treatment

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: An exorcist was arrested on Friday evening, three days after he allegedly kept brutalising a 16-year-old girl till her death in his attempt to rid her of supposed evil spirits.

The victim, Flekha Moghwar, was brought to the exorcist, Anil Moghwar, by her father, Faram Lal Moghwar, as the latter was made to believe that she had been under influence of evil spirits.

Faram Lal approached the police on Tuesday (July 16) afternoon to lodge a complaint against Anil soon after Flekha was violently beaten to death by the suspect at his place located in the Masran locality of Hattisabad Colony in Dabwali town, Ghokri district.

The police registered a non-cognisable report against Anil but unsatisfied Faram Lal approached the SSP with plea to get him arrested.

On SSP's order, a raid was conducted on Anil's place but he had already escaped.

A hunt for him was launched and finally he was arrested from Pishawari Bypass, along the Deharki section of National Highway.

In the FIR (No. 225/2024), the complainant stated that he took her ailing daughter, Flekha, 16, to Anil's place in Hattisabad Colony, for treatment. He further stated that Anil started beating up Flekha violently in his apparent attempt to exorcise her. Anil kept brutalising her until she died during, what Anil said, the process of ridding her of evil spirits. Faram Lal stated

Move to allow granite excavation in 'part of Karoonjhar' challenged

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: A writ petition was filed before the Sindh High Court (SHC) Mirpurkhas circuit on Friday by Advocate Shanker Lal to challenge Sindh government's decision to allow excavation of granite from the Kharsar Karoonjhar hills.

The court has fixed hearing of the application at July 23, according to the petition.

The petition refers to the October 19, 2023 decision of the high court's Hyderabad circuit bench, comprising Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqi and Arshad Hussain Khan. The bench had ordered preservation / conservation of Karoonjhar Hills as per international guidelines. It had declared that the entire range of Karoonjhar Hills is "one ecosystem" under law and cannot be divided into pieces and portions to make

some part of it (range) available for permitted excavation".

The bench had decided two identical petitions, one of them by Advocate Shanker Lal and the other Mirwaris Ali Bagan. Both petitioners had challenged mining in Karoonjhar Hills.

Since SHC's Mirpurkhas circuit has now been established, the petition was transferred there from Hyderabad.

In his fresh petition, Advocate Shanker Lal has challenged the recent decision of the provincial government to issue permits for the excavation of granite from the 'Kharsar Karoonjhar' part of the hilly terrain in Nagarparkeer.

The provincial cabinet has taken the conditional decision in line with the July 11 recommendation by Special Investment Facilitation Council's executive committee on the Nagarparkeer Granite Excavation Project.

Shanker Lal has pleaded that the government's move was in disregard of SHC's

Oct 19, 2023 judgement.

He maintained that the Kharsar is part of Karoonjhar Hills and, as such, proposed mining operations were unlawful.

"The Karoonjhar mountain range has already been declared protected heritage under decision of that court as well as under Ramsar Convention, therefore act/decisions of cabinet is illegal, unlawful and against law," the petitioner added.

He submitted in court that Kharsar Karoonjhar is not separate from Karoonjhar mountains.

The Kharsar Karoonjhar site is located 25 kilometres from Nagarparkeer near the village of Kharsar. It stands at a height of over 400ft.

According to the petitioner, this area covers 8-10 sq-kms and is an integral part of Karoonjhar range. It is home to several significant sites, including places of worship and cultural heritage.

The petitioner stated that the mountain housed temples of the Hindu community,

Swami Hardas Part Ashram and a graveyard for the Muslim community. It houses several sites for the Jogi community too.

Additionally, Kharsar Karoonjhar area supports a diverse range of wildlife species, making it an essential ecological habitat for local wildlife species, facilitating their livelihood and growth.

He pleaded that mining activities in the area posed a serious threat to the delicate ecosystem, potentially leading to the displacement and extinction of the species.

He stated that it was regretting to see that despite these factors, the mines and minerals department considered excavation permits for the Kharsar Karoonjhar site. The petitioner submitted that the decision was made with mala fide intent and without proper consideration of area's cultural, ecological and social significance.

He prayed the court to suspend further process of the cabinet decision in the light of the earlier judgement of SHC's Hyderabad circuit bench.

AT terms recent census 'digital terrorism'

Dawn Report

KARACHI: The Awami Tehreek leaders have described digital census as "digital terrorism" against people of Sindh since it was carried out prematurely during the chaotic conditions following heavy

rain and floods, and reportedly undercounted natives and inflated number of non-natives.

They, therefore, demanded a new census when it became due as per schedule, rejected what they termed as fabricated data of the current census, and called for an end to

land grabbing under the umbrella of corporate farming and the so-called agricultural revolution, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

They were speaking at a seminar on 'Digital census, water theft, landgrabbing and rampant lawlessness in the province' organised by the party at the Nazimuddin Press Club.

Lal Jorjoo, the party's central president, condemned the digital census as "digital terrorism" as it was conducted before its due date when millions were displaced following floods.

He said the Supreme Court had previously ordered expulsion of over four million illegal immigrants residing in Karachi but both federal and Sindh governments ignored the apex court's directives by avoiding their expulsion and counting them in the census.

The party therefore demanded a new census as per schedule, he said.

He criticised President Anwar Zardari's decision to allocate about two million acres of land in Narra taluka for Green Corporate Initiative Private Limited and provide the company with an

interest-free loan of Rs100 million.

AT general secretary Nasir Ahmad Karar emphasised the Pakistan Peoples Party's role in countering Sindh's problems, accusing the party of bartering away provincial resources for political power.

Other speakers, including Hussain Soomro and Gul Mungar, demanded the lands be given to landless farmers and financial resources be used to boost provincial economy. They denounced the decision to grant 6,000 acres in Hattisabad, Karachi, to SHEA and called for returning the lands to original villagers who had inhabited them for centuries.

The party leaders highlighted severe water crisis exacerbated by amendments to the Indus Act and the construction of dams on the Indus River and demanded immediate withdrawal of the amendments and equitable water distribution as per 1945 Sindh-Punjab Water Accord.

They urged the government to pay compensation to farmers who suffered losses due to artificial water scarcity and under-

scored breakdowns of law and order in Sindh, pointing to the rise of banditry and tribal jirgas facilitated by influential local politicians of the ruling party.

They slammed government's alleged support of bandits through supplies of modern weapons and

demanded severe punishment for those responsible for such brazen conspiracy in crimes.

They demanded recovery of all hostages, including Priya Komari, and decried soaring inflation driven by increases in oil, gas, and electricity prices.

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(Morning, Evening and Weekend)



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- Candidates are required to submit early filled Admission Form along with paid Fee Receipt latest by July 29, 2024.
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- Students are required to qualify GRE / SAT General or equivalent test with 80% to secure the admission in PhD Program.

INF-KRY 2317-24

OBITUARY

Our beloved
Dr. Azra Haque / Dr. Azra Shaikh
 passed away in Oakland, USA
 on July 14, after a long illness

DUA (Prayer) for the departed soul will be held on Sunday, July 21, between Aar and Maghrib at the residence of Najmuddin Shaikh (House No. C/30/1, 6th Glen Street, Phase IV, DHA).

Bereaved:

Children	Siblings
Dr. Inaam Haque	Waheda Noor Hassan
Ms Afsya Haque	Najmuddin Shaikh
Musaf Haque	Sajjadin Shaikh
	Air Marshal Rasoolin Shaikh
	Dr. Farooqin Shaikh
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Zuhr 12:18
Asr 05:13
Maghreb 07:19
Isha 08:58

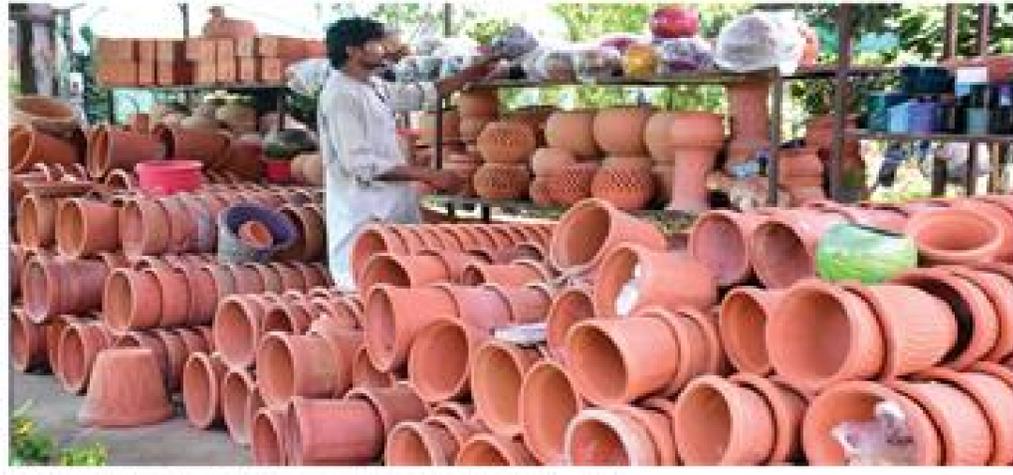
Starting time in Islamabad

REFLECTIONS

IF YOU WANT TO PRAY TO ALLAH FOR BETTER MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE, THEN FIRST GIVE SOMETHING IN CHARITY. 53

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

78A4927



A VENDOR displays flower pots at a nursery in Islamabad's H-9 sector. — Online

University of Kotli to introduce legal education

By Our Staff Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD: The Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) will consider the accreditation of the University of Kotli in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) for legal education as a top priority at its upcoming meeting.

This assurance was given by Barrister Usama Malik, Director at PBC's Directorate of Legal Education, to Dr Shamsul Hassan Syed Anvari, Registrar of the University, at a meeting with him in his office in Islamabad, according to a press release issued by the varsity's spokesperson on Saturday.

Dr Anvari highlighted the university's ambition to become a leading institution in

legal education, setting new benchmarks not just in AJK but also across Pakistan and beyond.

Barrister Ali Saïm Saleem, an official at the presidency who was also present at the meeting, pledged his unwavering and unconditional support to Dr Anvari in this regard, the varsity spokesman said.

"The assurances from these high-ranking officials underscore the paramount significance of quality education at a national level," he said, and added: "The development also signals a significant advancement in the university's efforts to become a beacon of legal education, inspiring students and faculty alike to strive for excellence in their academic and professional pursuits."

Writer from Taxila gets US parliamentary award

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: Mohammad Taseeq, a renowned writer, historian, researcher and humanitarian worker, was honoured with the US Supreme Parliamentary Award during his recent visit to Texas.

All Pakistan Private Schools' Management Association Taxila chapter said in a press statement that the award was announced and approved

by US Congressman Sheila Jackson Lee and later presented to Mr Taseeq by her representative Turab Abbas at a ceremony in Houston.

Mr Taseeq, who served as director of sports/Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) Wah Cantonment, is also a renowned sports commentator.

"Mohammad Taseeq has been an outstanding leader for his peers and his community, with a deep commitment to helping those around

him and has been guided by important values: love for his family, dedication, and service to his community, and respect for himself and others, Mohammad Taseeq, your selflessness and compassion towards all those you've served alongside is truly inspiring. Your commitment sets an example for us all. Thank you for your service and the positive impact you've made on the lives of so many. You are a true hero, and your

kindness and empathy do not go unnoticed," said the proclamation of the Congressional recognition.

"On behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I take great pride in recognizing Mohammad Taseeq for his service to humanity. Mr Taseeq has made a lasting impact on those around him through his scholarly writings, global travels, and insightful sports commentary," it added.

Pakistan Private Schools' Management Association Taxila chapter President Anwar Rehman Chaudhry said the award was a matter of pride for the nation as well as people of Taxila and Wah. Khalid Mehmood, a local educationist and office-bearer of Private Colleges Association, said, "This would provide a better understanding of Pakistani people in US society and dispel the negative impression about the people of Pakistan."

Job quota of provinces in Islamabad challenged

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A lawyer has challenged the quota allocated to provinces and territories for recruitment in government departments of Islamabad.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court (IHC) took up the petition and after preliminary hearing issued notices to the respondents, including the president, prime minister and the secretary law and justice.

Barrister Yasir Gaudiosi filed the petition seeking a declaration against "any quota of any Unit/Province of the Federation, other than the Islamabad Capital Territory, in any and all jobposts of any and all departments of the Islamabad Capital Territory."

The petition also requested the court to declare that "only holders of an Islamabad domicile are eligible to apply for such jobposts."

It stated that 18th constitutional amendment had ensured autonomy to the federating units and decentralised numerous departments/ministries previously under the control of the federation.

The amendment cre-

ated a Federal Legislative List, after which the federation could only make laws on subjects within that list and had administrative control to the extent of its legislative powers. The provinces now have legislative and administrative control over every subject of department not within the Federal Legislative List.

It said all subjects/departments of Islamabad were treated as departments of the federation for the purposes of government jobs, meaning that domicile holders of every unit of the federation have a specific quota and are entitled to apply for such jobs.

Furthermore, only a 50pc quota was reserved for posts in basic pay scales 1-55 in the departments of the federation which serve only Islamabad in violation of Article 25 of the Constitution and Rules 14, 15 and 16 of the Civil Services (Appointment, Promotion and Transfer) Rules 1973, it added.

"Quota issue raised need consideration," observed Justice Kayani and issued notices to the respondents as well as the chief commissioner Islamabad. Further hearing of the matter was adjourned till August 1.

F. No. NPA/2-27/2023

NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY
SECTOR H-11, ISLAMABAD

INVITATION TO E-BID
Ref. No. 2/2024-25
(For Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services)
(Say No to Corruption)
(We stand united against terrorism)

- National Police Academy, a premier police training institution of Pakistan, invites electronic bids from the service providers registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments for "Writing services of hospital/clinic for indoor/outdoor medical/dental treatments for employees of the National Police Academy".
- E-bidding documents as per regulation, containing detailed terms, specifications and requirements etc. are available for the registered bidders on EPADS at www.eprocure.gov.pk.
- The electronic bids, must be submitted by using EPADS on or before **08th August, 2024 at 1100 hours**. Manual bids shall not be accepted. Electronic bids will be opened on the same day on **08th August, 2024 at 1131 hours**. Bid money in original must be delivered at office of the Assistant Director, Admn prior to submission date & time else bid shall not be considered.

Note: Notification of the GPC constituted in terms of rules-48 of PPRA rules, 2004 is provided on EPADS at www.eprocure.gov.pk.

DANIYAL AHMED JAVED (PSP)
Deputy Director (Admn) FOSP 468/24
Ph No. 051-9258183, Fax No. 051-9257414

No.6/2/2024-General
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION
MANAGEMENT SERVICES WING
TENDER NOTICE

The M.S. Wing intends to invite sealed bids from the original manufacturers / authorized dealers / reputed stations / general order suppliers registered with Income & Sales Tax Departments and are on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) of FBR, having their own offices / stock in Islamabad / Rawalpindi for supply of procurement of various items and repair/maintenance of official vehicles under PPRA/Rules 2004 amended from time to time. The details are as under:-

Title	S.No.	Description
A. Procurements	01	Battery
	02	Misc. S-Items
	03	Computer Battery (Types of Printer, Fax, Photocopier)
	04	Printing & Publication
	05	IT Equipments
B. Repair Maintenance	06	Prequalification of workshop for repair Maintenance of official vehicles e.g. 2 Nos. Suzuki Cultus, 2 Nos. Suzuki Maruti, 01 No. Suzuki Bion, 2 Nos. Motorcycle Honda CD-70, 01 No. RAMANA 1120 etc.
	07	Prequalification of workshop for repair Maintenance of Computer Hardware e.g. HP / Lenovo Dot Computer, HP Printer, LED's, Fax/Machines & Kiosks / Cash Register etc.
	08	Prequalification of workshop for repair Maintenance of Machinery & Equipment e.g. Photocopier Machine (Toshiba / Konica / Panasonic), Air Conditioner, Water Dispenser, CCTV Sound System, all kind of fans, Heaters etc.
	09	Prequalification of workshop for repair Maintenance of Furniture & Fixtures (All kind of furniture)
	10	Prequalification of workshop for repair Maintenance of Building & Structure: others (White wash, Aluminium Doors/ Windows, Washrooms, PVC Panel, concrete plaster etc.)

- Pre-qualification bids would be collected and opened as per following schedule:-
 - The sealed Tender documents should be sent through registered post to the undersigned by **08-08-2024 at 11:00 AM** in the Management Services Wing, Establishment Division at Room No. 502, 5th floor, Shaheed-e-Millat Secretariat, Islamabad.
 - Tender bids will be opened on **08-08-2024 at 11:30 AM** in the Management Services Wing, Establishment Division at Committee Room, Room No. 418, 4th floor, Shaheed-e-Millat Secretariat, Islamabad in the presence of firm's representatives.
- Tender documents containing detailed terms and conditions can be collected free of cost from the Section Officer (General) during office timing, and same are also available on official website of Establishment Division (www.establishment.gov.pk) and PPRA (www.ppra.gov.pk).
- The Tender Committee may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of bid or proposal while conveying the reason thereof in accordance with Rules 33 of PPRA Rules 2004.

(Zahid Hussain Farooqui) PD (B) No.447/24
Section Officer (Gen)
5th floor, Shaheed-e-Millat Secretariat, Islamabad, Phone No. 051-9204785

100 primary schools to be converted to solar energy

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to reduce electricity costs and promote sustainability, the Ministry of Federal Education has announced plans to convert 100 primary schools to solar energy in next two months.

The initiative is part of a larger effort to harness renewable energy sources and reduce the city's carbon footprint.

"Under A-Hat, this project will not only reduce electricity costs but also provide a clean and sustainable source of energy for our schools," said a spokesperson for the Ministry of Federal Education.

The project, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year, will involve the installation of solar panels on the rooftops of the selected schools run by Federal Directorate of Education (FDE). The solar energy system will

be designed to meet the energy needs of each school.

According to spokesperson, the initiative is expected to save the ministry millions of rupees in electricity costs annually, which will be used to improve educational facilities.

The FDE Islamabad was established as an attached department of Ministry of Education in 1967 for providing educational facilities at various levels in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). It is now working under the administrative control of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

FDE has 432 Federal Educational Institutions in ICT and has been providing educational services to over 243,000 students from prep to postgraduate level.

It also deals with human resource (HR) management of more than 13,000 employees.

گینکو شمشاد پورڈ پشاور

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سٹینڈ نمبر	محلہ	پارکنگ سٹینڈ	پارکنگ سٹینڈ	پارکنگ سٹینڈ
01	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	05	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	10
02	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	10	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	15
03	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	15	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	20
04	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	20	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	25
05	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	25	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	30
06	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	30	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	35
07	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	35	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	40
08	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	40	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	45
09	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	45	گینکو شمشاد پورڈ	50

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GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER C&W BUILDING DIVISION NOWSHERA

REQUEST FOR BIDS - CIVIL WORKS
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Pakistan
Name of Project: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Capital Investment Project
Loan No. / Credit No. / Grant No.:

- The Human Capital Investment Project, Elementary & Secondary Education Department, Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Human Capital Investment Project & intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for civil works PACKAGE-01.
- The Human Capital Investment Project, Elementary & Secondary Education Department Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Bid for Re-construction of flood affected schools in District Nowshera. The ten duration of the contract is 10 months.
- Bidding will be conducted through national competitive procurement using a request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the world Bank's "Procurement regulations for IFP borrowers" March 2018 (Procurement Regulations) and apply to all bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the office of Executive Engineer C&W Building Division Nowshera E-mail: enowshera@peshawar.gov.pk and inspect the bidding documents during office hours (09:00AM to 05:00 PM) Monday to Friday at the address given below.
- The bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of PKR 5,000/-.
- The method of payment will be cash payment. The documents can be obtained from the office of Executive Engineer C&W Building Division Nowshera at address given below.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below as per the schedule mentioned in the table below. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidder's designated representative and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below as per schedule mentioned in the table below.
- The bid security of any bidder found to be providing false documents can be forfeited.

S.#	Description	Bid Security (PKR)	Bid Submission Date & Time
01	Reconstruction of fully and partially damaged schools affected by recent flood and rain 2023, in 13 districts under KP-HCP Extended scope S#; Reconstruction of flood affected schools in District Nowshera (PACKAGE-01) (i) GPS No. 1 Baghtar Para (ii) GPS Sobal Karoona Kaljar (iii) GPS No. 1 Nowshera Cantt. (iv) GPS Sara Tora (v) GPS Mera Khol (vi) GPS Kabul River RFB Reference No. PK-EDUPWU-42042-CW-RFB	1775000/-	Bid submission date & Time 08th August 2024 at 12:00 PM Bid Opening 08th August 2024 at 12:30 PM

- A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 08th August 2024 at 12:00 PM in the office of undersigned at the address given below.
- Attention is drawn to the procurement regulations requiring the Bidder to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding documents.
- The bidder will provide Bid Security in shape of CDR in the name of Executive Engineer C&W Building Division Nowshera.
- The successful bidder will provide 10% of performance guarantee on the bid value.
- Venue of the bid opening is office of the Executive Engineer C&W Building Division Nowshera.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
C&W BUILDING DIVISION NOWSHERA
PH: 0923-9220454, Email: zenowshera@gmail.com (058-0)



Brook leads England into strong position against WI

Page 24 SPORT

LAHORE
Sunset 07:08 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:10 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 30.0°C
Maximum 38.0°C
Outlook Sun Shine
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 100

METRO Central



WORKERS change the direction of an engine by a railway turn table at the Garsi Shahu engine shed. — White Star

Residents endure long outage due to fault in Kot Lakhpat grid

By Khalid Hashmi

LAHORE: A large population in various city localities had to put up with power outage for several hours, including the entire Friday night, due to a fault in the 220kV Kot Lakhpat grid station.

"The Lenco officers should at least notify the officials deployed to receive calls from the complainants," the annoyed consumer said. Similar complaints were reported from other localities. According to a consumer, a resident of a locality near Attari Darbar, power supply was restored for a while during night hours but, it again broke down. "We, after two hours, came to know that a major fault developed at grid station caused power suspension in our area," he said. According to a spokesman for the Lahore electric supply company, the fault developed at a transformer of Kot

Lakhpat grid station at about 12am, causing suspension of power supply for hours in several localities receiving electricity from 11kV feeders namely Harnai Town, Balloki, Hussain Saad, Aulad, Attari Darbar, Saroba and Industrial. The spokesman said the teams restored power supply at about 4pm. But, another fault occurred at the grid (trailer heat up). "So the teams again rushed to rectify the fault and succeeded in getting it removed at 11am on Saturday," he maintained. Meanwhile, the Lenco management on Saturday suspended from service its two officials on

account of corruption. According to spokesman, foreman Ghulam Muhammad (Tajpora subdivision) and motor tender Kadir Zaman (Cavalry Ground) were suspended from service. On the other hand, Lenco teams detected another 503 connections from where the consumers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Narkeena, Rahilly, Kamoh and Okara) on the 29th day of anti-power theft campaign. The Lenco spokesman told the media on Saturday that the company has also submitted applications against electricity thieves, out of which 172 FIRs have been

registered in respective police stations, while 21 suspects have been arrested by the respective police. On the 29th consecutive day of the anti-power theft campaign, the spokesman added, large commercial consumers were also found involved in electricity theft and those connections were severed and charged with detection units. Among the seized connections, 13 were commercial, 11 agricultural, one industrial and 478 domestic, and all these connections were disconnected and charged with a total of 460,384 units as detection unit amounting to Rs16.158 million.

Al-Qaeda leader remanded in CTD custody for three days

By Wasim Ashraf Butt

GUJRAT: An Anti-Terrorism Court in Gujrat on Saturday awarded a three-day physical remand of Dr Amrullah Haq, an Al-Qaeda leader and believed to be 'close aide' of Al-Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden, who had been arrested by the Counter Terrorism Department from Sarai-Alamgir town of Gujrat district on Friday. A joint investigation team of CTD produced Dr Haq, the former security officer of Al-Qaeda chief, in a local ATC and sought the physical remand of the suspect for further investigation. An official of the team informed the court that the suspect had been arrested during a raid in Sarai-Alamgir and a case was lodged against him with CTD Gujrat police station under different sections of ATA 1997. He told the court that the CTD had further investigate the suspect about his other accomplices as well as to ascertain the facts about how he had man-

aged to get the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) of Pakistan while being an Afghan national. The team said that the suspect had been planning to execute more terrorist activities in Pakistan as weapons were also recovered from him. However, the court handed over the suspect to the CTD on three-day physical remand. The CTD official said the authorities had constituted a joint investigation team comprising at least six senior officials from various intelligence and law-enforcement agencies to investigate the suspect. Strict security measures were made in and around the Gujrat ATC. Dr Amrullah had been included in the list of global terrorists issued by the UN since 2001. A CTD official told reporters outside the court that the Nadra staffers, who had helped Dr Haq in the issuance of his CNIC around 12 years ago, would also be traced and the Nadra authorities would be recommended to take action against those officials as per law and departmental rules.

Physical remand LHC to hear Imran's plea tomorrow

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A Lahore High Court (LHC) division bench will hear on Monday a petition of PTI founding chairman Imran Khan challenging his 10-day physical remand in 12 cases of May 9 riots, including the attack on the corps commander's house. The bench comprises Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh and Justice Amrullah Haq Paton. The petition filed through Barrister Salman Rafiq argued that on July 15, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) had granted Imran Khan's custody to police in a hearing, which he attended on a WhatsApp video call from Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi. It stated that the order issued by the ATC was tantamount to extending established principles of the law of remand and urged the court to set it aside for being unlawful. The petition said the remand was unjustifiable as the sole allegation against the petitioner was of abetment and conspiracy and his participation in the investigation was not required as the FIR was silent about his specific role. It further said the prosecution didn't

arrest the petitioner for more than a year after May 9, 2023, even when his whereabouts were known to the police authorities as he was in custody of the state at Adiala jail, Rawalpindi. The petition said the FIR contained allegations related to public protests following Mr Khan's arrest and when the said offences for which he had been charged occurred, he was absolutely incommunicado as he was in the unlawful custody of National Accountability Bureau. The trial judge was informed that the petitioner's physical remand would not serve any useful purpose as he was allegedly only an abettor and was not present on the scene, the petition added. Ejar's bail plea dismissed An anti-terrorism court on Saturday dismissed the bail petition of incarcerated PTI Senator Ejaz Chaudhry in a case of torching police vehicles near Bahar Bakery in the aftermath during the May 9 riots. During the hearing, a prosecutor opposed the bail and presented evidence

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Test run of CM's solar panel scheme launched

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has directed the authorities concerned to simplify the solar panel financing scheme. Presiding over a meeting along with her father, PM-N President Nawaz Sharif, here on Saturday, she directed the officials to ensure early completion of the required process for launching the scheme. Energy Secretary Naeem Riaz apprised the meeting that under the pilot project, test run of the solar panel financing scheme had been launched at various sites. He said rating and performance of the solar panel system would be monitored. Online monitoring of the solar system is ongoing through the Solar PV App. The scheme will be launched from Aug 14 after reviewing its test run success. The eligibility for the scheme can be checked by sending a bill reference number and CNIC number on 8800. The successful consumers will be informed through SMS after conducting the bidding process by the FITB. The district administration and discom (distribution company) will verify credentials of the successful consumers in the bidding process. A Bar Code and QR Code will be printed on the solar panel and on the system as well so as to save the equipment from being sold in the panel market. In the first phase, more 100,000 consumers will be given solar panels through the bidding process. It was informed in the briefing that the consumers involved in electricity theft, having more than one meters, having out of order or tampered meters, and not paying electricity bills would not be eligible for the solar scheme. "Four and electricity cost badly affects economic conditions of the people. We will definitely do whatever we can to provide maximum relief to the people," the CM said.

Two children electrocuted by pedestal fan

NAROWAL: Two children were electrocuted as they touched a pedestal fan here on Saturday at Chak Karim on Marala Road on the outskirts of Sialkot. The children of labourer Muhammad Shabbir, a resident of Chak Karim, Marala Road, were playing at home when they suddenly touched the fan. The children, seven-year-old Omreen and Saifan (6) received a severe electric shock and fainted. Rescue 1122 reached the spot. Despite their efforts to provide first aid, both children were declared dead due to electrocution. The bodies were handed over to their relatives after necessary legal procedures. In another incident, a speeding car hit a motorcycle on Sialkot-Pasrur Road, seriously injuring 20-year-old Danish and eight-year-old Ayeesha. After receipt of information, Rescue 1122 reached the spot, but Ayeesha succumbed to severe head injuries. The Rescue 1122 spokesman said the accident occurred near Warlo Jungle on Pasrur Road. Danish has been shifted to the civil hospital in a critical condition after first aid. — Correspondent

Working of parking company reviewed

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Commissioner Zaid Bin Maqsood on Saturday reviewed Lahore Parking Company (LafPark) structure, finances, board and parking sites. He was chairing a briefing session of the company at his office. The commissioner emphasised the need for LafPark to take steps to enhance enforcement, curb encroachments and increase revenue. He stated that merely having empty spaces is not enough for parking plazas; the needs and accessibility of the citizens were the top priority. He mentioned that automation, elimination of encroachments and a digital system could make LafPark's revenue and structure more transparent. Lahore Parking Company CEO and DC Pasha Haider briefed on the company's operations and goals. The briefing highlighted that the CTC and the FITA secretary have been included as six-office members of the LafPark Board to ensure implementation of the best policies.

Courts urged to stop PTI social media activists abduction

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has launched a social media campaign seeking attention of the superior courts towards abductions of its social media activists and their close relatives across the country. The party has posted pictures of its 10 social media activists, including its international media coordinator Ahmed Waqar Jarjis who was picked up in two hours of Saturday

from his residence in Islamabad. Mr Jarjis has also been a media adviser of PTI founder Imran Khan. The PTI has also posted a CCTV footage of Ahmed Waqar Jarjis's enforced disappearance by persons in plainclothes and police officials. "The judiciary has a job to do, and that is to prevent Pakistan from becoming a lawless territory," the PTI tweeted from its official X handle and urged the judiciary to protect Pakistan and its citizens. PTI leader Syed Zaif Bakhari tweeted that

Jarjis and three other social media activists were abducted early Saturday morning. During the past two weeks, he stated, there had been a serious crack down on party's social media activists. "Since the social media team was constantly doing international reporting of all the atrocities taking place in Pakistan, now my team is being abducted along with others. This continuous deprivation of basic human rights won't be allowed to continue for long," he stated.

PTI's Punjab general secretary Hameed Akbar stated that a panel of senior lawyers had been constituted which would take up the matter of enforced disappearances of party's social media activists. He said the undemocratic mindset of the incumbent rulers and their sponsors was fast deteriorating the political scene in the country. "There will be no use of venting their anger on the abducted social media activists. Release them," Mr Akbar stated. The PTI has posted pictures

of 10 social media activists and close relatives, who have been abducted from their residences by plainclothesmen. They are international media coordinator Ahmed Waqar Jarjis, PTI coordinator Malik Barwan Ahmed and his brother Malik Nauman Ahmed, social media activists Attar Rehman, Farid Malik, Malik Paton and Madhane Chaudhry, PTI leader Shabbir Ch's brother Ghulam Shabbir, social media activist Akbar Madhwan's brother Zaidur Madhwan and Marhar Madhwan.

PRAYER

Table with prayer times: Fajr 3.36, Zuhar 1.00, Asr 5.03, Maghrib 7.08, Isha 8.41

REFLECTIONS

IF YOU WANT TO PRAY TO ALLEVIATE FOR BETTER MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE, THEN FIRST GIVE SOMETHING IN CHARITY. 55 — HAZRAT ALI (A.S.) (TRIMBATH)

LHC to hear...

Continued from Page 13

against the PTI leader. He read a part of the senator made on X, formerly Twitter, saying the six poet invited his party workers to violence. He asked the court to dismiss the bail petition.

A lawyer for the senator contended that the petitioner was wrongly implicated in the case. He said the petitioner was not even present at the alleged occurrence.

After hearing both sides, Judge Khalid Arshad dismissed the petition of Senator Iqbal Chaudhry, who is in jail for alleged involvement in multiple cases related to the May 9 riots.

Senior Road police had registered the case against leaders and workers of the PTI on charges of torching police vehicle in front of Bahawalpur during the violent protests on May 9, 2023, following the arrest of former premier Imran Khan on a graft case by the NAB.

Separately, Judge Khalid Arshad extended the present bail of former federal minister Farhat Abbas, and others in a case of burning police vehicles near Lahore's corps commander residence.

The judge observed that the court would decide the bail petition on merits if the police failed to submit their investigation report at the next hearing.

The judge adjourned the present bail of the suspects till Aug 7.

The judge also adjourned the bail petitions of PTI Punjab President Dr Yasmin Rashid, former governor Omar Sattar Chishti, and former provincial minister Mian Mahmood Raza in the case of the May 9 violence.

HARKING BACK

The first Sikh rulers of Lahore before Ranjit

By Majid Sheikh

ANY a scholar, surprising, think that the Sikh era started in 1799 with the arrival of Ranjit Singh of the Sukarchakia Misl at the gates of Lahore and ended with the arrival of the East India Company forces in 1849 completing a 50-year period.

Popular history seldom tells us all the facts. Just as Mahmud of Ghazni's Afghan invader and looter was looter more times than he was conqueror others, but that is another story. Let us stick to the Sikhs and their rule of Lahore.

Perceptions about Ranjit Singh are largely incorrect, which led itself to misunderstanding of the reasons for the rise of the Sikhs. The first Sikh rulers of Lahore were the Sikh Tricommunitarian of Lahore Singh Majithia, Gujjar Singh of the Bhanga Misl and Sodha Singh of the Kanbhya Misl, who took over Lahore in 1795 after a prolonged guerrilla war with the Afghan forces of Ahmad Shah Abdali. Ranjit Singh was yet to be born. If anything, the rise of Ranjit Singh has a lot, if everything, to do with the success of the Sikh Tricommunitarian. The

Alghan invader returned in December of the same year only to see the three quickly vacate the city and return to a brutal guerrilla fighting mode. In a way this was their contribution to the 'science' of rapid movement guerrilla warfare.

Abdali inspired from the side of Lahore about the three Sikh rulers, only to get a very positive response. The people of Lahore invariably informed him that the Sikhs were wise and kind rulers and had started rebuilding the destroyed city. He was impressed and sent a basket of Afghan dried fruit to the main person in the Sikh Tricommunitarian, Lahore Singh, with an offer of peace. The wise Sikh returned the gift with a basket of dried gams (ghamag) signaling that they were prepared to fight it out.

Ahmed Shah left Lahore after the Sikhs attacked his army in virtually hundreds of 'retreats' raids all along his return flight leaving them helpless. Thus, we see that by 1799 the Sikh Tricommunitarian established their rule firmly. This is the beginning of the Sikh era which ended in three phases.

The first is the Sikh Tricommunitarian Phase from 1799 to 1799, a 30-year period of consolidation in which Lahore

was fortified and emerged as an important trading city. These three rulers divided Lahore into three separate areas with Lahore Singh ruling over the Lahore Fort and the Walled City, with Gujjar Singh Bhanga taking up the eastern part of Lahore up to the Shalimar Gardens. Sodha Singh took control of the western part up to Nisaa Bag. With Lahore Singh having his own fort, Gujjar Singh built a new fort which to this day is named Qila Gujjar Singh. If you walk along the road to the east of Nicholson Road, you can still see a portion of the fort gateway as part of a fence.

Sodha Singh built his fort in the garden of Zohra Nisa, whose name gateway is the Choudhri Gateway. This fort gave the area its name Nawab Kot, or the new fort. Hence with three forts near one another these three Sikh rulers ruled for a good 30 years. The people of Lahore considered them to be very fair and able, and they decided cases quickly and very fairly. Besides rapid and fair justice these three rulers also attended to the religious needs of the Hindus and Muslims, attending their festivities and sending sweets to religious leaders. Sadly, these

three wise rulers have been depicted as drunkards and opium addicts, which is contrary to their actual lifestyles. Probably their Misl's name Bhanga got the better of them. Sadly, serious researchers also follow this 'weird' logic.

The fact remains that the Bhanga Misl was among the largest Sikh Misl with its headquarters in Amritsar, whose original name was Chak Garu and its territory stretched to Attock. It was the strongest in western Punjab and was founded in the early 17th century after Sardar Chajja Singh was invited by Baba Banda Singh Bhatiana, who can generally be termed as the founder of modern Sikhism. This Misl's main rival were the Sukarchakia Misl, who continued to fight and weaken them till their leader, the young Ranjit Singh, took over Lahore in 1799. This marks the second phase of Sikh rule over Lahore. Both the Bhanga and the Sukarchakia 'misl' managed to enter Lahore assisted by the Arrian traders and agriculturists. In a way these Arrian families remain a major political force of Lahore. The Bhanga name lives on in Lahore in the shape of the 'Bhangianwali Topi', a cannon belonging to

the Bhanga Misl. This legendary cannon was cast in Lahore in the Nila Gumbad mosque in 1757 by a Lahore gunsmith named Nisair Shah on the orders of Ahmad Shah Durrani's governor Shah Wali Khan. Afghan soldiers went around Lahore and collected all the brass and copper kitchen pots from people's houses. This massive cannon was first used in the Battle of Panipat in 1761. It was then ordered to be taken to Kabul, but on the way it sank in the River Chenab. At this stage the Bhanga ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh Bhanga, a Divilan Jat, attacked and destroyed the cannon from the Afghans in the Battle of Kot Khawaja Saad, near part of Lahore. It lay in the Shah Bari of the Lahore Fort and was gifted to the Sukarchakia Misl leader Chauri Singh as part of war spoils as is Sikh tradition. He took it to Gujranwala Fort. There the Punjabi Jat Chauri of Wazirabad snatched it and took it to their village of Ahmadnagar.

In a fight between two Chautha brothers over property, Gujjar Singh Bhanga sided with one and managed to take this cannon with him as a war prize. Hence the name

Bhangianwali Topi stuck. Amazingly two years later Chauri Singh Sukarchakia attacked and got his gun back, only to lose it to an attacking Afghan army. A year later, Jivanda Singh Bhanga defeated the Chautha Jatts and moved the cannon to Amritsar, which was their capital in 1802 after Ranjit Singh defeated the rulers of Amritsar, he took possession of this famous cannon, whose name still is Bhangianwali Topi. It was renamed by the British as Zamama in line with a Persian inscription on the cannon which says that 'Zamama can blow away even the Forts of Heaven'. The last battle in which it was used was the Battle of Multan where a school collapsed. It lay outside Delhi Gate after being shipped to Lahore up the River Ravi, finally being damaged in the garden where today is the Lahore Museum. Finally, it was restored and put on its present pedestal. The 30-year rule of the three 'Misl' and the 'Topi' are all linked to the rise of Maharajah Ranjit Singh. The Arrian of Lahore helped the Sikh Tricommunitarian rulers and the 'Topi' have a far greater role in our history than most imagine.

Conversion of Gujranwala colleges into university opposed

By Our Correspondent

SAHEWAL: The Punjab Professors and Lecturers Association (PPLA) in Gujranwala has criticised a proposal by local PML-N parliamentarians to convert two public sector colleges into the University of Gujranwala.

The proposal, made in a letter to the chief minister on July 10, aims to take over Government Graduate College, Satellite Town, and Government Home Economics College, Satellite Town.

Gujranwala PPLA President Armita Varia and Secretary Sana Alam said it would harm poor and middle-class

families who rely on these colleges.

They questioned why the government wants to take over these colleges when a university was already planned to be established on 800 kanals near Dewana Road, Ahmadnagar.

The original university plan was approved by the caretaker provincial cabinet in August 2023, with a budget of Rs4.5 billion.

Construction had started at the allocated site, despite full funds not being allocated. The new university was to introduce four faculties and 11 departments.

PPLA leaders say the PML-N is trying to avert political fallout by proposing the conversion of

colleges, rather than continuing with the original plan. The association is concerned about the impact on poor and middle-class families who rely on these colleges.

Muhammed Akhtar Ghossein, former PPLA president and senior faculty member, said that previous educational institutions were established independently without disrupting existing infrastructure. He said that the colleges should serve as "feeder colleges" for the new university instead of being converted.

PPLA Central President Fatma Razza called the move "unjust" and "arbitrary", given the substantial investment already made at the proposed university site. The

association passed a resolution, planned a protest on July 22, and formed a Divisional Action Committee to counter the proposal.

The colleges have around 5,000 male and 1,000 female students, with over 150 teachers. The staff and principals opposed the initial feasibility study conducted by the AC City on behalf of the district administration.

The association said it was concerned about the impact on poor and middle-class families who rely on these colleges. They believe that the conversion would harm the existing educational infrastructure and disrupt the academic environment.

City receives scattered rain

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Parts of the city received light rain on Saturday while the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) predicted heavy monsoon rains with strong winds in most districts of the province from July 22 till 25.

The maximum rain was recorded at 2mm each in Nishtar

Town and Johar Town while light rain was reported in Model Town, Faisal Town, Jail Road, Airport, Gokhwar, Upper Mall, Chowk, Nakhla and Gulshan-e-Ravi.

A PDMA spokesperson said there were chances of wind and heavy rain in most of the districts of South Punjab during July 23 to 24.

The rainfall is expected in Rawalpindi, Attock, Shekhan, Chakwal, Mandi Bahauddin,

Gujran, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Wazirabad, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Sialkot, Narawal, Sahiwal, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Multan, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Bhakkar and Muzaffargarh.

The spokesman said the rain was also expected in south Punjab districts including Bahawalpur, Rahwalnagar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Khushab, Lodhran, Muzaffargarh, Kot Adhi,

Rajmatar, Bahawalpur and Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and Bahawalpur.

The Met Office in Lahore issued hot and humid weather forecast in most districts of Punjab province. However, rain-windstorm/hurricane-like is expected at isolated places in Sialkot, Narawal, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Rahwalnagar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and Tarnan districts on Sunday.

JI demands forensic audit of IPPs

Announces sit-in until govt acts

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) leader Hafiz Nazam Rehman has demanded a forensic audit of independent power producers (IPPs) and the public disclosure of their agreements.

He said that the JI sit-in in Islamabad, scheduled for July 26, would not conclude until the government provides relief to the masses.

In a statement issued from Mansoorah on Saturday, Mr Rehman said that the majority of the IPPs are owned by those connected to the government. He said that a few ruling families are exploiting the masses and transferring their money to foreign countries.

According to Mr Rehman, people are paying billions in capacity charges to IPP owners every month, with some IPPs being paid without producing a single unit of electricity.

Mr Rehman said that

the per-unit tariff in Pakistan is 18 cents, compared to 4 cents in China and 5 cents in India. He said that there are more than a dozen types of taxes included in electricity bills. Furthermore, he criticised the government for creating subsidies on gas bills and increasing the petrol levy to Rs70 per litre. He said the ruling elite enjoys free electricity, petrol, and gas.

He condemned the government for imposing massive taxes on the salaried class in the recent budget while exempting the civil and military bureaucracy. He also noted that feudal lords in Pakistan never pay taxes.

Mr Rehman said that the JI sit-in is being held for the rights of the people and against this injustice. He said that the sit-in would continue until the government provides relief in terms of electricity and ends unjust taxes. The JI has no objection to any political party joining the sit-in and assured that the protest would be peaceful. He appealed to the masses to join the sit-in for their rights.

LGH starts BRCA test for breast cancer

LAHORE: The Central Research Lab of the Postgraduate Medical Institute, Lahore General Hospital (LGH), has crossed another milestone by making possible BRCA1 for breast cancer diagnosis.

The LGH, which has become the first public sector hospital in the country to conduct advanced breast cancer diagnosis and genetic identification-based testing using the lab especially by imported kits.

This was stated by Anwaruddin Medical College Principal Prof Dr Afzaal Zafar while talking to media representatives on Saturday.

Research Lab Director Central PhD Dr Ghazala Razi, MS Dr Faraz Hussain, Dr Laila Shafiq and Dr Ahsan Aziz were also present.

Prof Zafar said the big-

gest benefit of BRCA1 would be that such women as had a family history of breast cancer and were genetically at risk of developing the chronic disease would be able to get an awareness of the possibility of developing breast cancer or not through the recognition of genes from the above mentioned advanced test.

He said the test compared normal genes with affected ones to determine whether or not the disease was present, identifying not just one gene but a panel of seven types of genes.

The PGMI principal said the women should not hesitate to contact doctors timely in case of pain or slight lumpiness as the breast cancer could be prevented immediately.

Opp leader slams Maryam's remarks

LAHORE: Opposition Leader in the Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan Bhattar has condemned Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's recent remarks against the judiciary, calling them as unacceptable.

He said the government was facing imminent collapse due to the controversy surrounding Form 47. Speaking to the media at the Lahore High Court Bar Association, Mr Bhattar predicted the

government's downfall and questioned the rationale behind maligning institutional reputations.

He called the chief minister a "TikTok" whose contributions amounted to little more than empty statements.

He said the opposition would soon take to the streets to protest against soaring inflation. He revealed plans for rallies on August 14, starting in Islamabad and followed by Lahore. — Staff Reporter

Advertisement for Government College University Lahore. Includes text: '160 Years of Excellence', 'SECOND SHIFT (PHASE II) ADMISSIONS 2024 INTERMEDIATE', 'APPLY ONLINE www.gcuonline.pk', 'LAST DATE TO APPLY July 30, 2024', 'For details, please visit www.gcu.edu.pk'. Features an image of the university building and a QR code.

Police arrest main suspect in Sania Zehra case

Deceased's husband holds presser before surrender, denies murder charge

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Multan police on Saturday arrested Ali Raza, the husband of Sania Zehra who was allegedly tortured to death by him.

Zehra was found hanged to death in her home on July 9 and her parents took her body and buried it, thinking their daughter had committed suicide.

Later, Zehra's father Syed Asad Abbas Shah approached the New Multan Police Station and lodged a murder case against his son-in-law Ali Raza (main suspect), his parents, Jevan Shah and Aree Bibi, brother Ali Haider, sister-in-law Saida Durr and sister Karwal Bibi.

The case was registered under sections 302 (murder), 148 (branding armed with a deadly weapon) and 149 (unlawful assembly) of the PPC.

On Saturday afternoon, Zehra's husband Ali Raza approached Multan Press Club to hold a press conference. He stated that his wife had committed suicide and his in-laws were leveling baseless murder charges against him and his family. He said his father-in-law was involved in blackmailing his family. He said his wife's brother had committed suicide and her mother had also attempted suicide three to four times.

About the night of the

incident, Ali Raza said he and his wife had exchanged harsh words on July 8 and he left the room and slept in another room. But the next morning when he knocked on the door, she did not open. "I broke the lock and entered the room and found her hanging from the ceiling fan," Ali Raza claimed.

He said the police had searched his status's house and broke everything there. "I am here to surrender even after securing pre-arrest bail," he said.

Later, a police team approached the press club and took Ali Raza into custody.

On July 14, the police exhumed Zehra's body on court orders to conduct a post-mortem.

The autopsy report stated that the ligature mark on her neck was consistent with hanging and the cause of death was asphyxia due to hanging. It also stated that the blood haem was intact and there were no visible signs of injury or violence. The samples from the stomach, liver and spleen had been sent to the Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFSA) for further analysis. The report confirms that the woman was not pregnant at the time of her death.

A senior police official, on condition of anonymity, told Dawn six people were nominated in the case and they secured pre-arrest bail till July 26. He said that they were waiting for a forensic report to check whether the victim was poisoned or forcibly hanged or not.

The officer said the post-mortem did not show any sign of resistance but they had sent the dupatta and matter collected from her nails for DNA report.

Man kills wife pregnant with third girl

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: In a shocking case of gender-based violence, a man killed his pregnant wife after he came to know that she would give birth to their third daughter.

The incident happened at Chak 210-RR Lakhwana, Faisalabad, on Saturday.

Complainant Syed Modassar Abbas alleged in his first information report (FIR) registered with Khairtanwala police that his sister, Aiman Fatima (28), was the mother of two daughters aged three and one-and-a-half years. She was again pregnant with third child. Her husband, Naseem Sajjad, had got an ultrasoned test of Aiman which revealed that she would give birth to a girl. At this, he gave her a severe beating in conversation with his brother-in-law Pheel Abbas. As a result of the torture, Aiman died on the spot.

A press release of district police claimed that both suspects, Naseem Sajjad and Pheel Abbas, had been arrested.

In another incident, a girl was killed by her brother in the name of honour at Chak 279-GR,

Faisalabad, on Saturday.

According to Rawala police, the deceased, Razia Bibi, had an alleged relationship with a boy from her village. At this, her brother, Umar Farooq, shot her dead. Police have arrested the suspect.

In Gujra, a girl was raped at Chak 346-JR. According to the FIR registered with Narwan Lahore police, Complainant Razia Bibi alleged that she was at work in the farms while her victim daughter "A" was alone at home when Ghulam Iqbal of the same village broke into her house and raped her. The suspect has been arrested.

ARRESTED: The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) of Toba Tek Singh arrested and booked an assistant sub-inspector of the D Type Colony police of Faisalabad while accepting bribe.

An ACE official said Muhammad Ashraf had demanded Rs20,000 for helping the complainant in a case. The raid was conducted by ACE circle officer Sarfaraz Ahmad and was supervised by a judicial magistrate Tariq Farooq who recovered his marked currency notes from the pocket of the ASE.

HUGGARY: An attempt to smuggle eight persons, including five

women, to Saudi Arabia for beggary was foiled by the Federal Investigation Agency at Multan airport.

An FIA spokesperson said the eight persons belonged to Ludhiana and Multan. He said each of them had less than 500 Saudi Riyals with them.

REPATRIATED: Faisalabad police arrested a murder case from Dubai 14 years after the incident.

City police spokesperson said Tariq Mahmood had killed his brother-in-law Muhammad Iqbal in 2010 in Haasabul locality of Faisalabad over a domestic dispute. After the murder, Tariq fled Pakistan and was declared a proclaimed offender by a court.

Police traced his whereabouts and his real name was issued through Interpol due to which his arrest was made possible.

GAZ BLAST: Three persons were injured critically after a gas leak blast in a house kitchen on Cinema Road in Khanewal on Saturday evening.

Injured Abid Ali (45), Muhammad Ahmad (14) and Haseebullah (7) were shifted to the DHO Hospital where doctors referred two of them to the Multan Nader Hospital.

Family saved from suicide attempt

By Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARGARH: The Alipur police saved the lives of three family members who attempted suicide at Head Parjand on Saturday.

Due to the timely intervention by police officials, the lives of a woman and her two children were spared.

According to reports, a woman from Vansalwala, along with her 10-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter, tried to jump into Head Parjand to end their lives due to domestic issues. Head Constable Qazi Rashid and Constable Muhammad Ayaz, who were on duty at the site, acted to prevent the tragedy.

The woman, identified as Samina, was forcibly taking her children towards the canal when the officials intervened. Upon questioning, Samina

said that she was driven to the desperate act due to her husband's abuse.

Constable Ayaz took the family into custody and reported the incident to the police station. The station house officer called the woman's relatives, who arrived at the police station to take custody of the children. The family said they were grateful to the police for their timely assistance. The police assured that stern action would be taken against the abusive husband in accordance with the law.

KILLED: A tractor run by his motorcycle rider on Muzaffargarh Bypass Road, resulting in the death of a child and injuries to six others.

Routee 1122 arrived at the scene to provide assistance.

The deceased child and the injured were shifted to the hospital, while police reached the site to initiate legal action.

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North

PESHAWAR
Sunset 07:26pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:15am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 30°C
Maximum 41°C
Outlook Mostly Sunny



Brook leads England into strong position against WI

Page 24 SPORT



A PHYSICALLY challenged person works at a brick kiln in Peshawar area of Peshawar to earn a livelihood. — White Star

Governor asks govt to consult parties over moot called by centre

Visits Peshawar gurdwara, promises resolution of Sikh community's issues

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday asked the provincial government to take political parties from the province onboard over the law and order situation before participating in the federal government-sponsored multiparty meet on the subject.

While briefing the governor, the elders of the Sikh community informed him that they were an oppressed minority. They said the governor's province among them was very encouraging. Talking to them, the governor said all the minorities of Pakistan were patriotic and part of the society. He said that it was very unfortunate that members of the Sikh community were being assassinated in targeted attacks. "KP belongs to all of us and the residents of this province have a long list of sacrifices, including those rendered by the members of the Sikh community." He assured the Sikh community of resolving their problems at the earliest. He said members of the Sikh community were facing problems related to issuance of passports, and assured that he would meet the director general passport and immigration in that regard.

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Gandapur serves Rs1bn defamation notice on Kundi

He also seeks apology from governor for accusing him of okaying new military operation

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur has served a legal notice on provincial Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, seeking damages of Rs1 billion and an unconditional

apology for accusing him of approving the decision about the Operation Anna-Itlikom in the apex committee's meeting last month. In the notice, the chief minister asked the governor to immediately broadcast a retraction of his "defamatory" remarks about the chief minister and publish an unconditional apology for it in three daily national newspapers in the next seven days. He also said the governor should clarify the matter on media channels. Mr Gandapur warned that if the governor failed to act accordingly, appropriate legal action would be initiated against him.

The legal notice was sent to the governor by advocate Asad Jan Durrani on behalf of the chief minister. It read that the governor had accused the chief minister on television channels of signing the document about the launch of a new military operation against terrorism. Amin-Itlikom, in the apex committee's meeting. "The allegation is incorrect and against facts. My client never signed [documents about] any policy decision about a [counter-terrorism] operation in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," the lawyer insisted in the notice. He added that before taking

any decision on the matter, the chief minister would certainly place it before the provincial assembly and his cabinet for consideration and approval. The notices said that the governor's "baseless allegations" in the media had defamed his client and damaged his reputation in the people's eyes, so he was entitled to claim damages to the tune of Rs500 million. "This immature and baseless statement [of the governor] also caused mental torture to Mr Gandapur for which he is entitled to the Rs500 million damages." The notice also said that the chief minister was a highly respectable and law-abiding citizen, and a senior member of the country's largest political party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. "Mr Gandapur, being the chief minister of this province, took his cabinet and senior leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on board while taking any policy decision, which would have impact across the province and the country," it declared. The notice also said that the chief minister's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, had formed the government in the province for the third consecutive time just because of the reason that its government worked in line with the wishes and will of the people of the province.

Dept again asks district hospitals to share details of essential medicines

Officials insist drug lists sent earlier were incomplete

By Ashfaq Yasulzai

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department has again directed the district health officers and the medical superintendents of the district headquarters hospitals to immediately provide details of essential medicines available at their pharmacies. Officials told Dawn that medicine lists were sought in the past too but many of those provided by the relevant officials lacked the relevant details. Through a notification issued on Saturday, the director-general (health services) directed DHOs and MBs again to ensure the dispatch of

"complete medicine information" regarding 50 essential medicines. The notification was sent to eight DHOs and medical superintendents of 20 hospitals for immediate compliance. It revealed that the health department began the drug inventory collection from DHOs and MBs of secondary hospitals on July 4 but observed with "anxious concern" that the shared data was incomplete. The notification revealed that the department also learned that there were several inaccuracies and omissions, which needed to be corrected. "The number of non-essential medicines approved by the medicine coordination cell was either incorrect or missing from the list provided to the health department. Likewise, the relevant officials failed to provide details of the cost, number of drugs cleared by the drug testing laboratory, while the quantity of medicines about which the DHO's reports are

awaited has also not been mentioned." The notification said that in order to ensure accurate and comprehensive data collection, the directorate general (health services) had directed the DHOs and MBs to review the data filing format in consultation with the respective storekeepers to provide complete information. It added that the officials should provide the missing information in the excel sheet and share it with the directorate on a priority basis. Meanwhile, officials of the health department told Dawn that the provincial government had released a total of Rs972.16 million to ensure the availability of lifesaving medicines at the basic and district health facilities in the province. They added that of the amount, Rs831.95 million was meant for hospitals in the settled districts and Rs140.208 million for health-care facilities in the merged tribal districts, with authorities

being told to start the purchasing process before June 27. The officials said that the department had also ordered the procurement of medicines from the list approved by the MCC before the formal initiation about the completion of the exercise. They said that the funds were meant for healthcare facilities to ensure timely provision and uninterrupted availability of medicines across the province. The officials said that the release of the amount would enable health centres in the province to acquire the required medicines for three to four months. They said that the medicine procurement process had been completed but the lists provided to the directorate of health services were incomplete, so DHOs and MBs were told to re-send the lists with all relevant information. The officials said that the system of drug procurement was de-centralised long ago as it enabled districts to get drugs on their own.

Man, nephew drown near Khanpur Dam

By Our Correspondent

HARIPUR: A man and his nephew drowned near the Khanpur Dam, police said here on Saturday. The Khanpur police quoted witnesses as saying that a man and a minor boy were bathing downstream of Khanpur reservoir near Tamara Bridge when the boy slipped into deep waters. In a bid to rescue the boy the young man also jumped after him, but he also drowned. The witnesses told the police. The local divers recovered the bodies and shifted them to the Khanpur Hospital, where the deceased were identified as Fahoom Ahmed, 38, resident of Toba Tak Singh, and his nephew, Mohammad Ibrahim, 7. It may be added that during the last over a month at least 12 people, including three girls, drowned in Khanpur Dam and Tareela Lake.

Shangla people stage rally against Bannu incident

By Our Correspondent

SHANGLA: The residents of Puran, Murlang and Makhool areas staged a protest rally in Aloch Bazaar on Saturday against the firing on a peace rally in Bannu district on Friday. In which a man was killed and several others were injured. The rally was called by a local welfare and peace committee of the Puran subdivision led by Noor Mohammad, Rehmanullah Khan, Javed Ali, Mutana Waqas Ahmad and others. The participants passed through different streets of Aloch Bazaar, while carrying banners, placards and white flags inscribed with slogans for peace. They were shouting slogans for peace and stability in the region. Addressing the rally, Noor Mohammad, who is president of the welfare and peace committee of Puran, said they strongly condemned the violence against peaceful protesters in Bannu district, and paid homage to the martyred and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured persons. He said the state should "treat the people equally" and end the so-called operations in Pakhtun belt. He also called for shunning the notion of good and bad Taliban and ensuring peace and stability in the province. On the occasion, Rehmanullah alleged the firing on peaceful protesters showed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa residents were being pushed against the wall. He condemned what he said terrorism against Pakhtuns and said people would no longer tolerate military operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where people were already living in distress.

Bajaur police resolve tribal dispute

By Our Correspondent

BAJOUR: Police with the support of local elders and religious leaders on Saturday resolved a dispute between rival tribes over the ownership of a mineral-rich mountain in Batai area here. According to a statement, after taking notice of the prolonged dispute between the tribes over the mountain in Alazi region, district police officer Sajid Ahmad formed a team of senior police officers to help resolve the issue in a peaceful manner. The statement issued from the DPO office said that the police team led by DSP Abdul Aziz, and accompanied by a group of local elders and religious leaders, held separate meetings with elders of both the tribes to convince them to end the dispute. The statement said elders of the tribes agreed to abstain acrimony and settle their dispute through dialogues. The statement added that soon after the leaders of rival tribes showed their willingness to resolve the issue amicably, the police officials, elders and religious leaders held a meeting with the warring tribesmen to resolve the dispute. The meeting lasted for several hours, when the participants were able to find out a durable solution to the issue, which was accepted by elders of both the tribes. The elders also thanked the Jira members for helping resolve the issue in an amicable manner. The statement said that the police would continue to engage elders and religious figures to help resolve the longstanding disputes as per the local customs. — Correspondent

PRAYER

Fajr 05:41
Zuhr 12:23
Asr 05:18
Maghreb 07:25
Isha 09:03

Starting time in Peshawar

REFLECTIONS

IF YOU WANT TO PRAY TO ALLAH FOR BETTER MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE, THEN FIRST GIVE SOMETHING IN CHARITY. 33

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

Balakot residents demand acquisition of land for road project at market price

Threaten to stage protests, move court

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: Residents of Ghosul area in Balakot teahsil here on Saturday warned if the government didn't pay them market price of their land acquired for a road to be built under its tourism exploration initiative, then they would stage street protests and move the Peshawar High Court.

"The district administration banned the sale and purchase of our land five years ago for the construction of the Ghosul-Papung Road but we are still without payments," chairman of the Ghosul Village Council

Moghtar Hussain Moghtar told reporters here.

He said the government had launched Rs650 million road projects in their area under its tourism exploration initiative but it was yet to be completed.

"Work on this artery to link our area with Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad Road was inaugurated almost five years ago by the then chief minister, it remained suspended for two years and resumed earlier this month," he said.

Mr Moghtar said the district administration had been offering each landowner Rs25,000 per kanal, a price unacceptable to them.

"Ghosul is a tourism attraction as well with its land selling for Rs1 million per kanal, so the government should pay us the market price for our real estate," he said.

Resident Sarfaraz Hussain Awan warned that his and other landowners

would take to the streets if the government didn't pay them the due price for their land acquired for the road's construction.

Resident Malik Anjad Saleem complained that the matter was taken up with the deputy commissioner, but to no avail.

"We [landowners] have decided to stage street protests and take authorities to the court to claim the right," he said.

POLICE DEPLOYED: The police have increased the deployment of personnel in Kaghan Valley for the protection of travellers, including those going to Gilgit-Baltistan by the Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad Road.

During a meeting with police officers deployed at posts and police stations in Kaghan Valley on Saturday, district police officer Shafiqullah Khan Ganshagar appreciated them for

providing security to road users, including tourists.

He assured them that the department would fulfil all their needs and build residential quarters for them.

The DPO visited the new and old check posts in Gantighi, Basal, Lohar Lake and Babuser Top areas and directed police personnel deployed there to be vigilant and ensure the safety of tourists.

He also went to the police station in Naran and directed personnel to deal with visitors politely.

Mr Ganshagar also visited the Naran Bazaar along with local head of the traffic police Waheed Khan and directed them to ensure smooth flow of vehicular traffic.

He said that the police should extend all possible help and cooperation to visitors to the Kaghan Valley as well as people travelling to Gilgit.

DSB official shot dead in Kohat

Kohat: An official of District Security Branch (DSB) was gunned down by unknown assailants near Al Mawaz CNG station on Hanga Road, here on Saturday.

According to police officials, the DSB employee Muhammad Anil Khan was on his way to his home in Kohat when two unidentified assailants opened fire at him, killing him on the spot. His dead body was taken to KIDA Teaching Hospital for conducting the post-mortem.

The police registered an FIR under sections 302 of the Pakistan Penal Code against the unknown killers and started investigation. The deceased family sources said that he had no enemy with anyone.

Meanwhile, the commissioner and deputy commissioner of Kohat have been transferred on Saturday. Commissioner Atiq Khan spent a short time in Kohat and was posted as commissioner Bara division.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Ammar Ullah Wazir was asked to report to establishment division for further posting. Syed Mubtassam Bilal Shahzad and Abdul Kalam have been appointed as Kohat's new commissioner and deputy commissioner respectively.

Moreover, Multatula Ulman Council Kohat division expressed grave concern and sorrow over the Bara incident and demanded judicial inquiry against the elements that targeted people in the rally to resuscitate the air. — Correspondent

Timergara people complain of dilapidated post office building

They also highlight shortage of staff, lack of facilities

By Our Correspondent

LOWER DIR: The local residents, including government employees and civil society activists, on Saturday complained about the dilapidated building of the post office and shortage of staff.

Talking to reporters, social activists Shoaib Ahmad, Akbar Khan, Muhammad Ilyas and government workers said the decades-old building of the post office was in dilapidated condition.

They said former minister Zahid Khan had announced in 2024 to upgrade the status of the post office to general post office, but to no avail. They said posts of a grade D postmaster and four clerical staff had been vacant for years.

They pointed out that the post office had only two postmen, saying that students of Allama Iqbal Open University were unable to receive their mails on time. They said the post office also lacked washrooms and proper seating

arrangement.

The residents demanded of the federal government to take notice of the issue and provide adequate staff and building to the post office in Timergara.

Meanwhile, residents on Saturday complained about lack of facilities at the dental block of the District Headquarters Hospital, Timergara.

In a statement issued to the media, they pointed out that the dental unit had no instruments even for filling or root canal treatment, and patients were referred to private clinics for minor surgeries.

They said equipment at the dental unit had become obsolete. The residents said five dental surgeons and as many technicians performed duties at the facility.

RALLY: The Local Citizens - Pakistan Tehreek staged a peace rally in solidarity with the Pakistan Army here on Saturday.

Carrying white flags and banners

the participants also chanted slogans in favour of the army.

Social and political workers and area elders attended the rally, which was addressed by founder of the organisation Haji Muhammad Wazir, vice-chairman Malik Faisal Khalid, divisional president Haji Umar Khattak, teahsil president Abdul Haq and others.

The speakers said the nation stood behind its army against the anti-state elements. They said some elements with vested interest were creating instability in the country. They said the nation would not let such elements demoralise the country.

On the occasion, Wazir Khan said the country was in the grip of lawlessness. He said the personnel of the law enforcement agencies and army had rendered great sacrifices for defending the motherland. He said the lawlessness in Pakistan Tehreek was a non-political and impartial organisation that worked for peace, stability and national interest.

No.6/2/2024-General
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
**ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION
MANAGEMENT SERVICES WING
TENDER NOTICE**

The M.S. Wing intends to invite sealed bids from the original manufacturers / authorized dealers / reputed stations / general order suppliers registered with Income & Sales Tax Departments and are on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) of FBR, having their own offices / stock in Islamabad / Rawalpindi for supply of procurement of various items and repair/maintenance of official vehicles under PFRRA/Rules 2004 amended from time to time. The details are as under:-

Title	S.No.	Description
A. Procurements	01	Stationery
	02	Misc. S-Items
	03	Computer Stationery (Toner of Printer, Faxes, Photocopier)
	04	Printing & Publication
	05	IT Equipments
B. Repair Maintenance	06	Pre-qualification of workshop for repair Maintenance of official vehicles e.g. 3 Nos. Suzuki Culture, 2 Nos. Suzuki Mariner, 01 No. Suzuki Bikes, 2 Nos. Motorcycle Honda CD-70, 01 No. RAMAHN 1120 etc.
	07	Pre-qualification of workshop for repair Maintenance of Computer Hardware e.g. HP / Lenovo Dot Computers, HP Printers, LED's, Fax/Machines & Kiosks / Canon Scanners etc.
	08	Pre-qualification of workshop for repair Maintenance of Machinery & Equipment e.g. Photocopier Machine (Dedbit / Konica / Panasonic), Air Conditioner, Water Dispenser, CCTV, Sound System, all kind of fans, Heaters etc.
	09	Pre-qualification of workshop for repair Maintenance of Furniture & Fixtures (All kind of furniture)
	10	Pre-qualification of workshop for repair Maintenance of Building & Structure: others (White wash, Aluminium Doors/ Windows, Washrooms, PVC Panel, concrete plaster etc.)

1. Pre-qualification bids would be collected and opened as per following schedule:-

- The sealed Tender documents should be sent through registered post to the undersigned by 08-08-2024 at 11:00 AM in the Management Services Wing, Establishment Division at Room No. 502, 5th floor, Shaheed-e-Millat Secretariat, Islamabad.
- Tender bids will be opened on 08-08-2024 at 11:30 AM in the Management Services Wing, Establishment Division at Committee Room, Room No. 418, 4th floor, Shaheed-e-Millat Secretariat, Islamabad in the presence of bidders' representatives.
- Tender documents containing detailed terms and conditions can be collected free of cost from the Section Officer (General) during office timing, and same are also available on official website of Establishment Division www.establishment.gov.pk and PFRRA www.pfrra.gov.pk.
- The Tender Committee may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of bid or proposal while conveying the reason thereof in accordance with Rules 33 of PFRRA Rules 2004.

(Zahid Hussain Farooqui) PD (B) No.44724
Section Officer (Gen)
5th floor, Shaheed-e-Millat Secretariat, Islamabad, Phone No. 051-3204785

ANP condemns firing on Bannu rally

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Provincial president of Awami National Party (ANP) Mian Bilal Khan Hussain said on Saturday that the conflicts between the institutions were responsible for the uncertain situation in the country.

Addressing a press conference here at the Bacha Khan Market, Mr Hussain said that his party condemned the firing on the peace rally in Bannu, and he was leading a party delegation to Bannu to express solidarity with the local people.

"We condemn the barbarian committed against the Bannu peace rally on Friday in harsh words," he said. He said that law and order situation in the southern district was something new, and for the past two months, incidents of violence in southern district were regularly taking place. He said that

it was the responsibility of the state to ensure the protection of the participants of a peace rally in Bannu.

The ANP leader alleged that a religious game was being played on Pakistan soil for destabilising the region. He said that Bannu area jirga alleged that militants were provided with shelter in Bannu cantonment and other nearby areas.

"Government should explain if militants have not been provided with shelter in Bannu cantonment," he demanded.

He criticised that the government had neither held talks nor conducted operation truthfully, and the Pakistanis were not ready to become scapegoat. He said that the real fight was between the judiciary and establishment, and political parties were being used as pawns in this game.

Mr Hussain said that talks of operations were meaningless if those with out taking all stakeholders into confidence.

F. No. NPA/2-27/2023
**NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY
SECTOR H-11, ISLAMABAD**

INVITATION TO E-BID
Ref. No. 2/2024-25
(For Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services)
(Say No to Corruption)
(We stand united against terrorism)

- National Police Academy, a premier police training institution of Pakistan, invites electronic bids from the service providers registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments for "Writing services of hospital/clinic for indoor/outdoor medical/dental treatments for employees of the National Police Academy".
- E-bidding documents as per regulation, containing detailed terms, specifications and requirements etc. are available for the registered bidders on EPADS at www.eprocure.gov.pk.
- The electronic bids, must be submitted by using EPADS on or before 06th August, 2024 at 11:00 hours. Manual bids shall not be accepted. Electronic bids will be opened on the same day on 06th August, 2024 at 11:31 hours. Bid money in original must be delivered at office of the Assistant Director, Admn prior to submission date & time else bid shall not be considered.

Note: Notification of the GRC constituted in terms of rules-48 of PFRRA rules, 2004 is provided on EPADS at www.eprocure.gov.pk.

DANIYAL AHMED JAVED (PSP)
Deputy Director (Admn) Psp# 468/24
Ph No. 051-9258183, Fax No. 051-9257414

KP-HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECT
(KP-HCP) E&S DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER C&W BUILDING DIVISION NOWSHERA

REQUEST FOR BIDS - CIVIL WORKS
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Pakistan
Name of Project: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Capital Investment Project
Loan No. / Credit No. / Grant No.: -

- The Human Capital Investment Project, Elementary & Secondary Education Department, Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Human Capital Investment Project & intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for civil works PACKAGE-01.
- The Human Capital Investment Project, Elementary & Secondary Education Department Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Bid for Re-construction of food affected schools in District Nowshera. The time duration of the contract is 10 months.
- Bidding will be conducted through national competitive procurement using a request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the world Bank's "Procurement regulations for IFP borrowers" March 2018 (Procurement Regulations) and apply to all bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the office of Executive Engineer C&W Building Division Nowshera E-mail: zennewsr@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours (09:00AM to 05:00 PM) Monday to Friday at the address given below.
- The bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of PKR 5,000/-.
- The method of payment will be cash payment. The documents can be obtained from the office of Executive Engineer C&W Building Division Nowshera at address given below.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below as per the schedule mentioned in the table below. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidder's designated representative and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below as per schedule mentioned in the table below.
- The bid security of any bidder found to be providing fake documents can be forfeited.

S.#	Description	Bid Security (PKR)	Bid Submission Date & Time
01	Reconstruction of fully and partially damaged schools affected by recent flood and rain 2023, in 13 districts under KP+ HCP Extended scope SR: Reconstruction of food affected schools in District Nowshera (PACKAGE-01) (i) GPS No. 1 Baghtar Para. (ii) GPS Sobal Karooni Kaljar (iii) GPS No. 1 Nowshera Cantt. (iv) GPS Sara Tola (v) GPS Mera Khol (vi) GPS Kabul River RFB Reference No. PK-EDUPWU-42042-CW-RFB	1775000/-	Bid submission date & Time 08th August 2024 at 12:00 PM Bid Opening 08th August 2024 at 12:30 PM

- A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 08th August 2024 at 12:00 PM in the office of undersigned at the address given below.
- Attention is drawn to the procurement regulations requiring the Bidder to disclose information on the successful Bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding documents.
- The tender will provide bid security in shape of CDR in the name of Executive Engineer C&W Building Division Nowshera.
- The successful bidder will provide 10% of performance guarantee on the bid value.
- Venue of the bid opening is office of the Executive Engineer C&W Building Division Nowshera.

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C&W BUILDING DIVISION NOWSHERA**
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Swat traders urge govt to revoke IPPs' contracts

By Our Staff Reporter

SWAT: The officer-in-charge of Swat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) criticised the government's agreement with the independent power producers (IPPs), calling them unfair in the world for requiring payments in dollars even when no electricity was generated.

These views were expressed by SCCI president Babar Ali Khan, senior vice president Bakht Karim Khan, Zakir Muhammad, former district president Adnan Ali, Iqbal Khan, and others during a press conference at the Swat Press Club here on Saturday.

They stated that 40 IPP companies currently operated in the country, and under the agreement, the government of Pakistan paid public money of billions of rupees every month to these IPPs, even when they didn't generate electricity.

"Last month, a company was given Rs 1000 crores for producing zero megawatts of electricity, which is an abuse and cruelty to the country's people," they said.

They noted that in the recent budget, 1700 billion rupees were allocated for these companies, while only 1800 billion rupees were allocated for the development projects of the entire country. "This

is evidence of the incompetence and hypocrisy of the rulers," they lambasted, adding, everyone was responsible duty-bound to raise their voice against these unjust and unethical agreements.

"The people of the country must unite against such cruel treaties, and the government should immediately cancel all anti-people agreements with the IPPs and renew the agreements in the larger interest of the country," they demanded.

They argued that instead of supporting the 40 IPP companies, the government should support the country's 24 crore people, otherwise, the SCCI and the people would stage protests across the country.

They also called for reforms in electricity distribution companies to reduce line losses. They pointed out that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was provided with 3000 megawatts of electricity instead of 5000 megawatts due to theft and other inefficiencies, and the cost of stolen electricity was also being passed onto the common people.

They demanded that the government terminate the IPP agreements that were against the public interest, meaning that they, along with the people, would take to the streets if their demands were not met.

PPP Swabi leaders accuse Qaiser, Shahram of using police to victimise them

Threaten agitation if police's 'highhandedness' not stopped

By Our Correspondent

SWABI: Pakistan Peoples Party local leaders have accused MNAs Asad Qaiser and Shahram Tarakai of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf of using police to victimise them, and warned them of agitation if the police 'highhandedness' is not stopped.

Addressing a press here, PPP divisional general secretary Javed Iqbal, district president Ali Khan, general secretary Idris Khan, provincial leader Bilal Khan Tarakai, Tehreek-e-Insaf provincial president Malik Nawaz Khan, and others alleged PTI leaders had adopted the policy of victimisation of opponents.

They alleged SP investigations Idris Khan had been transferred to the district two days ago under a well-planned strategy to target PPP workers and leaders. They said the police officer earlier served as DSP



Topi, and before the general elections he led a raid on the residence of former MNA Usman Khan Tarakai and his cousin, Bilal Tarakai allegedly at the behest of Shahram and Qaiser.

They alleged Idris was held by the truck and arrested, and later he was forced to approach a court, which ordered registration of FIR against then DSP Idris Khan (now SP investigations). However, they said the case had not been registered against him till date because PTI leaders were protecting him.

On the occasion, Mr Bilal, who is uncle of Shahram, said he would move court seeking transfer

of the SP investigations as he was a controversial officer due to his past track record.

"If something happens to me, Asad Qaiser, Shahram and Idris Khan will be responsible," said Mr Bilal.

The PPP leaders said the police officials' job was to hear our and respect people and never use their official power to break someone.

When contacted, SP Ali denied the allegations of victimising the PPP leaders and workers.

Both Qaiser and Shahram didn't respond to the calls on their mobile phones to know their viewpoint on the matter.

Meanwhile, Asad Qaiser has said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz-led federal government is in a complete state of panic after the Supreme Court verdict in the reserved seats case.

According to a press statement issued here on Saturday, Mr Qaiser expressed these views while talking to party leaders and workers.

He said following the verdict the government in their frustration was talking about banning the PTI, and was also creating hurdles in implementing the open court decision.

He alleged PTI members were being taken away from their homes to put pressure on them to switch loyalties, which was a flagrant violation of the Constitution.

The former National Assembly speaker questioned how any parliamentarian could be arrested without informing the NA speaker.

He said the government was under an illusion that by suppressing PTI, it would deprive the party of its rights. He asserted the party would continue to struggle within the bounds of the law and the Constitution.

CDA to install digital boards for ads

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to introduce digital boards for advertising on the pattern of Times Square New York.

The decision was taken at a meeting held to discuss implementation of advertisement policy 2024 in the city. The meeting was chaired by CDA Chairman Mohammad Ali Razaibanda to introduce the policy aimed at changing the old methods of the advertisement.

According to a statement, the meeting was attended by the senior officers of CDA and formations concerned.

Mr Razaibanda directed to finalise advertisement policy 2024 and initiate its implementation at the earliest. He said that under the policy, digital boards will be introduced in the city instead of traditional advertising methods.

The CDA chairman was briefed that digital boards will be installed on various highways, avenues, commercial centers and bus stops. — Staff Reporter

Writer from Taxila gets US parliamentary award

TAXILA: Mohammad Taseeq, a renowned writer, historian, researcher and humanitarian worker, was honoured with the US Supreme Parliamentary Award during his recent visit to Texas.

All Pakistan Private Schools' Management Association Taxila chapter said in a press statement that the award was announced and

approved by US Congressman Sheila Jackson Lee and later presented to Mr Taseeq by her representative Turab Abbas at a ceremony in Houston.

Mr Taseeq, who served as director sports Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) Wah Cantonment, is also a renowned sports commentator.

"Mohammad Taseeq has been an outstanding leader for his peers and his community, with a deep commitment to helping those around him and has been guided by important values: love for his family, dedication, and service to his community, and respect for himself and others. Mohammad Taseeq, your selflessness and compassion

towards all those you've served alongside is truly inspiring. Your commitment sets an example for us all. Thank you for your service and the positive impact you've made on the lives of so many. You are a true hero, and your kindness and empathy do not go unnoticed," said the proclamation of the Congressional recognition.

"On behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I take great pride in recognizing Mohammad Taseeq for his service to humanity. Mr Taseeq has made a lasting impact on those around him through his scholarly writings, global travels, and insightful sports commentary," it added. — Correspondent

Job quota of provinces in Islamabad challenged

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A lawyer has challenged the quota allocated to provinces and territories for recruitment in government departments of Islamabad.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court (IHC) took up the petition and after preliminary hearing issued notices to the respondents, including the president, prime minister and the secretary law and justice.

Barrister Yawar Garden filed the petition seeking declaration against "any quota of any Urdu Province of the Federation, other than the Islamabad Capital Territory, in any and all jobs/posts of any and all departments of the Islamabad Capital Territory."

The petition also requested the court to declare that "only holders of an Islamabad domicile are eligible to apply for such jobs/posts."

It stated that 18th constitutional amendment had ensured autonomy to the federating units and decentralised numerous departments/ministries previously under the control of the federation.

The amendment created a Federal Legislative List, after which the federation could only make laws on subjects within that list and had administrative control to the extent of its legislative powers. The provinces now have legislative and administrative control over every subject or department not within the Federal Legislative List.

It said all subjects/departments of Islamabad were treated as departments of the federation for the purposes of government jobs, meaning that domicile holders of every unit of the federation have a specific quota and are entitled to apply for such jobs.

Furthermore, only a 50pc quota was reserved for posts in basic pay scales 1-15 in the departments of the federation which serve only Islamabad in violation of Article 25 of the Constitution and Rules 14, 15 and 16 of the Civil Servants (Appointment, Promotion and Transfer) Rules 1973, it added.

"Questions raised need consideration," observed Justice Kayani and issued notices to the respondents as well as the chief commissioner Islamabad. Further hearing of the matter was adjourned till August 1.

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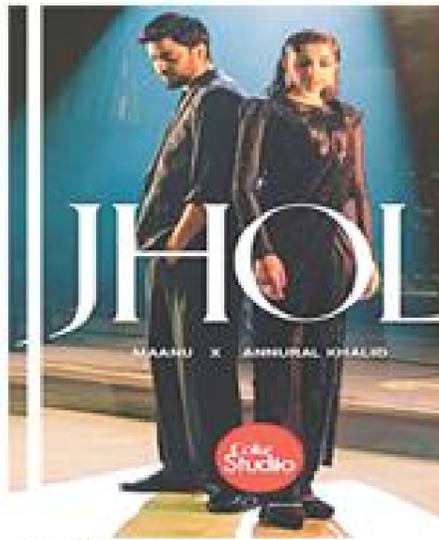
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▶ **SOUNDCHECK**

THE IMAGINARIUM OF COKE STUDIO

With *Coke Studio Season 15* now concluded, **Dr Safieh Shah** provides a personal interpretation of its musical and visual offerings and attempts to understand the thread that links its disparate songs together



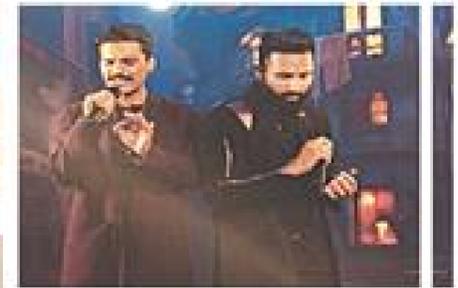
Jhol



Harkalay



Chal Chalye



2AM



Turr! Jarrdi



Mehman



Maghron La

Coke Studio Season 15 is the collective musical epiphany of its creative force Zulfikar Jabbar Khan, aka Nuff, who immerses himself in the enigmatic secrets of human existence.

This is depicted in the songs *Jhol* and *Harkalay*. Realising that wisdom lies within, as shown in *2 AM*, this philosophy is further explored in *O Nour* and *Chal Chalye*. Forayed through Coke Studio's (CS) plethora of musical and visual artistry, Nuff finds solace in the infinite divisibility of the universe — a concept explored in the season's *Maghron La*. We all share the same stories, as heard in *Aayi Aayi* and *Piya Piya Calling*.

Like the idea explored in this season's *Turr! Jarrdi*, awareness shapes the journey of *CS Season 15*'s music — a celebration of life and a *Woo/Bhakar* in itself. In a shared symphony of life, we embark on this brief journey together as *Mehmaan* on this earth.

The sound of dust blowing during the first 40 seconds of this season's inaugural song *Aayi Aayi* (Here She Comes) resonates with the dance of existence. The synchronised audiovisual authenticity of *Aayi Aayi* has been distilled into an experience of unadorned self-love for the Sindhi identity.

The Indus Civilisation has been among the world's three earliest civilisations and was the most extensive, thriving significantly. Thus, the message of self-love is contagious, imbued within the energy of Nooran Ali Rajgar's vocals, whose strength and self-belief are palpable. The lyrics, penned by rapper Babar Mangi, playfully preach timeless truths learned from the folk hero Marvi.

While listening to *Aayi Aayi*, we witness the energy shift within the song when the vocalists from Unadon — namely Saiban and Marvi — pay tribute to Sindhi musicians, alongside other women featured in this song.

The Sindhi cast of *Aayi Aayi* sings, dances and portrays their timeless story — as the oldest tale of the soul children of this soil. The video showcases how the caretakers of mother Indus, symbolised by a peacock, represent the splendid glory of a time-honoured civilisation.

Continuing from the portrayal of Sindhi into our urban landscape, we then delve into *2 AM*'s philosophy of *trahi teri meri batani* (your story and mine). In the familiar soundscape of urban life, we find ourselves grappling with inner demons in the



Nuff

solitude of darkness.

The scattered yet faintly hopeful melody of *2 AM* reverberates through the quiet hours, both at the start and at the end of the song, capturing the essence of solitude and introspection.

'Harkalay' [Welcome], also about love, has a seemingly ubiquitous sound. The song blends two distinct languages, Pashto and English, and genres, seamlessly. It combines intense Pashto romanticism lyrically with contemporary American pop, transporting us into the mountains.

Star Shah's lyrics mirror our emotional landscape by weaving a tale of fear and self-reflection, with his gentle voice teetering on vulnerability as he sings of a collective disillusionment. He brings our attention to how love is no longer at the heart of our stories and

philosophies, only ego.

The second vocalist, Zeeshan Ali, however, invites us to be gentle with ourselves, by embracing our flaws without judgement. In the quietude of *2 AM*, compassion blooms and humanity breathes, as does empathy for each other and grace for humanity.

Fittingly, the next song resonates with the profound contemplation of *Maghron La* (Letting Go), as a continuation of the philosophy of *2AM*. The affirmation in *Maghron La* celebrates free will through union, seen as a wedding.

This song handles serious themes lightheartedly, thanks to the eloquent choreography by Quick Style. The main characters that this song centres around are the Sabri Sisters, who live unapologetically, rooted in their happiness.

Enter Rozzo, who first pays homage to the Sabri Sisters through his rap, admiring their celebration. His words speak of embarking on a journey of self-acceptance and personal growth, requiring introspection and self-awareness. Rozzo looks life straight in the eye, and he never takes himself too seriously, embodying love and letting go of hate in *Maghron La*.

'Harkalay' [Welcome], also about love, has a seemingly ubiquitous sound. The song blends two distinct languages, Pashto and English, and genres, seamlessly. It combines intense Pashto romanticism lyrically with contemporary American pop, transporting us into the mountains.

Illustrating the Sufi concept of *'ishq'* [love], Zahoor's subdued expressions serve as a solid foundation for Rehama's passionate voice to soar. Rehama expresses her fears lyrically, opening her vocals fully in surrender to her emotions.

In contrast, Zahoor's unwavering commitment to his vocal style betrays a nurtured, calm sturdiness. The use of traditional instruments and visuals ground us in the rich cultural heritage that *Harkalay* draws inspiration from.

In line with exploring love in the Sufi tradition, *'O Nour'* (O Friend) emphasises the significance of friendship as a form of love.

The existential dialogue of *'O Nour'*, between a dystopian world view characterised by Abdul Hanman's soliloquy and Kaavi's beacon of hope, is a heart-to-heart of word and sound. In the end, Abdul Hanman is



Piya Piya Calling

ICON

► STYLE

MUFFS IN THE TON

Just like *Bridgerton's* Eloise, real Regency women used muffs to express themselves — and form friendships

By Elisabeth Gerner

Each season of *Bridgerton* is highly anticipated, not only for the season's plot, but also its elaborate costumes. While in Season Three most eyes have centred on Penelope Featherington's (Nicola Coughlan) glow-up and transformation — a plot line that effectively argues for the power of clothing — another character's unusual accessory has caught the attention of the period drama's fans.

Though anything is possible in the fantasy-Regency world of *Bridgerton* and the question of the show's historical accuracy is by now a moot point, this season has stumbled upon a happy case of accidental accuracy.

As Eloise (Claudia Jessie) and Cressida (Jessica Madsen) promenade in the park in the first episode, Eloise's forearm is encased in a fuzzy, lilac muff. The unusual decision to have Eloise wear a muff in high summer was made to conceal Jessie's broken wrist. However,



Eloise wearing her summer muff in *Bridgerton*. (Liam Daniel/Getty)

this sartorial twist of fate is actually true to one of the 18th century's lesser-known accessories — the silk muff.

Muffs, cylindrical accessories worn around the hands and forearms, were made of fur materials during the 18th century: fur, feathers and silk.

First worn in the 16th century, fur muffs were the most luxurious. Made of fox, lynx or even bear cub, fur muffs could be stuffed with eider down, providing warmth, and were primarily sold from the beginning of October through February. Milliners and furriers (the makers of fur muffs) advertised new muffs in newspapers, as well as cleaning and admission services to help the ladies of the ton (high society) get their muffs ready for the London winter season.

Feather muffs were also popular and worn throughout the year. After the seven years' war (1756-1763), for example, newspapers in the spring and summer of 1762 were rife with advertisements and editorials for feather muffs.

Their popularity was a byproduct of the French losing access to the North American fur trade to the British. However, the most versatile muffs for all seasons were those constructed of silk.

Worn since the 17th century, silk muffs were embellished with embroidery, spangles (aka sequins), or satin prints (printed pictures on silk). Though some are fur-trimmed and heavily insulated, many are only made using a thin layer of wood basting (a natural fibre wadding).

This made them a lighter option that could be worn throughout the changeable temperatures of British spring and summertime.

Silk muffs were often made at home and offered women a blank canvas for sartorial self-expression. They were customarily embroidered using printed patterns from periodicals such as *The Lady's Magazine*, or from patterns purchased from town.

Embroidering a muff demonstrated the maker's skill and experience. It also provided a focus of commonality and connection between cousins, siblings and friends.

For example, the English paper-flower artist Mary Delany frequently instructed her sister on her embroidery work. Delany's great niece, Frances Mabel Sparrow, also sought the advice of her older cousin Henrietta Pennington, whom she perceived as a "great Workwoman."

In her letters, Sparrow sought Pennington's advice and asked her to send patterns in the latest fashion from London to Sparrow's home, 120 miles north of the capital. Pennington's home in Kensington positioned her within reach of the ton. In her cousin's eyes, this made her an excellent arbiter of fashionable news and taste.

In addition to the practical networks fostered around embroidery, the practice also formed and reinforced bonds of kinship. In Delany's correspondence with her sister Anne, she describes one muff that she made as "an emblem of you and me, and so I must cherish it." This shows the sentimental attachment sewing and making could imbue into an accessory.

Likewise, the choice of thread, stitch, shading, colour and pattern all reveal the personality and ability of a muff's maker. *Bridgerton's* first episode features a discussion of embroidery stitches between young women that Eloise finds extremely boring. It's depicted as a trivially feminine waste of time. But, in reality, the practice was one of female empowerment, selfhood and self-expression.

With the addition of satin prints in the 1780s, the silk muff literally became a portable canvas. It not only showcased women's artistic skill with the needle, but also displayed the work of female visual artists, such as Angelica Kauffman.

Satin prints often portrayed allegories of virtues, like felicity, innocence or sincerity. These printed images, originally painted by Kauffman and printed on to silk, gave women another means of self-fashioning, as well as patronising and promoting women artists.

Silk muffs were a year-round accessory that bonded women in friendship and gave them a platform for their artistic skills and creativity. The humble muff, in the guise of a simple accessory, was a small, but powerful form of female agency. ■

The writer is a Lecturer in Design Cultures at De Montfort University in the UK

Republished from *The Conversation*

THE GRAPEVINE

By PYT

OH SNAP!



We've heard about fake Facebook and X accounts but very seldom, if ever, do we hear about a phony Snapchat account. Well, folks, apparently singer Aina Hui has fallen victim to one. Alerting her admirers on Instagram, the vocalist informed them that she finds Snapchat an inappropriate application... so doesn't have it. And she doesn't intend to use the app in the future as well. Thank you Aina Hui for letting everyone know. Otherwise, some of us might have begun to hit the wrong notes while addressing you.

intend to use the app in the future as well. Thank you Aina Hui for letting everyone know. Otherwise, some of us might have begun to hit the wrong notes while addressing you.

STALKED IN LONDON

Actress Darellhan Saleem is in London, enjoying some quality time with friends and family. During a day out on the streets of the city, she stopped to listen to, and record on her phone, a busker singing the OST from her play *Idly Akashit*. Some unidentified person, without her permission, filmed her doing that. Then that person followed her for a couple of minutes and kept filming the actress from behind, while she was walking with her friends and later on uploaded the video online. This is downright condemnable. It is not just a breach of someone's privacy but an ungainly, immoral act. It's time fans recognised the boundaries of personal space.



THE REFUSAL



After Salman Khan's father's statement that his son doesn't have the courage to get married, actress Jahnvi Kapoor has revealed another interesting fact on the same subject. When Salman K was young and Jahnvi C had just entered the film industry, he proposed marriage to her. But the actress's father refused the proposal, saying his daughter needed to focus on her career. Yik, etc. No wonder Salman K doesn't have the guts to get hitched: the fear of rejection.

WEDDING WISE

Actress Mithi Khan has become a bit of a social commentator. The views that she expresses are pretty interesting. For example, she has a distinct take on the longevity and episodic celebrations of Anant Ambani's wedding to Radhika Merchant. (For the uninitiated — and those living under rocks — Anant A is the son of Indian business tycoon Mukesh Ambani and his wedding festivities have been a months-long global extravaganza of how to burn money.) She says newly-wed couples have had babies by now but the Ambani wedding is still going on. Mithi K, look on the brighter side — it's making people look and sound wise on social media.



THE GRANDE VOICE



Singer Ariana Grande was trotted after she spoke in a slightly different voice during a podcast. She was quick to respond that it was a normal thing for the people whose voices have a 'large range'. The singer plays a character called Glinda in a forthcoming movie *Wicked*, and attributes the change to that. "I did just spend a long time playing a character every single day. Muscle memory is a real thing." Sure, Ariana G, so is multiple personality disorder.

EYES WIDE SHUT



Oscar winner Matthew McConaughey seems to have a jealous follower who does not like the way he uses his eyes while acting. We are talking about an insect. The actor has been stung in his right eye by a bee. As a result, the swollen eye has gotten 'completely shut'. The actor uploaded a picture on Instagram to show what's happened to him, captioning it "bee swell." Alright, alright, alright... Matthew M, here's hoping you 'be swell' soon.

► WIDE ANGLE

Sleep, a taut, supernatural thriller, leans into the resurgence of shamanistic belief among a new generation of Koreans

SHAMAN LORE

By Hyunseon Lee

Sleep begins in the dead of the night, the opening credits roll accompanied only by the rhythmic sound of snoring. This sound is broken as a woman starts to find her husband not beside her but sitting bolt upright on the end of the bed. As she turns on the light, he says in a deep and distant voice: "Someone's inside."

Jung Seo-jin (Jung Yu-mi) lives with her actor husband Ch Hyun-su (Lee San-lyun) and their dog Pepper in a typical, modern, urban Korean flat. The couple are expecting a baby and everything in their life seems to be perfectly normal — that is, until this night. This eerie opening is Hyun-su's first experience of parasomnia. He is talking and moving in his sleep, with no memory of what he did when he wakes.

Sleep is the debut film from Korean director Jaesun Yu, a former assistant to the Oscar-winning director Bong Joon-ho (*Parasite*, 2019). Told in three chapters, it's a thriller following this couple as they try to work out what is causing Hyun-su's parasomnia. As these opening moments show, it might take more than some sleep strips or medication to help Hyun-su. There is something else in their flat going bump in the night.

Drawing on Korean folkloric tradition and cultural ideas around shamanism,

Sleep is a gripping, beautifully shot, supernatural thriller. Yu's debut brings to the screen a new kind of shamanism, a religion and part of Korean culture that has been ignored and suppressed for hundreds of years, but is reportedly being embraced by a new young generation of believers, thanks to social media.

Chapter one shows the everyday life of the happily married couple. Yu paints a picture of wedded bliss through close-up shots that show a typical morning. The breakfast lovingly prepared by Hyun-su for Seo-jin before she wakes, the flowers on the balcony, a well-organised diary, a large framed photograph of the couple.

This sun-dappled montage ends on a large piece of wood with the words "Together We Can Overcome Anything" being righted on the wall by Seo-jin. This sentiment will become a recurrent theme throughout the film, as Hyun-su's parasomnia becomes more disturbing and threatens his safety (eating raw meat, attempting to jump from a window) as well as that of his whole family.

Seo-jin's mother first suspects the supernatural might be responsible and suggests the couple seek a shaman's help. Shamanism in Korean culture stretches back over 5,000 years. It's found in the nation's founding myth of Dangun, the first ruler of Goguryeon (the first Korean kingdom) and the son of the ruler of the heavens — a sort of Korean divine right of kings.

Shamanism in Korean film has a long history too, with features such as *Jeon Jidam* (1977) and *The Wailing* (2016) being among Korea's best. It also featured in *Extreme*, which was also released this year and presents young shamans as they try to rid a family of a curse. These films, however, portray shamanism as a provincial, rural concern. *Sleep* brings it into a modern and urban setting.

In *Sleep*, we are introduced to the shaman Madame Haegong, who confirms someone is indeed inside Hyun-su. Koreans usually turn to shamans when they have problems or are experiencing trouble making decisions. A shaman has played the role of priest, healer and diviner throughout Korean history.

In most cases, shamans serve clients as communicators — a kind of intermediary between the client's world and the other world where the spirits, the ghosts, reside. As a healer, the shaman usually performs a lot, an extravagant and expensive ritual, to enable connection with the spirit — an essential part of the treatment — as is the case of Hyun-su in *Sleep*.

In *Sleep*, the frustrated and sleepless Seo-jin is initially suspicious of shamanism but gets increasingly drawn in as medical avenues bear no results and Hyun-su's behaviour becomes more dangerous.

In Seo-jin's journey from non-believer to obsessive follower, familiar folkloric narratives associated with shamanistic belief arise. For instance, Seo-jin starts



Sleep / Lotte productions

to believe her husband's sleep problems are connected with ghosts latching on to him while he sleeps because, as Madame Haegong explains, "the soul becomes more vulnerable and they exploit this to sneak into your body."

Such narratives about death and spirits are typical in Korean culture. In the film, a now seemingly crazed Seo-jin explains: "If [your soul doesn't] ascend in 10 days you become a ghost," and "A ghost cannot ascend 100 days after death. [It will] wander around our world forever."

These ideas sound old-fashioned and ridiculous. However, that it's a young woman being taken in by these ideas chimes with the recent reported interest in shamanistic belief among some South Korean youth. Some shamans have put this interest down to young

people looking for hope and reassurance in the face of instability, much like Seo-jin.

Sleep is an expertly crafted modern occult film, featuring strong performances, including the posthumous leading man appearance from Lee San-lyun, who died by suicide last year. In his directorial debut, Yu has combined suspenseful horror and thriller with traditional folkloric shamanistic stories in an effective way. ■

The writer is a Professorial Research Associate at the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and the Centre for Creative Industries, Media and Screen Studies in SOAS at the University of London in the UK

Republished from *The Conversation*

FLASHBACK

The Beatles' *A Hard Day's Night* made pop cinema history and still holds up well 60 years on

STILL FAB AFTER 60 YEARS



The Beatles' *A Hard Day's Night*

By Alison Blair

I first saw *A Hard Day's Night* at a film festival over 20 years ago, at the insistence of my mum. By then, it was already decades old, but I remember being enthralled by its high-spirited energy.

A Beatles fan, mum had introduced me to the band's records in my childhood. At home, we listened to *Please Please Me*, the band's 1963 single, and the *Rubber Soul* album from 1965, which I loved.

Television regularly showed old black-and-white scenes of Beatlemania that, to a 10-year-old in the neon-lit 1980s, seemed like ancient history. But then, I'd never seen a full-length Beatles film. I had no idea what I was in for.

When the lights went down at Dundee's Regent Theatre, the opening chord of the film's title song announced its intention: an explosion of youthful vitality, rhythmic visuals, comical high jinks and the electrifying thrill of Beatlemania in 1964.

Since then, it didn't seem ancient at all. Since that first viewing, I've returned to *A Hard Day's Night* again and again. I now show it to my students as a historically significant example of pop music film making — visually inventive cinema, emblematic of a fresh era in youth culture, popular music and fandom.

BEATLEMANIA ON CELLULOID

A musical comedy depicting a chaotic 26 hours in the life of the Beatles. A

Hard Day's Night has now reached its 60th anniversary.

Directed by Richard Lester, the film premiered in London on July 6 1964, with its first public screening a day later (incidentally, also Ringo Starr's birthday), and the album of the same name released on July 10.

The band's popularity was by then reaching dizzying heights of hysteria, all reflected in the film. The Beatles are chased by hordes of fans, take a train trip, appear on TV, run from the police in a Keystone Cops-style sequence, and play a televised concert in front of screaming real-life Beatles fans.

Side one of the album provides the soundtrack, and the film inspired pop music film and video from then on, from the *Monkees* TV series (1966-68) to the *Spice Girls' Spice World* (1997) and music videos as we know them today.

THE ORIGINAL MUSIC VIDEO

Postwar teen culture and consumerism had been on the rise since the 1950s. In 1960s Britain, youth music TV programmes, notably *Roxy Sooty Sol* (1963-68), meant pop music now had a developing visual culture.

The youthful zest and vitality of 60s London was reflected in the pop-cultural sensibility, modernist humour and erudite visual impact of *A Hard Day's Night*.

Influenced by French New Wave filmmaking, and particularly the early 1960s work of Jean-Luc Godard, *A Hard Day's Night* employs cinema

vivid-style hand-held cinematography, brisk jump cuts, unusual framing and dynamic angles, high-spirited action, and a self-referential nonchalance.

The film also breaks the "fourth wall", with characters directly addressing the audience in close-up, and reveals the apparatus of the visual performance of music: cameras and TV monitors are all part of the frame.

Cutting the shots to the beat of the music — as in the *Can't Buy Me Love* sequence — leads a visual rhythm that would later become the norm in music video, editing, Lester developed this technique further in the second Beatles film, *Help!* (1965).

The closing sequence of *A Hard Day's Night* is possibly the film's most dynamic photographic images of the band edited to the beat in the style of stop-motion animation. Sixty years on, it still feels fresh, especially as so much contemporary filmmaking remains bedeviled by formulaic Hollywood rules.

SLAPSTICK AND CLASS AWARENESS

As with much popular culture from the past, the humour in *A Hard Day's Night* doesn't always land the way it would have in 1964. And yet, there are moments that seem surprisingly modern in their meta-slapstick irony.

In particular, the band's Liverpoolian working-class-lad jibes and chaotic energy contrast brilliantly with the film's upper-class characters. Actor Victor Spinetti's comically over-

anxious TV director, constantly hand-writing over the boys' rebelliousness, underscores the era-defining change the Beatles represented.

Corporate pop-culture consumerism is also satirised. John Lennon "smears" from a Coca-Cola bottle, a moment so knowingly silly it registers as more contemporary than it really is. George Harrison deflects a journalist's banal questions with scathingly witty answers, and cuts a fashion company down to size by describing their shirt designs as "grotesque".

And there is Paul McCartney's running joke that his grandfather — played by Wilfred Brimble from groundbreaking sitcom *Seymour and Son* (1962-74) — is "very clean."

Even the film's old-fashioned visual slapstick still holds up in 2024. Showing the film to this year's students, I didn't expect quite as much laughter when Ringo's attempts to be oblivious result in a fall-down-on-his-midst.

In 2022, the Criterion Collection released a high-resolution restoration of the film, so today *A Hard Day's Night* can be seen in all its fresh, black-and-white, youthful vigour.

Happy 60th, *A Hard Day's Night*. And happy 84th, Ringo. Both still as lively and energetic as ever. ■

The writer is a Teaching Fellow in Music at the University of Otago in the UK.

Republished from *The Conversation*

COKE STUDIO SEASON 15, FROM PAGE 1

seen humming Kaavish's hopeful tune, a testament to the importance of *shukh* (sharing burdens).

The sixth song from *CS Season 15* is another dialogue between friends. Sajjad Ali is a legend and, with his ageless voice, his poetic touch weaves through the soul-stirring lyrics of *'Chal Chalaye'* [Let's Go].

Faheen Raza Jaffry's smoky, dreamy and indulgent melodic voyage highlights her role as a woman facing societal challenges for pursuing her dreams. However, Sajjad Ali tells us we must be true to ourselves, and *'Chal Chalaye'* is a wake-up call that the crew of *CS's* musicians heed in the video of this song.

'Blockbuster' is the actualisation of the better tomorrow discussed in *'Chal Chalaye'*, all done in one blink of the camera eye. *'Blockbuster'* captures life's celebration of love in a single shot video. Director Zaidan Parwez's mastery of synchronising everything into a single shot is a metaphor for how we must make the best of this life.

This seventh song from the current season is a coming together of intergenerational love, freedom and unbridled joy across borders. Union between the traditional Qawwali Geop sounds and the contemporary vocals of Faris Shafi and Umair Butt's dialogue invite us to lose ourselves in a shared reality. *'Jhol'* [Fold] is also about love with pure intentions, seen as a loose fabric, for every *jhol* represents a promise waiting to be kept, with a soft and uncomplicated love. This song's operatic quality lies in Anamul Khalid and Maanu's ability to weave multi-layered lyrics into a poignant reflection on love — of words unspoken and moments unshared.

In *'Jhol'*, the red scarf visually showcases how



Ayyl Aayl

precious the presence of a beloved is to the hopeful lover, and how an object can become richly fragrant, depicting so many loving memories.

'Tareh Jasoof' [Keeps Passing] has a non-linear narrative and is a reflection of Pakistani pop history, making it my favourite song and video — both conceptually and in terms of execution — of *CS Season 15*. Shazia Manzoor encapsulates more than 30 years of pop memory in her career, carrying forward musical influences from an era before her. Hasan Raheem and Shazia Manzoor exist simultaneously, icons crystallising the entire story of Pakistani pop in one song.

In essence, *'Tareh Jasoof'* video and sound is the reality of all-things-Pakistan, having never been diluted by the interference of external elements.

In exploring time, *'Piya Piya Calling'* [Beloved Calling] is the longing for belonging felt by the diaspora. The diaspora are people scattered from their ancestral homeland, and here the land calls them home.

Whether it is the unrequited love song by Kaif Khalil, the longing for a lost love as sung by Norwegian duo Karpe, or the love for yourself another Norwegian Amanda Delara sings about, this song's essence is about the profound desire to feel and belong, despite the irretrievable.

Each artist is unafraid of the emotional spaces they inhabit as a result of their various intergenerational experiences of loss shown in the desolate, empty video. Different languages are showcased by iconic phrases in *'Piya Piya Calling'*, as a sense of belonging found by being true to oneself is the only cohesive narrative.

'Mehmaan' [Guests] tells the story of time immemorial for all living beings share an internally cohesive narrative, reminiscent of *'Piya Piya Calling'*. As the final song of *CS Season 15*, it has fleeting notions of the dialogue between the world vocalised by Nuzam Torwali, and humanity sung by Zeb Bangash, with the pure, unadorned sincerity of youth represented by Noorima Rehman's vocals. This video shows a heaven realised on earth — humans existing in harmony and balance with nature and life.

To me, *Coke Studio Season 15*, as a whole, speaks of the typical need for a collective realising. It can be found, it seems to say, by embracing the essence of life and looking inward at "the oneness of shared souls" ■



© Yaara

THE TUBE

THE WEEK THAT WAS

Chaar | Geo TV, Mondays 7:00pm

This show has a multi-layered plot, interconnected by romances and deceit over generations. Rubab (Zahab Hussain) is a spoiled princess and has given her heart to a not-so-charming trickster Farrokh (Harminad Farooqi), who sees her as a way to get rich quick.



Despite her best efforts to ruin not only her own life but that of her brother Rahil (Ariz Ahmed), fate protects her and she escapes the fraudulent lover. Fortunately, she finds a kind, patient man who loves her despite her arrogant ways, in her husband Sikander (Ali Asghar), and understands that the husband her father chose is the better man for her. Meanwhile, her behaviour and her mother's jealousy have caused her brother Rahil and Shabbi Alisha (Bakhtawar Khan) a lot of pain and confusion.

This is a standard soap opera that has little character or plot development but just seems to grow in all directions rather like a piece of ginger. The actors in the older generation's love triangle: Farhan Aty Agha, Mirza Waqas and Zeba Ali are more believable, and more interesting to watch. While the younger for seems superficially written, the seniors play their roles effortlessly, leaving one wishing they had been the main focus.

Dark-I-Wafa | ARY, Saturdays 7:00pm



A successful brother and a juggle of possessive, dependent sisters is often a premise in serials because it is a common cultural motif. From humble beginnings, Sibtaia (Melah Mirza) built up his civil engineering firm into a wealthy, successful business.

While Sibtaia has grown, his sisters have not, their personalities are stunted and their concerns petty because of a lack of parental guidance, and their brother's inability to set limits. With only basic education and nothing except marriage to look forward to, his three sisters spend their time in vicious bickering, or plans to harvest more money from their brother. Then, pretty, young engineer and designer Maryam (Bina Choudhary) enters Sibtaia's life. On the plus side, Maryam and Sibtaia's romance is shown building up in a natural, unforced style, with no silly flourishes.

Writer Rabia Razaqzai has built up a good plot with an old premise, and both main leads have made the effort to make their characters credible. However, a big minus is the complete lack of positivity among the sisters which, even for a soap opera, is hard to believe.

Air Chubhan Si | Hum TV, Mondays 8:00pm

This might be yet another ethical larriki or cunning girl plot, but writer Bakhtawar Nigar has put some effort into her writing and characterisations.



When we first meet Mabeen (Hira Khan), she is a busy, immature young girl who is lost in her own fantasy world. She loses her father in a blaring fire due to negligence, rather than intent. What tips her over the edge to a bad person is her greed and the way she covets her cousin Naila's (Sonya Hussain) lifestyle and her loving husband Haroon (Sami Khan). The intriguing part of this story is the way Naila's blind empathy enables the worst side of Mabeen's character.

Sonya Hussain and Sami Khan always make a fantastic pairing, and their interactions as husband and wife are seamlessly natural. Hira Khan deserves credit for playing Mabeen with restraint and not making her into a cartoonish villain. Both Mabeen's fiancé Maje (Fahad Shaikh) and Haroon can see past her facade of victimhood but, despite her growing conviction, Naila remains on the fence. Meanwhile, Mabeen plots to stay in Naila's luxurious life.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR (OR NOT)

Kaisi Hai Teri Ruzwai | Express Entertainment, Coming soon



Express Entertainment presents another intriguing, limited episode thriller starring Farhan Saeed and Hania Aamir. ■ — Sachif Hashir

THIS WEEK ON SPOTIFY

TOP 10 PAKISTANI SONGS		
S.#	SONG	STREAMS
1	Blockbuster Faris Shafi, Umair Butt, Gharvi Group	326,025
2	Jhol Maanu, Anamul Khalid	189,511
3	Wishes Hasan Raheem, Umair, Talwinder	171,697
4	Kaun Talha Talha Anjum, Umair	168,622
5	COME THROUGH (feat. Abdullah Maharvi, Talha Anjum) Umair, Abdullah Maharvi, Talha Anjum	147,110
6	Tu Hai Kahani AJR	133,027
7	O Yaara Abdul Hannan, Kaavish	130,801
8	Sadqay Aashir Wajahat, NAYEL, Nehaal Naseem	100,239
9	Bikhra Abdul Hannan, Rovailo	93,886
10	Piya Piya Calling Karpe, Kaif Khalil, Delara, The Quick Style	93,016

The *Despicable Me* franchise makes a lot of money. But as its fourth part shows, it seems to have run out of ideas — not that its audience cares

MORE PREDICTABLE THAN DESPICABLE

By Mohammad Kamran Jawaid

There's little to actually distinguish *Despicable Me 4* from any of its other parts — or its spin-offs. The near-episodic, almost immediately forgettable plot has Gru, and his family — the adopted girls Margo, Edith, Agnes, the wife, Lucy, their newest member, baby Gru Jr and three Minions — are put into an identity protection programme after Maxime Le Mal, a villain from his past, escapes from prison.

It is a predictable story with predictable turns. Gru and the family are relocated to a very small house in an uber-posh and very snooty suburb, and their next-door neighbour's daughter, Poppy, immediately discovers Gru's real identity (with the way he looks, it wasn't that hard to guess) and blackmails him into committing a burglary to get a taste of what it feels like to be "evil".

The burglary is of a honey-bugger named Lenny from the secret Lycée des Femmes School of Villainy, whose wheelchair-bound principal, Ubschlecht, loathes its star student Gru. Ubschlecht's favourite pupil is Maxime, Gru's school rival, whose experiments on himself have transmuted him into a human-cockroach hybrid of great strength (the ridiculous character already had a bad fashion sense).

The plot, screenwritten by Mike White and Ken Daurio, is hardly "despicable", though it is patently uninspiring and lousy. The bright colour palette, the minions' idiotic well-meaning stunts and wacky action, however, do make for a cheery entertainer, where one genuinely laughs a few times at the cartoonish innuendo, chances are, though, that one will forget everything in a matter of days.

The voice work by Kristen Wiig, Pierre Coffin, Joey King, Miranda Cosgrove, Sofia Vergara, Steve



Cosgrove, Stephen Colbert, Madison Iolan, Dana Gaier, Chloe Huetman and Chris Bernard is fine, though the three that will stand out are Will Ferrell as Maxime, Steve Carell as Gru and Pierre Coffin as the many minions.

Five of them (namely Dave, Mel, Gus, Tim and Jerry) are given superpowers to make the world a better place; given the minions' track record for blundering, one can see how that bit will turn out.

The *Despicable Me* franchise is primarily kiddie fare — and a very lucrative one at that, grossing, according to the film tracking website *Boxoffice Mojo*, over 4.6 billion dollars through six cinema releases. Part 3 had made over a

billion in 2017 and part 4, released this weekend, already sits at the 10th highest-grossing spot of the year, with a nearly 300 million-dollar take.

Would it make a billion in today's economy... who can say? However, when money starts pouring in, who goes for screenwriting quality? Or, put another way, if the lockstep is doing good-enough, perhaps people are getting exactly what they want. One can't really complain... apart from its reviews, that is. ■

Despicable Me 4, a Universal release, is rated PG, and features scenes of mild destruction by the indistinguishable minions — all in cartoonish fun, really



► TRADE

THE HARSH REALITY OF REALITY TV

Reality TV show contestants are more like unpaid interns than Hollywood stars...

By David Arditi

In December 2024, John Legend joined then newly elected US Rep Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to criticise the exploitation of congressional interns on Capitol Hill, most of whom worked for no pay.

Legend's timing was ironic. NBC's *The Voice* had just announced that Legend would join as a judge. He would go on to reportedly earn US\$14 million per season by his third year on the show. Meanwhile, all of the participants on *The Voice*, save for the winner, earned \$0 for their time, apart from a housing and food stipend — much like those congressional interns.

The fall 2023 TV line-up will be saturated with low-cost reality TV shows like *The Voice*; for networks, it's an end-around to the ongoing TV writers and actors strikes.

Whether it's *The Voice*, *House Hunters*, *American Chopper* or *The Bachelorette*, reality shows thrive thanks to a simple business model: they pay millions of dollars for big-name celebrities to serve as judges, coaches and hosts, while participants work for free or for paltry pay, under the guise of chasing their dreams or gaining exposure.

These participants are the unpaid interns of the entertainment industry, even though it's their voices, personalities and talent that draw the viewers.

DREAMS CLASH WITH REALITY

To conduct research for my book, *Getting Signed: Record Contracts, Musicians, and Power in Society*, I interviewed musicians around the country.

The book was about the exploitative nature of record contracts. But during my research, I kept running into singers who had either auditioned for or participated in *The Voice*.

On *The Voice*, singers compete on teams headed by a celebrity coach. Following a blind audition and various elimination rounds, the live broadcasts begin with four teams of five members apiece. These 20 contestants spend months working in Los Angeles and are provided with only their rooms and board. Each week, at least one player is eliminated. At the end of each season, the winner receives \$500,000 and a record contract.

While some viewers might see reality shows like *The Voice* as launching pads for music careers, many of the musicians I spoke with were disheartened by their experiences on the show.

Unlike *American Idol*, where a number of winners, from Kelly Clarkson to Jordan Sparks, have made it big, no winners of *The Voice* have become stars. The

closest person to "making it" from *The Voice* is the controversial country singer Morgan Wallen, who was infamously dropped by his label and country radio following the emergence of a video of him using a racial slur. And Wallen didn't even win *The Voice*; in fact, he barely made it past the blind audition.

Former contestants repeatedly told me that the television exposure did little to help their careers.

Prior to joining the show, many of the musicians were trying to scratch out a living through touring or performing. They put their developing careers on pause to chase their dreams.

However, the show's contracts have stipulated that contestants cannot perform, sell their name, image and likeness, or record new music while on *The Voice*. (The *Constitution* reached out to NBC to see if this remains the case for the current season, but did not receive a comment.)

This leaves the 20 finalists with no means to sell their music, even as they spend up to eight months competing. When the show's losers return to performing, many of them have little new material to promote. By the time they drop a new single or album and announce a tour, some of them told me that they had lost a good portion of their following.

There is one group of people who receive meaningful exposure from these shows: the coaches and judges. Several singers, such as Gwen Stefani and Pharrell Williams, have used *The Voice* to job their stagnating music careers. While earning millions as coaches and

judges, these stars even use the show to promote their music — something the contestants themselves are barred from doing.

Paying these contestants is feasible. If Legend earned \$13 million instead of \$14 million, that spare million dollars could be dispersed to half of the contestants at \$200,000 apiece — an amount that's currently only reserved for the winner of the show.

Cut the salaries of all four coaches by \$1 million apiece, and it would free up enough money to pay all 20 contestants \$200,000 each.

A GOLD MINE FOR NETWORKS

The Voice is far from the only reality show to take advantage of the genre's low overhead costs.

Over the past two decades, shows featuring Americans looking to buy houses or remodel their homes have exploded in popularity. HGTV cornered this market by creating popular shows such as *House Hunters*, *Flip or Flop* and *Property Brothers*.

Viewers might not realise just how profitable these shows are.

Take *House Hunters*. The show follows a prospective homebuyer as they tour three homes. Homebuyers featured on the show have noted that they earn only \$200 for their work, and the episodes take three to five days and about 70 hours to film. The show's producers don't pay the realtors to be on it.

The low pay for people on reality TV shows matches the low budget for these shows. A former participant

wrote that episodes of *House Hunters* cost around \$50,000 to film. Prime-time sitcoms, by comparison, have a \$1.5 million to \$3 million per episode budget.

SIDESTEPPING THE UNIONS

That massive budget gap between reality TV and sitcoms is not simply due to an absence of star actors.

Many scripted television shows are based in Los Angeles, where camera crews, stunt doubles, costume artists, make-up artists and hairstylists are unionised. But shows like *House Hunters*, which are filmed across the country, will recruit crews from right-to-work states.

These are states where employees cannot be compelled to join a union or pay union dues as a condition of employment. For these reasons, unions have far less power in these states than they do in places traditionally associated with film and entertainment, such as California and New York.

That's one reason why TV production started moving to Atlanta — what's been dubbed the "Hollywood of the South" — where shows such as *The Walking Dead* and *Stranger Things* have been filmed.

But in my research, I also learned that Knoxville, Tennessee, has become a reality TV mecca. Like Georgia, Tennessee is also a right-to-work state. In Knoxville, many working musicians join the city's low-paying entertainment apparatus by taking gigs working on TV and film production crews in between shows and tours.

At a time when TV writers and actors are on strike, it is important to understand that the entertainment industry will try to exploit labour for profit whenever it can.

Reality TV is a way to undercut the leverage of striking workers, whether it's through their lack of unionised actors, or their use of non-unionised production crews.

Contestants, casts and crew members are starting to catch on. Many reality TV participants have said that they feel like strike seals, and Bethany Frankel of *Real Housewives* is reportedly trying to organise her fellow reality performers.

Preying off contestants who are desperate for exposure, reality TV might just be the next labour battle in the entertainment industry.

As John Legend put it, "Unpaid internships make it so only kids with means and privilege get the valuable experience."

Reality TV does the same to aspiring actors, musicians and celebrities. ■

The writer is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas at Arlington in the US

Reprinted from *The Conversation*



Country singer Adley Stump, a former contestant on NBC's hit reality show *The Voice*, performs at an Air Force base in Washington state | JEFF BLAKE LEWIS/MOCHARD/BECK, CC BY-NC-SA



THE PAST IS MANIJEH MANSIONS
Page 3



B&A
BOOKS & AUTHORS
THE DARKNESS OF EMOTIONS
Page 6

@eosmagazine

No one actually disputes that talking would be better than hostile actions between Pakistan and India or that greater trade would not be beneficial to the two countries. But can such talks and greater trade take place in the context of current Pakistan-India relations? And would they solve their ongoing bilateral issues? **Ejaz Haider** uses international relations theory to challenge the common narrative...

SHOULD PAKISTAN TRADE WITH INDIA?



Pakistani porters (red) exchange goods with Indian porters (blue) at the Wagah Border on December 23, 2006; many studies have shown that a relaxation of constraints would benefit bilateral trade | AFP

PROLOGUE

On January 16, 2023, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sat down with the Dubai-based television channel, *Al Arabiya* and, among other issues, spoke about Pakistan's relations with India. Sharif stated, "It is up to us to live peacefully and make progress or quarrel with each other and waste time and resources... My message to... Prime Minister Narendra Modi is that let us sit down... and have serious and sincere talks to resolve our burning issues like Kashmir." Sharif also said the United Arab Emirates (UAE) could play an important role in facilitating the resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan. In a *pro forma* response, India's Ministry of External Affairs' spokesperson, Anandam Dasgupta said, "We [India] have said that we have always wanted normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan. But there should be a conducive atmosphere which does not have terror, hostility or violence."

Much has happened since January 2023. Pakistan's economy has continued to decline and the country is stammering with political discontent. The February 8 election, widely considered to be rigged at both systemic and operational levels, has only worsened the situation. The overt and covert repression might have quieted down the full expression of dissent but it continues to fester, affecting the body politic, and will likely re-emerge.

India has gone through an election too, which saw the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerge victorious, albeit without securing a clear majority on its own. After 10 years, India now has a coalition government, but the BJP remains the predominant driver of that coalition. This essentially means that while Modi, now in his third term as prime minister, might not be able to strong-arm the opposition internally as he is used to, his coalition will go along with his foreign and security policies. In other words, we are unlikely to see much change on that front.

The cutting edge of that wedge is India's Pakistan policy: stall talks, hurt Pakistan diplomatically and by sponsoring terrorism at the sub-conventional level, while continuing to accuse Pakistan of "terrorism" and speak of a conducive atmosphere as a precondition for any talks.

The question then is, to quote the headline from a recent op-ed by Engg Khurram Dastgir-Khan, "What to do with India?" The question implies that Pakistan has to do something, given not just the physical fact of India's presence in the east but also because India has continued to harm

The problem is a chicken and egg one. Trade requires better relations and better relations require trade, or at least for relations to reach a point where other disputes cannot derail trade. Clearly, reaching that point requires a bilateral consensus. The liberals argue that all will be well when Pakistan and India resume full trade but don't know how to get the two sides there.

Pakistan at multiple levels

Khan is a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) heavyweight and has run commerce, defence and foreign ministries. He is not an outsider taking an outside-in view, but has been an inside player. It is instructive when he says that as a first step Pakistan should "stop offering talks to India, which the present government [led by his party] has inadvisably done more than once." He was referring to recent statements by the prime minister and the foreign minister.

Another former PML-N leader and twice Pakistan's finance minister, Dr Miftah Ismail, argues that Pakistan should keep every other issue/diatribe on the back-burner and trade with India. When interviewed for a *Dawn*

article, Dr Ismail said, "All trade is beneficial, and given the countries' proximity, it is beneficial to both countries. China and Taiwan have a dispute, but their trade is booming. India and China have a dispute, but their trade is flourishing. China and India have skirmishes at the border but trade with one another."

Pakistan-India relations can be discussed and debated from a number of perspectives. Here, I will focus on just two: talking to India and trading with it.

PURITY VERSUS CONTEXT

Saying that X must talk to Y because talking is better than fighting is unlikely to beget much disagreement because talking is generally regarded as a better option. In its purity the statement makes eminent sense. But then life happens and life is all about context.

Take, for instance, the above statement: X must talk to Y means X isn't talking to Y, but unless it can be proved that X isn't talking to Y despite Y wanting to talk to X, one has to delve deeper into X's reasons for not talking to Y.

In the event that we figure out that X is not talking to Y because Y wants to cut X loose, we have moved the problem from the purity of the desirability of talking to the context of why talks are not happening — or what the cost for X would be to appeal to Y. Purity is the state of simple consciousness; context is the state of self-consciousness.

This is a deliberately simple exercise in problematising purity. I have not used any interstate/IR theoretical framework to add to the complexity of context. The English language has an adage, "It takes two to make a row." This is wrong because, while it often takes one to make a row, it most definitely takes two to make peace, unless one of the two actors has been completely subjugated or annihilated by the other.

Let me give an example used in the Realist framework but which should be obvious even in a non-theoretical sense.

When the Athenian general arrived in Melos, they made a straightforward demand of Melian commissioners: submit, become a part of the Athenian empire, and your people and possessions will be spared harm. The Melian commissioners argued that "by the law of nations, they had the right to

TALKING TRADE WITH INDIA

PAKISTAN-INDIA TRADE, PAGE 1

remain neutral, and no nation had the right to attack without provocation. Thucydides tells us that Athenians wouldn't be persuaded.

Melians: "And how pray, could it turn out as good for us to serve as for you to rule?"
 Athenians: "Because you would have the advantage of submitting before suffering the war, and we should gain by not destroying you."
 Melians: "So you would not consent to our being neutral, friends instead of enemies, but allies of neither side?"
 Athenians: "No for your hostility cannot so much hurt us as your friendship will be an argument to our subjects of our weakness and your enmity of our power."

When the Melians asked if that was their 'idea of equity', the Athenians responded: "As far as right goes, one has as much of it as the other, and if any maintain their independence, it is because they are strong, and that if we do not molest them, it is because we are afraid."

Some might say the world has come a long way from the Peloponnesian War; we have international law and international institutions, alliances, norms and taboos. They need only look at the Russo-Ukraine war and Israel's savage war on Palestine. The list is long but I mention these two because they are ongoing and because memories are short.

Talking is preferable when the context allows for it. Or when it is between equals or even when the asymmetry is not too great. In any other case, it is about the terms of surrender, not necessarily in a military sense, but in the sense of accepting that the other party, in this case a state actor, is far too strong and it is better to accede to its diktat than be destroyed by it.

When Khan says it is inadvisable for the present government to offer talks to India and be shunned by it, he is not arguing against talking. He is offering a context. In that op-ed, he goes on to list what needs to be done before talks can have any meaning, put another way, to change the context in a way where talks is not just N's need but also Y's imperative. That is the only point where one can ascribe any meaning or meaningfulness to the talks.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY

Let's get to trade now and begin again with parity. Should one trade? Will trade be beneficial? Both questions are erroneous. Where there's a seller and a buyer, trade will and does happen, if not dyadically then through third parties. Similarly, trade is always beneficial, even if there's imbalance — what economists call a trade deficit. It's better to get Rs 10 even if the other is getting Rs 100 because Rs 20 is better than Rs 0. Many studies have shown that the relaxation of constraints would benefit bilateral trade. As Dr Ismat Hossain noted 2011, "The theoretical argument is that countries in relative geographical proximity tend to trade more with each other than with more-distant countries, because of lower transport and communication costs."

Makes perfect sense. I begin with this because the proponents of trading with India are quick to allege that those who insist on moving the issue from its parity to a context are somehow opposed to trading. This is false and they resort to this to avoid answering difficult questions.

To explain the issue, I would divide the purists and contextualists into two categories, liberals and realists, respectively. Realists argue that 'relative gains concerns' will always determine a state's response and militarised disputes, even short of war, will badly impact trade between them. Liberals insist that disputes should not prevent Pakistan reaching out to India. This is, of course, not the first time for such arguments, given the ebbs and flows of Pakistan-India relations.

The problem is a chicken and egg one. Trade requires better relations and better relations require trade, or at least for relations to reach a point where other disputes cannot derail trade. Clearly, reaching that point requires a bilateral consensus. To put it another way, the liberals argue that all will be well when Pakistan and India resume full trade but don't know how to get the two sides there. In sum, they 'accept' the realist position implicitly in the first instance, but argue nonetheless that once trade is given a chance, a different causality will kick into play, trumping the realist assumptions.

At this point, it is important to note that liberals are right about one thing: the inevitability of trade, the point I noted above, but wrong in arguing that trade brings peace dividends. There is empirical data to support this, compiled by American political scientist Katherine Barbieri. Barbieri also co-authored with fellow political scientist Jack Levy an article in the *Journal of Peace Research* (Vol 26, no 4, 1999), captioned, "Sleeping with the Enemy: The Impact of War on Trade." Barbieri and Levy maintain that "there are numerous historical cases of trading with the enemy during wartime, including trade in strategic goods that directly affect the ability of a state to prosecute the war."

Trade will continue even when states are at war. While dyadic trade will be negatively impacted, trade through third parties and circuitously will continue. This is not to say that trade through third parties in such circumstances is preferable to dyadic trade. The point is that empirical data does not support the central tenet of the liberal theory that trade promotes peace or the realist assumption that states, because of vulnerability, will snuff those ties.

If there's a demand in State Y for item A made by State Z, A will get to Y, regardless of the conditions of war and peace. This is also borne out by informal trade linkages between Pakistan and India, especially trade through third parties and even smuggling. The argument that dyadic trade is better is correct but not relevant to what I am arguing here.

Realists further argue that even if trade ties were not to snap because of security concerns and trade in fact increased, high interdependence will increase rather than decrease the chances of conflict. They point to the well-known fact that the European powers had very high levels of trade and high interdependence in the run-up to World War I. Coming by the liberal argument, those levels of trade and interdependence should



An Indian Border Security Force (BSF) soldier signals to a truck loaded with potatoes bound for Pakistan at the Wagah Border crossing on November 26, 2008: the paltry benefits of trade have to be weighed against the cost of dealing with an adversary | AFP

have prevented war. But war happened and mutual dependence actually increased vulnerability rather than decreasing it.

No, how does one explain that through the interdependence argument? The realist correlation seems to be right but, as Canadian political scientist Dale Copeland argues in his *International Security* article (Vol 20, no 4, Spring 1996), "trade levels had been high for the previous 30 years (in the run-up to WWII); hence, even if interdependence was a necessary condition for the war, it was not sufficient."

Copeland offers a different, synthetic approach and calls it a theory of trade expectations where the new causal variable is the expectations of future trade — what's the impact on the overall expected value of the trading option if a state decides to forgo war. Levels of interdependence and expectations of future trade, considered simultaneously, lead to new predictions. Interdependence can foster peace, as liberals argue, but this will only be so when states expect that trade levels will be high into the foreseeable future.

Copeland's argument is that "high interdependence can be either peace-inducing or war-inducing, depending on the expectations of future trade."

CURRENT TRENDS AND TRADE ARGUMENTS

It's now it should be obvious to any keen observer that the world's two largest economies — USA and China — are in a peer competition. Off-shoring is giving way to in-sourcing, re-shoring and friend-shoring. The neoliberal trade order is giving way to geo-economics, rival trade blocs, protectionism and sanctions. I use the term geo-economics in the sense it was used and coined by American conservative Edward Luttwak in a 1990 article and later expanded by former American diplomat Robert Blackwill and academic Jennifer Harris to mean "the use of economic instruments to promote and defend national interests, and to produce beneficial geopolitical results; and the effects of other nations' economic actions on a country's geopolitical goals."

To discuss this trend in some detail is outside the scope of this article, but it's important to flag it. A good example of the Blackwill-Harris approach is

the US decision to stymie the progress of China's semiconductor industry and to force US allies in the chip-making value chain — Taiwan, The Netherlands, South Korea, Japan — to follow US sanctions against China's chip industry. For its part, China has been sanctioning US individuals and companies and has used the sanctions stick against other states such as Australia and Taiwan et al.

All of this is being done in the service of national security. It will be an interesting exercise to apply Copeland's trade expectation theory to the ongoing Russo-Ukraine War and further expand its application to Sino-US competition and the impact Sino-US bilateral disruptions will have on other economies.

This also provides me the segue to go back to Dr Ismat's two examples: India-China and China-Taiwan trade linkages. Neither is useful for the Pakistan-India case. Consider.

China-Taiwan example is flawed for two reasons: Taiwan cannot afford to go to war with China and the latter needs Taiwan, for instance for cutting-edge semiconductors. China considers Taiwan an unfinished piece from the civil war and lays claim on Taiwan, but it can bide its time and, meanwhile, accrue the benefits of imports from Taiwan.

Taiwan is also encouraged by China to invest in the mainland, though a May 2024 report from Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs says "the island's investments in mainland China have fallen to the lowest level in more than 20 years, dropping nearly 40 percent to \$3 billion last year from a year earlier." Meanwhile, Taiwan's investments in the US have surged nine-fold, to \$9.6 billion in 2023. China is stepping efforts to woo Taiwanese businesses to invest in China because the idea is to integrate Taiwanese economy into China's. In 2023, Taiwan's trade surplus with mainland China and Hong Kong was USD 80.55 billion.

Meanwhile, Washington and Taipei signed a trade agreement last year and are now negotiating the next phase. According to US Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Kritenbrink, "Everything is motivated by... a desire to build Taiwan's deterrent capability and their resilience, all in support of maintaining the status quo and deterring China from being tempted to take...

action against Taiwan."

"India and China" is a different dyad. China is already a great power — India is aspiring to be one. Relations have been fraught since the 1962 War and the border issue remains unsettled, despite various agreements. China needs India's market and it has a massive trade surplus with India. If it can prick India while retaining the Indian market, that's a win-win for China.

After the June 2020 skirmishes in Ladakh, the Indian government slapped sanctions on Chinese apps and also sought to restrict the Indian market for certain Chinese products, but the volume has since picked up again. That works fine for China.

India, for its part, doesn't have many options. It can either go bellicose and risk a major confrontation with China or try to manage relations at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with overall relations, including in the area of trade. China can bide time and occasionally draw blood; India doesn't have the capacity to force a resolution. That creates a balance. Meanwhile, both sides have something to sell so both are prepared to buy.

ANOTHER PROBLEM

The 'two sides have something to sell, so both are prepared to buy' is an important factor. What does Pakistan have to sell to India? A 2005 State Bank of Pakistan report tells us that "Generally, Pakistan's exports consist of more raw material than finished products (italics added)." Corollary: if India wants to stop trading, it doesn't lose anything. Pakistan is not offering (and cannot) anything that India cannot produce itself or get from somewhere else.

To make this point clear, using Dr Ismat's reference to Taiwan, while China threatens a cross-strait invasion, it cannot sanction Taiwan's semiconductor because cutting-edge chips are vital to China's industry and military modernisation. Corollary: if, hypothetically, Pakistan could become a world leader in something that everyone needed, including India, that would be a game changer. (Note here: the semiconductor reference also validates the theory that trade will always happen even between adversaries.)

The second issue generally implied in the trade-with-India argument is that it will improve Pakistan's economy. I am not an economist but basic common sense tells me that while it might bring paltry revenues, it can't in and of itself streamline the country's economic woes, which have nothing to do with trading or not trading with India. Those structural problems are owed to rent-seeking, extractive elites that have fattened themselves on cash inflows when a conflict involving a great power's interests rages in the northeast.

The viability of the extractive elites will not vanish simply because Pakistan begins to get another one or two billion dollars in its embarrassingly small kitty. Dr Ismat himself has often written and spoken about what those problems are. I will refer to just one op-ed by him, 'Foreign Trade Debate', which appeared in this newspaper. He picks up one issue, which is also central in many ways: what should be Pakistan's foreign trade strategy: export promotion, or import substitution? And he goes on to tell us how and why we have the worst of both worlds.

IN CONCLUSION

The discussion on dealing with India has to be contextualised. I have discussed just two factors: talks and trade. There are many others. The debate cannot be had in silos. Trade is inevitable and it's happening even as I write these lines. Its volume is low and will remain low because Pakistan has not innovated and has nothing to offer in value-addition terms.

The paltry benefits of trade have, therefore, to be weighed against the cost of dealing with an adversary that has a considered policy of not engaging with Pakistan while continuing to hurt it in multiple ways.

Talking is better than fighting but many such rounds in the past have failed to pluck even low-hanging fruit. Reason: Pakistan has continued to decline on all indices and there's nothing on the horizon to indicate that it has finally taken a turn for the better. If anything, the country has regressed on all counts in the last two years and continues to slide.

Without addressing the internal contradictions, Pakistan cannot engage any external actor meaningfully, much less India. It needs a strategic pause to work out its internal contradictions before it can hope to be taken seriously externally. ■

Talking is better than fighting but many such rounds in the past have failed to pluck even low-hanging fruit. Reason: Pakistan has continued to decline on all indices and there's nothing on the horizon to indicate that it has finally taken a turn for the better. If anything, the country has regressed on all counts in the last two years and continues to slide.



A stockbroker pictured at the Pakistan Stock Exchange; trading with India, in and of itself, can't streamline the country's economic woes | Reuters

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▶ HERITAGE

THE PAST IS MANIJEH MANSIONS

Little is known about a distinctly European, colonial-era stone building surrounded by newer homogenous office buildings on Karachi's Beaumont Road, except that it's in an advanced stage of crumbling neglect.

Ali Bhutto sets out to investigate and uncover its bygone days...



Front facade of Manijeh Mansions as viewed from Beaumont Road, with latticework and balustrades on the upper storey hallway windows visible | Photos by the writer



The railway signal box located near Beaumont Road, with the blind arch at the bottom, from where levers once exited the building. The wooden external staircase on the left leads to the upper storey operating room

Amidst the scrubbing team of activity on Karachi's Beaumont Road, a colonial-era structure called Manijeh Mansions — erroneously listed as “Mandeh Mansion” in various surveys of heritage buildings — stands on its last legs, guarded by banyan trees. Distinctly European in character, the two-storey residential block, built in yellow Ghari sandstone, is an outsider in a lane lined with multi-storeyed office buildings.

A dense creeper that looks like an organic part of the building's fabric spreads across its facade, serving as a protective shield. The only semblance of life at this unattended, crumbling site is the layer of foliage that surrounds it.

The building's main entrance is an ornate, wrought-iron pedestrian gate-arch, flanked by two columns holding up a balcony. Intricate moldings of garlands — known as “kumkum”, according to the architect Yasmin Lari — adorn the remnants of the balcony and can be found beneath every balustrade.

The interior's state of disrepair is visible through the gate, which remains closed to visitors. A heap of stones, of the sort originally used in the construction of the building, lies in the foyer, along with a pile of twigs and other discarded items. The staircase — similar in size and style to the one in the lobby of the neo-roc-faraway Bristol Hotel — has been stripped of its decorative aspects.

From the shadows, a figure emerges. A labourer working inside the building walks up to the gate and leans against it with his hands — his head, staring eyes looking out at the chaos of the city. The functional entrance, he tells me, is around the corner, in a lane.

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

The front of the upper storey displays a different type of masonry than the rest of the building: the stones are better chiselled and of a smoother finish, while the lower storey and sides are “rough-tooled” and therefore less costly, according to Lari. Both are, nevertheless, an example of “sillar masonry”, she says, which means the stones were laid in courses, with great precision, by skilled artisans.

In many colonial-era structures — including the Flagstaff House, now the Quaid-i-Azam House Museum — more effort and expense went into making the front of the building look impressive, while the sides were given lesser importance, and the least amount of effort went into the rest, according to Lari.

The right upper portion of the facade is in a precarious state and parts of it appear to have

already fallen apart — a painful truth covered up by a *pillavan* tree (white fig, a species of the figs genus). There is scaffolding along a portion of the building and, at one point, a concrete layer can be seen where balustrades once stood. The director general of the Antiquities and Archaeology Department of the government of Sindh, Abdul Fiaz Shahid, confirms to *Eos* that the building is a listed heritage site.

The windows along the upper storey facade contain latticework — or a *jajri* — with a small opening at the centre and a balustrade along the bottom, while the lattice in the larger, lower-storey windows is fitted with ribbed ventilators. This specific type of *jajri*, made of narrow wooden planks laid in a cross-cross pattern, can be seen in colonial-era bungalows across Sindh.

According to Lari, it served the function of keeping out the sun and bringing in the wind, and appears more frequently in Karachi, where there is a sea breeze, than in other places, such as Lahore.

LIVING MEMORIES

The arched windows, remnants of which can be seen along the sides of the building, once contained stained glass, recalls Hommie Patel, who spent a lot of time at Manijeh Mansions while growing up, especially around the mid-1970s.

It is he who confirms to *Eos* the correct name of the building and that it is not a single-family residence, but a block of four apartments, one of which was occupied by his late uncle, Rustum Khatib — whom he refers to as “Rusi Mami” — and another by Hani Wania.

He remembers the tall ceilings, tasteful interiors and big parties thrown by his uncle, who was the legal counsel of the American, Japanese, Korean and Thai consulates in Karachi.

There used to be a wooden gate on the right corner of the compound, recalls Patel, and a garden where a black Great Dane, named Cleopatra, could be found. Remnants of the garden can be seen today in the form of *pillavan* and banyan trees — both a species of figs — standing tall along the side of the building, their branches looking like raised arms, protecting the site from the relentless march of concrete.

Back then, the North Western Hotel designed by the Jewish architect, Moses Sosna, according to Lari, Agla's Taverna and Grill, and the Mirabehla residence, all lay across the road from Manijeh Mansions, while the Paris-run Lucas Girling Agency lay

adjacent to it, according to Patel.

The Karachi Residential Directory for 1932 lists a Manijeh Mansions on Beaumont Road, with “Flat A” being occupied by a British army captain, John St John Dalguy. Living with the 33-year-old captain, according to *MyHeritage* and Ancestry databases, was his wife, Dorothy Alice Harding, two years his senior. Dalguy had been stationed in India since at least 1928, if not earlier, as he was an adjutant to the auxiliary forces at the time, according to *The London Gazette* of August, 1929.

DATING MANIJEH

It is unknown as to when Manijeh Mansions was built, but the architect and urban planner Arif Hasan thinks it may have been in the early 1900s. Its immediate neighbour, the North Western Hotel, opened its doors in 1908 (Lari, *The Dead City*), overlooking the railway line that runs parallel to Beaumont Road till this day. It was known as a “railway hotel”, according to Hasan.

Also, around this time, Thomas Beaumont — after whom the street is named — was president of the Karachi Municipal Corporation, according to a letter written by him in 1909 to a publication, called *The Builder*, requesting designs, plans and estimates for a new municipal office in Karachi.

Manijeh Mansions' location on the periphery of the then-exclusive Civil Lines Quarter provides some clues as to when it might date back to. This part of Civil Lines — essentially an extension — was developed later, according to Lari, and was not as posh as the neighbourhoods along Victoria Road and Elphinstone Street, which came up in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Locals were not allowed to own property in Civil Lines until after the First World War and, even then, only the wealthiest of them could afford to do so (Lari, *The Dead City*). Referring to Civil Lines and the Cantonment, Lari tells *Eos*, “Prior to World War I, I could not find any buildings built by natives, not even by the favoured Parsis.”

It is uncertain as to whether the building is named after Manijeh Hommie Mehta, who was, in 1912, among the founders of the Karachi Zari-e-Hayat Hama Mandali, a philanthropic organisation created with the intent of providing education and support to underprivileged Parsi women.

An 1871 map of “Karachee Cantonment and Environs”, based on a survey conducted in the early 1860s (Lari, *The Dead City*), shows details such as buildings, compounds, driveways and housekeeper's quarters, but



The main entrance



Scaffolding along a portion of the building

contains no trace of a street or road track where Beaumont Road is currently located.

In its place is a largely empty portion of land, sandwiched between Kutchery Road (now Dr Ziauddin Ali Road) and the railway line. The map shows a west-facing bungalow and its accompanying quarters at the spot where the PIDE building currently stands. Opposite it, in the direction of the railway track, are a couple of minor structures denoted by tiny markings.

An 1874 map, signed by the Revenue Survey superintendent, Col GA Laughton, shows an unnamed street where Beaumont Road currently lies, lined with plots of land. The map shows a building at the very start of the street, where small eateries, such as Saffers Restaurant and Gwadar Foods, are currently located — across the road from Manijeh Mansions. The building is labelled, but the text is too small to be legible.

A *Gazetteer of the Province of Sind* by Albert Hughes (1876) makes mention of an “ice manufactory” in the Civil Lines area. An 1880 map, by James Strachan, places the ice factory at the very spot where the entrance currently lies on Beaumont Road.

According to a report by the Bombay Presidency Forest Department, the ice factory dated back to 1871, making it highly likely that the building in Laughton's map was also the same factory. Prior to its existence, the city had an ice storage house, built in 1859, according to the old newspaper *Allen's Indian Mail*.

In the 1871 map, a square building stands on the edge of the railway track, close to what is now the PIDE bridge. A rough sketch depicts a telegraph line passing near the building, running parallel to the railway line. In *Description of the Line and Works of the Sindh Railway* (published in 1863), John Brunton, the chief resident engineer of the project, mentions that the railway line was laid in 1858, with the telegraph line alongside it.

A FORGOTTEN WORLD

Today, along the edge of the track, not far from the spot where the North Western Hotel was located, stands an antiquated sandstone building that may appear unusual, even bizarre to the untrained eye, but which once served as a railway signal box.

What looks like the upper portion of a blind arch, about 10 feet in width, rises from the bottom of the structure to a height of around three feet, and is set left of centre. “The arches were for levers,” Rajendra D Akhkar, author of *A Short History of Indian Railways*, tells *Eos* via email. “They do not need to be at the centre. They are closer to a railway crossover”

switch, which must have been nearby,” he says.

Anyway, a current resident of the dysfunctional building and an employee of the Pakistan Railways, takes *Eos* to the ground floor room, where he lives, and from where the wooden floorboards of the upper storey operating room are visible. The room can only be accessed through a wooden external staircase that is on the verge of collapse. Cracks are visible in the interior and along the facade of the building.

“While being driven down Kutchery Road en route to the Cantonment area in the spring of 1936, the British orientalist Richard Burton saw nothing worthy of mention. He writes in *Sindh Revisited*, “We have now nothing to do beyond following “Kachery (Cutchery) Road”, and a mile of exceedingly dirty and disagreeable highway will... lead us to our destination — camp.”

A 1928 map by the Survey of India shows Beaumont Road, but at only half its current length, and flanked by buildings at some points, while empty at others.

READING STONES

The type of stone masonry used in Manijeh Mansions also gives us an idea as to what period the site dates back to.

According to Lari, the earliest buildings at the colonial-era Sind Club do not have the rough-tooled appearance of Manijeh's ground floor and sides, adding, “It seems that this type of stone treatment was adopted later, after the 1880s.” It is unknown as to who designed the building, but Lari thinks it is similar to the work of Moses Sosna, whose architecture began to appear in the city from the 1890s onwards.

A thick boundary wall, made of the same stone as the building, runs along the left side of the compound, overlooking a dark, lumpy lane that has been there since as far back as Patel can remember.

From the side, the building resembles a colonial bazaar, owing to prominent quoins placed along arches, windows and corners. A segmental arch holds up a balcony with enough space for a small seating arrangement. The lane culminates in a dead end, where there is a gate to the compound. The *chowkidar* (gatekeeper) tells *Eos* that no one is allowed to enter the premises, and that many a visitor, including large groups of students interested in seeing the site, have been turned away.

“Please don't mind,” he says repeatedly. ■

The writer is a Karachi-based journalist who has written for local and international publications. His work can be accessed at alibhutto.com

▶ FOOTBALL

The battles on and off the pitch during the Uefa European Football Championship 2024 reflect a continent struggling with its own identity

EURO 2024 AND EUROPE

By Simon Chadwick and Paul Widdop

After more than four weeks and 51 football matches, Euro 2024 drew to a close with its total audience again likely to have exceeded five billion live viewers. Europe's premier international football tournament has certainly retained its global appeal, but its overall report card presents a rather more mixed picture for the continent — of fading glories and harsh realities.

The most recognisable symbol of waning strength has been Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo. For years, he has been considered one of the sport's greatest talents but, at 39, his presence on the pitch is visibly less potent.

Ronaldo's tears of frustration after missing a penalty against Slovenia were a reminder of what once was but can no longer be — rather like Europe itself, which is struggling to retain its power, influence and relevance.

But while Ronaldo cried (Portugal were ultimately knocked out by France in the quarter-finals), Italy wept. For, if another reflection of European nations losing their way was needed, the chaotic Azurri provided it.

Once the kings of elegance and style, Italy (knocked out by unfancied Switzerland at the last-16 stage) looked bereft of ideas, playing a brand of football that was stilted and lacked dynamism — akin to Europe's approach to the current stormy economic waters.

And then there was France (beaten by Spain in the semi-final). Just days before the tournament began, French president Emmanuel Macron called a snap parliamentary election after European polls went the way of the far right.

The country's captain, Kylian Mbappé (of Cameroonian and Algerian descent), then implored young French voters to resist the rise of far-right extremism. It was a sentiment echoed by Ibrahim Konaté, Aurélien Tchouaméni and many other players in the ethnically diverse French squad.

Yet after the first round of voting, in which the National Rally party came out ahead, its president Jordan Bardella announced that he would strip away the automatic right to citizenship of children born in France to non-French parents. In other words, people like Mbappé, Konaté and Tchouaméni.

Meanwhile, England's largely dear, directionless football matched Britain's post-Brexit woes. Ramped-up on an anglicised vision of hope, (England manager) Gareth Southgate's side's painful progress through the group stages ran in parallel to (former UK prime minister) Rishi Sunak's stumbling general election campaign. Both were difficult to watch — but at least England made it to the final.

Elsewhere, the Hungarian national team (eliminated



Spain captain Alvaro Morata holds the Henri Delaunay trophy as his teammates celebrate after winning Euro 2024 final against England in Berlin | AP



Spain's Lamine Yamal comes under pressure during their quarter-final victory over Euro 2024 hosts Germany | AP

at the group stage) turned up in Germany fuelled by more than €3 billion of government investment. Prime minister Viktor Orbán, another right-wing populist, is not just a football fan but someone who isn't afraid to deploy the game for political purposes.

The best country Germany (beaten by Spain in an exciting quarter-final) fared better on the pitch than many had expected. But while traditional stereotypes emphasise the nation's efficiency, the Euros have exposed that its railways are in a state of disrepair, confronted by funding issues and management difficulties.

Thousands of fans were left stranded on station platforms after matches in Germany's old industrial heartland, exemplifying the infrastructure challenges that many European countries now face.

All of this was set against the backdrop of the ongoing war in Ukraine. Its national team finished last in its group, but perhaps more surprising was how little the conflict was mentioned. After Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, football fans and players loudly expressed their support for Ukraine. But during this tournament, signs of such solidarity were scarce.

COHESION IN THE STREETS

On the plus side, the absence of widespread hooliganism during the event was encouraging.

Some fans, like those from the Netherlands (beaten semi-finalists), stood out for the party atmosphere they brought, while the soft power of bagpipe bands and the tartan army from Scotland (group stage) charmed many.

But political divisions were never far away. While some fans sang anti-Vladimir Putin songs, Serbian supporters arrived in Germany under suspicion that some were planning violence in support of the Russian president.

Supporters of Serbia (eliminated at the group stage) were goaded inside the stadiums by rival fans from Croatia and Albania (both also group-stage departures). And a player from Turkey (quarter-finalists) celebrated scoring a goal using an ultra-nationalist hand gesture.

CORPORATE CONCERNS

Evidence of a troubled Europe, uncomfortable with itself and unsure of its identity, was seen on the corporate side of the tournament too. Most of Euro 2024's sponsors were not European, with the biggest group coming from China (Hilense, Vivo, BYD, Ali Express and Ali Pay).

Yet even as the Euros kicked-off, the EU announced plans to impose trade sanctions on the Chinese electric vehicle company BYD

— an unfortunate juxtaposition given the car giant's sponsorship deal with tournament organisers Uefa.

There was also a marked contrast to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where Germany's national team protested against the Gulf nation over human rights issues. For this tournament, Qatar Airways landed on the country's doorstep as a major sponsor. But there were no protests — just the sense that European companies and brands have neither the money nor the appetite to take on their Asian rivals.

Despite the difficulties, global interest in the tournament shows there is still much to be celebrated in Europe. Euro 2024 had some great football, enthusiastic fans, and sporting moments to savour. But it could not distract from the deeper malaise we are witnessing across the continent. ■

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Republished from The Conversation

▶ RIGHTS

THE GREAT FIREWALL OF PAKISTAN

Rumours are rife that Pakistan will soon implement a draconian form of online censorship, inspired by the Chinese example. Can Pakistan really block all controversial material and activity online?

By Sheraz Khan Rajput

Since the beginning of 2024, Pakistan has witnessed a rapid surge in the targeted killings of journalists, with at least eight lives claimed thus far. In May alone, four journalists were killed, the highest fatality count in a single month since 1992, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

In an ideal world, such a grim milestone would be followed by strong actions from the policymakers of the country. However, in Pakistan, the topic of discussion is not how to protect the lives of those who safeguard the public's right to information, but the restriction of the flow of information itself.

This is the case with the deployment of the equivalent of the 'Great Firewall of China' in Pakistan, intended to monitor all online traffic.

Details of this firewall remain shrouded in secrecy, with officials tight-lipped on the matter and limited data availability in the public domain. There is scant information on its mechanics and dynamics.

Fariha Aziz, a digital security expert, says there remains a lot of confusion and speculation over the matter due to the secrecy. "What I understand from it is that it won't be a replica of the Chinese firewall, but something different," she tells *Eos*.

WEEDING OUT 'CONTROVERSIAL MATERIAL'

As per multiple news reports, this firewall will employ deep packet inspection (DPI) and perform IP-level blocking. DPI can look through online data packets for "controversial material" and, once such material is found, it can also locate the IP address of the sender of that "controversial material." This will allow the authorities to pinpoint the location from where any message has been generated and disseminated.

But what is deemed controversial can vary from country to country. For instance, in progressive societies, such technology is used to combat serious crimes, such as child pornography. In Pakistan, the focus will likely be on suppressing "anti-state sentiments."

"I guess we have to wait for more information to come to light," says Aziz before adding, "But one thing is for sure, this is another step in implementing more censorship in the digital domain for the average Pakistani."

MYOPIC POLICYMAKING

No one is surprised by this latest blow to human rights in Pakistan. After all, we are a country that has a history of curbing such rights under the pretext of "national security."

What is surprising, though, is the apparent naivete of our policymakers regarding the digital world. The current ban on X (formerly Twitter) can be seen as a



prime example of this issue.

Despite the efforts to limit its access inside Pakistan, common citizens and the entire lot of current government officials continue to access the site via virtual private network (VPN) services, rendering it pointless.

This ban has inadvertently boosted the business of international VPN service providers. According to a report by Forbes, after this ban, international VPN services recorded more than a 100 percent jump in demand for their services in Pakistan, with some reporting a 400 percent increase in the rate of new users inside Pakistan.

And the unfortunate bit about these restrictive measures is that they often gain support among the country's top informational technology (IT) experts.

Take the surprising example of Dr Umar Saif, the former caretaker IT minister, who publicly endorsed a nationwide shutdown of X in a post in November 2022. Dr Saif's justification, ironically published on X, was that "Twitter (X) is used by less than 3.5

percent of Pakistanis and most of them are trolls from a certain political party."

CIRCUMVENTING CURBS

Faisal Chaudhry is a broadcast journalist who covers militancy, among other issues, and regularly uses VPN services to access banned websites.

He agrees that the firewall project is likely to target supporters of a specific political party, a reference to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). "But those advocating against human rights abuses, such as enforced disappearances, will also be under the radar," Chaudhry tells *Eos*. However, he believes that VPN users would still be able to circumvent the ban on proscribed content.

Eos reached out to three leading VPN service providers for their perspective on the matter.

NeedVPN told *Eos* that the effectiveness of such firewalls is inconsistent, calling it a "hit and miss." The spokesperson at ExpressVPN stressed their ongoing efforts to innovate and ensure user access to the free

internet. Proton VPN responded by saying that, if such a firewall is established, their service would improve their product accordingly.

You do not need to be an expert in IT to understand the underlying common theme in these statements. The paid VPN service providers seem determined to overcome any censorship efforts that are aimed at causing hindrance to their users' online experience.

In a separate response to *Eos*, ExpressVPN confirmed that their services are also being used inside China. This raises several questions on the firewall's efficacy and the rationale behind purchasing such technology.

According to a report by Techopedia, a popular digital educational platform on technology, China has seen a spike of more than 90 percent in VPN users in the country since 2022. It says these VPNs can "widely circumvent China's Great Firewall," which is similar to the technology that Pakistan is rumored to be putting in place.

DANGERS TO FREE SPEECH

So, if we have data showing that VPNs can effectively breach the "Great Firewall of China," why are the Pakistani authorities still investing in it?

"Historically speaking, free speech has been a persistent challenge for those in power in Pakistan, even though it is an essential component of any progressive society," says Chaudhry. He views the firewall project as another attempt by the state to crack down on dissenting voices.

"While it's premature to judge the effectiveness of this firewall, I believe people will find ways to bypass it," says Chaudhry. "Pakistani civil society has a strong history of resisting such restrictions on freedom of speech," he adds.

Freedom of speech has always been a headache for the powerful in Pakistan, with the resilient members of our civil society resisting attempts to stifle it. The latest attempt to police the internet, yet again under the guise of national security, will put the state and civil society back in another tag of war.

While the state more often than not comes out on top, each such episode erodes the public's trust in the authorities.

This raises the question: why do the state authorities continue repeating this cycle, where they are pitted against those they have to govern, instead of focusing their energies on more fruitful endeavours?

Ultimately, this decision rests with the current government. But it would do well to take a leaf from George Orwell's political masterpiece, *Animal Farm*.

In it, the pig Napoleon — based on the Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin — tries to control the farmhouse by asserting authoritarian policies. But it is those very policies that lead to his downfall. ■

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EXHIBITION

Javaid Mughal's paintings, apart from being visually arresting, are a much-needed reminder of how technology has socially alienated us while ostensibly bringing us closer together.

MODERN TRAPPINGS



Innocent Enemies I

By Amna Nizar

Javaid Mughal's exhibition, 'In the Company of Strangers' held at the Saqat Initiative in Karachi, delves into the contemporary malaise of technological alienation and cultural dislocation.

The artworks on display underscore the pervasive influence of digital technology, highlighting how it fosters disconnection and superficiality in human interactions, and spawning what Mughal refers to as "a new culture of alienation, apathy and disinterest." Mughal's paintings serve as a poignant visual exploration of these themes, depicting a society grappling with the erosion of traditional values and the overwhelming influx of information. *Theater of the Absurd I* portrays a group of individuals in a festive wedding scene. The use of dark, muted colours juxtaposed with the bright, fluorescent attire captures the contrast between external appearances and internal turmoil. The figures, adorned with sunglasses and garlands, burst with life and confidence as they dance at what one infers is their friends' wedding here. Mughal questions to what extent such acts are merely performative and simply serve as attempts to, in his words, find some "connectivity through superficial means."

Theater of the Absurd II continues this exploration and this composition is deliberately disjointed, with some figures appearing as dissolving shadows in the background. Strangely, this

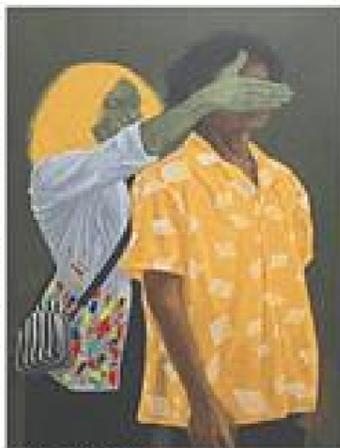
painting conveys a sense of isolation and anonymity, despite the physical proximity of the figures.

The bridegroom, donning the sash, looks like a lost figure, as others prance around him. Mughal's nuanced use of light and shadow here effectively highlights the tension between tradition and modernity, a recurring theme throughout his work.

In stark contrast with his other works on display here, *Innocent Enemies I* stands out due to its minimalist, almost monochromatic palette. A line of individuals, all absorbed in their mobile devices, move forward in unison, evoking a sense of conformity and mindless progression. The lone figure standing upright and without a phone in hand, depicted with slightly more detail and colour, suggests a yearning for individuality amidst the homogenising force of technology.

This painting can be read as a powerful commentary on the loss of personal identity in the digital age, but it also captures how stifled human interaction has become due to our constant need to seek out our gadgets, even in social settings.

Hide and Seek I presents a more intimate scene, featuring two figures locked in a game of concealment. A green-tinted figure covers the eyes of the other, which could be seen to be harmless fun, but here it takes on a more sinister



Hide and Seek I

undertone by evoking themes of manipulation, control and deceit.

Mughal's artworks serve as a compelling critique of contemporary society. In his own words, "While technology has resulted in swift communication on the one hand, on the other, it has hoodwinked society into believing that ultimate survival lies in remaining up-to-date, thus leading to an identity crisis."

'In the Company of Strangers' was on display at the Saqat Initiative in Karachi from June 25-July 4, 2024

The writer is an artist and educator

EOS

ARTSPEAK



Seeking Communities

People have naturally always formed communities based on shared interests and mutual trust in one geographic space. The internet has not only expanded the idea of communities but also made us witnesses to groups that seek to exclude

By Durriya Kazi

The poet John Donne wrote, "No man is an island." People inevitably form communities — through a family, a neighbourhood or a profession. Community is the yardstick for individuals, depending on whether they feel part of it or alienated from it.

Early communities were important for the very survival of humans, as there was safety in numbers. While one group went hunting, the others protected the home. This rudimentary social structure still remains the norm in isolated communities.

As civilisations grew, professional communities developed for farmers, craft guilds, religious institutions, warriors, and the rulers and the ruled. Unlike social units defined by geography, nationality or class, a community implies common interests and a shared purpose and is built on mutual trust.

Urbanisation and migration created opportunities for new communities. While some, such as the Irish Americans, maintain ethnic cultural links even after many generations, urban communities are more likely to reflect common interests. These may be professionals or those who have a passion for sports, music, art, cinema, poetry, book reading, train-spotting, quilting or cuisine. Academics and technical specialists meet at conferences to share best practices and new research. Members of one family may belong to different communities.

Informal communities include neighbourhood watches, home-based gatherings for 'committees' banking or religious 'dars' lectures. The shops on a street look out for each other's interests, especially in Pakistan, where single product markets are the norm, such as for clothing, jewellery, wood and metal work. Factory workers or employees form unions to demand better facilities or salaries.

Artists, who often find themselves outsiders in society, find freedom in artist colonies such as Barbizon in France, which welcomed Impressionists and post-Impressionists. The Songzhuang Art Colony in the eastern suburbs of Beijing became the centre for avant-garde art in China and is home to more than 2,000 artists. The Kathputli community in New Delhi is home to about 20,000 painters and performers.

Many villages across Pakistan engage collectively in specialised crafts, producing wood or metal work products, ceramics or textiles. In urban centres, there are communities of truck and bus decorators or movie poster artists. There is even an artists' community in Karachi Jail. Arts

Councils, private spaces such as The Second Floor (T2F), and literature and theatre festivals are havens for urbanites who share a love of the arts and intellectual exchange.

The internet has completely changed the scope of communities, which can now connect across the world. WELL (Whole Earth L'ectronic Link) was founded in 1985 and is considered one of the first virtual communities that created a platform intended to connect everyone on the planet.

Social networks have inspired newer technologies, such as Web 2, allowing user-generated content, and Web 3 or blockchain technology, to do away with centralised platforms altogether. Internet technologies enable a real community, where everyone has a voice and, rather than physically going to a community, the community comes to one's device. Participants may not know each other in real life but can share their opinions and achievements, find inspiration and learn resilience.

However, communities don't only bring people together. They can also exclude people and unjustly divide society. They can become instruments of control, such as political lobbies and insider pressure groups, or secret societies that owe unquestioning allegiance to fellow members.

Business communities can cooperate to further economic self-interest. Housing areas can divide the rich and the poor, or become racially or culturally exclusive. The upper echelons of society often live in what has come to be known since the '70s as "La La Land", detached from the harsh realities of life.

In times of crises, whether natural disasters, war or political turmoil, communities step out of their comfort zone to open up and share resources and expertise, and develop empathy for others. With a world in perpetual crisis, and the internet that makes us all witnesses to the suffering of others, there is no longer room for exclusive societies.

Uff al-Fu'ul (League of the Virtuous) was established by the family of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in 590 AD to establish justice for all through collective action, for both "the protected neighbour and the unprotected stranger."

One of the most powerful symbols of complete equality across races and class is the *ifram*, an unstitched white body wrap, essential for all performing Haj, which erases distinctions between pauper and prince, and sends a message that all humanity is a single community. ■

Durriya Kazi is a Karachi-based artist. She may be reached at durriyakazi1989@gmail.com

SMOKERS' CORNER



Pakistan's 'Useful Idiots'

Self-styled 'liberals' and 'progressives' in Pakistan have, for decades, inadvertently advanced causes and agendas that have run contrary to their ideals

By Nadeem F. Paracha

Numerous books have been written on Islam in Pakistan. So, two years ago, I set out to write a book on the history of liberalism in Pakistan. It is still an ongoing project requiring additional research.

There is one realisation, though, that continues to be strengthened by the research: Pakistan's liberals and so-called 'progressives' are the most uncanny embodiments of what are called 'useful idiots.'

A 'useful idiot' is a glib person who can be manipulated to advance someone else's cause or agenda. Liberals and progressives continue to become the means of outcomes that are actually the opposite of whatever liberalism stands for. And, no, by this I certainly do not mean what the former prime minister Imran Khan posited while talking about liberalism. He imagined himself as being the 'real liberal', not because he was a committed democrat but because, apparently, he was 'anti-war'. Rather, one particular war — the one against Islamist militants.

To him, the militants were fellow Pakistanis who were fighting against US imperialism, and the Pakistani state's conflict with them was part of a war that was imposed on us by the West. During the period when militants were blowing themselves up in markets, mosques, schools and shrines, Khan was opposing a military operation against them, insisting that the security forces should be helping him to root out 'corruption' instead.

He lashed out against those who were supporting the possibility of a military operation. He called them "fake liberals" and "khoozi

[murderous] liberals." Yet, he never called out those who were actually doing all the murdering. When a prominent Indian journalist once asked him why he didn't condemn the militants, he conveniently replied that it was too dangerous a thing to do for a politician. So, 'real liberalism' meant condemning political opponents to hell for supposedly being 'corrupt', but not uttering a word against terrorists, and then trying to stall any action against them because "liberalism stands for peace."

Any sensible person can see through the dotish nature of this narrative. But actual liberals haven't been very smart either. They have been some of the most handy useful idiots in this country. In 1974, when Islamist parties decided to table a bill in the parliament to oust the Ahmadiyya community from the fold of Islam, the then government, led by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, blocked all debate on the issue in the National Assembly.

The Islamists poured out on the streets (mostly in Punjab) and began attacking Ahmadiyya homes and members. Bhutto threatened to unleash the military. But, instead of condemning the violence, newspapers (especially the liberal ones), began to criticise the government for not granting the opposition its "democratic right" to table a bill.

A review of newspaper op-eds and editorials of the time suggests that this was 'discussed' more than the extent and possible fallout of the bill. Eventually, the pragmatic Bhutto changed tact and allowed the bill to be passed, especially when told by his trusted advisers that there was ample support for the bill within his own 'progressive' party as well.

When the bill was passed,



newspaper editorials hailed the event as an act that would strengthen parliamentary democracy in Pakistan. And here's another curious fact: it wasn't until the mid-1980s that the liberal and progressive intelligentsia began to truly revisit what had happened in 1974. Yet, it still wasn't a reflective realisation but an outright condemnation of the Bhutto government. Liberal/progressive journalists and intellectuals conveniently exonerated their own questionable conduct in the whole affair.

The narrative squarely put the blame on the Bhutto regime, skipping the fact that the idea of tabling the bill was conceived by Islamist and right-wing parties in parliament who were supported by various secular and left-wing parties. Also skipped in this narrative was the way the Bhutto regime had tried to dissuade the opposition to table the bill until both the right-wing and liberal newspapers started to denounce this as "undemocratic" behaviour. In a way, they were suggesting that the right to declare a community

non-Muslim against its will was a democratic right.

In April 1977, the Bhutto government was pushed into a corner by a violent protest movement led by Islamist parties. But these were enthusiastically joined by many left-wing and secular outfits as well. During my research, I came across an amusing photo published in an Urdu newspaper archived in the Library of Congress in Washington DC. It shows a 1977 anti-Bhutto rally, in which activists from Islamist parties are carrying banners demanding 'Sharia law', and with them are activists from a faction of a communist party and supporters of secular Pakistan nationalists. Things can't get more surreal than this.

Some of these useful idiots were honest enough to confess their folly when Bhutto was executed by a right-wing dictatorship in 1979. But most never did. In 1986, the death penalty was introduced to the country's blasphemy laws. During my research, I struggled to come across any meaningful editorials on the decision, even in the most liberal newspapers

— except maybe in the now defunct monthly magazine *Herald*.

In a column published in a liberal English daily, just days after the death penalty was introduced, a known 'progressive' intellectual chose to write about the dust problem in Karachi and how it was causing increasing cases of allergy. I couldn't help but chuckle.

In the 2007 Lawyers Movement, useful idiots were a dime a dozen. Apparently, the movement was to restore the dignity of the judiciary, remove a dictator, and usher in 'real democracy'. But the rallies during this movement quickly turned into highly surreal affairs. Within a single rally, one could see flags of pragmatic mainstream parties, left and liberal students organisations, and even groups holding posters of Osama bin Laden.

Indeed, the movement weakened the dictator Gen Pervez Musharraf, but it strengthened Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, who was looking to become the next military chief. In all likelihood, he quietly facilitated the 'uprising' through useful idiots, especially of the 'democratic' kind. The movement also introduced an odious strand of judicial populism in the courts.

These days, the archetypal liberal/progressive useful idiots have become mouthpieces of their former tormentor, Khan. They claim they are simply fighting for democracy and justice. But the truth is, in trying to influence the minds of judges so that the latter would respect 'the will of the people', the useful idiots have intensified tensions between the judiciary and the military.

The outcome of these tensions will be disastrous, especially for democracy. ■

B&A

BOOKS & AUTHORS

► FICTION

Winner of the Asif Farrukhi Ilm-o-Agahi Award 2024, an Urdu novel about complex family dynamics explores the edgier psychology of jealousy, envy and the search for acceptance

The darkness of emotions



Rolaak
By Razaqat Hayat
ILQA Publications
ISBN: 978-969-640-288-6
670pp.

Reviewed by Hajra Rehan

Re-imagine the story of Sophocles' tragic play 'Oedipus Rex', in which the King of Thebes unwittingly kills his father, in a contemporary setting. Or let us again explore themes such as fate versus free will, the nature of knowledge, hubris, and the consequences of blindness — both literal and metaphorical — in the world-famous tale of Rostam Sohrab in Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*. Literature is full of such stories of complex and uncomfortable father and son relationships.

Rolaak, a new novel by Razaqat Hayat that revolves around the father's reputation as a "sex machine" and the son's struggles to emulate his father's success, is both intriguing and unsettling. This rivalry is the central conflict that propels the story forward. The flashback and internal monologues are of only one character, the protagonist Qadir Bux.

The novel delves into the psychological impact of this rivalry, highlighting the son's internal turmoil as he grapples with his own insecurities and the shadow of his father's perceived dominance. The author skillfully portrays the son's struggle, his attempts to emulate his father's behaviour and the ultimate futility of his efforts. The narrative is both introspective and suspenseful, keeping the reader engaged with the son's emotional journey.

However, the novel's focus on the father's sexual exploits can feel excessive at times, bordering on gratuitous. While it serves to highlight the son's envy and the stark contrast between the two characters, it also risks trivialising the complex issues of masculinity, self-worth and familial relationships.

Qadir Bux's world is a silent film, a black and white portrait of a fractured family. His mother, a prisoner of her own duty, a silent martyr to a life she never chose. His father, Allah Bux, a phantom, a ghost in the house he built on the foundation of



Depiction of Rostam and Sohrab from the Windsor Shahnameh, 1648, signed by Mohammad Yusuf the Painter | Source: Wikimedia Commons

his own grandiose self-image. He barks orders, his voice booming, his eyes narrowed, as if his son and wife are recalcitrant puppies, never quite meeting his expectations.

The triangle is a twisted one, a cruel geometry of neglect and longing. The mother serves as the silent pillar, bearing the weight of a broken family. Allah Bux, the elusive figure, is a shadow that casts a long, cold darkness. And Qadir Bux is the forgotten boy, trapped in a silent world, yearning for a connection that seems forever out of reach.

The author Razaqat Hayat adeptly portrays a heartbreaking story of a father who abuses his only son and beats his wife. He continuously engages in affairs with different women, shamelessly displaying them to his son and wife. The climax of the story is when he crosses all boundaries with his son, leading the son to seek revenge.

The novel delves into the dark and complex dynamics of family relationships, showcasing the devastating consequences of abuse and betrayal, and leaves a bitter taste in the mouth. While it offers a compelling exploration of the dark side of human nature, it lacks a sense of redemption or even a glimmer of hope for our protagonist.

There is the tempestuous life of Allah Bux, a man perpetually caught in the whirlwind of fleeting romances. He effortlessly charms women, only to discard them once the novelty fades, leaving a trail of broken hearts in his wake. However, this very charm also becomes his downfall, since he uses it to manipulate and exploit those who fall for him.

While the narrative offers glimpses into the emotional turmoil of Allah Bux's discarded lovers, the focus remains firmly on him, leaving their pain and heartbreak looking somewhat superficial. The impact of his actions on his wife are particularly frustrating. Despite her unwavering love and loyalty, she is treated as an afterthought, a mere inconvenience in his pursuit of fleeting pleasures.

Ultimately, *Rolaak* is a thought-provoking exploration of the complexities of father-son relationships and the societal pressures surrounding masculinity. While the novel's focus on sexual conquest may not resonate with all readers, it serves as a compelling backdrop for a nuanced exploration of jealousy, envy and the search for acceptance.

The novel is based in Thatta, though the climax happens in the world famous excavation

site of Makli, during the 500th death anniversary commemoration of saint Wafiq Shah Bukhari. The writer's prose paints a vivid picture of the city, capturing the bustling markets, the chatter of street vendors, and the intricate details of the ancient architecture. He uses taste to transport the reader to the heart of the city, describing the tangy sweetness of street food, the sugar-loaded tea and the rich flavours of traditional dishes.

While the novel's exploration of sexual desire and the complexities of father-son relationships are undeniably compelling, it also delves into the dark underbelly of religious hypocrisy, exposing the dangers of blind faith and the ease with which power can corrupt even the most devout.

One of the strong yet deeply flawed characters in the book is that of Qazi Allah Abdul Latief Thathori, who wields his position to mete out justice according to his own twisted interpretation of God's will. Beneath his façade lies a hypocritical individual, driven by a thirst for control and warped sense of righteousness. He punishes those he deems as sinners with brutal and unforgiving methods, often using his position to manipulate and exploit the vulnerable.

Rolaak is a potentially controversial read. It raises questions about societal expectations, the influence of family dynamics, and the pursuit of love and intimacy. Whether the novel resonates with you will depend on your own personal sensibilities and willingness to engage with the complexities of the characters and their relationships.

Razaqat Hayat is a new name in Urdu fiction that has attracted the attention of readers in a short period of time. He wrote his first fiction novel in 1992, at the age of nine. *Rolaak* is not just a novel, it is a profound reflection on the human condition, beautifully rendered in Urdu fiction. Recently, *Rolaak* won the Asif Farrukhi Ilm-o-Agahi Award 2024.

The novel is recommended for readers who are interested in exploring complex family dynamics, enjoy character-driven narratives with a psychological edge, and are willing to engage with potentially sensitive subject matter. It is, however, not recommended for readers who are looking for a lighthearted or escapist read or are uncomfortable with discussions of sexual desire and intimacy. ■

The reviewer writes short fiction in Urdu and is currently working on her first novel.

► NON-FICTION

Media personality Mehdi Hasan delves into the history of the art of persuasion through history and brings his own experiences to bear in a self-help book about how to communicate with confidence

How to speak better



Win Every Argument: The Art of Debating, Persuading and Public Speaking
By Mehdi Hasan
Henry Holt & Co
ISBN: 978-1250853479
336pp.

Reviewed by Maheen Usmani

In 1933, in an essay lamenting the rise of the Nazis, British philosopher Bertrand Russell paraphrased lines from Irish poet W.B. Yeats' famous 1920 poem 'The Second Coming' by saying "The fundamental cause of the trouble is that in the modern world the stupid are cocksure, while the intelligent are full of doubt."

To test the sustainability of this quote in the 21st century, one only has to cast an eye on the narratives, theories, debates and speeches — apart from the daily drip-drip of half-baked opinions — that are regularly foisted on the world. Voting dissent with the majority view often opens up a hornet's nest.

No wonder then that people who possess common sense, which French writer Voltaire says is not so common, have taken refuge in silence and detachment, to avoid disagreements and morose attacks.

Not so fast, says Mehdi Hasan, the British-American broadcaster, political commentator, columnist and author. Renowned for his no-holds-barred interviews of politicians, pundits and policy makers, Hasan posits that arguments and debates are the very lifeblood of democracy. They shine a spotlight on the truth, broaden the canvas of our minds and bring in fresh new ideas. The problem is that our skills at winning arguments, polishing speeches and persuading audiences need to be promptly upgraded.

After 20 years of winning arguments and audiences, Hasan has written a firecracker of a book — *Win Every Argument: The Art of*



Mehdi Hasan | AFP

Debating, Persuading and Public Speaking — with snappy guidelines on how to win every argument utilising his tried and tested principles and techniques.

One of the most effective ways that he advocates to connect with your audience is to get personal. "There is simply no better way to influence or stir an audience — instantly, powerfully, authentically — than by opening up to them with a personal story or anecdote."

Or as the Greek philosopher Plato is supposed to have said, "Those

Nobody is a natural-born speaker, Hasan asserts, and he warns against winging it. A lot of hard work and research goes into each and every public speech and debate that he has undertaken.

who sell the stories rule society."

An illustration from one of Hasan's well-documented triumphs is a case in point. Perhaps no other debate has garnered him more fame than the speech he made in 2013 at the Oxford Union debate 'The House believes Islam is a religion of peace' — which he supported.

As he reached his concluding remarks, he looked at the sea of students inside a packed chamber and said: "Let me just say this to you: think about what the opposite of this motion is. That Islam isn't a religion of peace... That the people who follow Islam — me, my wife, my retired parents, my six-year-old child, that 1.8 million of your fellow British residents and citizens, that 1.6 billion people across the world, your fellow human beings — are all followers, promoters, believers in a religion of violence. Do you really think that? Do you really believe that?"

In the vote on the motion, the house agreed with Hasan and his team by 286-168 votes.

In the early 2000s, Hasan worked as part of the research team of ITV's award-winning journalist Jonathan Dimbleby, one of the most feared interviewers of his era. Dimbleby conducted a weekly, hour-long, in-depth interrogation with a top politician in front of a live studio

HOW TO SPEAK BETTER, PAGE 07

► NON-FICTION

A collection of personal essays by a diaspora Kashmiri explores the intersections of tradition and modernity, familial relationships and belonging

To Kashmir with love



Bird Milk and Mosquito Bites: A Memoir
By Priyanka Mattoo
Knoqf
ISBN: 978-0593320389
304pp.

Reviewed by Sara Danial

Kashmiris, despite being spread across the globe, are a rare breed. They are bound by a deep sense of love and community. They treat each other with the utmost care and affection. They celebrate their shared heritage with enthusiasm. Their stories bring the reader immense joy. While much is said about the natural beauty of Kashmir, this warmth and connection among its people are equally remarkable.

Priyanka Mattoo, a diaspora Kashmiri and the author of the memoir *Bird Milk and Mosquito Bites*, is an accomplished writer, filmmaker and former talent agent. She co-founded Earlo, a podcast network led by women. Her work, including several essays in this book, has been featured in *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*, and she has been honoured with a MacDowell Fellowship. Mattoo earned her degrees in Italian and law from the University of Michigan.

With 24 personal essays, *Bird Milk and Mosquito Bites* delves into themes of identity, cultural expectations, personal growth, and the complexities of diaspora life. The collection explores the tension between traditional beauty standards and individual self-acceptance, the connection to cultural roots through art and language, and the contrasting values of resilience and gentleness within Kashmiri heritage. Each narrative is rich with introspection and a deep connection to South Asian heritage, particularly the Kashmiri experience.

The essay 'Such a Nice Face' is a personal narrative exploring the author's complex relationship with beauty standards and societal expectations of femininity. Growing up, the author resisted traditional notions of grooming and appearance imposed by her parents and society, finding them inconvenient and oppressive. Her disdain for being scrutinised led to a rebellious phase of neglecting her appearance. Over time, health issues prompted a reluctant acceptance of some self-care practices.

This is bound to be relatable for the Pakistani readership, who often face similar cultural pressures regarding beauty and gender roles. Then, a transformative haircut in Paris marks a turning point, as the author begins to embrace her appearance on her terms, discovering confidence and comfort in her looks. With age, she finds liberation from societal pressures, allowing her to appreciate and enjoy her individuality.

'Dotted Lines' reflects on the monotony of stable American life and the thrill of discovering the song *Pattori* by Ali Sethi, which reignites a sense of passion and connection to South Asian roots. Intrigued by the song's blend of traditional and modern influences, the story delves into the life of Ali Sethi, a Pakistani artist with a rich background in music and activism. This exploration leads to a broader conversation about identity, cultural expression and the

ways music transcends political and geographical boundaries.

The author also discovers Hasan Raheem, a young Pakistani singer and doctor, whose joyful and relatable music further inspires her family to reconnect with their cultural heritage and embrace their own creative desires.

Both the musical encounters, through deeply rooted cultural references and modern interpretations, serve as vibrant points of connection for Pakistan, bridging traditional and contemporary narratives. The author finds a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper connection to the South Asian identity, despite the complexities of diaspora life.

The passage 'On Language' reflects on the author's deep connection to her Kashmiri heritage through language, contrasting it with her experience of learning English after moving to Britain at a young age. She describes the affectionate and vivid expressions her mother uses in Kashmiri, emphasising how these phrases convey a depth of love that English words often fail to match.

The author recounts her struggle to connect with English-speaking teachers initially and her subsequent rapid acquisition of English, which became her dominant language. Despite her proficiency and love for English, she cherishes the uniqueness and emotional richness of Kashmiri. She expresses regret over not passing the language on to her children, but finds solace in their love for words and hopes to bridge the cultural gap someday. The narrative is a meditation on the power of language to shape identity and convey emotions across generations.

'I'll Show You' is a poignant tribute to Mattoo's maternal grandmother, Nani Lalita, a gentle and kind woman who stood in stark contrast to the traditional Kashmiri ideal of strong, sharp-witted women. Despite facing hardships, Nani maintained a childlike joy and a caring nature, exemplified by her skill in crochet and her nurturing spirit.

The author reminisces about learning crochet secretly from Nani, drawing parallels between their shared love for crafting and the cultural reverence for self-sufficiency, epitomised by the poet Lal Ded, whose verses celebrate resilience and self-reliance.

Nani's dementia, despite being feared, unfolded as a testament to her enduring sweetness and joy, leaving a lasting legacy of love and warmth for her family. In Lal Ded's verse 127, Nani emphasises her formidable abilities but admits the futility in changing a fool's mind: "I can scatter the battalions of southern clouds, dry the ocean, play physician to the most lingering fever and cure it. But I can't knock sense into a fool." This highlights the revered traits of strength and wisdom in Kashmiri culture, juxtaposed with Nani's gentle nature.

The stories are poignant and reflective, illustrating how personal and cultural histories shape individual identities. With a simple yet skilful writing style, the author intertwines personal anecdotes with broader cultural commentary, creating a nuanced and compelling exploration of the intersections between tradition and modernity, familial relationships, and the enduring power of love and creativity.

This collection is a heartfelt tribute to the multifaceted experiences of navigating identity within the context of cultural heritage. ■

The reviewer is a content lead at an agency. She can be reached at sara_anpfit@hotmail.co.uk

The author reminisces about learning crochet secretly from Nani, drawing parallels between their shared love for crafting and the cultural reverence for self-sufficiency, epitomised by the poet Lal Ded, whose verses celebrate resilience and self-reliance.



CONTINUATIONS

HOW TO SPEAK BETTER, PAGE 06

audience. Hasan's rich experience with *Disability* laid the foundation for his future career. Hasan realised that if you want to see an argument, nothing is more important than keeping your nose to the grindstone.

Nobody is a natural-born speaker. Hasan asserts, and he warns against winging it. A lot of hard work and research goes into each and every public speech and debate that he has undertaken. It could be days, weeks and months of dedication that leads to the actual event.

"When I deliver a 10- or 15-minute address at an event, that's all the audience sees or thinks about. But what they won't see is how much time went into that speech in the days, weeks, or months prior. Not just to research and write it, but also to prepare and practise it, in my head and out loud."

One of the most interesting points that Hasan emphasises is that when you are dealing with people, you must realise that they are not only creatures of logic, they are also creatures of emotion. Hasan believes that one of the winning tactics of right-wing parties, which are cementing their ascent globally, is their reliance on whipping up sentiments and appealing to peoples' fears and looms.

Know your audience, Hasan says, because, as design expert Ken Hauser says, "Designing a presentation without an audience is like writing a love letter and addressing it 'To

whom it may concern.'"

Above all, Hasan says, you have to try to understand where your audience is coming from. He makes it a point to ask the organisers of events he is invited to speak at about the demographics and profiles of the audience members. "It all matters because, once you have a detailed breakdown of all members of your prospective audience, you can focus your language and tailor your arguments towards them."

This is a practical and useful guide to the art of argument and rhetoric. The book takes us on a fast-paced trot through history, as Hasan seeks to establish the persuasive powers of leaders, statesmen and philosophers — from the Greeks to Churchill, from Cicero to Martin Luther King, from Bill Clinton to Nelson Mandela. This serves as a master-stroke for any doubtful sceptics to showcase the art of persuasion throughout history and explains how anyone can hone this skill.

Packed with tips and anecdotes from around the world, the book is entertaining and educational for anyone seeking to improve their communication skills in an increasingly connected but polarised and frenetic world. ■

The reviewer is an author and communications strategist. She can be reached at malheeremansini12@yahoo.com



COLUMN



My Lahore bookshops

By Harris Khalique

In the 1990s, I first met Rana Abdul Rehman. His body was found a few days ago in a canal near Faisalabad.

On July 9, he was kidnapped in Lahore by unknown people after he had left home for his publishing house and bookshop called the Book Home. It is one of the few publishing houses in the country that promote enlightenment and critical thinking. Book Home produces books, mostly in Urdu, for all ages in varied branches of knowledge — from history to politics to global affairs — besides translations and other progressive literature.

Rehman was Zahoor Ahmed's partner in establishing and running Fiction House publishers. On one humid and warm afternoon 30 years ago, there were quite a few people present in the Fiction House office and bookshop. They had gathered to listen to Dr Mubarak Ali's views on the history of the Subcontinent.

Dr Sahib was both happy and surprised to see me when I entered Fiction House. I think there were two reasons for that. One, my presence was unexpected, as I didn't live or spend much of my time in Lahore during those days and, two, I had recently reviewed his book *Bani-Sagheer Aam Muzalman Muashrey Ka Amsya* [The Tragedy of Muslim Society in the Subcontinent] for *Herald* magazine.

I had met Zahoor Ahmed before but Rehman was introduced to me by Dr Sahib on that day. We instantly became friends, both because of the personal likeness that you develop immediately for some people and because of the political ideology that we shared. Rehman was an affectionate and decent man.

Some years later, I found out that Rehman had left Fiction House and established his own publishing firm, Book Home. There was a gap of some years in our meetings due to my extensive travel and work routine. But then I started visiting him again, every once in a while, at Book Home.

Book Home is located near Safar Wala Chowk on Mozang Road. Sangh Publications, another leading progressive publisher of Punjab, Urdu and English books, is also in the vicinity. It is run by another dear friend and comrade-in-arms Arzad Saleem Minhas.

It was a delight to visit Mozang Road and meet both Rehman and Minhas and get some of their newly published

Grieving for and thinking about the time spent together with Rana Abdul Rehman and his passion for publishing and selling books took me down memory lane. I started thinking about the bookshops in Lahore I have a personal association with.

titles. Undoubtedly, a major incentive was to get half of the books for free and the other half at their cost price. I always used to say: 'Live long my generous friends.' It seems that the Almighty burned down my prayer for a long life for Rehman.

Grieving for and thinking about the time spent together with Rehman and his passion for publishing and selling books took me down memory lane. I started thinking about the bookshops in Lahore I have a personal association with.

As a child, Ferozsons was the first bookshop I visited in Lahore with my father. We had come up from Karachi, like our family would do in most summers during the 1970s. My father's Lahore office was on Feroz Road and we walked from there to Ferozsons, on the Mall. He told me that he used to visit the Ferozsons press in the walled city since 1942, even some years before the main bookshop on the Mall was opened.

After some crackdown on freedom fighters in Lucknow, my grandfather had sent my father to stay with some relatives in Lahore, where my father had enrolled in the Oriental College. While sifting through and picking up books in Ferozsons, I remember my father fondly remembering his older poet friend Sirajuddin Zafar. Zafar was married into the company's founder Masuh Ferozuddin's family and later looked after their operations in Karachi.

After growing up, I started visiting Mavra Books, which is run by poet and publisher Khalid Sharif. Sharif was the first to have kept my earlier English poetry collections on display in his bookshop. It was such a pleasure to be in Sharif's company, discuss the landscape of poetry and spend time in the bookshop.

There is also another memory associated with my first visit to Mavra Books in 1998. After a lot of effort, the leading English language poet Taufiq Rafat had agreed to meet me. Perhaps my friends, which include his sons and nephews, had convinced him. He had been a recluse for many years and was not meeting any new people. I had a deep desire to meet him before leaving for my studies abroad. Once the plan had been formed up, I also called Sharif for a meeting on the same day and he politely agreed.

After I boarded the aircraft in Karachi for Lahore, the flight stewardess brought me Dawn. There was a single-column news on the last page about Rafat's passing. Imagine how that would have felt. But I did manage to meet Sharif and visit Mavra Books for the first time on that day.

In Liberty market, Gulberg, Variety Books is the place that has flourished over the past few decades. They stress as much on selling stationery as books. But a good range of titles remain on offer. A little away from Gulberg is The Last Word in DHA. It is an exquisite bookshop where some unique titles can be found.

And, last but not the least, Readings on Main Boulevard in Gulberg has left an indelible mark on Pakistan's publishing and bookselling scene. I visited Readings first when my activist and writer friend Ame Riaz Tutu joined it many years ago. It has been an occasional haunt since.

Au revoir Rana Abdul Rehman. Open a bookshop in the heavens and we will visit. ■

The writer is a poet and essayist. His latest collections of verse are *Haira'n Sari-Bazaar* and *No Fortunes to Tell*.

► EPICURIUS



Head to Yuan Tung in Karachi if you are in the mood for some old-school comfort Chinese cuisine

THE TASTE OF MEMORIES



The outside of Yuan Tung Restaurant

By Faisal Quraishi

These days, people tend to associate the word 'Chinese' with a whole lot of different things, meanings and experiences. For me, though, it evokes fond memories of quality time spent at our favourite landmark family restaurant, Yuan Tung, located just off Tariq Road in Karachi. The Chinese restaurant has been catering to its loyal clientele for well over 50 years now and, as soon as you enter its doors, it feels like you have been teleported to a time when things were much simpler than they are now and restaurants were all about family time and good, wholesome comfort food. Still operated by the same Chinese management that Yuan Tung started with, albeit a new generation no doubt, the menu and the red-theme restaurant décor — with its Chinese paper lanterns and kitchen — still retain the same aura and flavour. Sadly, over the years, the vast majority of such authentic Chinese restaurants have shut shop after their owners either migrated abroad in search of greener pastures, or owing to safety concerns, or simply due to the fact that, after the original owners passed away, there wasn't anybody around from the next generation to run the business. Popular places such as the ABC Restaurant on



Dry beef and chillies

Uplandstone Street, Four Seasons at the Metropole Hotel, Red Dragon opposite Quaid-i-Azam's mausoleum and many others come to mind here. However, on a much more cheerful note, there are others that are still around and doing a roaring business, such as Yuan Tung, with its delectable array of the choicest soups, an assortment of fried rice and chow mein to choose from, dry stir-fry dishes and



Prawns with vegetables



Fried rice is a Chinese classic

aromatic, tangy, gravies. Whatever you choose, it is bound to take you down memory lane — Pakistani Chinese food as it used to be. The fact is that, at any visit to Yuan Tung, you're spoilt for choice while ordering from its vast menu, albeit in a fine print you might need reading glasses for. *The writer is a member of staff. X: @faisal_quraishi*

► GARDENING



For many, the low-maintenance Snow White, with its unique green and white leaves, is the go-to plant to beautify one's surroundings

FAIREST OF THEM ALL

By Dr Khwaja Ali Shahid

The two primary reasons for growing and tending to plants at home is to beautify one's surroundings and to ensure a regular supply of organic and fresh herbs, fruits and vegetables to one's kitchen. For those who aren't into gardening, the latter plants may not be visually attractive, apart from time when they are flowering and fruiting. They focus more on the produce or the impact of the plant on the surroundings. The usual go-to plants that are used to beautify one's surroundings tend to be different from the ones that provide produce. Exotic ornamental plants, beautiful vines, seasonal, colourful flowering plants and cacti are the more featured ones in the decorative category of plants. For such plants, the focus is on their uniqueness of appearances, such as dual- or multi-coloured leaves, shaded or patterned leaves, or leaves that have different shapes. These plants not only add colour to one's place, but they are usually hardy plants. This means that these plants have the capacity to bear neglect longer than, let's say, a seasonal vegetable plant. From watering, sunlight exposure, application of fertilisers, space to pesticides, their requirements for attention and care are minimal. If the plant's basic needs are met, these plants can continue to thrive and beautify the surroundings for many years. One such ornamental plant with its unique dual-coloured leaves is the Snow White Aglaonema. It is scientifically known as Aglaonema Commatum and is broadly categorised as a plant falling under the much-loved category of Aglaonema or the Chinese Evergreens, within the Araceae family. It is not commonly found locally, but it is sold commercially at plant nurseries and online. During the coronavirus pandemic, the plant was high in demand due to its ability to purify the air. Snow White, as the name suggests,



Snow White plants have sharp leaves that are green and white in colour



A leaf turning brown suggests that the plant is receiving improper care | Photos by the author

has beautiful leaves, which have both sharp green and white colours mixed together. Like any other plant, the Snow White fares well in open ground, but the beauty of the plant is enhanced in bigger-sized pots and containers or dedicated, confined spaces in a garden. Such containers can be placed at different corners of the house, or placed symmetrically to line passageways. One must ensure that the plants,

once potted, are located in a place that gets indirect sunlight and away from direct exposure to sunlight. This plant does not grow well in direct sunlight, while afternoon sunlight can be deadly for the plant. Similarly, the Snow White plant does not fare well in extreme temperatures, especially in dry conditions. Mist and spraying of the leaves is advisable in such conditions. Although the plant requires minimal care, it still needs regular watering. The watering should be done in a manner that there is proper drainage and water isn't pooled up on the surface, otherwise it may result in root rot. The optimal time to water the plant is when the surface of the container soil is dried. In mild temperatures, with diminished evaporation, some gardeners water their Snow Whites after every five to seven days. But that depends more on the dryness of the air than anything else. Excessive water, lack of water, low humidity and sunlight exposure can all drastically impact the plant. One of the first indications of a possible trauma to the Snow White is any of the leaves turning brown and/or falling off the plant. A brown leaf is a red flag, indicating some abnormal, unwanted or reduced input for the plant. The Snow White plant attains a height and width of around two to three feet. The size of this low-maintenance plant makes it ideal for homes as well as offices. The plant may need to be shifted to a bigger container or the stems or pups can be segregated into multiple pots. Depending upon the plant growth and the root chattering below the surface, this has to be done roughly after every two years. In my upcoming columns, I will explain how the Snow White plant can be easily propagated, using node cuttings, and the fertilisers and pesticides it requires during different phases of its life cycle. *Please send your queries and emails to doctor@whatsapp.com. The writer is a physician and a host for the YouTube channel 'TheTree Gardening' promoting organic kitchen gardening.*



ADVICE



AUNTIE AGNI

'I Am Being Forced Into An 'Exchange Marriage''

Dear Auntie,
I am a recently appointed MBBS doctor in my village in Sindh. While at university, I fell in love with a girl from another province, and she reciprocated my feelings. Our relationship continued until I graduated. After graduation, I spoke to my family about her. My mother agreed to our marriage, but my father initially did not. However, I eventually convinced my family. When I informed the girl about the situation and that she would need to live with me in my village after marriage, she refused. Consequently, our relationship ended. Two years later, I fell in love with a girl from my village, who is also my cousin and a doctor. I spoke to my family about her. In our village, we have the culture of 'exchange marriages.' This means that my sister would marry the bride's brother while I marry the girl. My family approached her family with this 'exchange marriage' proposal, but they refused without providing any reasons. Now, my family is persuading me to marry my maternal aunt's daughter, because her family has agreed to the 'exchange marriage'. However, she is uneducated, and I am concerned about how this relationship would work, given our different educational backgrounds. I am now 32 years old and the pressure is mounting. I am feeling depressed and in need of a solution.

Feeling the Pressure

Hello there Feeling the Pressure. Balancing family expectations and personal desires is never easy, especially where age-old cultural practices are involved. To resolve your issues, take some time to think about what you truly want in a wife. You have some idea, but think about it some more. Consider your values, goals and the qualities that are important to you. This will help you make a decision that aligns with your long-term happiness. It is time to have an honest conversation with your family about your concerns. In traditional set-ups, sometimes it is not easy to have this conversation, but you need to take the bull by its horns, because the qualities of your spouse-to-be is a matter that is important to you. Tell your family why the educational background of your potential spouse is a crucial matter and how it could impact your future together. Look for ways to reach a middle ground with your family. For instance, you might suggest finding a partner who, while maybe not as educated as you, shares similar values and goals. This could make it easier for both you and your family to be happy with the decision. You could also seek the advice of a trusted relative or family friend, who can provide you an outsider's perspective and possibly support you as you navigate this situation. In the meantime, make sure you take care of your mental health. Engage in activities that you enjoy and that help reduce stress. This will also help you make sound decisions. Marriage should be carefully thought through, so don't rush it because of external pressures. It's important to find a partner who will be compatible with you. I truly hope you find a solution that balances your desires with family expectations and which leads to your long-term happiness and well-being. *auntieagn@gmail.com*

Disclaimer: If you or someone you know is in crisis and/or feeling suicidal, please go to your nearest emergency room and seek medical help immediately. Auntie will not reply privately to any query. Please send concise queries to: auntieagn@gmail.com

STATIC CLING



AFTER SPENDING THE LAST EIGHT YEARS GETTING RILED UP AT COMPARISONS BEING DRAWN BETWEEN THEIR LEADER AND THE POPULIST DONALD TRUMP, PTI ACTIVISTS DECIDED TO WHOLLY OWN THE COMPARISON ONCE TRUMP WAS SHOT AT. THAT FIT IN PERFECTLY WELL WITH THE PARTY'S HISTORY OF U-TURNS BUT MAY HAVE HAD MORE TO DO WITH BUTTERING UP TRUMP, WHO MIGHT BECOME US PRESIDENT AGAIN.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT & IMPLEMENTATION UNIT
Strengthening Social Protection Delivery System in Sindh
Sindh Social Protection Authority
Sindh Social Protection Department
Government of Sindh

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Assignment Title: Selection of Individual Consultant for the position of MIS Specialist
 Credit No.: IDA/7229-PR

The Government of Sindh (hereinafter called Borrower) has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) (The Bank) in the form of a credit (hereinafter called Credit) towards the cost of strengthen social protection system in the Sindh Province.

The Project Director, Project Management & Implementation Unit, Strengthening Social Protection Delivery System in Sindh and it is intended to apply part of the proceeds of this credit for payments to the following "Individual Consultant Services" to be provided under this project.

The consulting services to be procured on Contract basis are as follows:

Position	Qualification	Experience
MIS Specialist	10 years of education in Computer Science or any related discipline from a reputed HEC recognized university.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least eight (08) years of software design preferably (commercial), development, and deployment experience in large-scale service architectures with IT applications. Out of which at least 4 years should be in a senior-level position for managing IT projects. Substantial experience in IT infrastructure Design, Development, and Deployment. Must be well aware of the latest IT platforms and software development technologies. Hands-on experience with technology adaptation for a local environment.

The Project Management & Implementation Unit, Strengthening Social Protection Delivery System in Sindh established under Sindh Social Protection Authority now invites eligible individuals to express their interest in providing the aforementioned services. Interested applicants must send their Expression of Interest / Applications along with their detailed updated Curriculum Vitae highlighting qualifications and experience in carrying out similar assignments, for positive checks along with 2 photographs (present and recent), CNIC, Degree and experience certificates to the address below (by registered mail service) on or before August 02, 2024.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section 9, paragraphs 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IFF Borrowers" (November 2002) ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants Method set out in the Procurement Regulations of the World Bank for IFF Borrowers (November 2002) available on www.worldbank.org

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours i.e. 1000 hours to 1700 hours. The detailed Terms of Reference (TORs) for the position of MIS Specialist can be obtained from the website: www.sspa.gov.pk.

PROJECT DIRECTOR/CEO
Project Management & Implementation Unit
Strengthening Social Protection Delivery System Sindh (SSPDS)
Sindh Social Protection Authority, Govt. of Sindh
155-N, Main Khayaban-Muslim, Phase 6, DHA, Karachi (Sindh) Pakistan
Tel: 92-021-99204602-5
Website: www.sspa.gov.pk Email: nmemon@sapa.gov.pk

REF-KRY No. 21/4/24

EXTENSION NOTICE
TENDER ENQUIRY NO ADMIN-MUT-09.19(012-2024-25)

With reference to tender enquiry No. ADMIN-MUT-09.19(012-2024-25) for the gardening contract published on 30.08.2024. The date of the aforementioned tender enquiry is hereby extended. The new date of obtaining the tender document is extended to 07-09-2024 while the tender will be opened on 08-09-2024 at 11.30 AM.

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IN THE COURT OF JUDGE ANTI-TERRORISM COURT, LARKANA

Special Case No. 19 of 2024

RE-THE STATE
 V/S
ARSLAN SHAIKH AND OTHERS

Case No. 42 of 2024
 Police Station Civil Lines, Larkana
 L.P. 302/304/114, 115, 142, 143 PFC
 67-A.T.A. 1007

WHEREAS, the accused namely, **Muzamil s/o Sher Muhammad s/o Javed s/o Chandika Pul Near Sangi Hotel, Taluka and District Larkana** has shown as absconder in the Challan Sheet submitted by the SHO/S/O P-S Civil Lines, District Larkana in the above said case.

AND WHEREAS, non-bailable warrants of arrest were issued by this Court for the arrest of above named accused, which have returned unexecuted, with the report of police that the accused has absconded or concealed himself to avoid his arrest.

NOW, THEREFORE, Proclamation U/S 87 Cr.P.C read with section 19(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 is issued requiring the appearance of above named accused to appear before this Court at Old Sessions Court Larkana within 7 days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded against him in his absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court.
 This 15th day of the month of July, 2024.

JUDGE ANTI-TERRORISM COURT LARKANA

REF-KRY No. 20/7/24

وزارت داخلہ

2024

استیٹمنٹ (سینکٹر جنرل پولیس)

استیٹمنٹ اسلام آباد

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EXTENSION OF TENDER CLOSING DATE
TENDER ENQUIRY NO. WAN PLO 024 2023-24

A tender notice regarding Pre-Casting of Trench Weight alongside Transportation as per Company Approved Standard Design Drawing No. (PM-TD-07-19) 10/200' dia. Metallic Soan Pipeline at MP09.33, MP09.62 MP09.30, Tehsil Pind Dadan Khan and District Jhelum uploaded on PPRAs website under covering letter: PLW1118C/0424 dated 26.06.2024, which was then updated on PPRAs website as tender No. "55424996" on 28.06.2024. The closing date of the above was 19.07.2024 at 11.00 AM.

To facilitate competitive bidding, the closing date has been extended of the subject tender enquiry up to 30.07.2024 and the closing time is 11:00 AM.

All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

www.sppa.gov.pk

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT
 (Headquarters Office)
 P.O Box 1214, Sector H-8/2, Firas Bukhari Road, ISLAMABAD

PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

Pakistan Meteorological Department invites the applications for pre-qualification of firms registered with sales tax/ income tax departments and are on Active Tax Payer List (ATL) of FBR for the following repair work during the financial year 2024-25 under PPRAs rules detail is as under:

Sr. No.	Name of Work
01	Repair of Quantitative Precipitation Measurement (QPM) Radar, Sukkur
02	Repair of Doppler Weather Surveillance Radar (DWSR), Mangla

Schedule for collection, submission and opening of pre-qualification documents / proposals is as under:

Collection and submission of documents (free of cost through the concerned website)	On Thursday 07 th of August, 2024 by 15.30 Hrs. through PPRAs
Time and place of opening of sealed proposals	On Thursday 08 th of August, 2024 by 11.00 Hrs. at R&D Hall PMD Headquarters, H-8/2 Islamabad.

The bid received within stipulated date and time, will be opened by the committee on the same day (as mentioned above), in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives.

The procuring agency reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal(s) in accordance with rule 33 of PPRAs Rules 2004 (as amended time to time)

Note: All Firms are directed to quote their Bids online through PPRAs E-PADS as well as original Bids must be submitted in hard form to I&P Section, PMD Headquarters office, Islamabad

(Muhammad Hussam Khan) PPR-02/456/24
 Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
 Pakistan Meteorological Department
 H-8/2, Islamabad, Ph. 051-9250286

OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS FOUNDATION
TENDER NOTICE

PROCUREMENT OF SUMMER UNIFORM 2024 FOR ENTITLED LIVERIED STAFF AND AIRPORT OFFICIALS ACROSS PAKISTAN

Overseas Pakistanis Foundation intends to invite sealed Bids from well reputed Income Tax/GST (Registered) firms/tailors "under single stage - Two envelopes" method for procurement of Summer uniform 2024 for entitled liveried staff and airport officials across Pakistan.

Income Tax / GST Registered firms / tailors can download the Tender Documents containing complete list of required items along with specifications and other terms & conditions from PPRAs website or purchase the same against the cash payment of Rs. 1,000/- (non-refundable) from the office of the undersigned on producing written request on letter head of the firm.

Quotations must reach the undersigned till 1100 hours latest by 06.08.2024. Bid security of fixed amount specified in the bidding documents in shape of Bank Draft / Pay Order from a scheduled bank in favor of OPF should also be submitted along with the quotation. Bids will be opened on the same day at 1200 hours in presence of bidders/representatives who want to attend. Late & Conditional bids will not be accepted. Taxes will be deducted according to Government rules. OPF reserves the right to reject all bids as per Rule # 33 of PPRAs Rules, 2004. This tender is also available on PPRAs website.

Director (Administration)
 Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF), Head Office,
 Shahrah-e-Jamhuriat, Sector G-5/2, Islamabad,
 Ph. No. 051-9048217-18, 9048412

PRM/01/2024

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KARACHI SHIPYARD & ENGG. WORKS LTD.

TENDER INQUIRY

Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works Limited, West Wharf, Karachi, invites quotations for the Supply of Local Purchase Item (on free-delivery of KSEW basis), Foreign Purchase tender items (on CFR Karachi basis) and disposal of following items on 'as is & where is' basis respectively:

Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Due Date
KPW-091	Square Tube 6 Foot (As per KSEW Tender Enquiry Specifications)		08.08.2024
KPW-090	AC Compressor Maintenance Kit (As per KSEW Tender Enquiry Specifications)	As per KSEW Tender Enquiry Specifications	
KPW-021	Steel Plates (Various Sizes) (As per KSEW Tender Enquiry Specifications)		08.08.2024
KPW-020	Steel Plates (Various Sizes) (As per KSEW Tender Enquiry Specifications)		
KPW-019	Steel Plates (Various Sizes) (As per KSEW Tender Enquiry Specifications)		

DISPOSAL TENDER

0807-607-1002	Buried Sand	01 Lot	08-08-2024
0807-607-1003	Wool Scrap (Black)	01 Lot	
0807-607-1004	Old Detached 60x Concrete Blocks	01 Lot	

The Suppliers / Bidders are informed that Single Stage (Two Envelope Bidding) process is opted. Therefore, suppliers are required to submit (i) Technical Offer and (ii) Commercial Offer separately at tender box 080.

Disposed material can be inspected in coordination with Deputy Manager (Stores) on Call # 0842126002. Inspection of material can be done during working days from 09:00 Hrs to 11:00 Hrs.

Tender Documents can be downloaded from KSEW website www.karachishipyard.com.pk and PPRAs website www.ppra.gov.pk. However, the applicant/contractor are required to purchase the bidding documents on payment of Rs. 2,000/- (each) from Procurement Department at least a day before tender due date from 9:00 to 14:30 Hrs. Bidders stationed out of Karachi may obtain tender documents through courier service.

Tenders will be opened at 11:00 am on tender due date in presence of the bidder's representatives who may wish to be present. KSEW reserves the right to accept or reject tenders.

General Manager (Proc/Stores)
 Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works Ltd
 Phone Numbers: +92 21 90716041-62
 Ext. 200

PUBLIC SCHOOL HYDERABAD
 (First Residential Public School of Sindh, Established in 1961)
 Phone: 022-8280404

TENDER NOTICE
TENDER NO. PROG/2024/01

Under the Single-Stage - Two-Envelope Procurement Method sealed bids are invited from the firms registered with Tax Authorities for the supply of the following items as per detailed specifications/experiments mentioned in the tender documents.

S. No.	Nature of Work	Tender Document Fee
01	School Uniforms for Students	Rs. 3000/-
02	Stationery and School Bags for Students	Rs. 3000/-
03	Shoes for Students	Rs. 3000/-
04	Stationery / Food Items for Students' Mess	Rs. 3000/-
05	Sports Liniments for Students	Rs. 3000/-
06	Items for Sanitation and Daily Cleanliness for School Buildings and Hostels (Laboratory Work)	Rs. 3000/-

The bidding documents can be collected from the office of the Principal, Public School Hyderabad from the date of publishing an depositing a fee of Rs. 3,000/- (non-refundable) for each tender in shape of Pay Order/Demand Draft (attach with the financial proposal) in favor of **Principal, Public School Hyderabad**. The Financial Proposals shall be opened after the evaluation and approval of the Technical Proposals.

The Technical Proposals will be opened on the same day i.e. 02.08.2024 at 11:00 hours by the Procurement Committee in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to be present there. Any conditional bid and bid without bid security shall not be considered.

The Procuring Agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids subject to relevant provisions of SPPRA Rules, 2010 (Amended upto Date) and may cancel the bidding process at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal under rule 25 of said rules.

For further detail please contact:
 022-0280404, 022-0280410

PRINCIPAL
Public School Hyderabad
Lafitabad Unit # 3
Hyderabad

REF-KRY No. 20/2/24

NATIONAL SECURITY PRINTING COMPANY (PVT.) LIMITED
MINISTRY OF FINANCE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

INVITATION FOR BIDS
(SINGLE STAGE - ONE ENVELOPE PROCEDURE)

THE COMPANY INTENDS TO INVITE SEALED BIDS FROM REPUTED MANUFACTURERS / SUPPLIERS / CONTRACTORS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE AUTHORITIES AND HAVE ACTIVE TAX PERSONS FOR SUPPLY OF FOLLOWING ITEM / SERVICE ON PAYMENT BASIS:

Sl. No.	DESCRIPTION OF JOB / ITEM	QTY	UNIT	ESTIMATED QUANTITY DATE & TIME	NO OFFERING DATE & TIME
1	MISCELLANEOUS PARTS FOR BINDER STITCHING MACHINE	5%	OF ITEMS	15-08-2024 AM 10:00	15-08-2024 AM 10:00

DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (PURCHASE)

COMPETITIVE & LIVABLE CITY OF KARACHI
LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

CORRIGENDUM-I

Activity: SP/Advertisement From: THIRD-PARTY VALUATION OF URBAN IMMENSIBLE PROPERTY SURVEY IN KARACHI.

RFQ No. PK-LGD-430110-REG-RFP published in daily Dawn (Karachi), daily Jang (Karachi) and other forums dated 21st June 2024.

Modification # 1:
1. Refer Section 5, Bid Data Sheet (BDS) 23.4 at page 42 of the bidding document, wherein the deadline for bid submission is extended to 15-08-2024.

Modification # 2:
1. Refer Section 5, Bid Data Sheet (BDS) 19.1 at page 40 of the bidding document, wherein the following change has been made to extend the bid validity period.

The bid shall be valid until: 31st November, 2024

The other details about the activity shall remain the same.

(Project Manager-LGPT)
Competitive and Livable City of Karachi

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USAID PAKISTAN

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Pakistan is seeking applications for the following position:

1. **USAID Project Management Specialist - Infectious Diseases - Interim**

For detailed position description and posting of online application, interested applicants may visit the website <https://apply.usaid.gov/positions>

Applications must be submitted on form DS-174 (Application for Employment as US Staff), which can be retrieved from the website <https://apply.usaid.gov/positions>

Applicants should submit their resumes and cover letters with the application, the resume should be in English and the cover letter should be in Urdu or English.

Applicants on Form DS-174 should be forwarded only on the email usaidsouthpakistan@usaid.gov address in MS Word or PDF Format. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for the interview.

The deadline for submission of applications is August 04, 2024.

KARACHI METROPOLITAN CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR DIRECTOR
ZOO, SAFARI & RECREATION

Inside Karachi Zoological Garden, Nishtar Road, Karachi West
Phone: 92-21-99215382 Fax: 99216320

No. KMC/2024/SR/DIR/176/2024 Dated: 18-07-2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
THROUGH NEWSPAPERS / AUTHORITY'S WEBSITE
(AS PER SPPR-2010 AMENDED TILL DATE)

Tenders in sealed cover are invited on offer basis for the following items from the contractors/suppliers on Single Stage - One Envelope Procedure basis for the year 2024-2025 as per provision of Rule 4650 SPPR/1A 2010 (Amended till date).

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Million)	Earnest Money (PKR)	Cost of Tender (In Shape of Pay Order)
1.	Supply of Daily Dietary Articles for Animals of Karachi Zoo and Karachi Safari Zoo, Recreation, KMC	Other Rate	2% of Bid Amount	PK. 3,000/-
2.	Supply of Monthly Dietary Articles for Animals of Karachi Zoo and Karachi Safari Zoo, Recreation, KMC	Other Rate	2% of Bid Amount	PK. 3,000/-

SCHEDULE FOR COLLECTION / DROPPING OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

SCHEDULE	DATE & TIME	VENUE
Receiving of Application, Issuance of Tender Documents	From 28-07-2024 to 15-08-2024 During Office Hours	Office of the Sr. Director Zoo, Safari & Recreation, KMC Inside Karachi Zoological Garden Nishtar Road, Karachi West
Dropping of Tender	15-08-2024 at 2:00 PM	
Opening of Tender	15-08-2024 at 2:30 PM	

In case, no tender is received on the above date, the next schedule for collection/dropping of tender documents will be as under:-

SCHEDULE	DATE & TIME	VENUE
Receiving of Application, Issuance of Tender Documents	From 19-08-2024 to 09-09-2024 During Office Hours	Office of the Sr. Director Zoo, Safari & Recreation, KMC Inside Karachi Zoological Garden Nishtar Road, Karachi West
Dropping of Tender	09-09-2024 at 2:00 PM	
Opening of Tender	09-09-2024 at 2:30 PM	

BIDS ELIGIBILITY/QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

- Valid Income Tax Certificate.
- Bank Certificate ascertaining financial soundness of the bidder and 3 years turnover.
- Professional Tax.
- Experience of supplying material/work in KMC.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Tender documents will be issued to the parties on written request, duly supported with a photocopy of CNIC, cost of tender in shape of pay order to be drawn from any scheduled bank in favour of KMC.
- In case the opening date is declared as Public Holiday by the Government, the tenders will be dropped/opened on the next working day as per the given schedule. The other terms & conditions of the tender too shall, however, remain unchanged.
- 2% Earnest Money/Cash Deposit (in shape of Pay Order) of the total bid amount must be accompanied the tender, which shall be retained 50% copy of the validity of tender/contractors of the bank, whichever comes earlier.
- Any canvassing in connection with tenders is strictly prohibited.
- The total bid amount as well as the rates of items must be clearly filled in (both in figures/words). In case of any correction/overwriting, the same must be initiated by the tenderer, else the tenders will be summarily rejected.
- No tender will be entertained or allowed to be dropped after scheduled time as specified in the NIT.
- The Procuring Agency may reject any or all bids, subject to the relevant rules & provisions of Sindh Public Procurement Rules-2010 (amended till date).

SENIOR DIRECTOR
Zoo, Safari & Recreation
Karachi Metropolitan Corporation

KMC/2024/SR/DIR/176/2024
M-F-099 No. 2024/24

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Chemon Development Association (CDA) is a national, profit-led, non-profit organization, requires the services of the following experienced, dynamic and qualified staff for implementation of a social economic initiative, Awana.

Position	Based at	No. of Posts	Required Qualifications / Experience
1. Program Director (HR) / Program Officer (HR)	Karachi	01	11 years of professional working experience in human resource management, master's degree, strong networking skills, excellent verbal/written communication skills, fluency in English.
2. Program Manager (HR)	Karachi	01	8-10 years of professional working experience in development sector, master's degree in relevant subject, excellent verbal/written communication skills, fluency in English.
3. Program Officer (HR)	Karachi	01	5-7 years of professional working experience in development sector, master's degree in relevant subject, excellent verbal/written communication skills, fluency in English.
4. HR Officer (HR)	Karachi	01	3-5 years of professional working experience in development sector, bachelor's degree in relevant subject, excellent verbal/written communication skills, fluency in English.
5. Office Assistant / Support Staff (HR)	Karachi	01	01 years of professional working experience in support staff, master's degree.
6. Program Officer (HR)	Karachi	01	5-7 years of professional working experience in development sector, master's degree in relevant subject, excellent verbal/written communication skills, fluency in English.
7. Program Officer (HR)	Karachi	01	5-7 years of professional working experience in development sector, master's degree in relevant subject, excellent verbal/written communication skills, fluency in English.

We are pleased to be an equal employment opportunity provider. We value and work effectively in our workplace. Women and youth are highly encouraged to apply. Last date of apply 24 July 2024 at 04:00 PM. For the right to request this job advertisement without providing any reason. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for the interview / interview via the above cell phone. To apply visit <http://www.cdahk.com>

RAVI URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB

INVITATION TO BIDS

Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) hereafter referred to as "Procuring Agency" intends to invite sealed bids for the following items:

Sl. No.	Lot	Bid Security (% of Estimated Cost)	Description	Qty. Required
1.	01	4000/-	Digital Camera	03
			Video Camera	03
			Vehicle Mounted Camera (Dash Cam)	02
			Color Camera	03
2.	02	2000/-	Mobile	03

Interested companies, who are providing above services and registered with relevant authority Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments are invited to participate.

Tender documents can be obtained from the Procurement Wing of Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA), 101 Abu Baker Block, Ganga Road, Lahore on payment of the tender security of PKR 4000/- (non-refundable being the tender cost) issued by any scheduled bank of Pakistan bearing validity of 30 days in favour of Ravi Urban Development Authority on any working day Monday to Friday during office hours. A copy of tender rules and bidding document is also available on website of Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) <http://www.ruda.gov.pk> however, each submission will only be accepted if a pay order amounting to PKR 4000/- is attached with the bidding document.

The procedure for bidding shall be Single Stage Two Envelopes as specified under Regulation 4(2)(b) of RUDA Procurement Regulations 2023 (amended) which can be downloaded from RUDA website <http://www.ruda.gov.pk/legal/framework> and which would be the operative one and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the bidding documents.

Sealed bids must be submitted at the mentioned office address on or before 06 August 2024 by 10:00 AM and must be accompanied by a bid security mentioned above in favour of Ravi Urban Development Authority valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity in shape of (CDR) issued by any scheduled bank in Pakistan and must be returned along with the technical proposal. Technical proposal submitted without bid security shall not be entertained and accordingly returned non-refundable. Late proposals shall not be entertained.

Bids will be opened in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to be present at 10:30 AM on 06 August, 2024 in the office of Ravi Urban Development Authority.

Late proposals that not be entertained, incomplete and non-compliant bids will be rejected. Multiple submissions from a firm shall not be entertained.

RUDA will not be responsible for any cost of expense incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

In case of office holiday or any local holiday falling on bid submission date, the next working day will automatically be the last date of submission and opening of the bid.

The bidders are required to quote their best competitive price inclusive of all applicable taxes. For obtaining any further information / clarifications, please contact the person named below:

MR. USMAN MALIK | SENIOR DIRECTOR PROCUREMENT
Ravi Urban Development Authority, 101 Abu Baker Block, Ganga Road, Lahore. | 0342-9902000-4 | usman.malik@ruda.gov.pk

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GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
SINDH MASS TRANSIT AUTHORITY
TRANSPORT & MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Procurement of Transaction Advisory Services for Evaluation of Government & Private Sector (G2G & G2P) Proposals for Procurement & Operations of Buses & other Vehicles (EV & Diesel Hybrid) for Sindh Mass Transit Authority

RFQ Ref No: SMTA/CSLT/PROG/TAS/2024-25
Issued on: July 22, 2024

ASSIGNMENT BRIEF

Sindh Mass Transit Authority (SMTA), Transport & Mass Transit Department (T&MTD), Government of Sindh, "Procuring Agency" invites sealed proposals from eligible Consultants for conducting an Assignment "Procurement of Transaction Advisory Services for Evaluation of Government & Private Sector (G2G & G2P) Proposals for Procurement & Operations of Buses & other Vehicles (EV & Diesel Hybrid) for Sindh Mass Transit Authority" in accordance with the SPPR Rules, 2010 (as amended) and in force till the issuance date of this RFP below:

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The consulting scope of services under this assignment includes but is not limited to, act as a transaction adviser representing a team of suitably qualified and experienced financial, technical and legal advisors to assist SMTA to undertake the evaluation of proposals from Government & Private Sector (G2G & G2P) for Procurement & Operations of Buses and other vehicles (Diesel Hybrid & EV).

Moreover, if needed, to prepare RFP to undertake bidders' evaluation process for the procurement & operations of buses and other vehicles (Diesel Hybrid & EV) from Government & Private Sector (G2G & G2P) under the provisions of Sindh Public Procurement Authority Rules, assist SMTA in the bidding process, evaluate bids, to act on behalf of SMTA in response to prospective bidder's questions and provision of information pertaining to the project, finalize proposals evaluation and the contract agreement with the potential investors as mentioned in Section V - Terms of Reference of the RFP Document.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The prospective proposers (Individual consulting firm or consortium, as the case may be) must qualify the eligibility technical evaluation criteria and other terms & conditions as outlined in the RFP documents.

BIDDING PROCESS

The assignment's procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the National Competitive Bidding using the Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method, following the procedure presented under Rule 15(2)(b) & 7(2)(b) that is open to all eligible bidders. The contract will be awarded to the Most Advantageous Bidder obtaining the highest combined weighted technical and financial score according to criteria outlined in the RFP document.

The prospective proposers may seek further information by obtaining the RFP Document on submission of Pay Order in favor of Sindh Mass Transit Authority amounting to PKR 5,000/- (Five Thousand Only) with effect from 22nd July to 26th August 2024 either in person, by submitting a written application at the address given below, or

its electronically by downloading it from website of Procuring Agency <https://smta.sindh.gov.pk> or the SPPRA <http://sppra.sindh.gov.pk> or by sending a request via email address to the Procuring Agency at info.smta@sindh.gov.pk

The proposal containing technical and financial proposals, sealed separately with all the requisite documents must be submitted in a sealed envelope with marking on it the Assignment's Title "Procurement of Transaction Advisory Services for Evaluation of Government & Private Sector (G2G & G2P) Proposals for Procurement & Operations of Buses & other Vehicles (EV & Diesel Hybrid) for Sindh Mass Transit Authority" on or before August 21, 2024 at 12:00 Noon (the Submission Deadline). Any bid received late due to any reason whatsoever will not be accepted. The bids (Technically Proposals only) will be opened publicly in presence of proposer's representatives on the submission deadline at 12:30 PM at the address provided below.

Address for Submission & Opening of Proposals:
Attention: Managing Director Sindh Mass Transit Authority, Transport & Mass Transit Department, Government of Sindh.
Address: House No. D-43 & D-43/1, Shalwar-e-Ghahri, Block-2, G/10N, Karachi, Pakistan
Telephone: +92 21 99332206-8
E-mail: info.smta@sindh.gov.pk

All proposals must remain valid for a period of ninety (90) days effective from technical bids opening date and must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 1% of the total quoted price of assignment in shape of pay order/bank draft/bank guarantee, valid for a period of twenty-eight (28) days beyond the bid validity period, issued by a scheduled bank of Pakistan in favour of Managing Director Sindh Mass Transit Authority.

Pre-Proposal Conference/Meeting is scheduled on 20th July 2024 (Thursday) at 12:00 Noon.

SMTA reserves the rights to reject all or any proposal as per the relevant provision of Sindh Public Procurement Rules 2010 (SPPR) (2024).

Address referred to above for issuance of the RFP Documents.

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Sindh Mass Transit Authority
Transport & Mass Transit Department
Government of Sindh
House No. D-43 & D-43/1
Shalwar-e-Ghahri Block-2
G/10N, Karachi, Pakistan
Telephone: +92 21 99332206-8
E-mail: info.smta@sindh.gov.pk

RFQ Ref No. 2024/24

Request for Proposal

Information Systems
(Development & Implementation of National Open Data Portal (NODP))
(Without Prequalification)

Purchaser: Project Coordination Unit, Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, Islamabad
Project: ASPIRE
Contract No: [Development of Web Portal for PIE through IT development firms]
Country: Pakistan
Loan No./Credit No./Grant No.: [P173300]
RFP No: [PK-PCU MOFEPT ASPIRE-437910-GO-RFP]
Issued on: 18th July, 2024

- The Government of Pakistan has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the ASPIRE, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Development & Implementation of National Open Data Portal (NODP).
- The Project Coordination Unit, Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, Islamabad now invites sealed Proposals from eligible Proposers for the Development & Implementation of National Open Data Portal (NODP) at Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE, Islamabad).
- The procurement process will be conducted through competitive procurement using Request for Proposals (RFP) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IFB Borrowers' Constantans' Services method Single Stage Two Envelope of World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IFB Borrowers 2016, revised November 2017, August 2018 and November 2020." ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible Proposers as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Interested eligible Proposers may obtain further information from The ASPIRE, Project Coordination Unit, Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, G-7/1, Near Zero Point, Islamabad, insert Mr. Usman Malik, Procurement Specialist, usma.malik.pcu@gmail.com, Tel: 0992-51-9252497 and inspect the request for proposals document during office hours i.e. 0830 to 1430 hours at the address given below ASPIRE, Project Coordination Unit, Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, G-7/1, Near Zero Point, Islamabad.
- The request for proposals document in English may be obtained by interested eligible Proposers upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of (PKR 3000). The method of payment will be cheque.
- Proposals must be delivered to the address given below on or before 1400 Hrs on 31st August, 2024. Electronic procurement will not be permitted. Late Proposals will be rejected. The outer Proposal envelopes marked "ORIGINAL PROPOSAL", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be publicly opened in the presence of the Proposers' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below on 1430 Hrs on 31st August, 2024. All envelopes marked "FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public Proposals opening.
- All Proposals must be accompanied by a "Proposal Security" of 1,800,000/- PKR in the shape of a Pay Order, CDR, or Banker's Cheque, in the name of Procurement Specialist attached in Financial Proposal.
- Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful Proposer's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the request for proposal document.
- The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Procurement Specialist, ASPIRE,
Project Coordination Unit, G-7/1, Near Zero Point, Islamabad
051-9252497
usma.malik.pcu@gmail.com, www.moefpt.edu.pk

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

"The Nation's Bank", National Bank of Pakistan aims to support the financial well-being of the Nation along with enabling sustainable growth and inclusive development through its wide local and international network of branches. Being one of the leading and largest banks of Pakistan, National Bank of Pakistan is contributing significantly towards socioeconomic growth in the country with an objective to transform the institution into a future-fit, agile and sustainable Bank.

In line with our strategy, the Bank is looking for talented, dedicated and experienced professional(s) for the following positions in the area of Risk Management.

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

Q1	Position / Job Title	CAD Executive (AVP / VP)
	Reporting to	Islamic CAD Manager
	Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC Candidate having Masters' Degree and / or any other relevant professional certification(s) will be preferred
	Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 05 years of banking experience, out of which 03 years in credit administration and / or credit operations
	Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sound knowledge of Credit Documentation / Pledge Operations / Corporate and SME credit portfolio Exposure to collateral and risk monitoring / reporting Good team management, interpersonal and communication skills Proficient in MS Office
	Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist in performing scrutiny of Sanction Advice / FOL with reference to Credit Approval Authority Booklet (CAAB) / Islamic Structure / Seasonal Policies To assist in issuance of Disbursement Authorization Certificates for Islamic retail products To assist in selection of Bank's Legal Advisor (BLA) and allocation of assignments to BLA (where needed) To prepare standard documentations i.e. BAs, for structured, consumer, commercial / corporate accounts as per Islamic banking To prepare non-standard documentations through BLA (where assigned) To assist in registration of change with SECIP / STR through BLA along with Registration of Mortgages and Marking of lien with concerned registrars / Revenue Offices, through BLA To seek Genuineness Certificate from BLA, regarding physical verification of title documents from the concerned property record Book Perfection Certificate from BLA over the charge / finance documentation to ensure that the documents are in perfect order and are legally enforceable, before disbursement (where required) To prepare / review Disbursement Authorization Certificate for all Islamic structures, SME, commercial / corporate accounts including seasonal finance and agriculture finance (Non-Gold), where assigned To handle / maintain security / finance documents To maintain relevant register including safe-in and safe-out register (where required) To ensure insurance arrangement / policies tendered by the customers, are valid, backed by the premium paid receipt (in original), covering all the required risks and as per Sanction Advice / Bank's Policies To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)
	Place of Posting	Lahore
Q2	Position / Job Title	CAD Officer - Documentation (OG-III / OG-II)
	Reporting to	Regional Executive - Credit Administration Division
	Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC Candidates having Masters' Degree and / or any other relevant professional certification(s) will be preferred
	Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 03 years of banking experience, out of which 02 years in credit administration and / or credit operations
	Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sound knowledge of Credit Documentation / Pledge Operations / Corporate and SME credit portfolio Exposure to collateral and risk monitoring / reporting Good team management, interpersonal and communication skills Proficient in MS Office
	Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist in performing scrutiny of Sanction Advice / FOL with reference to Credit Approval Authority Booklet (CAAB) / Structure / Seasonal Policies To conduct counter verification / issuance of Disbursement Authorization Certificates for retail products To assist in selection of Bank's Legal Advisor (BLA) and allocation of assignments to BLA (where needed) To prepare standard documentations i.e. BAs, for structure, consumer, commercial / corporate accounts To prepare non-standard documentations through BLA, (where assigned) To assist in registration of change with SECIP / STR through BLA along with Registration of Mortgages and Marking of lien with concerned registrars / Revenue Offices, through BLA To seek Genuineness Certificate from BLA, regarding physical verification of title documents from the concerned property record Book Perfection Certificate from BLA over the charge / finance documentation to ensure that the documents are in perfect order and are legally enforceable, before disbursement (where required) To prepare / review Disbursement Authorization Certificate (DAC) for all structure, SME, commercial / corporate accounts including seasonal finance and agriculture finance (Non-Gold), where assigned To handle / maintain security / finance documents To maintain relevant register including safe-in and safe-out register (where required) To ensure insurance arrangement / policies tendered by the customers, are valid, backed by the premium paid receipt (in original), covering all the required risks and as per Sanction Advice / Bank's Policies To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)
	Place of Posting	Misur Khan and Multan
	Assessment Test / Interview(s)	Only shortlisted candidates strictly meeting the above mentioned basic eligibility criteria will be invited for test and / or panel interview(s).
	Employment Type	The employment will be on contractual basis for three years which may be renewed on discretion of the Management. Selected candidates will be offered compensation package and other benefits as per Bank's Policy / rules.

Interested candidates may visit the website www.siddatlyder.com.pk/careers and apply online within 10 working days from the date of publication of this advertisement as per given instructions.

Applications received after due date will not be considered in any case. No TA / DA will be admissible for test / interview.

National Bank of Pakistan is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all qualified individuals, regardless of gender, religion, or disability.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

SECTOR SPECIALIST – GREEN GROWTH & CLIMATE CHANGE

Our client is a leading development sector organization seeking profiles to fill the management position of Sector Specialist – Green Growth & Climate Change for its Islamabad office. This senior position has an integral role in designing and implementing climate change and green growth interventions within the strategic framework.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Advisory & Research:** Provide expert advice on social sector development issues and stay informed about national socioeconomic policies, including the SDGs and national frameworks.
- Networking:** Build and maintain relationships with donors, government officials, relevant ministries, and development organizations to share best practices and secure partnerships.
- Leadership:** Lead climate change, resilience, and green growth initiatives, overseeing the organization's climate change and green growth strategies.
- Programme Development:** Prepare concept notes, design, develop, and implement comprehensive climate change and green growth programmes. Focus areas include but are not limited to renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management, sustainable agriculture, forestry, and other innovative solutions to promote sustainable development and economic growth.
- Capacity Building:** Offer technical assistance and training to project staff, partner organizations, government agencies, private sector entities, civil society organizations, and communities.
- Coordination & Facilitation:** Organize workshops, meetings, and events to foster knowledge-sharing and collaboration.
- Technical Expertise:** Provide support for climate policy, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, green growth strategies, and resilience programmes.
- Project Management:** Oversee all phases of project cycles, ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks and strategic priorities.
- Representation & Reporting:** Represent the organization in steering committees, implementation reviews, and contract negotiations. Prepare progress reports, policy documents, and position papers.
- Resource Mobilization:** Proven track record in effective resource mobilization is also a requirement of this position. The incumbent shall work closely with the Resource Mobilization team to explore any funding opportunities and prepare funding applications for review and submission by the Resource Mobilization team.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

- Master's degree in Climate Change, Environmental Science, Agricultural Engineering, or a related discipline from an overseas or HEC-recognized institution in Pakistan.
- A minimum of 14 years of experience in climate change mitigation and adaptation, with a proven track record in designing and implementing relevant programmes and projects.
- Required Skills: Strong interpersonal & communication skills, excellent negotiation, persuasion, problem-solving, conflict resolution abilities with expertise in planning & coaching skills; an effective team member with goal setting & motivational skills; proficiency in MS Office Suite is a must.

If you have a strong understanding of social sector development, poverty alleviation, climate change and green growth interventions, and relevant government policies and frameworks, we encourage you to email your CV with a picture and date of birth, in MS Word or PDF format on sa-climate@enit.com by 07 August 2024. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY IS MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES!



EXECUTIVES NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

Premier Executive Search Consultants Specializing in C-Level & Senior Management Career Opportunities in Pakistan, Middle East & Far East.



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION, ISLAMABAD

CALL FOR HIRING OF HEC APPROVED RESOURCE PERSONS/EXPERTS/TRAINERS

National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), HEC Islamabad is the Professional Development & Capacity Building Hub of the Higher Education Commission (HEC). NAHE organizes Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for enhancing the capacity of the faculty and management of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

NAHE aims to establish a community of highly competent, motivated, and exceptional Resource Persons/Experts/Trainers to implement design (if required) capacity building training programmes. These programmes are intended for faculty members and management cadres as well as employees of HEC. The objective is to build their capacity, enhance the skills and create expertise in their respective roles, ultimately contributing to the overall development and growth of the education sector. Remuneration will be offered at market-competitive rates to the selected Resource Persons/ Experts/ Trainers. Terms of Reference containing recommended topics/themes are available on the HEC website <https://www.hec.gov.pk/sites/TORs>

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Advance degree, preferably Ph.D, but not below sixteen-year minimum qualification from HEC national/international higher education institutions recognized by HEC.
- Must have a minimum of 10 years Teaching/Training Experience in their relevant areas of expertise. Experience/ Exposure at international forums will be an added advantage.
- Continuous Professional Development & Capacity Building:** Resource Persons/Experts/Trainers should demonstrate commitment to ongoing professional development, in compliance with the latest trends in their field. Experience of working in national/international settings in developing and delivering capacity building programmes will be given preference.
- Communication and Interpersonal Skills:** Resource Person/Expert/Trainer will be expected to render learner oriented interventions and should demonstrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills, fostering positive interaction with participants and providing constructive feedback to achieve effective learning outcomes.
- Adaptability and Flexibility:** Resource Person/Expert/Trainer should be adaptable and flexible in their approach, customizing training sessions keeping in view the specific professional requirements of HEIs teaching faculty and management.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Please click for TORs <https://www.hec.gov.pk/sites/TORs> and Training Programs <https://www.hec.gov.pk/sites/Programs> for hiring of HEC approved Resource Persons/Experts/Trainers.
- Please apply online through: <https://careers.hec.gov.pk> within 15 days from the date of publication of advertisement. Please do not send hard copies of the application, CV or documents.
- Selection will be made as per HEC policies and procedures.
- Those in government service should apply through proper channel.
- Incomplete late applications will not be entertained.
- Experience meant the experience gained after obtaining the minimum required qualification.
- Part time, honorary, apprentice, or intern experience will not be considered.
- Only eligible candidates will be called for the interview. Interview of eligible candidates residing outside the Islamabad/Rawalpindi region and vicinity will be arranged via video conferencing at the nearest possible location of the candidates (Karachi, Lahore, Quetta & Peshawar) or through Zoom/MS-Teams.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in the interview.
- HEC is an equal opportunity employer.
- HEC reserves the right to reject any or all the applications without engaging any reason.

Shah Raza Mangi
Assistant Director

National Academy of Higher Education
Higher Education Commission, Sector H-9, Islamabad Ph: 051-90400823/24,
Email: nahe_support@hec.gov.pk

FID/INo.474/24

PAKISTAN OILFIELDS LIMITED
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Pakistan Oilfields Limited, a leading oil and gas exploration and production Company is looking for result oriented, professional and self-motivated individuals for the following positions:

HEAD OFFICE

- Manager (Internal Audit)

FIELDS

- Senior Engineer
- ES&E Engineer
- Motor / Fleet Maintenance
 - Test Maintenance Engineer (Auto Mechanics)
 - Auto Electrician

To view job description and apply online, please visit <http://jobs.pak-oil.com.pk>. Only applications received online will be considered. The deadline for applications is July 28, 2024. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Pakistan Oilfields Limited
POL House, Margah, Rawalpindi

Kharadar General Hospital
FCPS PAEDIATRIC RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Management of Kharadar General Hospital, Karachi is pleased to announce that CPSP has awarded accreditation for FCPS training program in department of paediatrics.

Applications are invited, for FCPS Residency program in paediatrics, candidate should fulfil criteria as per CPSP requirement.

Please send your CV to HR Department, KHARADAR GENERAL HOSPITAL, Aga Khan Road, Karachi-74000.
Email: kgh.hospital@gmail.com
Deadline for submission of CV is July 24, 2024

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

An Oil and Gas Exploration company is looking to fill the vacant position of an Exploration Geologist for its Islamabad Office. The candidate should possess a bachelor's degree in Petroleum Geology with a minimum work experience of six (6) years as an Exploration Geologist in an operating E&P company. The incumbent should have expertise in using geological, geophysical, petrophysical, and engineering data, along with hands-on experience in using GAO software including Petrel, Kingdom Suite and volumetric estimation softwares such as Rose3D, RTP etc.

The company provides competitive remuneration packages with a very congenial working environment. Interested candidates are required to send their applications supported by their CV and other requisite documents of experience by email to oilandgasrecruitment237@gmail.com no later than 31st July 2024.

Urgently Needed!

An accessible manufacturing company requires:

1. Store Manager	Qualification - B.Com
	Minimum Experience of 8 to 10 Years
2. Store Officer	Qualification - atleast Intermediate
	Minimum Experience of 3 to 5 Years

Please send your CVs before 26th of July 2024 at the following email address mentioning the post in the subject line:
g.recruitments1@gmail.com