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Haniyeh killing threatens to topple boiling Middle East cauldron

• Hamas' Doha-based political leader assassinated while in Tehran for presidential inauguration • Iran vows revenge against Israel; killing galvanises Palestinian factions • Pakistan slams 'reckless act'; Russian, Chinese and Turkish leaders deeply concerned • Qatar, Egypt express concern over setback to Gaza ceasefire talks; US disavows foreknowledge

TEHRAN/DOHA: The assassination of the political face of Hamas — Ismail Haniyeh — sent shockwaves around the world, galvanising Palestinian factions and prompting a sharp response from Iran that many fear could lead to further escalation. It also appears to set back any chance of an imminent ceasefire agreement in Gaza.

Funeral prayers for Haniyeh offered in several cities; Page 5

Haniyeh's murder: Editorial on Page 6

Body of top Hezbollah commander found as fears of wider war grow; Page 10

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Iranian media said the 2am (22:00 GMT) strike targeted "the special residences for war veterans in north Tehran" where Haniyeh was staying. An "official and public" funeral ceremony for Haniyeh will be held in Tehran on Thursday before his body is flown to Qatar, his base in recent years, for burial on Friday, Hamas said.

In contrast to the rest of Hamas's military leadership, Haniyeh was a figure relatively visible in public, making trips abroad including to Turkey where he held talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, including a meeting most recently in April.

Observers say Hamas has several possible candidates to replace Haniyeh, notably Khaled Meshaal, the group's former leader who survived an Israeli assassination attempt in Jordan in 1997, and today resides in Qatar.

Whichever emerges, experts say it won't impact the way Hamas conducts itself in the Gaza Strip, whose leaders including Yahya Sinwar have been directing operations with a significant degree of autonomy during the ongoing Israeli aggression.

Views of vengeance

The assassination occurred less than 24 hours after Israel claimed to have killed Hezbollah's most senior military commander in Beirut, in retaliation for a deadly rocket strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Following the news of the killing, Tehran has declared three days of

mourning on July 25, and the continued use of Afghan territory by the banned HIGMG and TTP to carry out deadly attacks inside Pakistan with impunity.

It is believed that HIGMG operates from Afghanistan and has close links with the banned TTP. The militants affiliated with the Bahadur Group have been linked to several high-profile attacks on security forces, including the suicide attack on a military post in North Waziristan, which claimed the lives of seven soldiers on March 16.

On the other hand, the banned Majeed Brigade, which has been active since 2011, is the Balochistan Liberation Army's dedicated suicide squad. The Majeed Brigade had claimed responsibility for the attack on a Gwadar port complex.

Section 11-B of the ATA says, "The federal government may, by order published in the official gazette, list an organisation as a proscribed organisation in the First Schedule" if there are reasonable grounds to believe that it is acting, on behalf of or at the direction of, any individual or organisation proscribed under the Act.

TTP labelled as firm

Meanwhile, the government labelled the outlawed TTP as Firm

Continued on Page 5



HEBRON: Palestinians attend a protest after the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran, in the occupied West Bank, on Wednesday. — Reuters

Nationwide internet disruption hits PTCL users

• Cyberattack suspected; no reports of damage to fibre-optic, undersea cables • PTA blames fault in PTCL system; company says no issue at its end • Senate defers briefing; minister defends firewall; PM vows better connectivity

By Kaiba Ali and Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Amid issues with media uploads on WhatsApp via mobile data, PTCL and Ufone subscribers faced significant internet disruptions on Wednesday, with users from across the country reporting outages and erratic service speeds.

Unlike the previous outages, the latest disruption did not involve physical damage to PTCL's optical fibre network or the international undersea internet cables.

Sources in the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) suggested a technical fault, with a suspected cyberattack on PTCL's fibre-optic system at its internet gateways. The disruptions were patchy, affecting one service while the other remained operational for the same consumer.

By around 10pm, the PTA announced that the issue was largely under control. "The exact issue is being investigated by PTA to avoid such instances in future," the regulator said in a statement.

A PTCL spokesperson said data

services on the company's network had been fully restored by 3:40pm. "The network experienced service interruption earlier, but after thorough checks, it is confirmed that there was no fault found at PTCL network end," the official said.

Earlier, the spokesperson acknowledged data outages in various cities, expressing consternation. "Our teams are actively working to resolve and rectify the issue as the earliest," he added.

PTA spokesperson Malahat Qureshi

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Govt proscribes Gul Bahadur group, Majeed Brigade

Wants TTP referred to as 'Firma al Khawarij' in all official correspondence

By Hishar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: The government has proscribed the outlawed Tehreek-ul-Firqah Pakistan (TFP) as Firma al Khawarij and proscribed two more outfits, Majeed Brigade (MB) and Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group (HIGBG), taking the total number of banned organisations to 81.

The National Counter Terrorism Authority (Nacta) has also updated its list of proscribed organisations. The government has banned at least three militant groups this year, as Zamindaran Brigade was proscribed on March 29, marking the first addition to the list since August 2020.

An official said Dawn that the two organisations were proscribed on July 19 and July 25, respectively, as a ban was placed on all their activities under Section 11-B(C) and Schedule-I of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997.

The proscription of two more terrorist outfits came days after Pakistan conveyed to the Afghan authorities its serious concern on the terrorist attack at Baram c

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Controversial elections act amendment rushed through NA panel

• Move aims to provide clarity in law, minister claims • JUI-F lawmaker believes legislation will weaken assembly • PTI MNA questions removal of 'but' from ballot

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: As the government struggles to prevent the emergence of Pakistan, Tehreek-i-Insaf as the single largest party in the National Assembly, a controversial bill seeking to bar the PTI-backed 'independent' legislators from joining the party was rushed through the NA Standing Committee

on Parliamentary Affairs, on Wednesday.

The committee met a day after the bill was introduced in the assembly.

Unjust measures: Editorial on Page 6

by by PM-N lawmaker Bilal Ashraf Kayani. "The Election (Second Amendment) Bill 2024" seeks to bar independents

from joining a political party at a subsequent stage after the period specified for the purpose in the law, besides restricting political parties from submitting priority list of their candidates for reserved seats after the passage of stipulated timelines.

The bill was passed by 8-4 votes at the meeting

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Due dates of July, Aug bills extended after Discos accused of overbilling

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: All of the country's power distribution companies, including K-Electric, have been accused of billing consumers through overcharging on top of backbilling electricity tariffs, which compelled Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to extend the deadline for payment of bills by 10 days.

"All the distribution companies including K-Electric have been found involved in overbilling," the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) announced on Wednesday, quoting an inquiry report.

In a statement, the regulator said a team of its officers had conducted a detailed inquiry into complaints of overbilling during April to June 2024 period.

In a separate statement, the Ministry of Energy (power division) said the prime minister had directed a 10-day extension in deadline for payment of electricity bills. It said the 10-day extension in bill payment would be applicable for July and August bills.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif issued these instructions in view of the difficulties of the consumers," the power division said, adding the directive had been conveyed to all power companies.

Earlier, Nepra said on payments have been called from all power companies

Continued on Page 5

Protesters block China border over tax issue

• Demand implementation of court order, resignation of customs collector • Immigration operations at Khunjerab Pass disrupted; dry port activities suspended as traders stage sit-in at Sost

By Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: The protest over the implementation of the GB Chief Court's order, which restricts the collection of income tax, sales tax, and additional sales tax on imported items from China through the Khunjerab Pass, intensified on Wednesday, with protesters disrupting immigration operations and blocking the exit point to China from Pakistan through the Pass.

Protesters threatened to block the Karakoram Highway (CKH), the main entry and exit point at Khunjerab Top, and extend the protest to other areas of the region if their demands are not met.

GB traders continued their protest sit-in outside the Sost Dry Port for the sixth consecutive day on Wednesday, suspending all operations at the port. They are protesting



LOCALS take part in a march, which started from Sost Bazaar and ended at the Pakistan immigration office, to show solidarity with protesters, on Wednesday. — Dawn

against the non-implementation of the Chief Court's order restricting the Federal Board

of Revenue (FBR) and Pakistan Customs from collecting taxes on imported items from China through the Khunjerab Pass, among other demands.

Meanwhile, small traders staged a protest sit-in outside the Pakistan immigration office at Sost, suspending travel to China. As a result, thousands of foreign and local passengers were unable to travel to China through the Khunjerab Pass. The protesters held banners inscribed with slogans against the GB collector of customs, chief collector north, and the member customs operation.

The protesters claimed that Pakistan Customs officials are reluctant to address the genuine concerns of local traders, forcing them to resort to agitation.

Addressing the protest sit-

in, GB Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Imran Ali said the FBR and customs officials have been illegally collecting taxes from the GP people on items imported from China through the Khunjerab Pass.

He accused the officials of committing contempt of court and openly defying the court order by claiming that the taxes issue is not within the jurisdiction of the GB court. He demanded an inquiry against the customs officials who have exacerbated the situation and agitated the GB residents.

Mr Ali claimed that the GB government, opposition members, religious and civil society organisations in the region had supported the movement.

Muhammad Iqbal, president

Continued on Page 11

August begins with a drop in fuel prices

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: After two consecutive hikes in fuel rates, the government reduced the price of petrol by about Rs1.17 per litre and that of high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs10.86 on Wednesday for the first time since Aug 15, mainly because of lower global oil prices and import problems.

Separately, in a related decision, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) revised the sale price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for August. The domestic cylinder, weighing 11.5kg, will now cost Rs2,796.

The regulator said the LPG price was increased due to a slightly higher Saudi Aramco contract price and a minor improvement in the rupee's value against the dollar. "The per kg increase in LPG consumer price is Rs2.27," a statement said.

In a late-night announcement, the Ministry of Finance said OGRA had worked out the consumer prices based on the price variations in the international market.

The average petrol price has therefore been reduced to Rs269.43 per litre for the next 15 days compared to

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ON OTHER PAGES



Glof destroys village in Chitral district

A glacial lake outburst flood devastated a large part of Sogoch village in Upper Chitral district, leaving 30 families homeless, as flash floods destroyed roads, bridges and crops in several areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Thousands of tourists, mostly women and children, also remained stranded in Kaghan and Manar valleys of Muzaffargarh district. Page 8



'Life bans' for boxing officials

In a significant move, the Ministry of Intra-Provincial Coordination (IPC) recommends life bans on Pakistan Boxing Federation president Khalid Mahmood, who is also the secretary general of the Pakistan Olympic Association, and PBF secretary general retired Col Nasir Iqbal Turg after a Pakistan boxer slipped in Italy during an international event earlier this year. Page 21

LHC stays action against 100 literacy dept employees

LAHORE: Justice Anwar Hussain of the Lahore High Court on Wednesday suspended the termination letter of an employee of the Punjab Literacy Department and also restrained it from taking any adverse action against over 100 other employees.

The judge passed the order on a petition filed by Qamar Shahzad and 138 others who had assailed illegal action of the Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) and the literacy department.

The petitioners have been continuously working in the department since 2016 and some from 2006. First the petitioners have been recruited on a contract basis under a project but later on the project was converted into non-development and all the employees also adjusted into literacy department.

Representing the petitioners, Advocate Hafiz Tariq Naam argued that all the employees had been recruited after they passed the NTS test and had a legitimate expectancy to be regularised.

The counsel contended that their writ had been allowed by the high court and after that all appeals of the Punjab government against orders of regularisation of the literacy department were dismissed.

Justice Hussain asked an assistant advocate general of Punjab and the counsel for the PPSC to state under what provision of law the employees' result had been withheld and the commission's recommendations withdrawn when the matter already attained finality up to the Supreme Court.

However, the counsel stated they would seek instructions from the government.

The judge issued notices to the PPSC and the literacy department also suspended the termination order of petitioner Qamar Shahzad.

The judge also restrained the department from taking any adverse action against 138 other employees till the next hearing.

—Staff Reporter



LAHORE: A labourer paints a wall of the Kinross School.—White Star

Four dacoits, SHO killed in katcha area clash

Police party had visited the region to rescue a kidnapped villager

By Ihtesham Haq

LAHORE: Four dacoits were killed while a policeman died and another injured in a clash in a katcha area of Machhka near Guddha Barrage to rescue a man kidnapped for ransom through 'money-trap' by outlaws of Shar gang.

According to a press release issued by the district police spokesperson, a police party was in katcha area of Machhka near Guddha Barrage to rescue a man kidnapped for ransom through 'money-trap' by outlaws of Shar gang.

He said the dacoits opened fire on the police party which was retaliated by police. In the process, RYK District Police Officer Irtan Ahmed Malik and Sub-Inspector ASP Ayaz Khan reached the scene along with a heavy contingent of police.

Station House Officer of Machhka, Muhammad Razaq was martyred during the encounter while constable Qaiser Chaudhary was injured.

Four dacoits of Shar gang were killed during the encounter but their names were not mentioned in the press release.

According to a source, the encounter started between police and dacoits near the South Punjab border along the protective spur of Indus. He identified three of the slain dacoits as Hansi Shah, Nadique Shar and Rakhs Koshi.

He said Machhka SHO Razaq was stuck in marshy ground during the encounter and died of heart attack due to extremely hot

and humid conditions.

The injured constable was shifted to the Sheikh Zayed Medical College Hospital (SZMCH) where his condition was said to be stable. The firing between police and dacoits was continuing till the filing of this report at 7 pm on Wednesday.

According to a resident of Bhong area, a man named Sumatar had fled from Garhi Dha Dha was kidnapped by unidentified persons near a canal bridge in Bhong police limits on Wednesday noon.

Sumatar was reportedly picked up by people who arrived in a car and took him away with his motorcycle but police sources didn't confirm any such incident.

This was the second clash between outlaws and police in less than two months in the katcha area wherein policemen also died. Three policemen were

martyred during a robbery on June 7 last when dacoits opened fire on them in Khanbela town of Lajpota taluq.

Sources said the dacoit gangs were still active in the katcha area of Indus at different locations in the districts of RYK, Rajmatar and Gharki (Sindhi).

MARYAM, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif congratulated the Punjab police on carrying out a successful operation against the dacoits in the katcha area.

The CM paid tribute to Inspector Muhammad Razaq on embracing martyrdom. The CM expressed her heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved family and ordered best treatment for the injured constable.

The chief minister lauded professional abilities of the police force for killing the dacoits of Shar gang.

Fresh spell of rains in Punjab from today

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Wednesday forecast the sixth spell of monsoon rains in Punjab from Thursday (today).

Rains were predicted in various districts of the province from Aug 1 to 6. Most of the districts of south Punjab are likely to face strong winds and thunderstorms during the period.

Monsoon rains are expected in Rawalpindi, Gograwala, Sargodha, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalpur, Lahore, Faisalabad, Sahiwal and Gujrat divisions.

An alert has been issued to the administration.

PDMA spokesperson said the water level in rivers, dams and streams was rising due to the monsoon rains.

He said the river Indus was in low flood at Tarbela and Kalabagh and there could be a moderate to high-level flooding in the river Jhelum at Mangla from Aug 1 to 4.

He said the rain spell would continue until Aug 4 and all arrangements had been completed in vulnerable districts in view of potential flood threats.

PDMA Director General Irfan Ali Kathia said the commissioners, deputy commissioners, Wana, Irrigation Department, Rescue, Civil Defence and other relevant departments should remain alert and complete advance arrangements.

He said the situation was being monitored 24 hours at the PDMA control rooms.

DC given more time to decide on PTI's plea for rally

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Wednesday gave the deputy commissioner more time to decide on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) application for permission to hold a rally in the city.

Justice Muzamil Akhtar Shabbir heard the petition filed by PTI Lahore Vice President Amal Khan Bari.

Assistant Advocate General Sattar Sahil appeared before the court and sought two days for the DC to decide the application of the petitioner.

The judge allowed the request, restraining the government and the police from causing any harassment to the petitioner or his family.

The judge noted that the government needed to make a swift decision on the petitioner's request.

The judge questioned what would happen if the government denied the request a day before the scheduled rally.

The judge directed the law officer to present a report on Friday (tomorrow).

The petitioner's lawyer stated that a similar situation occurred for the Islamabad rally, where permission was not granted at the last moment.

The petitioner had contended that his party wanted to hold a rally at Minar-e-Pakistan on Aug 14 and submitted a request for it, but received no response.

The petitioner assured the court that the rally would be peaceful and in accordance with the law.

He argued that holding rallies was the right of every political party, but the PTI was being deprived of this fundamental right.

—Staff Reporter

MNA in custody of ACE 'kidnapped by armed men'

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: A Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA from Masli Bahadudin, Haji Ijazat Ahmed, who was in the custody of the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE), was allegedly kidnapped by armed men on Sunday night, near Gograwala, on Tuesday night.

The opposition lawmaker was in the custody of the ACE on physical remand in connection with a graft case, facing charges of receiving Rs2 million commission in a development scheme.

Gograwala Headquarter's Circle Officer (CO) Ahsan Haider told Gujrat police that an ACE team had taken Mr Ijazat to Masli Bahadudin for the recovery of the "com-

mission amount" he had allegedly received, adding that a sum of Rs100,000 had already been recovered from the suspect.

However, the CO said, as the ACE team was bringing the lawmaker back to Gograwala on Tuesday night, around a dozen armed men in three vehicles intercepted the official vehicle on new Sheelwal Road, and opened indiscriminate fire.

The CO said that to save themselves from the bullets, the ACE officials left the vehicle to find shelter. Meanwhile, he said, the armed men took away the MNA, who was still in the official vehicle, with them.

Sahil police have registered a kidnap case against unidentified suspects on the report of ACE CO.

Mr Ijazat had been

elected as an independent candidate (backed by the PTI) in Feb 9 polls. Earlier, he had been elected as an MNA for the first time, in 2019 elections.

RAPID: Two minor girls were allegedly raped in an early incident in Kanjoh and Shaboon Chowk police precincts in the district on Wednesday.

A 15-year-old girl was raped by a man of Adawal village in Shaboon Chowk police precincts.

The police have registered a case.

In another incident, a four-year-old girl was alleged to be raped in Kanjoh.

Police say the family of the victim lodged the complaint with Kanjoh police against the suspect.

A spokesman for Gujrat police claims that the both suspects have been arrested.

Bushra moves LHC against arrest in new Toshakhana case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Incarcerated Bushra Bibi, the wife of jailed PTI founding chairman Irtan Khan, on Wednesday approached the Lahore High Court against her arrest in a third case of Toshakhana.

A petition filed through Advocate Sardar Latif Khosa stated that Bushra Bibi and her husband had been granted bail in the Toshakhana case, but they were re-arrested in a new case with a malicious intent.

It highlighted that during the arrest, the female officials abused and humiliated the petitioner in Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi.

She was arrested in the third case without a warrant from the NAB chairman and was imprisoned as an act of political victimisation, the petition added.

The petition asked the court to take action against the jail superintendents and the female officials involved in the assault on the petitioner. It also urged the court to declare her arrest in the third Toshakhana case illegal.

Separately, incarcerated PTI founding chairman Irtan Khan also filed a petition in the LHC seeking details of cases registered against him.



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Officials claim success in talks with Gwadar protesters

Assistant commissioner says BYC has 'agreed to call off' sit-in; says communications to be restored and protesters released soon

By Saleem Shahid



QUETTA: Baloch Yakjeht Committee supporters stage a sit-in on Sarab Road, in front of the Balochistan University, on Wednesday. — Ahsan Ahmed

QUETTA: After days of simmering tensions in the port city of Gwadar, which has remained under a communications and road blockade over the past several days amid protests by the Baloch Yakjeht Committee (BYC), officials claimed a breakthrough in their talks with protesters, led by Dr Mahvaz Baloch.

The government was represented by Balochistan Home Minister Ziaullah Langove, whereas Mahvaz led the BYC side in the talks, which commenced at the DC House in Gwadar on Wednesday.

In a late-night statement, Gwadar Assistant Commissioner Jawad Zohri said that the negotiations between the BYC and the administration had succeeded and the government would release the BYC protesters in light of the dialogue.

He said the government would restore mobile phone services and remove road blockades whereas the BYC would call off their sit-in. He said the National Party, Jamiat-ul-Islami, and Balochistan National Party played a key role in the talks between the BYC and the administration.

However, there was no confirmation from the BYC side, as its leadership could not be reached.

Earlier in the day, protests across the province and roadblocks continued in support of the BYC sit-in at Gwadar's Marine Drive.

Also, there were reports of clashes between the police and protesters in the port city. Officials claimed the protesters ransacked an FIA office and the women's police station, adding that police failed to remove the protesters' camp for the past four days.

The protesters reportedly damaged electricity poles and street lights in the vicinity of the sit-in and the entire area has been plunged into darkness since.

There has been no internet — mobile or landline — connectivity, even though the home minister has been in the city for the past three days. Due to the unavailability of phone and internet services in the city, it is difficult to independently verify most information coming out of the area.

Earlier in the day, MPN Hidayatullah Khan, who leads the Gwadar Haq Do Tehreek, warned he would also join the protest if the government did not take tangible measures to break the impasse.

He said that there was a curfew in Gwadar with nobody allowed to leave or enter the city, adding that people had to arrange air ambulances due to road blockades. He demanded that the government negotiate with BYC leaders and work towards the recovery of missing persons — one of the key demands of the BYC.

Protests across Balochistan

BYC sit-ins and roadblocks continued in different areas of the province, including Gwadar, Turbat, Noakki, Mastung, Kalat, Khuzdar, Awaran, Chagai, Dalgudaha, Kharan, Barkhan, and parts of Lasbela district.

Highways and roads linking Balochistan with other parts of the country were closed at various points, badly affecting the traffic. In Quetta, the Red Zone was completely sealed with containers on the roads leading toward Red Zone because of a rally by the BYC.

The protesters marched at different roads chanting slogans against the government and favour of their demands and staged a sit-in at Assembly Chowk. The police sealed the Red Zone area by placing containers and deploying heavy personnel, leading to severe traffic jam in Quetta.

BYC leaders also addressed a presser in the provincial capital, warning that if the government did not release their comrades they would shut down Quetta and the entire province for an indefinite period.

They urged the mainstream media to report on the current situation in Balochistan, declaring that if the national media remained silent on the prevalent issues in Balochistan, they would boycott it.

Foreign journalist seeking audience with Imran 'deported'

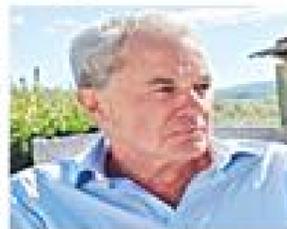
By Iqram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: A British-American author and journalist, who had been trying to secure a meeting with incarcerated former PM Imran Khan, was told by law enforcement agencies on Wednesday that his visa had been cancelled and he had five hours to leave the country.

Charles Glass, 73, is an author, journalist, broadcaster, and publisher who specialises in the Middle East and World War II. He has served prominent media organisations such as Newsweek, ABC TV, and The Telegraph, among others, and currently works as a freelance journalist.

Sources said that Mr Glass, who was recently spotted outside Adiala jail alongside Mr Khan's sister Azeema, was at the residence of Islamabad-based senior journalist Zahid Hussain when they were visited by a large police contingent.

Around noon on Wednesday, a team led by an assistant superintendent of police (ASP) arrived, in-



CHARLES Glass. — File photo

formally saying they wanted to meet the foreign journalist. They then informed Mr Glass that his visa had been cancelled, and after arguing for nearly an hour, the ASP reportedly told the journalist he had to leave the country by 5pm.

"Mr Glass wondered how he would secure a flight and said his baggage is still at [his] lodgings. The ASP offered to accompany him to the

hotel to collect his baggage and informed him that there was a flight to Abu Dhabi available at 4pm, which he should take to leave the country. The ASP said he had a clear order to deport the journalist," sources said.

Sources said that Mr Glass was initially taken to his lodgings to collect his baggage, and then deported to the Middle East.

Shahid Ahsan, a former aide of ex-PM Imran Khan, also mentioned this on social media. "There are reports of the deportation of British journalist Charles Glass who was visiting Pakistan to see @ImranKhanPTI at Adiala prison," he wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Sources said that Mr Glass had been trying to secure an interview with the incarcerated PTI leader, and it was possible that his tourist visa was cancelled because of this.

However, Kohsar 8100 Shafiq Fair denied any such activity within their jurisdiction.

Fair reached out to ICP Ali Nasir Rizvi for comment on the issue, but he did not respond.

Funeral prayers for Haniyeh offered in several cities

Dawn Report

Palestinian embassy in Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: The killing of Israeli Haniyeh, chief political leader of Hamas and former prime minister of Palestine, in Iran attracted strong reaction from across all political and religious parties on Wednesday which condemned the "barbaric approach" of Israel, denounced the world powers support to Zionist state and questioned the silence of Muslim rulers.

As the Jamiat-ul-Islami (JI) sit-in at Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh entered the sixth day, all activities of the day were suspended to mourn the assassination. The party also suspended its activities in Karachi, including the sit-in planned to be staged outside Governor House.

Ji emir Hafiz Naveem Rehman, led the funeral prayer in absence of the Hamas leader, on Liaquat Road. It was also attended by the delegation of

Funeral prayers for Haniyeh were also offered in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta on the call of the Ji chief. Besides, the JUI-F held funeral of the leader in absence in Lasbela.

In Rawalpindi, Mufti Galim Nadeem, Allama Arif Wahidi, Nasir Abbas Sherazi paid tribute to the assassinated Hamas leader and condemned the Israeli attack. They said the Zionist state was even being ridiculed by the people in the West.

Palestine Foundation Pakistan and BSO's Karachi division staged a joint rally condemning Israel for the assassination. Patronage Committee members of Palestine Foundation Pakistan including Dr Saifur Abul Maryam, leaders of JI, MWM, JUP, PFI, PML-N, Awami Tehreek, Human Rights Council, Jamiat Ahle-Hadeeth, Pastor Daniel Nisaj and others attended the rally.

Also, the MQM-P condemned the "Zionist regime of Israel".

MQM-P ready for legal battle to get back UK properties

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has announced that it will move court in the United Kingdom to get back party's properties worth millions of rupees.

"We are going to move the court to get these properties, which basically belong to Shuhada (martyrs) of MQM," said MQM-P leader Farooq Sattar in a press conference on Wednesday.

Flanked by Muttahida chief Khalid Masood Siddiqui, he said the party would fight for rights of its workers and martyrs. The money to be received by selling these properties would be spent for the welfare of party workers, he vowed.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Siddiqui said there was only one MQM in Pakistan and all the properties purchased in the name of MQM belonged to the party.

He said what matters is not the worth of the properties but their ownership, as the same belonged to the party and its martyrs.

The MQM chief said the properties belonged to Shuhada of the party.

"Therefore, we are going to wage a legal fight to get these properties," he reiterated.

He said it was their governing decision that the MQM-P had to link with those sitting in London. "The decision will never change," he remarked.

Altitude sickness claims porter's life on Biafo-Hispar trek

In historic mission, Naila Kiani-led team retrieves body of porter died last year on K2

By Jamil Nigri

GILGIT: A local porter died at Hispar La (Pass) during a Biafo-Hispar glacier trek with a foreign team near Hispar village in Nagar, while a local team of climbers successfully retrieved the body of a porter who perished last year above 8,000 metres on K2.

The porter who died at Hispar La — Chilas resident Rahwan Jan — was part of a 15-member trekking group. According to police, the group began their journey from Askoli in Hispar Valley on July 18.

The Biafo-Hispar trek, considered one of Pakistan's top mountain adventures, is graded extremely strenuous. Trekkers must cross the Biafo Glacier, Hispar La, and Snow Lake.

The trek typically lasts 14-17 days,

depending on weather and hikers' conditions, and is completely isolated with no regular communication.

The group was scheduled to reach Hispar Valley in Nagar district. Police said that after crossing Biafo Glacier, the team reached Hispar La, where Rahwan Jan succumbed to altitude sickness.

Meanwhile, five local mountaineers successfully retrieved the body of a porter who lost his life last year above 8,000 metres on K2, the world's second-highest mountain.

The mission, organised by renowned climber Naila Kiani, involved climbers Dilawar Sadpura, Akbar Hussain Sadpura, Zakir Hussain Sadpura, Mohammed Mirad Sadpura, and Ali Mohammed Sadpura from Skardu. They retrieved the body of Mohammed Hassan Nigri from a height of 8,200 metres between the Traverse and Bottleneck sections of K2 on Saturday.

Naila Kiani said the team started their mission from Camp 3 between Saturday and Sunday. They retrieved the body on Monday and brought it to the advanced base camp by

Wednesday evening. This marks the first-ever rescue mission of its kind on K2 from such an extreme altitude.

"This happens to fall on the very same day that K2 was submitted for the first time 70 years ago," Ms Kiani said in a statement. "The team dug out the body from Bottleneck out of snow on July 20 and reached advanced basecamp at an incredible speed on Wednesday at approximately 6:30pm."

The porter Mohammed Hassan Nigri died last year while fixing ropes for an expedition team. A viral video following his death showed climbers stepping over his body during their ascent push. Ms Kiani credited the mission's success to the heroic efforts of the high-altitude climbers, among others.

Previous attempts to fund such expeditions were prohibitively expensive and lacked approval. By conducting this mission on a not-for-profit basis, the team reduced costs to one-third of the original estimates provided to the Gilgit-Baltistan government. However, sponsorship is still needed to support the humanitarian effort.

Ms Kiani said the rescue mission not only aimed to provide a dignified burial for Mr Hassan but also highlighted the exceptional skills and dedication of Pakistani high-altitude workers.

"It is a critical step towards addressing the gaps in mountaineering education and safety, and it sends a powerful message of the commitment to improving local standards in the industry. Gilgit-Baltistan boasts incredibly strong climbers, but the absence of internationally certified guides and high-altitude workers leads foreign climbers to bring their own guides," she added.

Ms Hassan's death last year sparked a debate among industry professionals about the deficiencies in the country's mountaineering protocols compared to international standards. Reports indicated that despite his critical condition, climbers bypassed him without offering assistance.

The porter, who lacked the necessary experience and equipment, was attempting to support his family financially by undertaking the perilous task.



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MQM's concerns about IPPs to be removed: minister

By Kamal Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday said the government was stable and that there was no need to worry about the current political situation in the country.

Mohsin Naqvi addressed concerns raised by the government's coalition partner, Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) through its main leader and federal education minister, Dr Khalid Mahmood Siddiqui, over the IPP issue, and said that they would be resolved promptly.

Speaking after attending a sports kit distribution along with Mr. Siddiqui at P-6 college, Mr Naqvi said that the MQM concerns would be removed.

He added that the MQM had recently raised the IPP issue with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who in turn discussed it with the Federal Minister for Energy.

The government will address all reservations in the policy regarding IPPs, Naqvi resolved while noting that the PM had initiated a consultation process for the same.

The interior minister stressed that the government is stable and the PM along with his team are working diligently for the progress and development of the country. Responding to a question regarding the founder of PTI, who had stated that he would not talk to Mr. Naqvi, the interior minister said, "Only God knows to whom he would talk and to whom he would not."

Regarding Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) ongoing sit-in and demands including the IPP issue, he stated that the government is actively working to resolve the issue, with a committee already formed for this purpose.

Speaking to the media earlier, the federal education minister said that MQM had reservation over the IPP issue and had informed interior minister of them. The government should take the public into confidence over the issue, he said.

Earlier, both ministers distributed sports kits and track suits among students at the P-6 College. In the ceremony, two girls and two boys were handed track suits while seven heads of schools were given sports kits.

In this drive, the education ministry through the federal government's funds will distribute 20000 track suits to students of primary schools as their admission fees would be provided sports kits for promotion of sports. The education minister said that schools are necessary of sports and the government is focusing to promote sports in educational institutions to restore the glory of sports in the country.

Rauf Hassan among 10 PTI activists shifted to Adiala jail

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Ten activists of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) including its Secretary Information Rauf Hassan arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency under the "Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 (Pecra)" were shifted to Adiala jail on Wednesday.

The FIR was registered with the FIA police station Islamabad against the activists, allegedly involved in "anti-state propaganda".

Besides Rauf Hassan, the PTI media cell members who were shifted to Adiala jail were identified as Ahsan Ali, resident of Islamabad, Hameedullah, resident of Islamabad, Hafiz Mahmood, resident of Rawalpindi, Zohran Farooq, resident of Rawalpindi, Syed Osama Waheed, resident of Rawalpindi, Muhammad Razaq, resident of Toba Tek Singh, Muhammad Rafique, resident of Peshawar, Syed Hamza, resident of Islamabad and Liaquat Ali, resident of Islamabad.

PTI spokesperson Rauf Hassan and other activists were arrested by the Islamabad police on July 22 as the interior ministry accused the party of spreading "anti-state propaganda". Hassan, who was arrested last Monday, was initially placed on a two-day remand, followed by a three-day extension, and then another two-day remand for further investigation.

Judicial Magistrate Shahid Bhatti on Tuesday sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Information Secretary Rauf Hassan and other activists of the party to jail on a 14-day judicial remand.



MANY temples from the pre-partition era still exist in Rawalpindi city. Though they no longer cater to the Hindu community as many have been converted into residences or offices, the temples dotting the city's skyline serve as a reminder of the communities that once thrived here. —Photo by Mohammad Asim

DHA bigwigs in the dock for eating up 'amenity land'

Plea says plots meant for martyrs and differently-abled children converted into residential, commercial land

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: A former administrator of the Islamabad Defence Housing Authority (DHA) has taken the army-run housing scheme to court against the conversion of essential amenity plots into residential and commercial pieces of land.

Retired brigadier Qasim Shafiq filed the petition before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) through his counsel Raja Inam Amoon Minhan, and the registrar's office after the preliminary scrutiny fixed the petition before Justice Mirzaal Hasan Awanagah for hearing on Thursday (today).

The petition claimed that the DHA

management committee had changed the status of essential amenity plots in the Town Plan of Phase 2, DHA Islamabad, which were meant for the welfare of the bereaved families of martyrs, war wounded, differently-abled, and other persons of the defence forces.

The petition said that the DHA management committee was also the beneficiary of the "unauthorised" conversion of amenity land among others.

The petition said that the amenity plots were converted into residential and commercial units "to extend benefit" to the members of the then-managing committee, including the administrator and the secretary. The plea also referred to a similar case of the National Police Foundation where the NPF managing director got residential plots allotted by converting the amenity plot (reserved for a park) into a residential one, turning it a classic case of abuse of power.

The petition stated that 50 kanal on Central Boulevard reserved for a school, including a hostel for special

children, had been converted into residential plots of "unusual size" of 2.5 kanal.

The petition added that almost every plot was a corner plot that was allotted to the senior management of the then-DHA administration at unprecedented subsidised rates.

It said that in addition to the school for special children, a hostel and mess was also planned for the boarding and lodging requirement for the children of bereaved families of martyrs, war wounded, differently-abled, and others.

Likewise, another 31.38 kanal plot meant for a hospital had been converted into commercial and residential units, the petition said, adding that the green belt on Iqbal Boulevard had been converted into 8 marks commercial plots allotted to the senior hierarchy of the management committee.

The petition stated that the area dedicated in the Town Plan of Sector F (Phase 2) for martyrs, war injured, differently-abled and junior ranks had

been redesigned for the allotment of plots to a land providing company, ERIC Pvt Limited, on an occupation model.

It said the company was not entitled to occupation plots, especially in this area where 50pc quota was reserved for the said category.

The petition said the DHA act mandated the authority to adhere to the Islamabad Master Plan and that could not be altered without the approval of the government. The sub-section 5 of the act ensured the minimum quota for martyrs and junior ranks. In addition, Section 21 defines that the provisions of the DHA Islamabad Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.

The aforementioned conditions implied that the DHA Islamabad master plan has to be approved by the CDA as the DHA cannot change it on its own, the petition said, asking the court to set aside the unauthorised amendments and issue directions to the DHA to restore the amenity plots in accordance with the approved master plan.

CPEC transformed Pakistan into attractive investment destination: minister

By Adnan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said Pakistan would have been on the brink of collapse had it not been for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which

turned it into an attractive investment destination.

He was speaking at a seminar titled, 'CPEC 2.0: Prospects and Challenges' organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). The event focused on CPEC, its second phase as well as the emerging opportunities.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Minister Counselor at the Chinese embassy Yang Niao, vice-

minister Dr Ashfaq Hassan Khan, diplomats, academicians and researchers also attended the seminar.

Mr Iqbal said the strong bond of trust and shared vision that existed between China and Pakistan enabled them to overcome initial challenges.

"Now as we enter the second phase of CPEC, the focus will be on industrial collaboration,

regional connectivity and socio-economic development," he said.

The minister went on to say that peace, political stability, continuity of policies and "unity as one nation and one team" were necessary for the success of CPEC.

"CPEC 2.0 aims to enhance technologies, create job opportunities and ensure food security through agricultural mechanisation," he said, adding that "as we embark on this journey, it represents a critical opportunity for Pakistan to build a brighter future for generations to come".

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said the centre of power was shifting from the West to the East.

China is becoming a scientific superpower, contributing 40pc of research in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and establishing top-ranking universities, he said.

Senator Syed said China's diplomacy and role in the world had also broadened, adding that Beijing viewed its relationship with Islamabad as a strategic long-term partnership based on mutual trust and cooperation.

He also spoke about attempts made by hostile elements who wanted to sabotage CPEC.

Yang Niao said the second phase of CPEC was poised to generate new momentum for Pakistan's development, building on the project's success over the past 11 years, which had attracted \$25 billion in investments and transformed the country's economic and social landscape.

"Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders have reached a consensus on advancing integration and enhancing Pakistan's economic and social development through the second phase of CPEC," Yang Niao said.

"Joint efforts would focus on developing Special Economic Zones (SEZs), accelerating project implementation and increasing Pakistan's agricultural exports to China," he added. This, he said, would contribute to both China's modernisation and Pakistan's growth.

Principal and Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities at Nnam Di Ashfaq Hassan Khan

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Integrated Parking Plaza Project UNDER PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODE VIA DESIGN, BUILD, FINANCE, OPERATE AND MAINTENANCE (DBFOM) MODALITY PURSUANT TO THE BALUCHISTAN PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ACT, 2021

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

PROJECT BRIEF The Balochistan Public Private Partnership Authority (BPPPA) intends to engage a private party on Public Private Partnership mode to establish, construct and maintain the Integrated Parking Plaza Project (the Project) in Quetta under the Public Private Partnership Mode via design, build, finance, operate and maintain (DBFOM) modality. Technical details including the project scope can be examined in Volume II of the Request for Proposals (RFP). All stipulated terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall have the meaning given to them in the Request for Proposals (the "RFP").

BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA All interested Bidders shall meet the following basic eligibility criteria for further evaluation:

- The Bidder or if the Bidder is a Consortium (each partner in the consortium) has to be a registered firm / company / partnership firm. The Bidder, in case of a Consortium or Consortium Members, and the proposed contractor must possess valid registration certificate from income tax authority (i.e., the NTN certificate) and relevant sales tax authority, if applicable. The Bidder shall provide copies of the relevant registration/certificate(s), valid NTN and tax returns filed for last three years to be attached and relevant sales tax certificate, if applicable. Foreign entities if participating in the Bidding Process, should submit tax certificate and tax returns filed for last (03) years of their country duly attested by Pakistan Embassy/Consulate in their country. The Bidder shall not: (i) have any Conflict of Interest; (ii) be blacklisted; (iii) have history of non-performance of a contract or any pending litigation representing more than 5% contract (50% of the Bidder's net worth. • The Bidder, or if the Bidder is a Consortium, collectively shall have an average of annual turnover and of PKR 100,000,000/- (Pakistan Rupees Five Hundred Million) only over the last three (3) years audited financial statements. • The Bidder, or if the Bidder is a Consortium, collectively the Consortium members, shall have a net worth of at least PKR 500,000,000/- (Pakistan Rupees Five Hundred Million) only as presented in the most recent audited / reviewed financial statements Bidder (or if the Bidder is a Consortium) to have Minimum 10 Years experience in Infrastructure Construction / Contracting / Operation & Maintenance

PROJECT TERM The term of the Project is structured for an O&M period of Fifteen (15) years with extension of further Fifteen (15) years based on satisfactory performance. For more details of the Project and its scope and duration, please refer to the RFP.

BIDDING PROCEDURE The Bidder will be selected under the Balochistan Public Private Partnership Rules, 2022. The Project's procurement shall be conducted in accordance with open competitive bidding using "Single Stage Two-Envelope Procedure" as per the terms and conditions provided in the RFP. Bidders are requested to submit only one (01) Bid, comprising of one (01) original Technical Proposal, one (01) original Financial Proposal, as well as four (04) hard copies of each, and one (01) soft copy of each (0588) and other supporting documents (as applicable), and as identified in the RFP.

BID SUBMISSION DATE The Bids must be submitted latest by August 19, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. PST at the address mentioned below. **BID OPENING DATE** The Technical Proposals will be opened on August 19, 2024 at the address mentioned below at 11:15 A.M. PST.

BID SECURITY All Bidders are required to furnish a Bid Security (in a separately sealed envelope) equivalent to PKR 10,000,000/- (Ten Rupees Ten Million only).

THE BID SECURITY SHALL BE ENCLOSED IN THE "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" ENVELOPE. The Bid Security shall be in the form of a bank guarantee issued in accordance with the requirements set out in the instructions to Bidders in the RFP or in case of foreign entities from a foreign bank duly certified/ guaranteed by a recognised bank in Pakistan in favor of the Chief Executive Officer, BPPPA. It is mandatory for the Bids to be prepared using the standard formats for Technical Proposals and Financial Proposals, as provided in the RFP. Bids that are not prepared on the prescribed formats or are incomplete in any manner may not be considered for evaluation. The advertisement and RFP document can be obtained from the office of the undersigned or can be downloaded from the website of the Balochistan Public Private Partnership Authority, Government of the Balochistan (<https://bpps.gov.pk>).

EMAIL: proc@bpps@gmail.com, WEB: <https://bpps.gov.pk>

AB No. 124/11-07-2024

BALUCHISTAN PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AUTHORITY
Bunglow No. 41 - A, Jinnah Town, Samungil Road, Quetta, PHONE: 091-929-2048

INVITATION FOR BIDS

OPERATE, MANAGE & MAINTAIN 128 WHOLESALE SHOPS (JULIA MARKET), TRUCK & BUS TERMINALS, TAXI STAND, AUCTION & CARGO SHEDS & COIL STORAGES IN CHAMAN, BALUCHISTAN UNDER PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODE

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

PROJECT BRIEF To promote cross border trade, the Balochistan Public Private Partnership Authority (BPPPA), Government of Balochistan intends to engage private party on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode to Operate, Manage & Maintain 128 wholesale shops (Julia Market), Truck & Bus Terminal, Taxi Stand, Auction & Cargo Sheds and Coil Storages (Chaman Master Plan) in Chaman, Balochistan as per the Balochistan Public Private Partnership Act, 2021. All stipulated terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall have the meaning given to them in the RFP.

BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA All interested bidders shall meet the following basic eligibility criteria for further evaluation:

- The Bidder (in case of consortium, each member) and the proposed contractor must possess valid registration certificate from income tax authority (i.e., the NTN certificate) and relevant sales tax authority (if applicable). The most advantageous bidder must register with the Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) before execution of the contract. In case of company, Form-29 & Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&A) and in case of firm, Form 101 will be required (Mandatory for foreign company).
- The Bidder, or if the Bidder is a consortium, collectively must have at least 10 years of proven experience in Operations, Management and Maintenance for Infrastructure Projects or similar nature of the assignments. (Documentation proof must be provided. Company registration, articles of association).
- The Bidder or if the Bidder is a consortium, collectively must have net worth of at least PKR 300,000,000/- (Pak Rupees Three Hundred Million Only). • The Bidder, or if the Bidder is a consortium, collectively shall have an average annual turnover of at least PKR 400,000,000/- (Pak Rupees Four Hundred Million Only) over the last three (3) years audited financial statements.

PROJECT TERM The term of the Project is structured for a period of Twenty (20) years with possible extension of same period based on satisfactory performance and mutual consent. For more details of the Project, scope and duration, please refer to the request for proposal documents (the "RFP").

BIDDING PROCEDURE Private party will be selected under Balochistan Public Private Partnership Rules, 2022. The Project's procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the competitive bidding using single stage two-envelope procedure as per the RFP. Bidders are requested to submit only one (01) Bid, comprising of one (01) original Technical Proposal and one (01) original Financial Proposal and four (04) hard copies of the Technical Proposal, with one (01) soft copy of the Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal (0588) and other supporting documents (as applicable) and as identified in the RFP.

BID SUBMISSION DATE The Bidders must be submitted by 19/08/2024 at 12:00 PM PST at the address mentioned below.

BID OPENING DATE Bids will be opened on the same day at the address mentioned below at 12:30 PM PST.

BID SECURITY All Bidders are required to furnish a Bid Security (in a separately sealed envelope) equivalent to PKR 2,000,000/- (Pak Rupees Two Million only). **THE BID SECURITY SHALL BE ENCLOSED IN THE "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" ENVELOPE.** The Bid Security shall be in the form of a bank guarantee issued in accordance with the requirements set out in the instructions to Bidders in the RFP. It is mandatory for the Bids to be prepared using the standard formats for Technical Proposals and Financial Proposals, as provided in the RFP. Bids that are not prepared on the prescribed formats may not be considered for evaluation.

The advertisement and RFP document can be obtained from the office of the undersigned or can be downloaded from the website of the Balochistan Public Private Partnership Authority, Government of the Balochistan (<https://bpps.gov.pk>).

EMAIL: proc@bpps@gmail.com, WEB: <https://bpps.gov.pk>

AB No. 124/11-07-2024

BALUCHISTAN PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AUTHORITY
Bunglow No. 41 - A, Jinnah Town, Samungil Road, Quetta, PHONE: 091-929-2048

Controversial elections act amendment rushed through NA panel

Continued from Page 1

held with MNA Raja Iqbal Sharif Khan in the chair. Shahida Akhtar of Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam (JUI) opted to abstain from voting. She, however, observed that such a legislation would weaken the parliament and criticised the government for bulldozing legislation when it wants.

Law Minister Asim Nazir Tarar briefed the committee on the proposed amendment to sections 66 and 106 of the Elections Act 2017 XXXIII of 2017 and insertion of Section 104A in the Act. The amendment aims to provide clarity in the law according to the true spirit of the Constitution, he said.

The minister said that the bill has been designed to explicitly provide for that no independent candidate or candidates shall exercise his/her right to join a political party at a subsequent stage after the period specified for the purpose in the Constitution and Law, and that the voters of an independent candidate were given for joining a political party for the purpose of clause (f) of Article 51 or clause (d) of Article 106 shall be irrelevant.

He said lawmaking is the job of parliament, and courts can only interpret the Constitution. He said parliament can enact a law where it sees its jurisdiction is being overstepped upon and the Constitution is being restricted. He said the bill would remove many confusions.

The defence of a private member bill by the law minister surprised PFI's Ali Muhammad Khan, who sought to know if the government wanted to accept it.

In response to Mr Ali Muhammad's remarks, Mr Kayani — who had moved the bill — said a political party which fails to provide the list of its candidates for reserved seats within the legal timeline loses the right to claim those seats. He said if an independent candidate after his victory joins a political party, cannot join another party afterwards.

Sahibzada Sighatullah asked if it was the decision of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) or somebody else to deprive the PTI of its poll symbol.

Khurram Shabbir Virk was of the view that the bill was not in the interest of institutions and people of the country.

Mr Ali Muhammad asked under which law the symbol of 'Tariq' was removed from the ballot paper. He also asked why the ECP had recognised PTI after the Supreme Court verdict.

The meeting was attended by MNAs Raja Osama Sarwar, Shahid Afridi, Ahmed, Raja Qammar-ud-Din, Mahmood Hashir Virk, Saad Waseem, Khurram Virk, Malik Shah, Naveed Asim, Nikhat Shakoor Khan, Sahibzada Sighatullah, Ali Muhammad Khan, Hameed Hussain and Shahida Begum. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Asim Nazir Tarar, secretary of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and ECP, Additional Secretary Mahmood Ijaz and Joint Secretary Muhammad Aslam from the Ministry of Law and Justice and other senior officers also attended the meeting.



HUB: A part of the Hub River Causeway has been washed away by gushing waters, creating problems for commuters and residents after heavy rains, on Wednesday — PPI

Govt proscribes Gul Bahadur group, Majeed Brigade

Continued from Page 1

at Khawarij.

"Keeping in view the involvement of so-called Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in activities which are detrimental to Islamic faith and which actually are in contradiction to the true teachings and essence of Islam, it has been decided that, henceforth, so-called TTP will be referred to as Firas al Khawarij", a circular issued by the interior ministry, a copy of which is available with Dawn reads.

In addition, all the honorific religious titles such as 'Madr' and 'Hafiz' being used by the people associated with the terrorist organisation shall not be used, instead, their names shall be prefixed with the title 'Khawarij' in all official correspondence and documents. "The change aims to reflect the organisation's true nature and ideology", the circular reads. All government entities have been directed to start the practice immediately.

"This shall also be circulated to all departments and entities under administrative control of federal ministries/divisions and other governments," it reads. Copies of the circular have been sent to all the ministries and divisions and all the

chief secretaries. A copy has also been sent to PM Office.

A senior official, when contacted, confirming the development said the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) has already started using the expression Firas al Khawarij for the banned outfit in its official press releases.

Terming the TTP "Tara", he said the terrorist outfit dissects and misinterprets Islam to justify violence and hatred to advance their nefarious agenda. The Khawarij terrorists, he said, were involved in committing heinous crimes in the name of their so-called jihad. The group has widely tarnished the image of Islam due to their actions.

He said the group continues to engage in terrorist activities and to impose their own brand and version of Islam. He said the TTP terrorists were not only enemies of Islam but also against the people and development in Pakistan. He said the group was consistently working against development projects and the welfare of locals in tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as Balochistan. He said their involvement in targeted killings, suicide bombings, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, drug smuggling, and

repeated damage to government and civilian properties reflected their anti-people and anti-development agenda. He said their opposition to girls' education and attacks on girls' schools were also a conspiracy against Pakistan's prosperity.

He said the TTP terrorists were also playing with the future of youth by recruiting them in the name of Islam and then exploiting young recruits by involving them in activities like extortion, ransom, intimidation, and employing fear tactics for financial gain and power. He said the TTP in fact operates as a puppet in the hands of external forces, and is funded by foreign powers to disrupt peace and create road blocks in the way of development in the country.

"The group's actions, fuelled by monetary support from external sources, is nothing but a betrayal of Islamic teachings, humanity, ethics and morality", the official said. He said the modern weapons and military gadgetry employed by TTP members raise questions about the source of these resources and the luxurious lifestyles some TTP members enjoy in Afghanistan. He said it was clear that their primary objectives were financial gain and influence.

Due dates of July, Aug bills extended after Discos accused of overbilling

Continued from Page 1

over the questions of overbilling and instructions have also been passed to corporate consumers who were already under financial burden because of unaffordable electricity rates. It said all the companies had been directed to adjust their actual bills on pro-rata basis in case of lower meter reading.

In case of consumers who are unable to pay their bills issued on pro-rata basis would not be subjected to late payment surcharge and those who had already paid their bills including late payment surcharge would be compensated through adjustment against LPS, the announcement said.

Nepra also directed the power companies to immediately replace faulty meters to avoid average or estimated billing. Moreover, all companies have also been asked to strictly abide by consumer service manual for meter reading and billing. The companies have also been asked to submit their respective compliance reports to the regulator within 10 days.

Informed sources said that Nepra was separately taking proceedings against power companies under rules that required formal show cause notices and investigations and provide opportunity to the managements of all power companies to fix responsibility on responsible staff and impose fines and other punishments. The bill report is expected to be released later.

In December 2023, too, Nepra had, after detailed investigations, held all the distribution companies responsible for mispractices and over-billing in the provision of electricity.

"There is [not a] single Disco in the country who is charging bills in 100% correct manner," the power sector regulator had concluded in its 14-page report in December.

The previous inquiry was launched after consumers from all over the country complained of "excessive, inflated, and wrong bills" charged by Discos in July and August 2023. The same episode appeared to have been repeated in April to June of this year.

This calls into question the integrity of Discos' entire revenue streams — from meter reading to billing and payment.

The power division had initially rejected Nepra's report last year and appointed its own inquiry committee which upheld the findings of Nepra but overruled management of power companies from mala fide intent.

Responding to Nepra's announcement, K-Electric said it had not received the regulator's report but asked the consumers to contact its customer care centers or use other social media forums to seek assistance in case they were experiencing any issues with their billing.

August begins with a drop in fuel prices

Continued from Page 1

Rs275.60, down 2.2pc or Rs6.37 per litre. In the retail market, petrol would, however, be available for over Rs270 per litre.

The October price of high-speed diesel was slashed by Rs10.86 per litre (3.8pc) to Rs272.77 for the most fortnight compared to Rs283.63 earlier.

Officials said the prices of petrol and high-speed diesel had decreased in the international market by about \$2.5 and \$3.8 per barrel, respectively, in the last fortnight. The average price of petrol dropped in the international market to \$82 from \$85.50 per barrel. The HDN's price also declined to \$93.1 per barrel from about \$96.93.

During the fortnight, the import premium on both petrol and high-speed diesel also declined, it

dropped to \$8.75 from \$9 per barrel on petrol and to \$5 from \$6.50 per barrel on high-speed diesel. On the other hand, the exchange rate movement remained range-bound.

Petrol and HSD prices had increased by Rs7.45 and Rs9.56 per litre on June 30. This was followed by Rs9.99 and Rs6.78 hikes in their prices on July 15. Therefore, petrol and diesel rates cumulatively jumped by Rs17.44 and Rs15.74 per litre in July.

Between May 1 and June 15, the prices of both petrol and high-speed diesel dropped about Rs25 and Rs22 per litre, respectively.

At present, the government is charging about Rs78 per litre tax on both fuels. Although GST is zero on all the petroleum products, the government charges Rs10 per litre PDL on both products.

Nationwide internet disruption hits PTCL users

Continued from Page 1

attributed the disruption to a "fault in the PTCL system", according to a Dawn.com report.

"Internet/broadband users may experience degraded services during peak hours," she said, explaining that the disruption might affect PTCL users and those internet service providers using PTCL's bandwidth.

Services began to normalise by Wednesday evening. However, neither the PTA nor PTCL provided details on the technical problems' causes.

The UK-based global internet monitor NetBlocks confirmed the disruptions, stating that live network data showed national connectivity at just 24 per cent of ordinary levels as of Wednesday noon.

DownDetector, which tracks outages, showed a spike in reported outages of PTCL services from around 1,100pm onwards.

The majority of the complainants, 73pc, reported "internet" problems while 23pc had reported "total blackout".

Cities from where most of the complainants had been reported included Karachi, Rawalpindi, Sargodha,

Lahore, Islamabad and Multan, DawnDetector said.

Senae defers firewall briefing

The Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications on Wednesday postponed the briefing by the IT ministry regarding plans to install a firewall for monitoring social media and decided that the matter would not be discussed in the presence of media.

Chairperson of the Committee, Senator Farooq Khan, interrupted the Universal Service Fund (USF) briefing and requested the shifting of the agenda items related to the installation of a firewall and the removal of licences for Long Distance and International (LDI) operators.

However, State Minister for IT Shahzad Farooq requested that these sensitive matters be addressed in an in-camera session. Despite the briefings being available in digital folders sent by the ministry officials, Ms Fatima requested the committee to defer both subjects to the next meeting.

Speaking to the media outside the committee room, Ms Fatima said firewalls are essential for maintaining digi-

tal security. She claimed that social media is free to operate in the country and there is no restriction of any kind for any platform.

Addressing recent issues with WhatsApp, where users faced difficulty sending and receiving media files via mobile data, Ms Fatima attributed the glitches to system upgrades.

Regarding X (formerly Twitter), she emphasised that the platform must respect Pakistan's laws. "There is no issue with TikTok, Meta or others, but Twitter must respect our sentiment and we will manage it," she added. When asked if the firewall systems had been installed, the minister declined to answer. She also reported reports that the IT ministry was being abolished. "There are 11 subordinate departments under the IT ministry and some of them will be trimmed whereas some needed to be strengthened," she added.

'Govt enhancing internet connectivity'

Avoid the countrywide internet disruptions, Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif announced on Wednesday that the government is taking all-out measures to provide fast and uninterrupted internet connectivity to the public. During a meeting with a delegation from the Asia Internet Coalition led by Managing Director Jeff Payne, the prime minister outlined the government's strategy to attract foreign investment in IT infrastructure.

Discussions covered data security, internet content ethics and the prevention of electronic crimes. PM Shabbaz emphasised the government's commitment to developing an AI-based infrastructure, aspiring for Pakistan to achieve regional distinction in AI.

He said under the Digital Pakistan Initiative, the whole system was being digitised and hoped that the digitisation of the Federal Board of Revenue would prove to be a milestone towards economic digitisation and automation. During the briefing, it was said that consultation with all stakeholders on the draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill was in progress.

The meeting was attended by Ms Fatima, IT expert Tania Aizwan and senior officials.

Public eradication efforts

Later, PM Shabbaz expressed concern over Pakistan not being one of the two countries in the world facing the challenge of polio and directed the authorities concerned to utilise all available resources to eradicate the disease.

In a meeting with a polio eradication team, the premier said every child should be administered polio vaccines, including in areas facing security challenges.

He acknowledged the significant progress made in polio eradication due to the dedication of frontline workers, government determination and partner cooperation. The prime minister was briefed on two, four, and six-month plans, with nine polio cases reported in 2024. Nationwide polio vaccination drives are scheduled for September, October and December.

The premier was informed that digitised data of children missed in previous vaccination drives would ensure their vaccination through digital tracking.

The meeting was attended by Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmed, Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio Eradication Dr Ayeshah Raza Farooq, Secretary National Health Dr Nadeem Makhdoom, and National Coordinator on Polio Eradication Muhammad Anwarul Haq.

NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER REGULATORY AUTHORITY (NEPRA)

POWER WITH SAFETY

NOTICE FOR COMMENTS

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION OF BAHRIA TOWN (PRIVATE) LIMITED FOR GRANT OF ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY LICENCE

Bahria Town (Private) Limited (BTP) has submitted an application for grant of Electric Power Supply Licence for supplying electric power to its residents at Bahria Town Lahore. The application of BTP has been registered for processing.

Introduction of the Applicant: BTP is a Private Limited Company registered under the registration No. L-00003 of 1996-97 dated 14-02-1997 under section 32 of the Companies Ordinance, 1984 (20 of 1984). The Corporate Head Office of the company is located at Bahria Orchard, Bahria Town, Lahore.

Locations: Bahria Town Multan Road Multan Road Lahore Bahria Orchard Bahria Town Lahore

Total installed load requirement: 1. 200 MW - Bahria Town Multan Road 2. 138 MW - Bahria Orchard

Power Source: Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO)

No. of feeders: 80

Number of Connections: 26277 (January 2024)

Consumer Class/Category: 1. Residential A-1 2. Commercial A-2 3. Services 6

Type of Metering System: 1. Single Phase Static Meters 2. Three Phase Static Meters 3. CT Operated MDI Meters

All stakeholders, interested / affected persons and the general public are invited to submit their comments in form / or against the grant of Licence to BTP. The comments shall be submitted to the office of Registrar (NEPRA) within 15 (fifteen) working days from this publication. The application of BTP is available on official website of NEPRA i.e. www.nepra.org.pk/news.php.

REGISTRAR NEPRA
NEPRA Tower, Ataturk Avenue (East) G-5/1, Islamabad
Tel: 9208500 Fax 2600026. E-mail: registrar@nepra.org.pk

Registration of application for grant of Power Supply Licence is not to be construed as approval of Licence by NEPRA. PDC07242724

TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited for the following:

Tender No.	Description	Closing Date/Time
PT080009/24	Replacement & polythene of insulating oils of power transformers at Sui	19 Aug. 2024 1:00 hrs.
PT080421/24	Supply of air-conditioners	19 Aug. 2024 1:00 hrs.
PT080422/24	fittings for open pit at liquid handling facility	19 Aug. 2024 1:00 hrs.
PT080423/24	Miscellaneous spares for AGC (acid instrument & general items)	19 Aug. 2024 1:00 hrs.
PT080424/24	Pre-qualification of suppliers for IFR coveralls	19 Aug. 2024 1:00 hrs.
PT080425/24	Pre-qualification of suppliers for safety shoes	19 Aug. 2024 1:00 hrs.
PT080430/24	Supply of gaskets, repair kit, heater & bolts	20 Aug. 2024 1:00 hrs.
PT080431/24	Spares for instrument air compressor	20 Aug. 2024 1:00 hrs.
PT080441/24	Supply of gaskets, seal mechanical, bolts, ball bearings, pulley etc.	20 Aug. 2024 1:00 hrs.
PT080442/24	Supply of different types of filter elements	20 Aug. 2024 1:00 hrs.
PT080433/24	Spares for gas cooler and air compressor	22 Aug. 2024 1:00 hrs.

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

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

Pakistan Petroleum Limited

"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
(BALUCHISTAN-NORTH REGION, QUETTA)

INVITATION TO BIDS

01X CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT WORK & 01X SPECIAL MAINTENANCE WORK ON N-50

1. National Highway Authority (NHA) invites bids from the contractor, registered with Income Tax Department and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category mentioned in the table with Specialization codes for the works mentioned below:

S/Sl	CONTRACT NO.	DESCRIPTION	RM (Rupees)	Engineer's Estimate (Rs.)	FEC Category/ Specialization
1	CM-5N-2024-25-01	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SUPPLY (TUBE WELL) AND SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM	181 + 000 N-50	9,988,000	C-5 (CE-01 & CE-10)
2	SM-5N-2024-25-01	CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALL	264 + 200 N-50	9,829,200	C-5 (CE-01 & CE-10)

2. Bidding documents, containing method of procurement (Single Stage - Two Envelopes), detailed terms & conditions etc. will be available on the website mentioned below from **August 10, 2024** for downloading free of cost. Prospective Bidders are also advised to follow the said website for updates of schedule and addendums(s), if any.

3. The Bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions provided in the bidding documents, must reach at the address mentioned below, on or before **August 21, 2024 before 11:00 Hours**. Technical Bids will be opened on the same day at 11:00 Hours.

4. This Advertisement is also available on NEPRA website at www.nepa.org.pk

DIRECTOR (MAINTENANCE) BALUCHISTAN-NORTH
National Highway Authority
NHA Complex, Near Wagda Gond Station, Airport Road, Quetta
Phone: 081-9241082 & Email: dirmaint-bn@nha.gov.pk
Website: www.bidding.nha.gov.pk



Haniyeh's murder

THE shocking assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh early on Wednesday in Tehran has plunged the entire Middle East into the unknown, with the threat of a regional conflagration increasingly high. The Palestinian leader was in Tehran to attend the inauguration of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. While Israel has not accepted responsibility for this grievous provocation, there can be little doubt who is responsible. Only a few hours before Haniyeh's killing, the Israelis had bombed a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut, apparently to target a top commander. Following Haniyeh's murder, an Israeli minister 'celebrated' this grim achievement on the social media platform X. The Israelis are playing with fire, and their brinkmanship can push the entire region into a catastrophic meltdown.

With the assassination, Tel Aviv has thrown the gauntlet at Tehran, and it will be very difficult for Iran not to respond to this grave provocation on its soil. Israel has struck one of Iran's closest allies in the heart of the 'axis of resistance'. Tehran needs to conduct a thorough internal investigation to determine just how such a high-profile individual was targeted. This would not be the first time Israel is believed to have struck inside Iran. Top Iranian nuclear scientists and generals have been targeted in similar fashion. However, whatever the investigation reveals, security was recklessly lax, and the Iranians should have strengthened their defences considering the string of previous assassinations. Yet retribution is almost certain. The Iranian supreme leader — who has the final say on all major policy decisions — has asserted, with reference to the Haniyeh killing, that it is 'our duty to avenge his blood'.

Condemnation of the killing has been pouring in from various quarters. Iran's brothers in arms in the 'axis of resistance' — Hezbollah, the Houthis — have slammed the crime, while Russia has dubbed it an 'unacceptable political murder'. China, on the other hand, has said it is 'deeply concerned' while Pakistan has criticised 'Israeli adventurism'. The fact that they have been unable to crush Hamas in Gaza over the last nearly 10 months has led Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabal to destabilise the wider Middle East, violating the sovereignty of Syria, Lebanon and Iran. The only way out of this crisis — and the window for peaceful resolutions appears to be closing fast — is for an immediate halt to the massacre in Gaza. Of course, with the Haniyeh assassination the prospects of a ceasefire appear to have been buried for the foreseeable future. The UN can still prevail upon Israel to wind down its murderous campaign. But in an election year, this will be highly unlikely as both contenders compete for the blessings of the Zionist lobby in Washington. The Middle East will surely be on tenterhooks for the next few days.

Unjust measures

IS it a justified move or a needless provocation? Days after the Supreme Court's order in the reserved seats case prompted several PML-N leaders to cast aspersions on senior justices and threaten repercussions if their government was 'destabilised', a lawmaker from the government benches tabled a bill to neutralise it. Where the order had directed the ECP to restore the PTI and return its share of reserved seats, the bill, which was approved yesterday by a National Assembly committee, says that a political party which fails to submit its reserved seats' list in time should not be given any; that candidates who do not declare their political affiliation to the returning officer should be considered independents; and that no independent should be considered a candidate of a political party even if they file a statement to this effect at a later stage. To top it off, it proposes that these amendments should take precedence over any prevailing court orders.

One must understand the context in which the controversial Feb 8 elections were held while evaluating the government's position. The ECP, over an incorrect interpretation of the Jan 13 verdict in the 'bat symbol' case, had refused to recognise PTI candidates' right to contest the election. Not only did it take away their symbol, it also practically forced them to run as independents. In fact, instances had been reported of ROs refusing to accept nomination papers submitted by those known to be affiliated with the PTI even if they had filed as independents. It is convenient for the government to make a fuss about the timelines which the PTI missed while ignoring the fact that these issues arose largely because of the decisions taken by the ECP. The Supreme Court's recent decision only sets right this 'original sin'. Likewise, the ruling parties were not entitled to the two-thirds majority they were gifted thanks to yet another unlawful decision taken by the ECP. It was an unjust measure and has rightly been overturned. By introducing a legislative bill designed to challenge and frustrate the Supreme Court, the government has only raised more doubts regarding the legitimacy of its power, while also exposing the desperation with which it wants to retain it. It should have been content with keeping its majority and moved on.

Equitable taxation

HERE are two key takeaways from Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb's speech at a business gathering in Karachi on Tuesday: the salaried class and documented businesses are excessively overtaxed; and there is a critical need for effectively taxing the untaxed and undertaxed sectors including agriculture, retail and real estate. "We are at the end of the road. We cannot keep raising taxes on the businesses and salaried class. We need to bring untaxed sectors into the net," he said. Indeed, the salaried class and tax-compliant businesses must get some relief from this unbearable burden. The latest hike in personal income tax rates amounts to squeezing out the last drop of blood from salaried individuals. It is not just income tax that they are paying. They also pay a plethora of indirect taxes and non-tax levies — sales tax on goods and services, withholding taxes, petroleum levy, and what not — on every service and good they buy. The reason is well known: wherever there is need of extra cash, policymakers always target the easy prey — salaried people and documented businesses.

Pakistan has achieved a semblance of macroeconomic stability in the past one year, which must be preserved and deepened to ensure sustainable and faster economic growth if our financial state is to improve. That goal cannot be accomplished unless the state starts collecting taxes equitably from where they are due — irrespective of the source of income. At the same time, the government should take steps to revamp and reform the entire tax administration to ensure that no segment of society has to pay more than what is due. Currently, Pakistan's economy is in a low-growth mode; and any push for accelerating it without creating sufficient fiscal space will result in a deeper and longer economic downturn. Therefore, the minister does not have to be so apologetic about equitably distributing the tax burden across all sectors and segments of the economy.

OPINION

BY ALI TAUQUEER SHEIKH



Policy games we play

The national policy ecosystem hardly aligns with high-profile climate targets.

WHAT do governments fail to do what they say they want to do? Any student of public policy will testify that policy is not what they say they will do but what they actually do. It would hardly be an exaggeration to argue that most social sector policies are aspirational or declaratory; there's little serious intent to implement them.

Hiding behind a tight fiscal space has become very convenient for successive governments. Demands to reduce the bloated size of government and expenditures are deflected by citing the issue of governance and institutional reforms — for which little or no appetite is visible. For many government gains, reform means reorganising ministries, moving them from one to the other administrative divisions, occasionally merging them, or relegating them to the provinces. The absence of political stability and financial resources is typically invoked to delay and scuttle institutional reforms. These are indeed 'good' reasons, but perhaps not the 'real' reasons, or at least not the primary ones for the failure to implement declared policies.

Pakistan's policies can easily be divided into two groups: one, declaratory policies to please the public or international community, and second, a group of policies for which budgetary allocations are made — and released — to systematically remove barriers to their implementation. Social progress or human security have for decades remained on our declaratory policy list, and seldom on our priority implementation list.

Most social sector policies in Pakistan will have long, unperpetrated wishlists, and lack in action plans, timelines, and costing. We can add to this the weak ownership of key stakeholders and its linkages with other sectors and different tiers of government. Climate-related policies in the country are no exception to this general rule.

Climate-resilient and low-carbon development is proclaimed policy, awaiting mainstreaming in the policy landscape. My recent research gave me the opportunity to look at 60 policies governing sectors critical to climate adaptation and mitigation. I have learned that Pakistan has a rich inventory of sectoral policies, but that they are rarely aligned with national and international climate commitments. Sectoral policies set national sectoral objectives and determine the direction for investments. They often recom-

mend specific projects and programmes. With some variations, provincial policies are typically aligned with national policies or priorities.

Some national policies have not been revised since the 18th Amendment was approved in 2010. Likewise, on subjects that are now firmly in the provincial realm, not all provinces have developed their sectoral policies. Countless draft policies are languishing on departmental websites, waiting for a push that does not always come from the federal government.

In fact, sometimes the federal government itself has hindered the development or approval of provincial policies, arguing that in the presence of national policies, the provinces only need action or implementation plans. Now with the provinces being ruled by different political parties, the response to federal policy asks are not uniform.

Of the 60 policies reviewed, only one — the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy (2023) and its action plan (2023-30) — is clearly aligned with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), a commitment Pakistan has communicated to the climate change secretary. Additionally, only three federal policies have referred to the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP): the national water, forest, and food security policies (2018, 2012, 2015). Ironically, all these policies are dated as they were developed before the revised NCCP and NDC were approved in 2021.

Hence, the national policy ecosystem offers a barren landscape of alignment with high-profile climate targets. These are central to Pakistan's global adaptation and carbon emissions reduction commitments. This is not a good omen for a country that seeks to access international climate finance and investments.

In Pakistan, climate-proofing across policies varies by sector. Of the 15 policies highlighted in the latest version of the Pakistan Economic Survey (2023-24), six deal with energy issues, but most of them were approved before the NCCP and NDC were released in 2021. These include the LNG Policy 2011, the National Power Policy 2015, the Power Generation Policy 2015, the Alternative & Renewable Energy Policy 2015, and the National Electric Vehicle Policy 2015. Ironically, another four policies that were

approved subsequently have no reference to Pakistan's carbon emission targets: the National Electricity Policy 2021, the National Hazardous Waste Management Policy (2022), the Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan 2021-30 (2023), and the National Clean Air Policy (2023). A closer review shows that although some of these policies have acknowledged Pakistan's climate vulnerability, almost all have failed to address direct and indirect sector-specific climate risks and threats.

My highlighted policies from various sectors such as energy, transport, agriculture, and industry, that were released after the approval of the updated NDC in 2021, ironically linked specific sections on climate adaptation or mitigation measures as outlined in the NDC. Furthermore, these policies did not explore potential sources for innovative financing, unlike their counterparts in other countries.

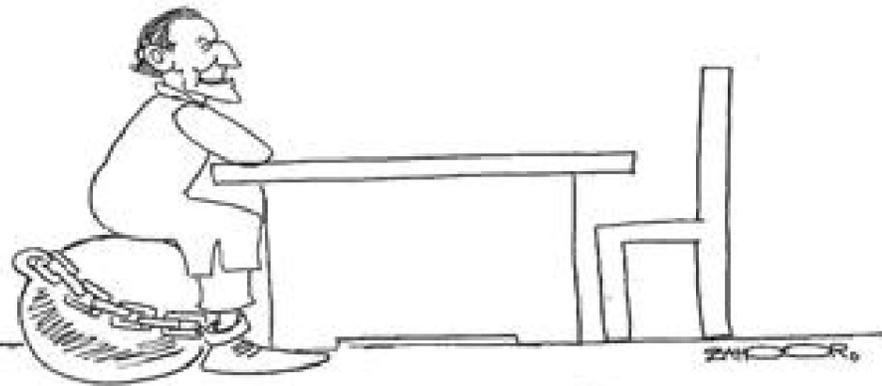
This reflection should not be construed to imply a comment on the quality of the country's sectoral policies, but only to underline the lacuna on how the policy environment in Pakistan is fragmented.

We have all seen how weak institutional frameworks hinder the formulation and effective implementation of policies. The main obstacles to effective public policy development in Pakistan include lack of viable policymaking mechanisms, governance deficits, elite capture, and the absence of public input and oversight. This has led to challenges in coordination and consistency across different levels of government. These elements contribute to a dismal track record in public policy formulation and implementation.

Perhaps the most serious public policy challenge in Pakistan is the system's inability to act and correct itself. Presently, it is willing to go to any lengths to avoid responsible action and reform. One of the most important contributions of the SICs is that they have provided a guide on how to think about the linkages between various sectors — they are not simply a fancy and colorful list of targets and indicators for various sectors. Clearly, Pakistan needs to spend its policy environment.

The writer is an Islamabad-based climate change and sustainable development expert.

IMRAN SIGNALS WILLINGNESS TO SIT DOWN WITH MILITARY



BY KHURRAM HUSAIN

Re-profiling Chinese debt

THERE was one line in Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb's remarks last Monday that caught my eye. In his press conference on that day, he announced that Islamabad is seeking the re-profiling of \$27 billion worth of debt owed to China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE; as per a news report.

He did not bring up the subject of debt re-profiling himself, preferring to focus his remarks on less sensitive matters such as how the tax burden should and will have to be borne. But to the question and answer session, multiple reporters asked pointed questions about his visit to China, and he slowly divulged the contents of his discussions there.

He landed in China one week ago, and on the day he arrived Reuters ran a report saying he was there to seek debt relief. The only official comment at the time was a finance ministry statement asserting that the minister would inform the Chinese side about Pakistan's reform agenda, the tax and energy-related steps it was going to take under the IMF programme whose staff-level agreement was signed a few weeks ago.

But on his return, it was confirmed that the matter was raised, and a few details trickled out. When he was asked specifically about the amount of debt he is asking to be re-profiled, he demurred at first, but then, when pressed, said "it is a manageable amount" and "let me tell you who the partners are; they are Saudi Arabia, UAE and China".

In time, we learned the amount is \$27bn; the figure was carried in the headlines the next day. This comes more than a month after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited China and met President Xi Jinping himself, along with a large number of other officials. They had discussed that visit as seeking some sort of revival of CPEC, but years truly had written back then that its real purpose seemed to be to seek debt relief of some sort under the IMF requirement. That was one month ago.

Now comes the key part. In his Monday presser, Aurangzeb stated that the Chinese side said that discussions need to take place between the gov-

ernment of Pakistan and the project sponsors of the Chinese power producers. He added that the real problem for the Chinese side is not so much the debt whose repayments are either being made or being rolled over. The real problem is the return on equity guaranteed under the contractual terms to the sponsors of the power projects, which "because of our FX situation, right now we are behind schedule".

He said the government will now start talks with the project sponsors, as well as financial market players, especially the People's Bank of China, and they will hire a local adviser to help structure their approach. He also talked about a Panda bond, and confirmed that a local adviser

More than a month after the prime minister's visit, they are only at the beginning of the process.

for floating a Panda bond had already been retained. An obvious question arises, and let's acknowledge it tangentially before getting to the real point: why would anyone want to own a Pakistani Panda bond when the government is, at the same time, acknowledging that it is struck with FX shortages and needs to reschedule existing liabilities?

However, for now just note the following. More than a month after the prime minister's visit, they are only at the beginning of the process. I was under the impression that by now they would either have sealed some agreements, or at least made enough headway to be able to announce something concrete upon their return. But no, he returned to announce that now they are ready to begin the process. They will now begin to hire the advisers. They will now begin to approach the project sponsors. And they will now begin to structure some sort of proposal

around which to build their approach and pursue an agreement. Yes, they have, after all this time, resolved the beginning.

Make no mistake, this is being done at the behest of the IMF, even though the Fund will officially deny that it is forcing the government to undertake these re-profiling actions. Money given by the IMF cannot flow to China in the form of dividend payments for Chinese project sponsors. It is now quite clear that this has been communicated to the government by the IMF; they would not take this step on their own.

So now we have a bit of a problem, and hopefully they will be able to solve it quickly. It seems they have to reach an understanding with the Chinese project sponsors, as well as the central banks of China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE on re-profiling the maturities that will be falling due during the programme period (three years from board approval). They should be able to manage the central banks, but talks with the project sponsors to re-profile the return on equity can take longer.

Meanwhile the clock is ticking. Some sort of agreement must be reached before the staff-level agreement can be forwarded for board approval at the Fund. If the talks with the project sponsors drag out too long, the projections around which the agreement is built could become outdated.

We can only hope that from here on the matter will progress smoothly and an agreement with the Chinese project sponsors will be reached within this month. If the matter lingers, and let me be clear that I am not saying it is inevitable that it will drag out, the risks to economic stability will be great. I am not sure how much room the Fund has to show leniency here. My understanding is room for such leniency has shrunk since the spring meetings in April this year, when the Fund was specifically instructed by the US Treasury to "be willing to walk away if a country will not take the needed steps".

The writer is a business and economy journalist. khurram.husain@gmail.com
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OPINION



BY F.S. AIJAZUDDIN

Raining athletes

THE opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympics in Paris was like baking a soufflé in the rain. Even French expertise could not make it rise.

The French, defying convention, decided not to hold the inaugural ceremony in a stadium. They used the Seine, its ornate bridges and the iconic Eiffel Tower instead. The French should have considered the British. In 2012, they ignored the Thames. Rain has rained many a royal wedding.

A century has passed since Parisians last hosted the Olympics. In 1924, 3,089 athletes took part, of them 2,954 men and 135 women. In 2024, there are 11,040 competitors, half of whom are female.

Athletes compete as countries and also as members of National Olympic Committees. This year, there are 206 such NOCs — an increase from 192, which the IOC will decide which country to admit and which to punish.

The Olympics imitate the power politics of the US. In 1964, South Africa was excluded for its apartheid against blacks. In 1972, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) was excluded for its racist policies. In 2000, Afghanistan was excluded from Sydney for its misogynist policies.

In both 2016 and 2020, the IOC banned Russian athletes from competing under their national flag because of 'doping violations'. In 2024, Russia and Belarus have been banned over the war in Ukraine. However, their athletes can still compete as 'neutral athletes', under a neutral flag.

Moscow, Noto and its allied countries suffer no such restrictions. Ukraine — their battlefield — has sent 140 competitors. Israel entered in Gaza in fielding 88 competitors, the State of Palestine eight. Even the athletes have been admitted. The IOC has allowed 37 athletes to compete as a Refugee Olympic Team.

It would be a simplification to call the Olympics the Olympic motto (Faster, Higher, Stronger — Together) carries any meaning. The Olympics remain a white man's Colosseum, albeit with an increasing number of black gladiators.

The majority of the Summer Olympics have been held in white countries — in Western Europe, the US, Canada, and Australia. Four Summer Games have been hosted in yellow countries (all in East Asia), three have been hosted in Eastern Europe, and two in Latin America. Black Africa has yet to host any Olympics.

The first black Olympic George Pongwe won two bronze medals in the St Louis Olympics, 120 years ago. In Berlin 1936, Jesse Owens won four gold medals. Hitler chose not to meet Owens. In 1960, an Ethiopian Abebe Bikila (the son of a shepherd) started the world by winning the

marathon (running barefoot). He repeated his success in Tokyo 1964.

Today, colour is no longer a badge of nationality, nor gender a divider of sex. (Some liberal Parisians were shocked at the tableau of drag queens performing a parody of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper.) One needed the stamina of an Olympian to watch the opening ceremony (it spanned four hours) until its shimmering finale at the Eiffel Tower, where the Canadian chevronne Coline Dion sang Edith Piaf's signature Hymne à l'Amour.

In between, about 30,500 international athletes with their supporting team officials waved national flags in a musical armada that crisscrossed slowly down the Seine. From a bank, viewers were entertained by Lady Gaga performing Mon Trac or Phare in a flurry of pink ostrich feathers, reminiscent of the legendary chevronne Mistinguett.

Other distractions were a frenetic group of Can Can dancers ending with spins, and a team of spirited dancers splashing merrily (like the cast of *Brave*) in a fountain.

Frankly, some of the images were horrific — multiple cases of a decapitated Queen Marie Antoinette framed in the windows of a public building, or famous portraits half-submerged in the Seine. The surrealist artist Salvador Dali would have loved these.

To be fair, there is only so much you can do with a river of flowing water, just as a Son of Lumiere using the flood-lit pyramids at Giza offers limited options.

Pakistan's less participation in the Olympics is a triumph of private enterprise over public neglect. In 1960, 1968, and 1984, we won the gold in hockey. For the past three Olympics, we failed even to qualify. As in our politics, we no longer play team sports.

This year we have seen seven self-motivated athletes in Paris. The talented javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem (27); the sprinter Faiza Rizvi (24), sharpshooters I. M. Rashid (37), Gullam Joseph (24), and Kifayatullah Talat (22); and two mirror swimmers Johanna Naza (20) and Ahmed Durran (18). They are old enough to compete, and young enough to succeed in future Olympics.

They owe nothing to the state. Over 245 million Pakistanis owe everything to them — for loving our country, despite what it is. ■

The writer is an author. www.fsaizuddin.pk



BY SYED SHEHERYAR RAZA ZAIDI

Parallel tracks

A HIGHLY polarised nation is in the throes of one of its most divisive election campaigns. One candidate is on the wrong side of 70 and the other is backed by the incumbent in power. The candidate mentioned first has not only recently survived an assassination attempt, he has also been convicted on charges of a personal nature that he denies. Yet, most signs point to a victory for this candidate, who has already had one crack at power. At the same time, he is the one who many observers believe caused irreparable damage to his country's international relations when he was in power.

The irony is that this description of the erratic American presidential candidate Donald Trump can very easily apply to Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan. The two men, despite being geographically apart, seem to be on similar trajectories.

When Imran Khan was in power, he and then president Trump had a public spat on the online platform Twitter. Back then, it appeared that Pakistan would be headed in the direction of fractured relations with the US as long as these two men were at the helm of affairs. Yet, we soon saw Trump and Khan give a display of public bonhomie, with the latter visiting the US at the invitation of the former and coming back to lead tandem, reminiscent of the time when he had lifted cricket's holy grail.

Those were the good old days as far as the two were concerned. Since then, one of them lost a hotly contested election to President Joe Biden, while the other first lost a re-election vote, leading to his ouster, and then "lost" a disputed election, despite the widespread public adulation for him. What struck on both Trump and Khan, however, was the "anti-establishment" tag — largely because both individuals have had a hard time accepting their fate and continue to challenge established norms, even if it means calling into question national elections.

Donald Trump at the time of his ascent to power had witnessed an almost meteoric rise. Ramping on the back of his notorious television appeal and the fanfare associated with it, he built an almost cult-like following of individuals who even today are ready to back him despite all odds, forgive him for the gravest of gaffes and overlook all his faults. All because Trump has carefully cultivated an image of himself as the only saviour who can make his nation great again. Compare this with the high regard that the supporters of Imran Khan hold the PFI leader in. An icon for his supporters, Khan may have enjoyed excellent rela-

tions with those at the helm of affairs once, but now stands for all things anti-establishment.

As fate would have it, both found themselves facing various dates in courts, having to defend themselves against charges of misuse of authority, mishandling of state documents/secrets among others. While legal challenges for opposition leaders is not a new phenomenon in Pakistan, as far as the US is concerned, the barrage of legal challenges faced by Trump is unprecedented. Whether such charges have any basis in reality or are an attempt to undermine a worthy opponent are questions best left to the courts to answer.

Yet, what sets Trump, the presidential candidate apart from Pakistan's incarcerated former prime minister — notwithstanding the recent favourable court decisions in the latter's case — is his ability to still have his skin in the game. For all of the alleged skeletons in America working overtime against Donald Trump, the former president enjoys the backing of a lopsided supreme court, which has recently ruled in favour of a partial immunity for former US presidents in matters related to the exercise of their professional duties while in office. As such, despite being convicted on 34 charges by a court in New York state, Trump is still legally empowered to run for president.

A lot can be said about the justice system in the US and Pakistan and how Pakistan often finds itself having to face a lot of back-peddle for the supposedly ineffective way its courts operate. Nothing quite exemplifies this like the fate of the two leaders in Pakistan and the US.

One despite being convicted finds himself free to conduct his electioneering, appear on television, take part in debates and ride high on the back of the inflation-bait incumbency of the Democratic presidency.

The other finds himself incarcerated for convictions and allegations, kept so far away from the public's eye that he now captures their imagination. Whether the two men can come back to power remains to be seen, but that their ideas are here to stay is not for argument anymore. ■

The writer is a lawyer. [X: @sheheryarzaidi](https://www.facebook.com/sheheryarzaidi)

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Leaders, men surrender

KHUZDAR: Twenty-one heads of armed groups operating in the nearby Jhalawan Hills, this morning (July 31) surrendered before Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who described their decision as "correct and in the national interest." "Had this decision been made earlier, the entire problem could have been settled long before," Mr Bhutto told the surrendering leaders, mainly belonging to the Mirajal tribes. These heads have surrendered along with 200 of their followers. The ceremony took place in the lawn of the Circuit House. ... As the Prime Minister came out ... the group ... stood up and he shook hands with each one of them. Witnessing their decision to surrender, [he] ... made it clear that those who come down from the mountains would not be molested.

[Meanwhile, as reported from Nushki] Prime Minister Bhutto disclosed at a ... public meeting ... that during his recent visit to Bangladesh he was virtually "under duress". He had expressed his desire to meet the people, go to hotels for food or tea. None of it was permitted by the Mujib Government on the pretext of "danger to my life". Even after Mr Bhutto told his counterpart in Bangladesh that he feared no danger to his life, his desire was not fulfilled. — News agencies

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

Pakistan's export trade

KARACHI: Pakistan must quickly switch over her export trade to the dollar earning areas in order to ensure a steady flow of capital goods which she needs for her development. This view is expressed by commercial circles in Karachi. The need for such a switch-over has become greater after the London financial talks between the Commonwealth countries.

Pakistan is in a good position to do it now that she has completely regained her trade and can afford to plan her exports and imports without disturbing her economy.

While India's problem is to "export more or die", Pakistan has to judiciously select useful markets for export of her essential raw materials. At present, India and UK are the two countries which import the bulk of Pakistan's raw materials. The other customers are USA, France, Belgium, Italy and other Western countries. Pakistan enjoys favourable balance of trade with hard currency areas, but this is not enough to meet her import requirements from these countries. As a first step, exports to these countries will have to be stimulated. — Staff correspondent

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.

Out of the frying pan into the fire



WITH increasing demand for solar energy equipment as people are switching over to alternative energy sources, fake energy companies dealing with solar installations are out to fleece the public in Karachi. With K-Electric (KE) getting unscrupulous with every passing day and solar fraudsters having a field day, middle class families are finding themselves caught between the devil and the deep blue sea.

These 'solar companies' mostly operate virtually and do not have any physical office. An acquaintance recently decided to install a solar system at home and engaged one such 'company' through Facebook. The 'marketing director' of the 'company' visited the home and finalised the deal. More than 50 per cent of the total cost was paid in advance, and efficient installation was promised. The 'company' did start the work, but soon afterwards the 'owner' disappeared and did not respond to the various phone calls of the client.

The fake companies are dealing in groups, which are not registered with the Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) of the Ministry of Energy, and, therefore, do not have the relevant licence to install solar systems.

Those who plan to take the re-emerging route here to face even more trouble as it entails electrical wiring and KE approvals as well. The solar gangs are operating through third party vendors in this scenario. Most of the solar companies are unregistered. They are fake entities and freely indulge in fraud.

As such, a friend recently suffered from a breach of agreement with one such 'company'. When he tried to lodge a complaint with the local police station, he was told that the case was not worthy

enough. When he argued, he was simply told that the matter did not fall under the jurisdiction of the local police station.

Those planning to install a solar system must survey the market for rates, check the prices of inverters, ensure that the company is PPIB-certified, and avoid advance payment. Otherwise, running away from the clutches of KE might lead to even more trouble, making it a case of being out of the frying pan into the fire. The relevant government agencies should also keep an eye on the market to curb prevalent fraudulent practices.

Muhammad Hassan Abbasi
Karachi

White elephants

THE current government has expressed the intention of winding up certain government departments that are doing nothing, are a burden on the national exchequer, and their duties can be taken over by some other departments that are currently under-utilised. While the government may have its own list of such entities, there are others that must also be considered in the same vein.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra), for instance, is one such organisation that deserves urgent attention. As I see it, the main duty of Nepra is that of a 'middleman'. It just gets requests from distribution companies, like, say, K-Electric (KE), for increase in power tariff, and the authority either 'slow deliberations' makes some changes and accepts their demand.

Came to think of it, such a job can easily be done by our businessmen who successfully bargain with shopkeepers, who cleverly ask for double the actual price and settle for less. They both live happily thereafter. It is only the husband who suffers just like the consumer suffers as Nepra and KE bargain, settle and live happily thereafter.

Besides, another such department is the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemptra) whose job is to carry out the instructions passed on by the government. That being so, why can the government not do it directly?

There are several of other such entities in the public sector that thoroughly deserve immediate government attention. One hopes that they will get what they deserve.

Malik of Qadhoos
Karachi

Another crisis?

A MONUMENTAL verdict given by the Supreme Court in the case related to reserved women's seats has altered the dynamics on the political chessboard. Many have been left wondering how a verdict can be announced in favour of a

political party whose main objective has always been to destabilise the country for its own vested interests.

The verdict in the case was announced with an 8-5 majority. With as many as five judges on the bench arriving at a different conclusion on the basis of the same set of constitutional and legal provisions that were available to the other eight, the judgement, many believe, sounds more like a 'democratic verdict' than 'legal'. Others believe it indicated a 'victory' of the political cult that has been destabilising the country for a while now, and there is no apparent sign of change in its plans.

Is this political cult not waging a war against state institutions, and maligning the security establishment for its petty political gains? Is this political cult not sowing the seeds of hatred and division in society, further polarising an already polarised nation? Is this political cult not putting the national and security interests at stake by lobbying through foreign firms for mounting pressure on the government in Pakistan? Did the followers of this political cult not vandalise and ransack state and security installations? There are many more such questions that are agitating many a mind.

I would suggest that accountability must be held without any loss and favour, and whoever has been involved in destabilising the state must be tried in the courts of the law and taken to task.

Sajjad Khan Rizvi
Peshawar

Exorbitant bills

THE recent surge in water bills is very alarming. While we, the residents of Upper Mall Scheme in Lahore, surely understand the need for sustainable water management, the current situation is becoming increasingly burdensome for the entire community.

The Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) has approved a significant increase in the water tariff for domestic users in Lahore, leading to higher costs for the people. Despite this steep rise in bills, the water supply has remained limited to three times a day. The area residents are grappling with both higher costs and insufficient supply for their daily needs.

Wasa authorities need to reconsider the tariff hike and ensure that it aligns with the actual water supply frequency. Transparency in billing practices is essential, and the people deserve clarity on how their bills are calculated.

The management of Wasa should take notice of the challenges faced by the local residents, and address the issue promptly. The community deserves regular and affordable access to potable water without compromising the financial stability.

M. Abid Hafiz
Lahore

Increasing tax revenue

THE challenge of collecting agriculture tax is a significant one for the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). However, overlooking this issue and failing to find an effective way to collect tax from the farm sector in the country any further would be like committing economic suicide, as the sector contributes a substantial portion of the economy.

One potential solution for collecting agriculture tax from farmers could be adapted from the current model that is used by retailers who obtain CNIC copies from consumers when purchases exceed Rs25,000.

As such, in the agriculture sector, a similar method could be implemented with a focus on pesticides, which is a core



input. Pesticides are essential for every farmer, and their regular purchase offers a viable point of taxation.

The FBR should implement a system where CNIC copies are obtained from those who purchase pesticides above a certain predefined threshold. The data collected through the process could provide insights into the projected yield of each farmer. Based on this data, a fixed tax could be applied and collected accordingly.

Moreover, while the collection process may initially face some challenges due to corruption as well as lack of direction, systematic and consistent collection of data could eventually lead to a more substantial revenue stream for the government. Over time, as the data pool grows and the system becomes more refined and effective, this method could significantly enhance tax collection from the agriculture sector. Finally, this will contribute to the overall economic stability and growth of the country.

Ahmer N. Jafarizadea
Karachi

► **A HIDDEN GEM:** Kullbar, a river in southern Balochistan close to Aqaba, is a great picnic spot that many people do not know about. The people of Aqaba are active, genial and hospitable. However, many of them have migrated to other cities due to the absence of basic facilities. The place does attract visitors, mostly couples on their honeymoon. The place has everything that nature could give, but nothing of what humans were expected to provide. It has a river and a pleasant air range, but no infrastructure that may facilitate the visitors. **Nagina Wad Baloch**
Turbat

► **SALES TAX:** I recently purchased a blood pressure monitor from a local outlet. The bill showed the cost of instrument to be Rs4,100, and Rs725 were added as sales tax. My understanding was that sales tax should be paid by the seller, not by the buyer. However, it is recovered from the buyer. Why? This tax should either be paid by the seller out of their sales profit, or it should be removed as 'purchase tax'. Only then its recovery from the buyer would make some sense. **M. Masud-Ahmed**
Karachi

► **GILGIT-CHITRAL EXPRESSWAY:** The multi-billion-rupee Gilgit-Chitral Expressway has been under construction for more than two years now. Area people have been raising their voice against the change in the original design of the road at the behest of some influential people having a stake in the project. The expressway is considered a tourist corridor and a game-changer. It is high time the relevant authorities made some necessary intervention. **Aggar Ali Shamsoon**
Jirral, Gilgit

► **SIGNAL OUTAGE:** People in Kohla district have been facing a number of challenges related to communication and business activities due to fluctuating cellphone signals. Over the last six months, things have gone from bad to worse. The relevant authorities should take immediate action in this regard. **Muhammad Shauq**
Kohla

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

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Pacts can't be revisited forcefully, says Nepra

Advises Discos to adopt latest technologies for survival

By Khaleeq Kiari

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Wednesday expressed concern over a negative campaign against investment contracts in the power sector and warned that distribution companies might face an existential threat if they do not adopt emerging new technologies.

"You cannot forcefully revisit contracts. It has repercussions and costs in the future," Nepra's Member Law Amira Ahmed said at a public hearing on the application of Rs2.63 per unit additional fuel cost to consumers of all Discos on account of electricity consumed in June.

She said the situation was different when contracts were signed with independent power producers (IPPs). "That is a closed transaction," she said, adding that if someone considered it a mistake, then it should be settled in the first place that it was a mistake, and then a request could be made, but legally, you cannot open these transactions."

She argued that a proper study should be conducted to reform as most of the generation plants were owned by the government. Mr Ahmed said many of Pakistan's current problems are caused by violation of contracts against contractual obligations.

Nepra's Member Technical and Consumer Affairs Rafique A. Shaikh also criticised certain media outlets for stalling economic in power contracts of some of the IPPs despite the fact that nothing would be paid to these plants except the electricity units they provide to the grid on a 'take & pay' basis. They do not involve capacity payments, foreign exchange or other costs except energy price per unit and were allowed extension only for technical reasons without any adverse impact on tariff.

Chief executive officer of Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) Rehman said a small IPP had become the subject of criticism for extending its generation licence, although it had a valid implementation and power purchase agreement until 2031. The extension in the generation licence had "no tariff impact, was not operational, and was under scrutiny."

Mr Shaikh emphasised that the regulator was uncomfortable with high consumer tariffs, but this was linked to the unfavourable macro-economic conditions the country is currently facing.

He said Discos could have closure if they don't adjust to ground realities and emerging technologies like solar power, developments in storage batteries, the growing Competitive Trading Bidding Contracts Market (CTBCM) and free rooftop solar plants being provided by the Sindh and Balochistan governments.

Nepra's Member Tariff and Financials Mithun Niaz Raza said new power contracts should not be signed for 25-30 years as the electricity market rapidly changes annually and every five years.

Nepra Chairman Waseem Makhdar advised the power companies to conduct a detailed study on the number of industries installing up to two-megawatt solar plants inside their premises and using grid power only for backups.

He pleaded for Rs2.63 per unit additional fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for all the ex-Wajuda Discos to contract about Rs14.38 billion more from consumers in the next billing month for electricity they consumed in June.

He said the CPPA had originally sought Rs2.10 per unit additional FCA for June consumption, with an additional fiscal impact of Rs27.5bn.

President to consult businessmen on IPPs

ISLAMABAD: As the citizens grapple with contribution electricity bills, a high-level business delegation will meet President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday to discuss concerns of the business community over independent power producers' (IPPs) excessive capacity charges and their far-reaching impact on the economy and the general public.

The delegation of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, headed by Chairman Economic Policy and Business Development, Think Tank Golzar Ejaz, will brief the president on IPPs' capacity charges. He will be accompanied by 45 presidents of different chambers of commerce and industries.

The PPMCI has already announced challenging the agreements with IPPs in the Supreme Court.

Golzar Ejaz said a detailed report on the IPPs will be shared with the president.

According to the report, Pakistan's power generation capacity stands at 41,500MW, with 52 per cent of the plants held by the government, 28pc by the private sector, and 20pc by foreign investors. All IPPs operate on a 'take & pay' basis, which means they will get full capacity payments even if they do not produce electricity. According to the report, government plants operate at 33pc capacity and charge Rs950 billion per year, whereas private plants operate at 29pc capacity and charge Rs1.15tr per year as capacity payment.

The report said all consumers — domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural — pay extraordinarily expensive electricity costs ranging from Rs65 to Rs80 per unit.

They are seeking capacity payments based on the actual electricity produced, at a rate of Rs8 per unit, rather than the installed capacity, which is Rs24 per unit. — Mubarak Zeb Khan

US DOLLAR BUYING: 282.79.37 SELLING: 282.90.90	EURO BUYING: 2300.36 SELLING: 2302.79
GBP BUYING: 2326.89 SELLING: 2329.37	SAUDI DIRHAM BUYING: 36.75.77 SELLING: 36.76.55
INDIA RUPEE BUYING: 26.74.01 SELLING: 26.74.60	GOLD 24K: 24253.500 10 GRAMS: 2427.335

July collection exceeds target by Rs3bn

Rs78bn refunded to exporters in first month of FY25

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: The federal revenue collection during the first month of the current fiscal year (FY25) exceeded the target by nearly Rs3 billion, driven by a significant increase in imports, according to provisional data released on Wednesday.

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) collected Rs809bn in July against the projected target of Rs785bn. The July collection also showed a 22 per cent growth compared to Rs654bn in the same month last year.

In the budget for FY25, the government projected a collection target of Rs12.9 trillion, more than 41pc higher than the collection set for FY24.

The government believes that the automated revenue collection will be Rs1.1tr in FY25.

At the same time, the FBR estimates that the new revenue measures will generate up to Rs2tr in FY25. In FY24, the FBR collected Rs9,205tr against the downward revised target of Rs9,252tr. The budgetary collection target for FY24 was projected at Rs9,415tr.

To facilitate exporters, the FBR paid Rs78bn in refunds in the first month of the current fiscal year against Rs49bn over the corresponding month last year, an increase of 59pc.

Income tax collection stood at Rs284bn in July 2024 against Rs294bn over the corresponding month last year, indicating a growth of 20pc, mainly because

of a massive increase in income tax rates for salaried and non-salaried individuals. Sales tax collection reached Rs256bn in July 2024 against Rs232bn over the same month last year, an increase of 26pc, mainly because of withdrawal of exemptions on several products, including stationary, milk products, etc.

The collection of customs duty

stood at Rs2bn in July 2024 against Rs27bn in the same month last year, showing an increase of 13pc, mainly because of a double-digit growth in imports of goods during the month under review.

The collection of federal excise duty showed an increase of 22pc to Rs37bn in July this year against Rs31bn over the same month last year. The government has also increased the rate of TTD on several products in the budget.

An official announcement said the FBR has established a provision start for FY25 regarding the revenue collection by putting in an outstanding effort to achieve the monthly tax target despite all the economic challenges faced by the country.

The performance of FBR amidst the current financial and economic difficulties reflects unwavering dedication of the tax officials to achieve the assigned target for the current financial year, it added.

FBR chairman asks govt to replace him

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Anticipating the government's dissatisfaction with his performance, FBR Chairman Zafar Tiwana wrote a letter to the federal government requesting to be replaced by a new chairman.

He was appointed to the position by former finance minister Ishaq Dar.

Mr Tiwana managed to retain his position during the caretaker government's tenure, but his fortunes changed when he allegedly began assigning

poor performance grades to his senior colleagues. This grading system led to the removal of some senior tax officers, who were subsequently placed on the list of officers on special duty. The final straw came when the prime minister reportedly awarded him during a visit to the FBR for withholding information about digital reforms in the customs department.

According to the FBR, Mr Tiwana will continue to serve as chairman until the government appoints his replacement. The government has already initiated a search for a suitable candidate to fill the position.

Highest profits repatriated to UK in FY24

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: The United Kingdom, not China, received the highest amount of profits and dividends on foreign investments in FY24, showed State Bank of Pakistan's data on Wednesday.

China has been in the media regarding profits of independent power producers (IPPs) as a solid resistance from all sections of Pakistani society has emerged against the staggering capacity payments to all IPPs.

The SBP data showed that the profit outflow to the UK was \$5584 million and that to China \$490m in FY24. In the preceding fiscal year, the outflow to the UK was just \$20m and China \$83m.

In FY24, almost a quarter of the total profit and dividends were repatriated to the UK, while China stood fourth. The profits outflow on foreign investments was restricted to \$131m in FY23 against a record \$2.115 billion in the ongoing fiscal year.

The second-highest amount was repatriated to the UAE, surging to \$27.9m in FY24 compared to a meagre \$14.8m in FY23. The UAE has the biggest investment in Pakistan's banking sector. The sector's profitability almost doubled in calendar 2023 over the preceding year.

China and the UAE have provided additional help by keeping billions of dollars in the State Bank account to boost the dwindling foreign exchange reserves. Pakistan is negotiating with China and the UAE to re-schedule loans.

Other countries also see significant profits repatriated from Pakistan's foreign investments in FY24. The Netherlands received \$240m, the USA \$128m, France \$108.8m and Kuwait \$96m.

The SBP allowed most of the repatriation in the second half of FY24.



SECOND-hand clothes meet the needs of the poor. — Dawn/Ina

Recycled clothing booms

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has emerged as a leading destination for imported second-hand textiles that are being recycled and sold in high-end markets, contributing to create a more sustainable economy.

This emerged in a seminar on "Circularity and Used Textiles Trade in Pakistan: Policy and Practice for Sustainable Development", on Wednesday. The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), in collaboration with the European Union (EU) and United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP), organised the seminar.

UNEP's Trade Policy Unit Chief Aneel Nagevi said second-hand textiles are important for the poor masses and small and medium enterprises and value chains that are around it.

It is the perfect example which is creating harmony among resource efficiency and environment, social economic side, and poverty. The textile sector will grow globally, and Pakistan can grab a significant share which can be possible through public finance or private financing in the textile sector.

SDPI Executive Director Dr Ahsan Saeed said importing, sorting and resale of imported textiles is promoting the local industry and is creating employment. Second-hand textiles are being refurbished and sold in the ports markets

of Islamabad, and this programme will contribute greatly towards the green economy, he added.

EU delegation's head of cooperation to Pakistan Jerome Williams said "Pakistan is among the top importers of such second-hand textiles. In the EU, there is a notion of 'Fast Fashion' in which on average people discard a shirt after using it seven times. Resulting in a huge waste of many resources."

Mr Williams said that some 12.6 million tonnes of textile waste is produced in the EU every year. He added that the EU is developing rules regarding effective sorting of clothes that are to be reused or recycled.

National Security Division Joint Secretary Nazma Sheikh said textile circularity has great significance to Pakistan. "The world is changing around us and the climate crisis is making the industry rethink traditional modes of consumption and production."

She said the EU is encouraging nations to help make the region climate neutral by 2050. "Pakistan exports 68 per cent of its textiles to the EU. The circularity can extend the life cycle of a product in situations of crisis and limitations in resources and create job opportunities for the community in a sustainable and environmental friendly manner," she added. — Mubarak Zeb Khan

Fed leaves rates unchanged

WASHINGTON: The Federal Reserve held interest rates steady on Wednesday but moved it for down to reducing borrowing costs as soon as its next meeting in September as inflation continues coming in line with the US central bank's 2 per cent target.

"There has been some further progress toward the Committee's 2pc objective," the central bank's Federal Open Market Committee said in a statement at the end of a two-day policy meeting in

which it kept its benchmark overnight interest rate in the 5.25pc-5.50pc range, but also set the stage for a cut at its Sept 17-18 meeting, just seven weeks shy of the Nov 5 US elections.

While Fed officials are wary of any actions that could mar their data-led policy approach to ending monetary policy, the steady drop in inflation in recent months prompted a broad consensus that the inflation battle was near an end. — Reuters

Stocks fall below 78,000 on dearth of triggers

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: The stock market on Wednesday remained under selling pressure for the second consecutive session post-SBP policy rate cut, dragging the KSE index below 78,000 on a host of negative factors.

Ahsan Mubashir of Arif Habib Corporation said stocks closed sharply lower on investor concerns about SBP Global Keeping Pakistan's ratings unchanged at CCC+, citing reliance on foreign assistance for debt obligations, political risks to the economy and structural reforms.

He said the falling rupee, political tension and protests over rising industrial power tariffs also contributed to the bearish close.

Topline Securities Ltd said the market witnessed a volatile session amid grow-

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

GAINERS		LOSERS		LEADERS*	
Aestia Pakistan	112.70	Unilever Foods	312.14	WorldTel Telecom	81.16
Muhammad Textile	37.18	Sapphire Fibres	98.99	Kulhnan Spinning	34.69
Pakistan Tobacco	21.28	Rafhan Meats	65.00	TPL Properties	19.69
AKD Hospitality	18.14	Sugger Eng	48.96	Engro Fertilisers	13.22
Lemon Pak Galatone	14.40	Philp Morris	43.78	Fajr Fertiliser	10.46

INDICATORS	Monday	Tuesday	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points)	77,985.89	76,698.81	▼ 1,287.08
KSE 20-SHARE INDEX (Points)	26,887.46	26,309.11	▼ 578.35
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	18,267,630	18,464,918	▼ 87,288
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	64.88	67.68	▼ 2.80

ing economic uncertainty. However, major positive contributions to the index came from Fajr Fertiliser,

Engro Fertiliser, Engro Corporation, Pakistan Tobacco and Nestle Pakistan, cumulatively

adding 90 points. On the other hand, United Bank Ltd (UBL), Systems Ltd, Lucky Cement, Oil and

Gas Development Company and Pakistan Oilfield came under selling pressure, taking away

321 points. UBL posted consolidated earnings per share (EPS) of Rs12.1 in 2Q2024, along with an interim cash dividend of Rs11 per share. Engro Fertiliser also announced an EPS of Rs1.25 and declared an interim cash dividend of Rs3 per share for 2Q2024.

As a result, the benchmark index hit an intraday high of 79,151.82 points and a low of 77,800.12. However, the index extended its overnight downturn and lost 241.82 points or 0.34pc to settle at 78,628.83 on a day-on-day basis.

The overall trading volume rose 22.20pc to 382.52 million shares. The traded value, however, dipped 16.90pc to Rs46.65tr on a day-on-day basis.

Foreign investors remained net sellers as they offloaded shares worth \$0.79m.

Four killed in US 'defensive' strike in Iraq

Central Command says drones targeted Hashed Al Shaabi — an alliance of pro-Iran former paramilitary groups

BAGHDAD: US forces carried out a "defensive" air strike on combatants who were allegedly attempting to launch drones that were deemed a threat to American and allied troops, a US official said.

Iraq condemned the air strike, describing it as a "war crime" that could have "dangerous" consequences amid ongoing talks on the future of the US-led coalition in the country.

The strike — which Iraqi sources said left at least four people dead — was the first by American forces in Iraq since February, when the US military said it killed a pro-Iran commander who was involved in an attack on the country's troops.

"Tonight, US forces in Iraq conducted a defensive air strike" in Babylon province "targeting combatants attempting to launch one-way attack unmanned aerial systems", the US defense official said.

The official added that the Central Command assessed that the drones "posed a threat to US and coalition forces". "We maintain the inherent right to self-defense and will not hesitate to take appropriate action," the official added.

The Hashed Al Shaabi — an alliance of pro-Iran former paramilitary groups that have been integrated into Iraq's security forces — said apparent missile strikes fired from drones hit two Hashed patriots in Babylon province. An official from the alliance said that "four people were killed and others were critically wounded". A security source confirmed the toll.—AFP



THIS picture shows the aftermath of an Israeli military strike on a building in Beirut's southern suburb, on Wednesday.—AFP

Body of top Hezbollah fighter found in Beirut as fears of wider war grow

Tel Aviv says its strike 'eliminated' Shukur, blaming him for carrying out an attack on the annexed Golan Heights

BEIRUT: The body of top Hezbollah commander Foad Shukur was recovered on Wednesday from the rubble of an Israeli strike in south Beirut a metre close to the group said, as fears mounted of a wider war.

The raid on the Beirut suburb, an overcrowded residential area that is also a Hezbollah bastion, killed five civilians — three women and two children, according to Lebanon's health ministry.

Lina Khatib, an associate fellow and Middle East expert at Chatham House, said: "Even if the actors involved do not intend for all-out war to break out, every escalation increases the risk of things spiralling out of control."

The source, who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, said "Shukur's body has been found under the rubble of the targeted building," after Israel's military said it had killed the commander on Tuesday.

Photographers saw remains coming through the rubble almost immediately after explosions rocked the Lebanese capital on Tuesday evening. The Israeli military said its strike had "eliminated" Shukur, who it blamed for carrying out a weekend rocket attack on the annexed Golan Heights that killed 12 children in a Druze Arab town.

Hezbollah has denied responsibility for Saturday's deadly rocket strike on the Druze Arab town of Hajjat Shams in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, though the Iran-backed group blamed multiple strikes on Israeli military positions that day.

The Israeli army has described Shukur as Hezbollah's "most senior military commander" and "right-hand man" to the group's chief Hassan Nasrallah.

Army chief Israel Halutz said on Wednesday that Israel would "not let the situation return to having (Hezbollah) present on the border" where there have been near-daily exchanges of fire between the group and Israel.

Ahead of the strike, Hezbollah evacuated some of its positions in southern and eastern Lebanon in anticipation of Israeli retaliation.

Earlier on Wednesday, Hezbollah confirmed Shukur was inside the targeted building but said his fate was still unknown. Hezbollah said in a statement that "the great pharisee commander brother Foad Shukur (Hajj Matar) was present" in the targeted building with rescue teams "working... to remove the rubble... and we are still waiting for the results of this operation regarding the fate of the great commander".

Hundreds of mourners on Wednesday chanted "death to Israel" and "America is the Great Satan" at the funeral of siblings Amira and Hassan Fadlallah, the two children killed in the raid.

At the procession in southern Beirut, some carried photographs of the two dead siblings while others held up Hezbollah's flag. "I feel very angry because the... lives of our children are becoming very cheap," said Aya Ahmed, 18, a friend of the two killed children's mother. "Every mother now is thinking I could lose my children in any moment because the Israelis have a license to kill," said Ahmed.—AFP

Netanyahu says Israel 'delivered crushing blows' to its enemies

JERUSALEM: Israel "delivered crushing blows to all our enemies", Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday, explicitly mentioning the killing of Hezbollah leader Foad Shukur in south Beirut.

Netanyahu's televised statement lasted for approximately five minutes and did not make any reference to the killing of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. But he said that had Israel succumbed to pressure for ending the conflict in Gaza it "would not have eliminated Hamas leaders and thousands of terrorists".

He directly referred to Tuesday's killing of Shukur in a southern Beirut neighbourhood. "We've eliminated (Hezbollah chief Hassan) Nasrallah's right-hand man, who was directly responsible for the massacre of children," Netanyahu said, in reference to the killing of 12 children over the weekend in a strike Israel has blamed on the Lebanese armed group.

"We have settled our scores with Mohamad and we will settle our scores with anyone who harms us," he said using Shukur's name to govern. "Anyone who kills our children, anyone who assassinates our citizens, anyone who harms our country — their head is marked for a price." Hezbollah has denied responsibility for the attack on Israeli-annexed Golan Heights on Saturday. "If we had listened to these voices, we would not have eliminated Hamas leaders and thousands of terrorists... we would not have destroyed terrorist infrastructures... we would not have created the conditions that bring us closer to an agreement that will allow both the liberation of all our hostages and the achievement of all the war's objectives," he said.—AFP

Israeli strike kills two Al Jazeera journalists

DOHA: Two Al Jazeera journalists were killed on Wednesday in an Israeli strike in Gaza, the Qatar-based channel reported as the cross-rage in the Palestinian territory. "Al Jazeera Arabic journalist Ismail Al Ghoul and his cameraman Sameh Al Refea have been killed in an Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip," the network reported adding the strike "targeted a car near the Aisha area, west of Gaza City".

Since the start of the conflict, Al Jazeera has aired criticism on-the-ground reporting on the effects of Israel's campaign. The network's office in Gaza has already been bombed in the conflict and two other correspondents killed. In a statement, Hamas condemned the killings as a "business crime" which it said was "aimed at terrorising and silencing" Palestinian journalists as they reported "the ongoing genocide against our people in the Gaza Strip for nearly ten months".

Al Jazeera has been the focus of months of criticism from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government. Last month, an Israeli court confirmed it had extended a ban on the network, which broadcasts in Arabic and English, initially placed on Al Jazeera in early May.

Al Jazeera's bureau chief in Gaza, Wael Al Dababneh, was wounded in an Israeli strike in December that killed the network's cameraman.

His wife, two of their children and a grandson were killed in the October bombardment of central Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp. His eldest son was the Al Jazeera staff journalist killed in January when a strike targeted a car in Rafah.—AFP

Ex-BBC presenter pleads guilty to indecent child pictures charges

LONDON: Former BBC TV news presenter How Edwards, a 62-year-old man in Britain, pleaded guilty on Wednesday to three counts of making indecent pictures of children.

Edwards, 62, who was the BBC's highest paid journalist and top news anchor until he quit in April, arrived at London's Westminster Magistrates' Court wearing sunglasses through a throng of photographers and camera crews. After confirming his identity, he was asked if he wished to indicate a plea to the three charges, which relate to three different categories of indecent images. Edwards said "Guilty".

Judge Paul Colquhoun said Edwards would be sentenced on Sept 15.

During the 25-minute hearing, prosecutor Ian Hope said the 41 still or moving images had been sent to Edwards by an adult male on WhatsApp between Dec 2020 and Aug 2021.

Hope added that seven of the 41 images were of the most serious kind and that two of that seven were pornographic videos of a child possibly aged seven and nine years old.—Reuters

Palestinians detained by Israel subjected to 'torture', says UN

GENEVA: Palestinians detained by Israel during the Gaza conflict have largely been held in secret and in some cases subjected to treatment that may amount to torture, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

Since the October 7 Hamas attacks, thousands of Palestinians — including medical patients, residents and captured fighters — have been taken from Gaza to Israel. "Usually shackled and blindfolded", the OHCHR UN human rights office said in a report. Thousands more have been detained in the West Bank and Israel, it added.

"They have generally been held in secret, without being given a reason for

their detention, access to a lawyer or effective judicial review," OHCHR said.

The report was released the day after Israel's military police questioned and drove arrested on suspicion of sexually abusing a Palestinian detainee. At least 53 detainees from Gaza and the West Bank have died in Israeli detention since the Gaza conflict began, the report found.

Testimonies for the report suggested that Israel had subjected prisoners to "a range of appalling acts, such as water-holding and the release of dogs on detainees", UN rights chief Volker Turk said.

The report covers October 7 to June 10. It relies primarily on information gathered through interviews with released

Palestinian detainees and other victims and witnesses of violations, OHCHR said.

The report said there were "countable grounds to believe" that since October 7, Israel and Palestinian armed groups had "committed gross violations and abuses... of the rights to life, liberty and freedom from torture and other ill-treatment". These included the use of "rape and other forms of sexual violence," warning the abuses may amount to war crimes.

Resides calling for the abuses to cease, the OHCHR urged all parties to "immediately end all forms of arbitrary detention, including the holding of prisoners". Turk called for the immediate release of all

prisoners in Gaza, and said all Palestinians arbitrarily detained by Israel must also be set free.

"Secret, prolonged incommunicado detention may also amount to a form of torture," Turk said.

"Burst with cigarettes"

The report said most Palestinians held since October 7 have been detained "without charges or trial". Many released Palestinians reported treatment "including severe beatings, electrocution, being forced to remain in stress positions for prolonged periods, or waterboarding".

The report said detainees had been subjected to blackmail, "being burnt with

cigarettes, and given hallucinogenic pills". A host of studies by rights groups and UN agencies have condemned conditions in Israeli prisons as well as Hamas's treatment of detainees.

Amnesty International said this month it had documented 27 cases of Palestinians, including five women and a 14-year-old boy, who were detained by Israel "for up to four and a half months" without being able to contact their families.

According to the Prisoners Child, a Palestinian rights watchdog, about 9,600 Palestinians are currently in Israeli jails, including hundreds under administrative detention where they can be held for long periods without charge.—AFP



KARAGANDA (Kazakhstan): Students attend a lesson in Kazakh language. More than three decades after independence following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the tide is turning in favour of national languages in countries of Central Asia, which were once part of the USSR.—AFP



NEWSMAKERS



A VIEW of Nasa's artificial Mars.—Picture courtesy The Economic Times

One year on 'Mars': inside Nasa's ultra-realistic isolation study

WASHINGTON: Sealed inside a habitat in Texas and cut off from the outside world for over a year, Kelly Hanton was the commander of a first-of-its-kind simulation for Nasa to prepare for a future mission to Mars.

From conducting mock "Marswalks" to tending to a vertical garden, and occasionally grappling with boredom — Hanton expressed pride in advancing the cause of space exploration while admitting the experience made her reconsider the reality of life on the Red Planet.

"Going to space would be an amazing opportunity," the 51-year-old biologist said. "But I would say that it would be harder having experienced this, to know how it feels to leave your people." The overarching goal of the experiment, called CHAPEA (Crew Health and Performance: Exploration Analog)

Mission 1, is to better understand the impacts of isolation on a crew's performance and health.

The project lasted 128 days and concluded in early July. After all, a round-trip to Mars could easily take more than two years, factoring in the transit time of six-to-nine months and the time Nasa hopes to spend on the planet.

For Hanton, the hardest part was clear: "I could have been in that habitat for another year and survived with all of the other restrictions, but your people — you miss your people so much." Communications with the outside world were delayed by twenty minutes each way, simulating how long it takes a radio signal to travel between Earth and Mars.

They wore also some limits on sending and receiving videos, to account for bandwidth restrictions.—AFP



THIS unrelated photo released by North Korea's Central News Agency on Wednesday shows an aerial view of flooding after record-breaking heavy rains near Sinpo, a city in North Pyongan province.—AFP



PARIS: Passengers wait for their train departures at Gare de Lyon train station as most trains were cancelled due to bad weather, on Wednesday. Traffic was disrupted on the south-east line, which links Paris to Marseille, Montpellier and Valencia, following a power failure in the 'Yonne' region linked to storms.—AFP



Four security men martyred in Pishin, Khyber attacks

Attacks carried out at midnight on check posts of Levies and KP police

By Saleem Shahid and Ibrahim Shiwari

QUETTA/KHYBER: Four personnel of law enforcement agencies were martyred while a traffic police constable sustained gunshot wounds in armed attacks in Pishin and Khyber districts of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, officials said on Wednesday.

Pishin was rocked by two gun attacks within a span of eight hours, which claimed the lives of two Levies officials and left the traffic police constable wounded. The attackers used automatic weapons on the night between Tuesday and Wednesday to target a security check post in the Mithani area of Pishin district, police said. The Levies personnel, Yasin Alyan and Abdul Qadoor, sustained martyrdom in the shooting, the officials said, adding that the security personnel rushed to the site and shifted the bodies to district hospital.

The second attack in Pishin was carried out just within a span of eight hours while officials were engaged in initial investigation and arrangements for the funeral of the martyrs. Armed men riding motorcycles targeted a traffic policeman performing his duty at Jan Adha area of the busy Pishin Bazaar. The constable, who received multiple bullet injuries, was immediately shifted to Pishin district hospital. Officials said a search operation was

launched in Pishin and surrounding areas to trace out the elements involved in the armed attacks.

Pishin Deputy Commissioner Jinnah Ishaq Khan Marikhotail and other senior officials, meanwhile, attended the funeral of the Levies personnel, who were later buried in a local graveyard with full official honours.

Three killed in Khyber

Another midnight attack on a check post, this time in the Landi Kotal area of Khyber district, claimed the lives of two policemen and a civilian, besides leaving a police official and several others injured, officials said.

They said an unknown number of militants opened fire on the Chawwagal check post, situated on the main Turkhan Highway, near the Landi Kotal army camp. They said that police sub-inspector Alamzeb Afridi and constable Sher Alam along with a civilian Naib Shah were martyred on the spot, while the official in charge of the security post Karamdar Afridi and a watchman of a nearby patrol pump received injuries in the indiscriminate firing.

Police officials said that after the retaliatory firing by the police present at the check post, the attackers managed to escape.

A contingent of additional police force immediately reached the spot and conducted a search operation. Besides the increasing patrol, the injured police official and civilian were then rushed to hospital in Peshawar for treatment.

The main road leading to Turkhan, however, remained open on Wednesday morning with.

Funeral of both policemen and a civilian were later offered at Turans ground.

US visa applications 'may break all records' this year

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: The US visa officers in Islamabad and Karachi were processing more than 10,000 applications a month and the appointment waiting time has also been reduced by almost half compared to last year.

A senior US embassy official informed the media here on Wednesday that the number of visas issued from offices in Islamabad and Karachi reached the highest level in 2023.

He said the number will surpass in the ongoing US fiscal year that ends in October 2024.

The official referred to a crisis-like situation in September 2023 when the visa appointment waiting time peaked to 400 days, adding that after a number of measures taken by the embassy, the appointment waiting time has now been reduced to 237 days.

However, he said, visas are issued within five days after the interview if the relevant officer was convinced.

The official said that the delay in the visa applications processing time was because each application is treated individually and evaluated independently.

The figures available at the website of the US government show that a total of 102,183 non-investigation visas were issued from Pakistan during the fiscal year ending in October 2023, compared to 72,092 visas issued in the previous fiscal year.

The official said that due to the high number of applications, the highest-ever visas were issued last year and the number is expected to increase in 2024.

The official said the US visa section gives priority to students.

However, the official declined to inform journalists about the visa application rejection rate and the total number of applications received at the visa sections in Islamabad and Karachi, as the grounds that such data was not made public.

Due to the high number of demand for US visas faced by the US embassy at the Karachi consulate in September last year, the embassy announced several measures and enhanced the visa processing capacity at the two centres.



SOUTHPORT: Police officers stand guard outside the Southport Islamic Society Mosque on Wednesday, a day after clashes triggered by a deadly knife attack.—AFP

UK braces for more violence after stabbing sparks riot

Supporters of far-right English Defence League are suspected to have orchestrated serious violent disorder for several hours

SOUTHPORT: UK police mobilised on Wednesday to prevent a repeat of overnight violence in which dozens of officers were injured, following the mass stabbing at a Taylor Swift-themed dance party that killed three children.

Morayside Police chief Serena Kennedy said her force was "absolutely primed" for further possible disturbances in Southport, northwestern England, after Monday's knife rampage targeting children prompted Tuesday evening's clashes.

Supporters of the far-right English Defence League (EDL) are suspected of having travelled from outside the area to the seaside town near Liverpool to orchestrate several hours of serious violent disorder.

A 100-strong group attacked police and properties, throwing bricks at a mosque and setting vehicles and other things on fire.

Police say 53 officers were wounded, at least eight of them seriously, and that they had arrested four suspects.

The scenes of violence have been widely condemned with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer vowing that those responsible would "face the full force of the law".

During a visit there on Wednesday, Kennedy said her officers were "well prepared" and had had "sufficient resources".

But she added: "The people who

turned up last night were isolated very quickly and it very quickly escalated." Acknowledging commentators in Southport were "really worried" about further disturbances, she added that Morayside Police would continue to be supported by other regional forces.

That would ensure "that we don't see a repeat of last night", she added.

False information

Officers have been granted new temporary powers to disperse any crowds that attempt to gather in the area later on Wednesday.

The violence erupted shortly after a vigil was held in the town centre, where hundreds fell silent in tribute to the victims of the stabbing attack that also critically injured five children and two adults.

Police have said they are not treating it as terror-related.

Few details have emerged about the suspected attacker, other than that he is 17 years old and born in the Welsh capital Cardiff. His parents were from Rwanda, according to the BBC.

Police have been granted more time to question him. He cannot be named because of his age.

Hours after the attack, unverified information about the suspect's background began spreading on social media.

Far-right influencer Andrew Tate had posted a video on social media, viewed by nearly 15 million people, blaming the stabbing on an "illegal migrant".

The Muslim Council of Britain said the Islamophobic backlash started with a false online remark posted by misinformation from a Russian news site, wrongly associating the crime with Muslims.

"At a time of great tragedy, loss, and mourning, we must stand firm against the cynical forces of hatred

and division," MCB secretary general Zera Mohammed said.

Morayside Police's assistant chief Alex Cox said there had been "much speculation and hypothesis" about the suspect while "many people who do not live in" the local area had participated in Tuesday night's violence.

"What did we do to deserve this? We've already lost our children," 53-year-old Suzanne Jordan, owner of a store that was vandalised, told AFP.

"Our community's grieving, how dare they come here to our town and do this? It's disgusting, it's really disgusting," Shadow interior minister James Cleverly urged the government to respond "hard and fast" to the disturbances and online misinformation.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner suggested the government may "be looking at" whether to proscribe the EDL under anti-terror laws.

The young victims of Monday's attack were named the following day.

Nine-year-old Alisha Deshvi Agarwal died in hospital early on Tuesday, police said, after Bebe King, six, and Elio Dea Staromaha, seven, died on Monday.

Agarwal was the daughter of Portuguese parents from Madras. Her family said in a tribute: "Keep smiling and dancing like you have to do our princess." Police said the two wounded adults had been trying to protect the children.

Tributes have been paid to the lawyers of dance and yoga teacher Laurence Lannin, who was one of them injured.

US pop star Swift said she was "completely in shock" over "the loss of life and innocence, and the horrendous trauma inflicted on everyone".—AFP

Another plot to assassinate Sikh activist unearthed

By Our Correspondent

WASHINGTON: Canadian authorities have uncovered a previously unknown plot to assassinate a Sikh activist on North American soil, according to reports from US media on Wednesday.

Recent reports from various US and Canadian media outlets highlighted a Nov 5, 2023, police raid in Brampton, Ontario, which resulted in the arrest of five men on firearms charges.

The arrests occurred just a day before the son of a prominent member of the Sikh independence movement was to be married in the Toronto suburb city. Several well-known activists, including New York-based lawyer Gurbaj Singh Parmar, were expected to attend the wedding.

The accused include Swaranpreet Singh, 21; Jitender Singh, 21; Maninder Singh, 22; and Rameshpreet Singh, 30. The fifth individual, Amandeep Singh, is also charged in connection with a killing that Canada has directly linked to the government of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to the Canadian Beyond Casting Corporation (CBC).

Amandeep Singh was arrested four and a half months after the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Sikh Canadian activist and president of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia. Nijjar, a leading advocate for Sikh independence, was shot dead in the parking lot of the gurdwara on June 18, 2023.

Bloomberg News reported on Wednesday that Indian and Canadian intelligence officials have met multiple times since the arrest to

exchange information, as more arrests have come to light, potentially pointing to Indian involvement in yet another assassination plot.

New information about the plot has reportedly led to the departure of additional staff from India's external spy agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). These departures follow the earlier exit of an officer deployed by India as a liaison agent involved in a failed scheme to murder Parmar in New York.

However, the Bloomberg report clarified that the

five men arrested in Brampton have not been charged with conspiring to kill anyone at the wedding, and the gun charges have not yet been proven in court. The report did note, however, that the timing of the arrests and the expected presence of Parmar at the wedding "raise the possibility that he was a target".

Parmar ultimately declined the wedding invitation at the last minute. In an interview with Bloomberg, he expressed frustration with Canadian authorities' silence on the matter. "By not uncovering or by not disclosing, they are letting the Indian agents operate with impu-

nity in Canada. They feel there are no consequences for the crimes they are committing," Parmar said.

Last month, Nikhil Gupta, the alleged intermediary in the plot to kill Parmar in New York, was extradited from the Czech Republic to the US to face charges.

The Indian government, which has designated both Nijjar and Parmar as terrorists, denied any involvement in the assassination plots. Both men have long maintained that they advocate for an independent Sikh homeland known as Khalistan through peaceful means.

Indian and Canadian intelligence chiefs have reportedly held at least two meetings in a third country to share information, while Canada's national security adviser has engaged in a series of discussions with India's high commissioner in Ottawa, according to the report.

The Canadian government declined to comment in detail due to the ongoing court case involving Nijjar's murder.

"Canada is a rule of law country, and the protection of our citizens in Parliament. Canada has consistently called on India to work with Canadian authorities on this investigation," Jean-Sébastien Gagnon, spokesman for Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc, said in a statement.

India's Ministry of External Affairs did not respond to an email seeking comment. Last week, a spokesperson for the foreign ministry accused Canada of adopting "different yardsticks" for enforcing the law after police arrested two men over online threats against PM Justin Trudeau.

However, the official declined to inform journalists about the visa application rejection rate and the total number of applications received at the visa sections in Islamabad and Karachi, as the grounds that such data was not made public.

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"At a time of great tragedy, loss, and mourning, we must stand firm against the cynical forces of hatred

Excessive force leading to unlawful killings in India: UN panel

By Aruna Iqbal

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Human Rights Committee has expressed concern over the use of excessive force in "disturbed" territories in India, leading to unlawful killings.

The UN committee, in a report released this week, noted that certain provisions of India's Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) and counter-terrorism laws do not comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The committee expressed alarm over the prolonged application of these laws in "dis-

turbed areas" such as districts in Manipur, the occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Assam.

It noted with concern that this extended enforcement has led to "widespread and severe human rights violations, including excessive use of force resulting in unlawful killings, prolonged arbitrary detention, sexual violence, forced displacement, and torture".

Highlighting discriminatory practices in India, the panel urged New Delhi to take decisive action to end violence against minority groups and in occupied territories.

The committee advised Indian authorities to adopt "comprehensive anti-discrimination laws" and to enhance efforts to raise awareness about these issues.

The report highlighted the ongoing issues faced by Indian Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, scheduled castes and tribes, and LGBTI individuals, calling for urgent action to address these concerns.

The committee suggested providing tar-

geted training for civil servants, law enforcement officers, the judiciary, and community leaders to increase public awareness and foster greater respect for diversity. It emphasised the need to ensure that the rights of all citizens are protected.

It urged India to uphold its ICCPR obligations and ensure "any counter-terrorism and security measures in disturbed areas should be temporary, proportionate, strictly necessary, and subject to judicial review". Also, it recommended that India establish a mechanism to acknowledge responsibility and investigate human rights violations in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir and other such regions.

Comprising 18 independent experts who monitor the implementation of the ICCPR, the committee adopted these concluding observations about India after a series of hearings earlier this month. India was one of seven countries reviewed by the committee in its latest session, alongside Croatia, Honduras, Maldives, Malta, Suriname and Syria.

Courts can turn down delayed requests for lawful remedy: SC

Govt employee denied reinstatement of job

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has held that law assists only those who are vigilant and not those who are sleeping over their rights.

"Delay in invoking a lawful remedy by a person or entity that was sleeping over their rights may be denied," observed Justice Hassan Aurangzeb in a judgement he wrote on an appeal filed by Mumtaz Uddin Shaikh against the Feb 9, 2022 rejection by the Federal Service Tribunal (FST).

Justice Razi was heading a two-judge bench also consisting of Justice Asad-Ul-Munir Akhtar. It is a well-settled principle of law that the question of laches (unreasonable delay) in invoking any right is always considered in light of the conduct of the person, Justice Razi observed in the case at hand. He added, the record reveals that the petitioner always demonstrated a lack of seriousness in pursuing his rights.

This is evident from the fact that the petitioner was dismissed from service on March 20, 2007, but he proffered the service appeal after a delay of two years in 2009. Therefore, he did not avail remedy of appeal rather kept sleeping over his rights, the judgement noted.

When asked about his service

appeal before the FST, the petitioner responded that since an FIR in the case had been registered, he had apprehension of being arrested.

But this response contradicted the record, the order explained, adding that the petitioner's service appeal after his acquittal in the criminal case was also barred by time and he had failed to justify such delay.

Thus, the petitioner's conduct throughout the proceedings has been questionable, the judgement said, adding that FST was correct in dismissing his appeal on the grounds of limitation as well as inactivity.

The petitioner had assailed the Feb 9, 2022 rejection of his appeal by the FST. The petitioner was appointed a clerk on Jan 1, 1990 in

the General Post Office, Hyderabad, but was suspended on Sept 8, 2006 on the grounds of inefficiency, misconduct, and corruption.

A show-cause notice was issued to him on Feb 27, 2007 pertaining to misappropriation of Rs65,730, though it was vehemently denied by the petitioner.

After an inquiry, the petitioner was sacked on March 20, 2007 on charges of misappropriation of military pension of Rs20,875. The petitioner challenged his dismissal through a departmental appeal on April 2, 2007, which was rejected.

He then approached the FST through a service appeal which was also rejected in limine as hopelessly barred by time vide judgement of June 15, 2010.

The department referred the matter to FIA for lodging of an FIR against the petitioner which was accordingly registered under Sections 409, 408, and 471 of PPC read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

The case was tried by the Special Court of Anti-Corruption (Central), Hyderabad, which acquitted the petitioner on Dec 15, 2015.

After acquittal, the petitioner sought reinstatement of his service through three departmental appeals with all back benefits, which remained unresponded. The petitioner then approached the FST as well as the Supreme Court for reinstatement of his job.

The apex court observed that

criminal proceedings address allegations of criminal conduct and determine legal culpability, while departmental proceedings, when connected with matters of service discipline and conduct. Thus, the results of a criminal case do not necessarily impact issues related to departmental responsibility and discipline.

"In view thereof, we find that impugned judgement is well-reasoned and has considered all the legal and factual aspects of the matter," the judgement said, adding that the petitioner had failed to make out a case warranting any interference.

Consequently, this petition, being devoid of merit, is dismissed and leave refused, the Supreme Court said.

SPORT

Flick opens his Barcelona tenure with win over City

ORLANDO: New Barcelona manager Hansi Flick made a triumphant start to his tenure on Tuesday as the Spanish giants beat Manchester City on penalties after their pre-season friendly at Camping World Stadium.

Teri Ferrer, who signed with Barca earlier this month after turning 18, flicked in a left-footed shot past reserve City goalkeeper Stefan Ortega to give the German manager's side a 4-1 win on penalties.

Barcelona kicked off their US tour in the pre-season contest against the four-time reigning Premier League champions, guided by former Barcelona player and coach Pep Guardiola. A sellout crowd of 63,237 spectators were unhappy early as a storm delayed the start by 60 minutes, but were delighted with a strong early pace, before both teams gave reserve players abundant time on the pitch.

Barcelona jumped ahead 3-0 on penalty flicks thanks to a left-footed shot by Alexendra Balbi before Amer Ahmed kept City in it by beating reserve Barca goalkeeper Andor Astralaga, setting the stage for the team's comeback.

Pau Victor had opened the scoring in open play for Barcelona in the 24th minute, taking a quick through ball pass from Mary Cassola and firing a right-footed blast from the right side into the goal.

Nico O'Halley answered for Manchester City in the 39th minute, firing in a left-footed shot from the left side off a pass from Josko Grudic, the Croatian international making his first US tour start.

Pablo Torre's goal in the second minute of first-half stoppage time gave Barcelona a 2-1 half-time lead.

The 21-year-old Spanish midfielder took a crossing pass from Gerard Martin in the left wing, nudged the ball to his right, then blasted a right-footed shot past Barcelona goalkeeper Ederson and inside the left post.

Jack Grealish equalised for City in the 60th minute off an impressive free kick.

Croatian international Mateo Kovacic, making his first start on City's US tour, gathered a loose ball just beyond the City box, split two defenders and raced upfield with the ball before passing to English left winger Grealish, who cut inside a defender and finished with an outstanding left-footed shot from a steep angle high into the goal.

Barcelona will continue their US tour with pre-season matches against Real Madrid and AC Milan.

City, who had earlier 12 matches in Celtic and AC Milan, will close the US tour by facing Chelsea on Saturday at Columbus, Ohio.—AFP



ORLANDO (Florida): Barcelona's Victor Pau scores past Manchester City goalkeeper Stefan Ortega during their pre-season friendly at Camping World Stadium.—AFP

IPC Ministry proposes life ban on PBF high-ups over Italy incident

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move, the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) has recommended life bans on Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) secretary general Khalid Mahmood, who is also the president of the Pakistan Boxing Federation, and PBF secretary general retired Col Nasir Jinn Tong after a Pakistan boxer slipped in Italy during an international event earlier this year.

Following the shocking report regarding a Pakistan boxer slipping in March, the IPC ministry formed a high-profile inquiry committee headed by a senior IPC officer Ashfaq Ahmad Malik.

The committee, besides imposing a ban on both the officials, also pointed out that "prima-facie the case involves human trafficking," and moreover, after getting input from the Board of Governors of the Pakistan Sports Board, may be referred to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

The inquiry committee recommended recovery of Rs1 million besides adding that the two officials, Khalid and Col Tong, "may not be considered for holding position in office of any of the National Sports Federations in future."

The committee stated that a boxer, named Zubair Rashid, slipped in Italy during the first World Qualifying Tournament held in March 2024.

On the basis of the available information and the response received from the PBF and the PBF, the report added that the unwanted incident in Italy caused considerable disgrace for Pakistan — this act not only built a sense of mistrust amongst the relevant stakeholders but also led to serious consequences on the genuine visits of Pakistanis, especially players and athletes intending to visit abroad.

According to the inquiry report dated July 19, Zubair and other boxers proceeded to Italy to compete in the tournament in question without seeking mandatory NOC from the government and permission from the PBF.

The report said that the submission of survey form and undertaking was the responsibility of the respective office-bearers of the boxing federation. Therefore, they are liable to pay Rs1 million for the missing boxes as they sent the boxer without first getting the NOC from the government and the PBF.

The members of the inquiry report stated that this report should be presented before the PBF Board of Governors in the next meeting, as a regular agenda item for information, consideration and taking

appropriate action. "Subject to [the] outcome of Board's decision, [the] matter may be referred to the FIA as prima-facie the case involves human trafficking," read the report.

An official of IPC said that Khalid Mahmood, being the PBF president, was serving as POA secretary and now, whose lifetime ban has been recommended for him, he also could not hold the office of POA secretary.

It is relevant to note here that in an unfortunate development a couple of years ago, two Pakistan boxers — Saleem Baloch and Nazeerullah — slipped in England after the Commonwealth Games ended in Birmingham. The matter however was put under the carpet and no inquiry was completed.

Col Tong claimed that the PBF had nothing to do with the slipping of the boxer (Zubair).

COMPLETELY BASELESS

While Khalid Mahmood could not be approached for his comments, PBF secretary general retired Col Tong in his response on Wednesday termed the inquiry report "completely baseless".

"He was our best boxer and our hope for a medal that was why we selected him. We requested the PBF to arrange training camp for our boxers but they refused and we had to arrange a camp for five boxers in Lahore for the event in Italy," Col Tong recalled.

"We trained our top boxer to help him produce [his] best performance not for slipping. Therefore, levelling allegations of human trafficking against us are not only baseless but shameful also," he said adding that he would challenge the inquiry report before a court of law.

"The committee formed by the IPC Ministry does not have the authority to impose a ban on office bearers of the [national sports] federations," he countered.

To a query, he said that the PBF was not supposed to get NOC from the PBF, rather an NOC from Navy, the department of Zubair, was required.

"We got that in order to ensure the boxer's participation in the [Italy] event."

Responding to a question on slipping of the two other boxers in Birmingham, Col Tong said: "The PBF had nothing to do with the disappearance of these boxers. Rather this was their individual act, which was strongly condemned by the federation."

"Then PBF director general retired Col Asif Zaman was part of the 2022 Commonwealth Games contingent. If there was any fault, he should have been asked by the PBF and the IPC Ministry," Tong insisted.

PBBF reconstitutes scrutiny committee for KBBA

By Our Sports Reporter

KARACHI: The Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) has reconstituted its scrutiny committee for the Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA), with Muhammad Ashfaq appointed as the new chairman on Tuesday.

The committee was initially formed in May this year to investigate the affairs of the KBBA and evaluate its a list of basketball clubs.

Muhammad Aliq was appointed as the chairman, but he stepped down on Tuesday due to personal reasons.

Julian Khan Niaz and Wasim ur Rehman, former national basketballers, will continue to serve as members of the committee, which has been tasked with thoroughly scrutinising the operations and governance of the KBBA.

The PBBF expressed confidence that the reconstituted committee will conduct a comprehensive review and submit its findings in a timely manner, ensuring transparency and accountability in the governance of basketball in Karachi.

One-sided matches at juniors tennis

By Our Sports Reporter

KARACHI: A string of dominant performances were witnessed on day three of the Tashreeq Pvt. Ltd. National Juniors Tennis Championship here at the DA Creek Club, with several players advancing to the next round on Wednesday.

In the boys Under-18 category, Rafeeq Faisal got a strong 6-0, 6-0 win over Ali Baqir from Hyderabad. Sameel Akhbar, Nabeel Qayyum and Hariz Azeem also advanced to the next round with impressive wins.

The second round saw some intense matches, with Lahore's Asad Zaman getting the better of Aamir Akhbar Wadood 6-3, 6-1. Shamoon Hidayat, Karim Tariq and Taimoor Amani also secured their spots in the next round with convincing victories.

In the girls Under-18 category, Natalie Zaman, Aiman Harris, and Dalish Akhbar dominated their opponents, advancing to the next round with ease.

Boys from Hyderabad dominated in the U-14 category with Jawad Mubir, Rashid Baqir, Ali and Abdul Malik winning their respective fixtures. Ahsan Amin, Amrooz, Ahsan Shafiq, Zayed Zaman and Abdul Baqir also recorded wins in the same category.—Sports Reporter

Waqar starts job of adviser to PCB chief

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis began his job as the Adviser to Chairman on Cricket Affairs on Wednesday on temporary basis, as his official post will be formally advertised soon according to the rules and regulations.

"Waqar came to the office and started his work, meeting with different officials concerned. As the home Test series against Bangladesh is scheduled to begin on Aug 23, a detailed meeting with [probable] head coach Jason Gillespie will be held in Islamabad, where the former Australian Test player will arrive on Aug 4."

"All the decisions on Pakistan's forthcoming home series against Bangladesh and England will be taken in this meeting," a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesman said.

Several media outlets reported on Tuesday that last bowling great Waqar was the front-runner for the newly introduced position of the Adviser to Chairman on Cricket Affairs in the Mahasin Nayyid PCB regime.

As no advertisement is required for hiring an adviser, Waqar started the job. However, an advertisement will be given soon so that he may be given an officer's post in the Board.—Sports Reporter

Pakistan U-19 to play in UAE tri-series

LAHORE: Pakistan U-19 men's team will participate in a 50-over tri-nation series in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) involving the hosts and Afghanistan in November this year.

Pakistan in the Nov 13-26 event face the UAE in the opener, for which the venue will be confirmed in due course. The tournament will be played on a double-league format and with the top two sides qualifying for the final.

This event will also serve as a build-up for the ACC Men's U-19 Asia Cup 2024.

Tournament schedule:
Nov 13: Pakistan vs UAE
Nov 15: Afghanistan vs Pakistan
Nov 17: UAE vs Afghanistan
Nov 19: Pakistan vs Afghanistan
Nov 21: Afghanistan vs UAE
Nov 23: UAE vs Pakistan
Nov 26: Final.—Sports Reporter

Unbeaten Pakistan beat Kuwait to advance

LAHORE: Maintaining their winning streak, Pakistan defeated Kuwait to qualify for the next round of the 15th Asian Men's U-18 Volleyball Championship in Manama, Bahrain.

According to the results released by the Pakistan Volleyball Federation here on Tuesday, Pakistan won the match against Kuwait 25-19, 25-11, 25-19 to secure top spot in their pool.

In the earlier pool matches of the continental event, Pakistan beat India and South Korea.

Pakistan in the next round take on Chinese Taipei on Thursday.

Overall 16 countries are participating in the championship including Pakistan, Bahrain, Thailand, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Iran, China, Lebanon, Philippines, India, Korea and Kuwait.—Sports Reporter

7s Rugby from 10th

LAHORE: The 25th Men's Para National 7s Rugby Championship will be held on Aug 10-11 here at the Pakistan Rugby Academy.

The championship, being staged under the auspices of the Pakistan Rugby Union, will feature teams from the four provinces, Capital Islamabad, Army, Waqfs, Police and the IEDC.

The league matches will be played on the opening day while the semi-finals followed by the final the next day.—Sports Reporter



COLOMBO: Indian captain Rohit Sharma talks with chief selector Ajit Agarkar (L) during a practice session at the P. Prasadiah International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. Sharma and co. are set to face the hosts in a three-match One-day International series, which starts on Friday.—AFP

Afghanistan to host SA in three ODIs at Sharjah

KARACHI: Afghanistan will face South Africa in a bilateral series this year for the first time when they host the Proteas in three One-day Internationals in the United Arab Emirates, the Asian country's cricket board (ACB) said on Wednesday.

The matches will be held from Sept 19-22 in the Sharjah Cricket Stadium and will follow Afghanistan's one-off Test against New Zealand, which has been scheduled for Sept 9-13 in Greater Noida, India.

"The recent International Cricket Council meeting was quite productive for us," ACB chairman Mirwais Akhbar said. "Apart from confirming dates for the one-off Test match against New Zealand, we reached an agreement with Cricket South Africa for a series of three ODIs in September."

"... They're an excellent team, and we are eagerly looking forward to hosting them and playing them regularly in future." Afghanistan and South Africa have played twice in ODIs, with both matches coming in World Cups in 2019 and 2023.

The teams have also met three times in T20 World Cups, in 2010, 2016 and the semi-finals of this year's edition, with the Proteas winning each time. "We're excited to embark on this historic ODI series with Afghanistan, who have become a very competitive all-round team as evidenced by their recent performances," said Cricket South Africa chief Lawrence Goodwin.



SAITAMA: Newcastle's Harvey Barnes (R) strikes the ball during the pre-season friendly against Urawa Red Diamonds at the Saitama Stadium on Wednesday.—AFP

Murphy leads Newcastle's 4-1 victory over Japan's Urawa

SAITAMA: Newcastle United midfielder Jacob Murphy led the visitors to a 4-1 victory Wednesday in a pre-season match against J-League powerhouse Urawa Red Diamonds.

The Premier League side demonstrated their preparedness for the upcoming season with England goalkeeper Nick Pope repeatedly blocking attacks by the 2022 winner of AFC Champions League.

Manager Eddie Howe said his players showed a "good attitude" as they faced off Urawa's challenges at Saitama Stadium, which was granted after Tim Livramento tripped defender Hirokazu Ishikawa who attempted to infiltrate the Newcastle box.

The Newcastle goalkeeper again executed a superb save in the 35th minute, denying a Ishikawa shot from a close range. Shortly before the break, Joe Willock led a through pass to the Urawa box, where Murphy fired it into the net.

Urawa equalised in the 23rd minute as striker Rio Nitta positioned inside the box and tapped on a Yusuke Matsuo cross from the left, letting it hit the post to bounce into the goal.

Pope in the 29th minute comfortably blocked Atsuki Ito's penalty kick,

which was granted after Tim Livramento tripped defender Hirokazu Ishikawa who attempted to infiltrate the Newcastle box.

The Newcastle goalkeeper again executed a superb save in the 35th minute, denying a Ishikawa shot from a close range. Shortly before the break, Joe Willock led a through pass to the Urawa box, where Murphy fired it into the net.

METRO South



France and Britain victorious in triathlon, first gold for Guatemala Pg.22 SPORT

KARACHI
Times: 07:17 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow): 05:59 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum: 28°C
Maximum: 32°C
Humidity: 78%
Outlook: Cloudy/Wind

Three NAB officials acquitted in kidnap case for 'lack of evidence'

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday acquitted three officials of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and a private person in a kidnap case for lack of evidence.

The ATC judge acquitted the accused NAB officers — Sarwar Shahid, Muhammad Gul, alias Gul Afridi, and Muhammad Bilal Anwar — and private person Iqbal Hussain Channa for lack of evidence. They were charged with kidnaping an employee of the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) in Hyderabad, Sindh, in the Rawari area in November 2017.

After hearing arguments and reviewing evidence from both sides, the court ruled that the prosecution had failed to prove the charges against the accused persons.

According to the prosecution, complainant Muhammad Ali, who had also worked at the office of the Accountant General in 2011, had registered a case against accused Iqbal Channa and the three NAB officials stating that they called him at the parking area of a cinema, situated at commercial area, Khayaban-e-Muslim near Seaview and when he reached there they kidnaped him and demanded \$210 million for his release. He alleged that the accused also extorted \$25,000 from him.

However, the defence counsel took the plea that the complainant refused to identify the accused in court.

He added that his clients were falsely implicated in this case.

A case was registered at the Darakhshan police station under Sections 365-A (Kidnaping or abducting for extorting property, valuable security, etc), 34 (Common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code read with Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act.



A LARGE number of people take part in a demonstration organised by the Jamaat-e-Islami on M.A. Jinnah Road to protest the assassination of Hamas' chief political leader Ismail Haniyeh in a Israeli missile strike in Talfan, on Wednesday. Several protests were organised in the city, including one by the Madia Wahdat Movement outside the Karachi Press Club, to condemn the Zionist state's action. — Shikhi Aidi / White Star

Patients suffer as govt cuts grant for JPMC diagnostic services

- Number of underprivileged patients has grown significantly this year due to sky-rocketing inflation, doctors say
- Hospital official says health minister promised to look into the matter

By Faiza Hynn

KARACHI: The Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) — a key tertiary care public sector hospital in the city catering to thousands of poor patients daily from across Sindh as well as Balochistan — faces a significant reduction in its annual allocation for laboratory services, it emerged on Wednesday.

Sources said the situation worsened recently when vendors failed to provide their committed diagnostic supplies in time, resulting in an almost complete closure of lab services for a few days.

The crisis, they said, hit the patients hard as they either avoided the facility for free or at highly subsidised rates.

"The facility has gradually restored since last Saturday, though some diagnostic kits are still not available in adequate quantities. The situation can again emerge, if immediate steps are not taken to resolve it," shared a senior JPMC doctor on condition of anonymity, adding that such a crisis leads to developed before.

Sources said the provincial government



A MAN walks past the emergency lab and central phlebotomy at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, on Wednesday. — Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

usually enhanced the hospital allocation for lab services by 20 to 25 per cent every year. But, this hasn't been done this year.

"The year 2024 has also seen a dramatic increase in prices of basic commodities along with an 18 per cent government tax on all medical items that's affecting service delivery. It's ironic that the provincial government, in these challenging circumstances, has decided not to make the annual increase in the budget allocation for laboratory services at a major hospital that caters to hundreds and thousands of poor patients," regretted another doctor.

The number of these poor patients, he said, had grown significantly this year on account of sky-rocketing inflation.

Speaking to Dawn, Dr Kausar Abbas, senior professor heading medical procurement department at the hospital, said there was no cut in the budget allocation and that delayed supplies by vendors had briefly affected lab services at the hospital recently.

"But, this was only for a day and the services were soon restored. However, this matter has nothing to do with the annual enhancement in allocation for lab services," she said.

"Every year, funds for lab services are increased given the growing number of patients. But, this hasn't happened this year. We have informed the health minister about this who has promised to look into the matter and fulfil the requirements of the hospital and patients' needs."

Murad says Sindh to provide free 'nutritious, healthy' meals to schoolchildren

WFP country director pledges support for province's School Meal Programme

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on Wednesday supported the Sindh government's plan to offer free breakfast / lunch and milk to schoolchildren under its School Meal Programme (SMP).

WFP Country Director Coco Uchiyama called on Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah here at the CM House and discussed the issue of out-of-school children.

The CM urged the WFP to support pilot programmes that could eventually be scaled up over time.

The meeting was informed that the provincial government intended to launch the School Meal Programme on a public-private partnership basis to provide nutritious, healthy and hygienic meals to students to meet key performance indicators — enrolment, attendance

and learning impacts.

A press statement issued from the CM House said that the WFP official affirmed the organization's support for the school meal programme in the province.

The CM stated that the provincial government, with the support of the WFP, was providing various services, including nutrition, health, and social behaviour change to progress and breastfeeding women and their children enrolled in the programme.

He noted that, to date, over 800,000 individuals in 140 static and mobile facilitation centres

across 30 districts had been enrolled in the programme.

The chief minister and the WFP director also agreed to strengthen their collaboration in disaster preparedness, response and mitigation, climate change adaptation, acute malnutrition and stunting, school meals, and expanding food sites under WFP's five-year country strategic plan.

The CM recognised the enduring partnership between the Sindh government and the WFP in addressing humanitarian and development challenges in the province.

It was also mentioned that the

WFP supported the Adolescent Girls Nutrition Programme and was expanding its school fortification initiative using small-scale wheat mills under the Chalki Fortification Programme in eight districts of the province.

Regarding food system strengthening, CM Shah expressed the need to enhance wheat storage capacity in the province.

He said that the WFP, through the International Financing Corporation (IFC), was supporting the provincial food department to construct strategic grain reserves.



Police briefly detain 16 activists of BYC near press club

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Several activists belonging to the Baloch Youth Committee (BYC) were picked up by police from the Karachi Press Club (KPC) on Wednesday afternoon.

However, the activists were released after a short while.

The BYC organisers and police officials said that four women, including BYC leader Fawzia Baloch, were among those detained by the authorities.

However, in the evening, DIO-South Syed Asad Plaza said that the police detained some people from outside the KPC for "chanting anti-state slogans".

He said, however, all the detained persons were released.

Earlier, BYC leader Saad Baloch told Dawn that BYC leaders along with chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) Asad Iqbal Butt had arrived at the KPC to apprise the media of the current situation in Balochistan.

He claimed that several areas, cities and towns in Balochistan were closed, roads blocked and communication links in the province had been suspended.

He said that the rights activists wanted to express their concerns about the prevailing situation in the province.

But, he claimed, police took action against them and picked up 16 activists, including four women activists, outside the KPC.

Later on, BYC leaders Wahab Baloch, Abdul Rehman, Shahmir Baloch and HRCP chairperson Butt held a press conference and condemned the arrests.

They demanded immediate release of the detained persons.

Watchman shot dead in Manghopir

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A watchman was shot dead in the Manghopir area, police said on Wednesday.

Area SHO Ghulam Hussain Koral said that Khemiso Baloch Mohammed, 59, was performing his duty at a radio-based tower of a cellular company in Wangi Goth late on Tuesday night.

He said that it appeared that some unknown criminal(s) emerged there, shot him dead and fled.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for a post-mortem examination.

The victim originally hailed from Thatta. The SHO said that the police were investigating whether it was a case of robbery-murder or some personal animosity.

Meanwhile, 25-year-old Mohammed Junaid was shot at and wounded by armed robbers in Qasba Colony on Wednesday evening.

The Pirated police said that the wounded was shifted to the ASH, where his condition was stated to be stable.

Minister seeks experts' help to increase capacity of Sukkur Barrage

Sindh cannot survive without Sukkur Barrage, workshop told

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shero has sought suggestions from the international and national experts for increasing the water capacity from 900,000 cusecs to 1.5 million cusecs at Sukkur Barrage.

Speaking as the chief guest at the Hydraulic Model Study Workshop at a local hotel, he said that the barrage had a capacity of 1.5 million cusecs when it was constructed, but it decreased to 0.9 million cusecs.

International and national experts concerned were invited to

suggest to reduce the sediment issue and increase water capacity at Sukkur Barrage, he said.

The minister said that it was a political will and commitment with the people of the province to construct the new Sukkur Barrage. "Experts should advise for the location of construction of new Sukkur Barrage," he added.

Irrigation expert Muhammad Ibrahim Samsoo said that all income of the province depended on the Indus River and Sukkur Barrage was important for agriculture and economy of Sindh.

He said that the province could not survive without Sukkur Barrage and would become deserts without it.

He said that protective bunds were constructed on the barrage during 1940 and added that there were high floods in 1970, 2010 and 2022.

Former additional irrigation en-



A VIEW OF SUKKUR BARRAGE — Dawn/ file

gineer Adam Ansari said that surveys were being conducted to construct new Sukkur Barrage for the past two years.

He said that three options were explored for the construction of the new Sukkur Barrage and added that one site was proposed at the upstream of the barrage. "Second site is at the existing Sukkur Barrage and third is at downstream of Sukkur Barrage at a distance of three kilometres from it."

Project Director of Sukkur Barrage Improvement Project Ghulam Mohsin Maghal said that the barrage irrigated eight million acres through seven off-taking canals.

He said that the scope of works was identified during feasibility study conducted from 2011 to 2018 under the Sindh Water Sector Improvement Project (SWSIP) funded by the World Bank.

The project, he said, included the rehabilitation of existing structure, replacement of all gates of main barrage, improvement in gate operational system, replacement of electrical installations, modernisation of monitoring and surveillance equipment, dredging of barrage at upstream and desiltation, desilting in the initial reaches of Rice Canal and construction of offices, labs, workshop and residential buildings.

He said that irrigation department had prepared terms of reference (TORs) in consultation with the World Bank to identify the solution for the issues and intended to engage international laboratory to conduct physical and numerical model studies.

Naveer Essani, another expert, said that irrigation officials restored the Gate No.47 of Sukkur Barrage in minimum possible time under the guidance of the irrigation minister.

PRAYER

Fajr	4.33
Zuhr	12.37
Asr	5.20
Maghreb	7.19
Isha	8.42

Starting time in minutes

REFLECTIONS

THINK OVER IT THAT BY SIMPLY GRANTING YOU THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYING FOR HIS FAVORABLE AND MERCY, HE HAS HANDLED OVER THE KEYS TO HIS TREASURES TO YOU!!

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

7644427

Govt gets time to file comments on petitions against procurement of robotic surgical systems

SHC adjourns hearing to the second week of this month

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: A provincial law officer has sought time from the Sindh High Court to file comments on two identical petitions filed against the bidding process for controversial procurement of robotic surgical systems for the Liaquat University Hospital, Hyderabad.

Citing the chief secretary, health secretary, two private firms and others as respondents, the petitioner alleged that they had embedded gov-

ernment funds through illegal and irregular contracts allegedly awarded for supply of robotic surgical instruments at inflated prices as compared to the prevailing market prices.

Earlier, the SHC had issued notices to the respondents as well as a provincial law officer on both the petitions with direction to file comments.

When the matter came up for hearing before a two-judge bench headed by Justice Arshad Hussain Khan, a provincial law officer asked the bench to grant more time to file comments on behalf of the official respondents. Subsequently, the hearing was adjourned till Aug 5.

Khawar Mahmood Afridi filed both the petitions and affirmed that he moved the SHC in the larger public interest as he was intending to pro-

tect the rights of public including money paid by the people in the form of taxes.

He also cited M/s Orzech Corporation, Markham, British PEZ, Sindh Public Procurement Regularity Authority, State Bank of Pakistan as respondents and contended that the cost of the subject robotic surgical system was very low as compared to the tender offered by the alleged successful bidder.

Representing the petitioner, Advocate Asim Iqbal argued that the item having a value shown in the tender papers at \$37,500 per piece was intended to be purchased by the Sindh government at a cost of more than \$1.5 million and thus the supplier was intending to earn a profit of more than 1,500 per cent.

He contended that in 2022-23, the

same robotic system was purchased for the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre and the technical evaluation report clearly spelled out that an illegal, unwarranted, and unjustified exercise was conducted.

The counsel also submitted that earlier, the provincial government had approved billions of rupees for procurement of four robotic surgical systems for JPMC, Liaquat University Hospital in Hyderabad and the Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, but the same was stopped by then caretaker health minister Dr Saad Khalid Niazi on the ground that the funds were required for more pressing health needs.

He submitted that as per the public procurement rules, the authority had to invite international tender for products for services not normally

available in Pakistan.

The lawyer submitted that the impugned process was in contravention to the Public Procurement Rules 2010 and there were various judgments of the apex court about the need for accountability, transparency, and the proper utilization of public funds in government procurement processes.

The petitioner pleaded for cancellation of the entire process of tender for procurement of the robotic surgical system and to call reports about process tenders in respect of the robotic surgical machines floated by the provincial government.

He also sought directives for the official respondents to purchase essential machinery and equipment for upgrade of various medical facilities.

Need stressed for collaboration among universities

IBM showcases new IT infrastructure transformation

Dawn Report

KARACHI: The Institute of Business Management (IBM), New Horizon, and IBM Technologies hosted an event to showcase how their newly deployed IT infrastructure is transforming the work environment.

This initiative aims to streamline day-to-day and strategic objectives, make IBM a paperless institution, enhance its LMS software, improve data security, facilitate remote learning, enable efficient resource management, and support innovative teaching methodologies.

Speaking on the occasion, Sindh Higher Education Commission (SHEC) Chairman Prof Dr Tariq Rafi noted that only a select few universities have undertaken such significant IT initiatives.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration among universities, stating that working in isolation will not yield meaningful results. "Even with technological advancements, human interaction remains essential," he added.

Talib Karim, President of IBM, emphasized the necessity of a robust IT infrastructure for researchers, students, and faculty to remain competitive on a global scale. He stressed that, with Dr Imran Batool's proposal and the support of IBM's Board, the digital infrastructure has been successfully implemented. He added that technology will

increasingly dominate processes, and it is crucial to be prepared for this transformation.

Dr Imran Batool, Chief Digital Officer and Director of CIT at IBM, emphasized that digital disruption and transformation will profoundly reshape the twenty-first century. He highlighted the critical importance of integrating advanced technologies to enhance educational methodologies.

A key feature of the event was a panel discussion on "Redefining Higher Education in a Digitally Disrupted World," moderated by Dr Batool. The panelists included Muhammad Zohab Khan, Chairman of Peshawar University, Chairman of Education Lead at Microsoft, and Ashraf Nawaz, Chief Information Officer at Engage Corp.

The speakers shared a common consensus that technology and digital transformation will provide the momentum and direction needed to revolutionize educational methodologies, enhance learning experiences, and prepare students for future challenges.

They also emphasized that embracing digital innovation is crucial for modernizing offices and organizations, enabling them to operate more efficiently and effectively in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.



VEHICLES move at a snail's pace through Miran Bhopali Underpass in Nazimabad due to the dilapidated condition of the road after rains. — Fatim Siddiq

Governor, mayor pay tribute to Fatima Jinnah on her 131st birth anniversary

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori and Karachi Mayor Mustafa Wahab on Wednesday paid tribute to Fatima Jinnah on her 131st birth anniversary.

In their separate statements, the governor and the mayor said that Ms Jinnah was an exemplary model for the Pakistani nation and her services to the country and the nation were unparalleled.

The governor acknowledged her efforts in mobilizing women in the independence movement and recognized her role as the mother of the nation. He hailed her legacy while appreciating her outstanding service.

Meanwhile, the mayor said that in the struggle for the establishment of Pakistan, she played an important role alongside the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and dedicated her entire life to realizing the dream of Pakistan's creation. "The great role has left an indelible mark on our

nation, and we are determined to follow in her footsteps," he said.

He further mentioned that on August 25, 1942, Ms Jinnah accompanied Mr Jinnah to a civic reception held in his honor at the KMC Building, which is a matter of great pride for us.

The mayor also stated that Ms Jinnah was also a symbol of unswerving commitment to the ideals of empathy, justice, and equality. Today, we celebrate the birth anniversary of this great woman who played a significant role in shaping the social and political landscape of Pakistan as a prominent leader, passionate political activist, and dedicated advocate for women's rights.

He said that the dedication of Ms Jinnah to strengthening democracy in the newly-born state of Pakistan and her tireless efforts to improve the status of women will continue to inspire future generations.

"Today, as we renew our commitment to these values, we pray that the life and work of Mohatma Fatima Jinnah become a guiding light for all of us, giving us the strength to stand for perseverance and truth," he said.

Man jailed for five years in attempted murder, encounter case

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A sessions court has sentenced a man to a total of five years in prison on two counts in a police encounter and attempted murder case.

The court found accused Taseem Nawaz guilty and sentenced him to three-year imprisonment for attempted murder and two years for assaulting policemen within the jurisdiction of Ghalam-i-Jadhar police station.

The court also fined him Rs15,000. If he fails to pay the fine, he will have to serve additional imprisonment. The court pronounced its judgment after recording the evidence and hearing arguments from both sides.

In its detailed order, the judge observed: "I have also gone through the defence evidence and found that the accused did not take a strong defence plea except claimed himself to be innocent and stated that one Rana Javed (brother-in-law) in collusion with police party had falsely involved him in this case but in this regard, he has not produced any cogent evidence to prove his claims. In fact, he was heard deposed on oath but produced any defence witnesses to support his version. As such under such circumstances his defence plea cannot involve him from his guilt."

According to state prosecutor S. Khurshid Bakhsh, in April 2022, during routine patrolling, a police vehicle in Ghalam-i-Jadhar Block 6 signalled two men riding a motorcycle to stop, but the accused started firing.

In retaliation, when the police fired back, one of the accused, Taseem, received injuries while the other accused, Asif (brother-in-law). During the search, the police recovered a 30-bore pistol and a mobile phone from Taseem.

During the trial, advocate Bakhsh argued that the prosecution proved its case against the accused beyond any shadow of doubt by producing sufficient evidence and proved his conviction. But the defence counsel contended that the accused was innocent and the police had falsely implicated his client in that case.

The case was registered at Ghalam-i-Jadhar police station under Section 353 (Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 324 (Attempt to murder) and 34 (Common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

New Govt College Hyderabad alumni chairman elected

KARACHI: Provincial Deputy Minister Nadeem Rajpoot has been elected as the chairman of the advisory board of the Alumni Association Government College University Hyderabad (Karachi Chapter).

According to a press release, the name of Dr Rajpoot was presented by association's secretary Amin Yousof and all the members unanimously approved it during a meeting held here. — Dawn Report

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KARACHI

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LOST & FOUND

AMALGAMATOR Letter Post Number 95, Saha Estate Phase V, Area 1000 sq yds (approx) located in Pakistan Defence Housing Authority, Karachi has been lost. Finder or anyone having objection/claim may please be contacted via: us and Director Transfer and Records, Pakistan Defence Officers Housing Authority, Karachi within 15 days of publication. Use have also approached Defence Housing Authority, Karachi for Certified True Copy of this document. On expiry of notice period, no objection / claim will be accepted Name Ghulam Ghous DNA Membership Number: 044 52798 Address House No 71-B, Park Lane 1 DHA Phase V, Telephone No: 0334-049896, (7008280202)

MARRIAGE BUREAU

KARACHI

CLIFTON Women Welfare Society (Page 1) 1997 for matrimonial wood parents in Karachi / Islamabad also **Mrs. MURTAZA QURESHI** 0011-3431791, 0333-3431791, 0300426 (7008280202)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

KARACHI

L. Ayya Qazi A.S. Stoker ID No. 20191-21594 CNIC No. 42101-420402-2 (Program BSA have been started by original requestor under the authority is requested to return it to the Institute of Business Management, Karachi. Contact: 111-322-504 EXT. 525, (7002739191)

OUR client has agreed to purchase Flat No. B-2012, 2nd Floor, measuring 1281 square feet. **MERRAN HEIGHTS** Sub-Plot No. B-11 in Block "B" of Plot No. 50-C1, Block B, Clifton, Karachi, from Mr. Liaquat Ali Jagan of (S) Pakistan Telegraph, CNIC No. 42020-5422079-5 with peaceful physical vacant possession and free from all encumbrances, charges, liens, mortgages, disputes, litigation, demands and dues. Any Persons, Banks, Authorities, having any claim / objection should notify the same to us and Sub-Registrar Clifton, Clifton Town, Karachi, with documentary evidence within seven days. Failing which all claims / objections shall be deemed to have been waived and abandoned. **SAS, SHER ANSARI, ASSOCIATE**, Gulshan-e-Glass Town, Team Talwar, Clifton, Karachi, Cell: 0333-35034513, (7008278914)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Flat No. 20-C1, 2nd Floor, Commercial Street 1, Phase VII, E-1 measuring 100 square yards, DHA Karachi, from **Saima Nisbat W/o Abdul Wahid** CNIC # 42020-4802030-8, Resident of Karachi. Free from all claims, demands, charges, liens, mortgages, disputes, litigation, demands, dues and taxes. Any Person, Banks and Authorities having any claim / objection should notify us and Administrator DHA, Karachi, with documentary evidence within 07 days of this publication. After that no claim will be entertained and compensation shall be completed. **TERRACE-SAYE & BUILDERS** 0300-2705111, (7014278950)

OUR client has contracted to purchase **APARTMENT NO. FT-148-004, MEASURING 248 SQUARE FEET APPROX, IN PEARL TOWER B, C/A, IN A PROJECT & BROWN AS 'EMERALD GEMSTONE BAY KARACHI' PHASE VIII FROM NAMED FAYEED RAYAZ W/O FAYEED KURBAN SHAR** CNIC: 42020-4802048-8 Resident of Karachi, free from all encumbrances, charges, liens, mortgages, disputes, litigation, demands, dues and taxes. Any Person, Banks and Authorities having any claim / objection should notify the Sub-Registrar Clifton Town-1 Karachi and the undersigned along with documentary evidence within 07 days. Failing which all claims / objections shall be deemed to have been waived and abandoned. After that, no claim will be entertained and transactions shall be completed in favor of our client. **MS GROUP** Contact: 0021-8279903, (7008280202)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Flat No. **021 WITH BASEMENT CAR PARKING, END FLOOR, NO. 41, MURTAZA CORN LANE, PHASE B DHA KARACHI**, measuring 1082 square feet approx, from Mrs. **Jahid Jahan W/o Jahan Ghulam Ali**, CNIC No. 420205443794 and Mrs. **Nabeela Inshad W/o Jahan Ghulam Ghulam**, CNIC No. 420144076079 both residents of Karachi, free from all encumbrances, charges, liens, mortgages, disputes, litigation, demands, dues and taxes. Any Person, Banks and Authorities having any claim / objection should notify the Sub-Registrar Clifton Town-1 Karachi and the undersigned along with documentary evidence within 07 days. Failing which all claims / objections shall be deemed to have been waived and abandoned. After that, no claim will be entertained and transactions shall be completed in favor of our client. **MS GROUP** Contact: 0021-8279903, (7008280202)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Bungalow No. 128 B/1, Khyabrate Sagar Phase V/8, DHA Karachi measuring 500 square yards from **Tasaddiq Iqbal Ali** CNIC 30403-1027918-8 R/o Karachi free from all claims, demands, charges, liens, encumbrances, disputes, litigation, demands, dues and taxes. Any Person, Banks and Authorities having any claim / objection should notify the Sub-Registrar Clifton Town-1 Karachi and the undersigned along with documentary evidence within 07 days. Failing which all claims / objections shall be deemed to have been waived and abandoned. After that, no claim will be entertained and transactions shall be completed in favor of our client. **Saha Corporation** 0333-3504743, (7014278954)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

A Public Sector entity requires suitable candidates for the following positions at its office situated in Karachi for the following positions:

Position	Job Description:
Chief Operating Officer	<p>Qualification: Doctoral/Doctoral degree holders. Master's degree (18 years in Geology/Environmental/Earth Engineering from a university/college recognized by HEC.</p> <p>Experience: At least twenty (20) years post qualification working experience of job work of oil and gas E&P Company and five (5) years working experience at senior management position.</p> <p>Age Limit: Not more than 60 years of age at the time of advertisement.</p> <p>DOMICILE: South Province only.</p>
FINANCIAL ANALYST	<p>Qualification: Must possess at least one of the following qualifications: a) Master's degree or Bachelor in Finance or Accounts from an HEC recognized university or b) Member of any professional accounting body (CPA or FICP or FIC) or (as per preference).</p> <p>Experience: Minimum Three years of Post Qualification Experience. Strong working experience will be preferred.</p> <p>DOMICILE: South Province only.</p>
ASSISTANT MANAGER ACCOUNTS	<p>Qualification: Must possess at least one of the following qualifications: a) Master's degree or Bachelor in Finance or Accounts from an HEC recognized university or b) Qualified (Degree) Accountant (ACCA/ICMA) member of any HEC recognized accounting body.</p> <p>Experience: Minimum Five years of experience. Strong working experience will be preferred.</p> <p>DOMICILE: South Province only.</p>

General Instructions:

- The above posts are contractual positions, with renewal based on satisfactory performance.
- Competitive market-based salary package would be offered to the successful candidates.
- No application will be accepted by hand or after the deadline.
- The Company reserves the right to hold and/or cancel recruitment at any time.
- Only shortlisted applicants will be called to appear in written test / interview and no TA / DA will be admissible in any case.
- Interested & eligible individuals may send their CV's through e-mail O&A@fedepartment05@gmail.com mentioning the post applied for in the subject line within 15 days of publishing of this advertisement. This window after the due date shall not be considered.

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC is hereby informed that our client has contracted to purchase Sub-Divided Commercial Plot No. C-1, Measuring 3000 Square Yards (Fifteen Acres) located in Nazimabad, Karachi. The plot is situated at Sector No. 40, DHA Nazimabad Sub-Division Airport (District Nazimabad) from Mr. Qasim Qasim S/o Javed Iqbal CNIC No. 42320-1-0264247-1 R/o Karachi. Free from all claims, debts, charges, liabilities, liens, disputes, litigation, objections, taxes, and liabilities.

Any Person/Persons, party, Institution, Authority, Company, Corporation, Firm, Federal or Provincial Govt. Departments, and Autonomous Bodies, Banks, and/or Financial Institutions having any claim, dispute, demand, objections, liens, etc. whatsoever in nature over the said property should notify the same to the Muzdarbar Ghalam-i-Jadhar District Government Office, and the undersigned, along with documentary proof within 15 Days from this publication through Registered A/C Post, failing which all such claims, objections, and demands shall be deemed to have been waived off and the same transaction/procedure in respect of the aforesaid property shall be completed in favor of our client.

MERRAN HEIGHTS (MARRIAGE BUREAU)

Subs. No. 42, 4th Floor, Pakistan Marriott, 48th Hassan Road, Doha Road, Karachi, WhatsApp No: 0300-2705229

Cell: 0331-7660200, 0332-7040200, 0311-3900200



سوئی ناردرن گیس پائپ لائنز لمیٹڈ
Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited

Gas House, 21-Kashmir Road, Lahore.
www.sngpl.com.pk

NOTICE OF 59TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Notice is hereby given that the 59th Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on **Wednesday August 21, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.** at Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore for the purpose of transacting the following business:

ORDINARY BUSINESS:

- To confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on September 30, 2023.
 - To receive, consider and adopt the Annual Audited Accounts of the Company for the year ended June 30, 2023 together with the Directors' and Auditors' Reports thereon. As required under section 223(7) of the Companies Act, 2017, the Financial Statements of the Company have been uploaded on the website of the Company which can be downloaded from the following link: [\[LINK\]](#) (SCAN ME FOR ANNUAL REPORT)
 - To consider and approve payment of cash dividend to the shareholders at the rate of Rs. 4.50 per share of Rs. 15/- each i.e. 45% for the year ended June 30, 2023, as recommended by the Board of Directors.
 - To appoint External Auditors for the year ended June 30, 2024 and to fix their remuneration.
 - To transact any other ordinary business of the Company with the permission of the Chairman.
- The share transfer books of the Company will remain close from August 14, 2024 to August 21, 2024 (both days inclusive). The members whose names appear in the register of members as at the close of business on August 13, 2024 will qualify for the payment of dividend.

Place: Lahore

Date: July 26, 2024.

NOTES:

1. Participation in General Meeting

a. Through Electronic Means (Optional/Recommended Via Video Conferencing)
In the light of the relevant guidelines issued by Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) from time to time latest vide Circular No. 4 dated February 15, 2021 and Circular No. 6 dated March 03, 2021, the shareholders are encouraged to participate in the General Meeting through electronic facility organized by SNGPL. In order to attend the General Meeting through electronic facility, the shareholders are requested to get themselves registered with CDC Share Registrar Services Limited at least 48 hours before the time of General Meeting at cdcsr@cdcsrnl.com or at Whatsapp number **0321-8200844**. The entitled shareholders whose name appear on the Books of the Company by close of business on August 13, 2024 will be treated in time for the purpose of attending the meeting and those shareholders are requested to provide the information as per below format:

Sr. No.	Folio Number/CDC Account No.	Name of the shareholder	CNIC Number	Cell Number	Email address
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The details of the electronic facility will be sent to the Shareholders on the email addresses provided by them. The login facility will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on **August 21, 2024** enabling the participants to join the proceedings after identification and verification process before joining the meeting which will start at 10:30 a.m. sharp.

- Attending Meeting in Person or through Proxies**
All members, entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting, are entitled to appoint any person in writing as their proxy to attend and vote on their behalf. A legal entity, being a member, may also appoint any person as proxy. However, in case of legal entities, a resolution of the Board of Directors / Power of Attorney with specimen signature of the person nominated to represent and vote on behalf of the legal entity shall be submitted to the Company. The proxy holders are requested to produce their original CNIC or original Passport at the time of the meeting.
The proxy instrument must be completed in all respects and in order to be effective should be deposited at the Office of the Company Secretary but not later than 48 hours before the time of holding the meeting.
- If any member appoints more than one proxy for any one meeting and more than one instruments of proxy are deposited with the Company, all such instruments of proxy shall be rendered invalid.

Guidelines for CDC Account Holders:
CDC Account Holders will further have to follow the under mentioned guidelines as laid down in Circular No. 1 dated January 26, 2020 issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

- For Attending the Meeting**
In case of individuals, the account holder or sub-account holder and/or the person whose securities are in group account and their registration details are updated as per the Regulations, shall authenticate his/her identity by showing his/her original Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) or original Passport at the time of attending the meeting.
In case of legal entity, the Board of Directors' resolution/power of attorney with specimen signature of the nominee shall be produced (unless it has been provided earlier) at the time of the meeting.

- For Appointing Proxies**
In case of individuals, the account holder or sub-account holder and/or the person whose securities are in group account and their registration details are updated as per the regulations, shall submit the proxy form as per the requirements mentioned below.
The proxy form shall be addressed by two persons whose names, addresses and CNIC numbers shall be mentioned on the form.
Attested copies of CNIC or the Passport of the beneficial owners, and of the proxy shall be furnished with the proxy form.
The proxy shall produce his/her original CNIC or original Passport at the time of the meeting.
In case of a legal entity, the Board of Directors' resolution/power of attorney with specimen signature shall be submitted (unless it has been provided earlier) along with proxy form to the Company.

2. Submission of copy of CNIC/NTN Certificate (Mandatory):
Please provide valid copy of CNIC/NTN to our Share Registrar, in case of physical shareholders and in case of CDC account to its Participant/Investor Account Services.
In case of non-availability of CNIC/NTN of shareholders, the Company will be constrained to withhold payment of dividend to shareholders as per Section 243 of the Companies Act, 2017 and Regulation No. 6 of the Companies (Distribution of Dividend) Regulations, 2017.
Physical shareholders are also requested to please update their other particulars i.e. Contact number, email address, residential address etc. through letter appending their signatures.

3. Deduction of Income Tax from dividend
Pursuant to the provision of Finance Act the income tax from dividend payment under section 150 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 shall be deducted as per applicable rates for Filers and Non-Filers.
All members may check their status from the Active Taxpayers List available on FBR website.
Please note that the Share Registrar will check status of the members (Filer or Non-Filer) from the Active Taxpayers List on the basis of valid CNIC/NTN numbers and would deduct tax as per provisions of the law. Furthermore, in case of Joint holder(s) according to clarification received from Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), withholding tax will be determined separately on 'Filer/Non-Filer' status of Principal shareholder as well as joint holder(s) based on their shareholding proportions. In this regard all shareholders who hold shares jointly are requested to provide shareholding proportions of Principal shareholder and Joint holder(s) in respect of shares held by them to our Share Registrar, in writing as follows:

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited	
Folio / CDC Account No.	
Total No. of Shares held	
Principal Shareholder	Name & CNIC No. Shareholding Proportion (No. of Shares)
Joint Shareholder	Name & CNIC No. Shareholding Proportion (No. of Shares)

The above information must reach our Share Registrar by the close of business on August 13, 2024, otherwise it will be assumed that the shares are equally held by Principal Shareholder and Joint Holder(s).

4. Mandatory requirement of Bank Account Details for Electronic Credit of Cash Dividend Payment
Section 243 of the Companies Act, 2017 stipulates that in case of a listed company, any dividend payable in cash shall only be paid through electronic mode directly into the bank account designated by the entitled shareholders. It is requested to provide the information on following format duly signed along with a copy of valid CNIC to your respective CDC Participant / CDC Investor Account Services in case of Book Entry Form or to our Share Registrar, in case of Physical Form at the earliest.

Name (IN CAPITAL LETTERS)	
Folio / CDC Account No. (SNGPL)	
CNIC / Passport / Incorporation No.	
Title of Bank Account (IN CAPITAL LETTERS)	
International Bank Account Number (IBAN) - (24 digits)	
Bank's Name	
Bank's Branch Address	

The e-dividend mandate form is also available on the Company's website: www.sngpl.com.pk

5. Circulation of Annual Audited Accounts for the year ended June 30, 2023 to the shareholders through QR enabled code and web-link.
The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan vide SRO No. 389 (I) 2023 dated March 21, 2023, has allowed listed companies to circulate their Annual Audited Financial Statements (i.e. the Annual Balance Sheet and Profit or Loss Account, Auditor's Report and Director's report) to its members through QR enabled code and web-link, which is given below:

Pursuant to the approval of shareholders, the Annual Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended June 30, 2023, are being circulated to the members through QR enabled code and web-link. However, shareholder may request to provide a hard copy of Annual Accounts.
Those shareholders who desire to receive the Company's Annual Audited Financial Statements through e-mail are requested to fill the requisite form available on Company's website i.e. www.sngpl.com.pk

6. Availability of Annual Audited Financial Statements on the Company's website:
In accordance with the provisions of Section 223(7) of the Companies Act, 2017, the audited financial statements of the Company for the year ended June 30, 2023 are available on the Company's website i.e. www.sngpl.com.pk

7. Conversion of Physical shareholding in Book-Entry Form:
Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan has issued directions vide letter No. CSO/ED/Sec/2018/639-640 dated March 26, 2021 in the light of Section 72 of Companies Act, 2017 that every existing listed company shall be required to replace its physical shares with Book-Entry Form within the period not exceeding four years from the promulgation of the Act i.e. May 30, 2017. In order to ensure compliance with the aforesaid provision and to be benefited of the holding of shares in Book-Entry Form, all shareholders who still hold shares in physical form are encouraged to open CDC sub-Account with any of broker or investor account directly with CDC to convert their shares in Book-Entry Form. This will benefit the valued shareholders in many ways, including safe custody/online trading of shares, easy transfer of ownership, no risk of damage/duplicate shares, instant credit of entitlements (bonus/right issue).

8. Unclaimed Dividends and Shares:
As per the provisions of Section 243 of the Companies Act, 2017, any shares issued or dividend declared by the Company which have remained unclaimed/unpaid after having completed the stipulated procedure, of three (3) years and more from the date on which it was due and payable, shall be deposited to the credit of Federal Government in case of unclaimed dividend and in case of shares, shall be delivered to SECP after issuance of notices to the shareholders to file their claim. Shareholders of the Company are hereby informed that as per our record there are some unclaimed/unreceived/unpaid dividends and shares. Shareholders who could not collect their dividends/shares are advised to contact the Share Registrar to enquire/collect about their unclaimed dividend or shares, if any. In case, no claim is lodged, the Company shall proceed to deposit the unclaimed/unpaid amount and shares with the Federal Government pursuant to the provision of Section 244(2) of Companies Act, 2017.

Registered Office:
Gas House, 21-Kashmir Road, P.O. Box No. 56, Lahore (Pakistan), Ph: +92-42-99201451-60, 99201493-99, Fax: +92-42-99201369, 99201362 Website: www.sngpl.com.pk

Share Registrar:
CDC Share Registrar Services Ltd, Lahore Office: Mezzanine Floor, South Tower, LSE Plaza, 19-Khayaban-e-Ahwan-e-Iqbal, Lahore (Pakistan) Tel No.: +92-42-36362961-66 Fax No.: +92-42-36300072

Karachi Office:
CDC House, 99-B, Block B, S.M.C.H.S., Main Shahra-e-Faisal, Karachi (Pakistan), Tel No.: +92-21-111-111-550 Fax No.: +92-21-34328653 Website: www.cdcsrnl.com

FBR Federal Board of Revenue
OPTIMAL UTILIZATION OF FBR PROPERTIES IN PPP MODE (LOCATED IN ISLAMABAD KARACHI AND LAHORE), FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE ADVERTISEMENT

It is for the information of all concerned that the advertisement for Optimal Utilization of FBR properties in PPP Mode, made public in Newspapers (Daily Dawn, Daily Express) on 5th July, 2024, FBR Website and PPRA website is hereby withdrawn/cancelled.

CHIEF PROJECTS
FEDERAL BOARD OF REVENUE ISLAMABAD
ROOM NO. 713, 1ST FLOOR, PHONE- 651 9200959

Headline: 011-72772
031-111-72772

PAKISTAN RAILWAYS
LICENSING/RENTING OUT OF ALREADY CONSTRUCTED SHOPS/UNITS/ PREMISES OF BENEVOLENT FUND BUILDING LOCATED AT T-ALLAMA IQBAL ROAD, LAHORE THROUGH PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTE: The shops / units / premises will be auctioned on the basis of highest offered bid of annual rent over fixed bench mark of premium, for a period of 05 years (extendable for further 05 years on mutually agreed terms as per prevailing policy at that time).

S. No.	Shops/Units/Premises	Area (SqFt)	Earnest Money (Rs./-)	Security Money (Rs./-)	Fixed upfront Premium (Rs./-)	Annual Base Rent (Rs./-)
1.	Shop 3 (Ground Floor)	230	20,000	200,000	922,300	586,000
2.	Shop 4 (Ground Floor)	230	20,000	200,000	922,300	586,000
3.	Shop 5 (Ground Floor)	230	20,000	200,000	922,300	586,000
4.	Shop 6 (Ground Floor)	242	20,000	200,000	970,500	616,000
5.	Shop 10-A (Ground Floor)	304	20,000	387,000	1,219,000	774,000
6.	Shop 10-B (G Floor) + Sahar Hall (F. Floor)	1030	100,000	1,235,000	3,890,000	2,460,000

TERMS & CONDITIONS:
The shops/units/premises will be auctioned through public auction (open bidding) on **20-08-2024 at 13:00 hrs** at Committee Room of Pakistan Railways Headquarters Office, Lahore as per following details/conditions:-

- The shops/units/premises will be licensed / rented out for commercial purposes, on the basis of highest offered bids on annual rent basis and fixed premium.
- Highest offered Bids of annual rent will be announced in the presence of participants/ bidders, by the auction committee.
- Area of shop(s) / premises/units as indicated in the table is tentative and shall be re-measured jointly by Benevolent Fund Organization and the successful bidder at the time of handing over / taking over possession and joint measurement of area shall be final.
- Each bidder shall be bound to pay participation fee in cash @ **Rs. 10,000/-** (non-refundable) for each shop / unit / premises and shall be paid half hour before the start of auction with the auction committee.
- The participants will have to deposit earnest money as mentioned against each shop / unit / premises in advance through Cash Deposit Receipts (CDR) in the name of Secretary / Benevolent Fund, with the auction committee at least half hour before the start of auction/bidding. The earnest money shall be returned to all the bidders except the highest bidder, on completion of auction process. However, earnest money of the highest bidder shall be retained and shall be adjusted towards annual rent, if his offer / bid is accepted by the Competent Authority.
- All the bidders shall be bound to pay security money as mentioned against each shop / unit / premises in advance before half hour of start of open auction in the shape of Cash Deposit Receipts (CDR) in the name of Secretary / Benevolent Fund. Security money of all the bidders shall be returned on completion of auction process except for the highest bidder whose security money shall be retained on completion of the agreement term.
- The highest bidder of each shop / unit / premises shall be liable to pay **40%** of the fixed premium within three (03) days of acceptance of his bid. **20%** of the premium shall be deposited at the time of agreement, **20%** at the start of **6th month** of the agreement and remaining **20%** on start of **9th month** of the agreement. The premium shall be deposited / paid in shape of CDR. In case of non-deposit of premium within **20 days** of the due date, the amounts already deposited shall be forfeited and the license / agreement shall be cancelled without any notice alongwith dispossession from the shop / unit / premises.
- The rent will be deposited / paid for each **06 months** in advance upto **10th day of 1st month of the six months** period. In case of delay in deposit of rent within due date, a penalty @ **Rs. 100/-** per day shall be imposed for maximum **20 days**. In case the rent is not paid within the grace period of **20 days**, the rent agreement/acceptance of bid shall stand cancelled without any notice and the shop / unit / premises shall be re-possessed by Benevolent Fund Organization without sending any notice.
- Benevolent Fund Organization reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids, without assigning any reason, whatsoever. The reason for cancellation, however, may be communicated later on upon written request of the bidder (s) only.
- The sitting legal / bonafide occupants of Benevolent Fund Building (including legal / bonafide lessees / licensees) can participate in auction of these shops / units / premises subject to condition that they are not defaulters of Benevolent Fund Organization and are not in litigation against Benevolent Fund Organization. If pointed out at any stage, the deposited sum with Benevolent Fund Organization shall be forfeited and action will be taken as per Rules, Policy & Law.
- Sitting legal / bonafide occupants (including legal / bonafide lessees / licensees) are also offered first right of refusal to match with the highest offered bid (s), and in case, they do not avail this offer, the offered highest bid (s) by the other bidders shall be considered.
- Licensee (s) will be bound to pay all Government Taxes/Duties/Fee/Registration Fee etc, whatsoever payable or hereinafter to become payable in respect of the shops/ units/premises or levied from time to time by any agency of Provincial/Federal Government, Autonomous bodies or Cantonment Boards.
- The shops / units / premises will be auctioned for a period of **05 years** (extendable for further **05 years** on mutually agreed terms as per prevailing policy at that time) and annual rent will be increased @ **05%** annually on accepted bid.
- The licensees shall be responsible for taking connection of all the utility services including electricity, water, sul gas etc at their own cost. However, Benevolent Fund Organization may issue NOC in this regard, if so required.
- Auction committee or its representatives shall be available at **08:00 hrs** at the venue of auction for guidance, help or provision of any additional information to the intended bidders especially regarding preparation of CDRs. Auction shall start at **13:00 hrs** by the nominated auction committee.
- All the intended bidders are encouraged to visit the site / premises prior to participate in auction to satisfy themselves about shop No / unit / premises and measurements etc, and may seek clarification from the office of the undersigned, if any. No objection, whatsoever, shall be entertained after auction.
- Shop No 10-B (Ground Floor) & Sahar Hall (First Floor) has been merged in one unit and this unit shall be handed over to the successful/agreed bidder after proper merger and renovation, in case the bid is approved, at the expenses incurred on merger/renovation shall be borne by the Management of Benevolent Fund Organization. The intended bidders may see the merger / renovation plan (proposal) prior to participation in the bidding process for their satisfaction which is available with the under-signed and shall also be available with auction committee at the time of auction.
- In case, any further information is required by the interested parties, the offices of Benevolent Fund Organization (T-Allama Iqbal Road, Lahore) and Executive Engineer HQs (KDN/HQs), P.R Headquarters Office, Lahore may be visited during office hours.

(Khalid Hussain) Executive Engineer/HQs for Deputy General Manager Secretary Central Committee of Management Benevolent Fund
Tel: 042-99203638

پلوے لائن کو صرف ریلوے کراسنگ سے احتیاط سے پار کریں

MISCELLANEOUS

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited for the following positions at NICVD Karachi

Positions	Grade	Regional Quota	Required Qualification and Experience
Senior Registrar (Paediatric Cardiac Surgery)	18	Merit	As per PM&DC rules and regulations
Laboratory Technologist	13	South	BS (Medical Technology - Clinical Laboratory) with 02 years of post-qualification experience Or B.Sc with Diploma in relevant field with 05 years of post-qualification experience in relevant field
Dialysis Technician	11	South	F.Sc (Pre-Medical) with diploma in relevant field with 02 years of post-qualification experience in relevant field
Laboratory Technician	11	South	F.Sc (Pre-Medical) with diploma in relevant field with 02 years of post-qualification experience in relevant field
Trainee Laboratory Technician	Contract	South	BS (Medical Technology - Clinical Laboratory) Or B.Sc / F.Sc (Pre-Medical) with diploma in relevant field

NICVD IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for Test / Interview (where applicable)
- Candidates in Government service should apply through proper channel
- No TA / DA will be admissible over test / interview
- Incomplete applications will be rejected
- Please mention post name on the **Top right side of envelope**
- Management reserves the right to accept / reject any application without assigning any reason
- Interested candidates may send their updated CVs along with complete educational and experience certificates with recent passport size photograph at **Human Resource Department, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Rafique (H.J.) Shaheed Road, Karachi-75010 latest by August 15, 2024**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES
 info@nicvd.org | www.nicvd.org | nicvd@nicvd.org | nicvd_karachi

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Bid No. OPTR-2024

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (the Employer) invites sealed bids under Single Stage one Envelope bidding procedure for "Procurement of six (06) Nos. Generator Air Cooled for units 1-6 of G8 WAPDA Power Complex, Barabak, Attock" on F.O.B. Basis from original equipment manufacturer advised conditions / approvals. Just Price should be mentioned with income tax and Sales Tax Department and as per Form No. 101 (A) of 1997. Bidding is open to International Competition as per policy of the government. Time period for completion of contract is 120 days from the date of establishment of L.O.

2. Bids must be received by 15:00 hours on 15-08-2024 at the office of Chief Engineer (Hydro) Operation, WAPDA House, Lahore, Pakistan.

3. A copy of all Bidding Documents may be purchased by an interested bidder or submission of a written application to the above office and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000/- in favor of:

Pakistan (in Urdu) Bank Limited, Chief Engineer (Hydro) Operation, WAPDA, WAPDA Power Complex, Barabak - Attock, Pakistan. (PA No. 3602000170) in case of purchasing documents from the office of Chief Engineer (Hydro) Operation, WAPDA, WAPDA Power Complex, Barabak - Attock, Pakistan. (PA No. 3602000170) in case of purchasing tender documents from (3602) W.O. Office.

4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to Rs. 6,000,000/- (Six million) in the form of a bank guarantee or in the form of deposit of cash or in the form of a bank guarantee provided by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan in favor of Purchaser and shall be delivered to the Chief Engineer (Hydro) Operation, WAPDA Power Complex, Barabak - Attock, Pakistan. (PA No. 3602000170) in case of purchasing documents from the office of Chief Engineer (Hydro) Operation, WAPDA, WAPDA Power Complex, Barabak - Attock, Pakistan. (PA No. 3602000170) in case of purchasing tender documents from (3602) W.O. Office.

5. The procuring agency reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids prior to the acceptance of a bid as per SPP Rules 2020. (Amended to date)

6. In case of Government declared/announces public holiday on the date of opening of tenders, the tenders will be submitted/opened on the next working day at the same time.

PLEASE SEND YOUR QUERIES TO: help@wapsa.gov.pk

SUKKUR IBA UNIVERSITY
 Near Ahmad Siddiqui Road, Sukkur
 Ph: 071-5641141-42 Fax: 071-5644129

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Tender # PROOC/105

Sukkur IBA University invites sealed bids on single stage two envelope procedure from the eligible and experienced firms registered with income tax and sales tax department for following solution.

S.I. SOLUTION

Supply, Installation, Testing, and Training of Complete Smart Classroom Solution at Three Sites

Tender Schedule - Date and Time		Submission	Opening	Tender Fee
From	To			
August 02, 2024	August 15, 2024 upto 1:00pm	15-08-2024 2:00 PM	15-08-2024 2:30 PM	3000

Bid Security 2% of total quoted amount must be attached with the proposal.

The bids shall comprise two sealed envelopes containing technical and financial proposals separately. Tender document can be purchased from ADP office & shall be opened as per above schedule in same office.

Tender fee in shape of Pay order should be in favor of Sukkur IBA University. Bidding documents can be obtained and shall be submitted in the office of ADP as per above schedule. Bidders are requested to give their Best and Final Price as "No Negotiations" is permitted. Bidding Documents containing detailed terms and conditions can be downloaded from following websites & submitted along with tender document fees.

www.iba-sukkur.edu.pk, www.ppsm.ppsmnicvd.gov.pk

Procuring agency reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids prior to the acceptance of a bid as per SPP Rules 2020. (Amended to date)

In case of Government declared/announces public holiday on the date of opening of tenders, the tenders will be submitted/opened on the next working day at the same time.

PLEASE SEND YOUR QUERIES TO: help@iba-sukkur.edu.pk

SUKKUR IBA UNIVERSITY
 Near Ahmad Siddiqui Road, Sukkur
 Ph: 071-5641141-42 Fax: 071-5644129

Government of Pakistan Public Private Partnership Authority (P3A)

(Recruitment on Contract Basis)

Public Private Partnership Authority ("P3A") is an autonomous statutory body established under the Public Private Partnership Act, 2017, as amended (the "P3A Act"). P3A has been established to create an enabling environment for the private sector to participate in the development of public infrastructure projects and related services in Pakistan. P3A is inviting applications from qualified, experienced, and dynamic professionals who are willing to work in highly challenging roles as part of our team. We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

Sr. #	Position	Required Qualification & Experience
1.	Head, Finance & Fund Management (L1)	At least a Master's or equivalent degree and/or PhD from an HEC recognized institution (equivalent to at least seventeen (17) years of schooling) in relevant discipline such as Business Administration, Finance, Engineering, Mathematics or, Economics and/or a professional qualification such as ACCA/ CA/ CPA/ ICMA. Minimum 10 years (post sixteen (16) years qualification) relevant experience in corporate finance, investments/ transaction advisory, financial reporting, public investment management, public private partnerships, portfolio management, project finance, from an international reputable firm, investment bank, or multilateral/ multinational/ public sector organization. Age of a candidate shall not be more than 62 years on the date of this advertisement.
2.	Deputy Head, Corporate Affairs (L2)	At least a Bachelor's or equivalent degree from an HEC recognized institution (equivalent to at least sixteen (16) years of schooling) in relevant disciplines such as Business Administration, Management, Finance or Public Policy. Minimum 10 years (post sixteen (16) years qualification) relevant experience in corporate communications, business/ office management or internal administration of a multilateral/ multinational/ public sector organization. Age of a candidate shall not be more than 60 years on the date of this advertisement.
3.	Associate Director, Project Development (L3)	At least a Bachelor's or equivalent degree from an HEC recognized institution (equivalent to at least sixteen (16) years of schooling) in relevant discipline. Relevant professional qualification such as CA/ ICMA/ ACCA/ CPA/ CFA or equivalent is also acceptable. Minimum 8 years (post sixteen (16) years qualification) of relevant experience in fields such as public-private partnerships, corporate finance, investment advisory, management consulting, portfolio management, project finance, etc. from a reputable firm, investment bank, multilateral organization, and/or public sector organization. Age of a candidate shall not be more than 55 years on the date of this advertisement.
4.	Associate Director, Strategic Communications & PR (L3)	At least a Bachelor's or equivalent degree from an HEC recognized institution (equivalent to at least sixteen (16) years of schooling) in relevant discipline or relevant professional qualification. Minimum 8 years (post sixteen (16) years qualification) of relevant experience in fields such as marketing, communications, or PR from a reputable private sector corporate entity, multilateral agency, and/or public sector organization. Age of a candidate shall not be more than 55 years on the date of this advertisement.
5.	Manager, Project Review (L3)	At least a Bachelor's or equivalent degree from an HEC recognized institution (equivalent to at least sixteen (16) years of schooling) in relevant discipline. Relevant professional qualification such as CA/ ICMA/ ACCA/ CPA/ CFA or equivalent is also acceptable. Minimum 4 years (post sixteen (16) years qualification) of relevant experience in fields such as public-private partnerships, project finance, corporate finance, investment advisory, management consulting, portfolio management, etc. from a reputable firm, investment bank, multilateral organization, and/or public sector organization. Age of a candidate shall not be more than 55 years on the date of this advertisement.
6.	Manager, Capacity Building (L3)	At least a Bachelor's or equivalent degree from an HEC recognized institution (equivalent to at least sixteen (16) years of schooling) in relevant discipline or relevant professional qualification. Minimum 4 years (post sixteen (16) years qualification) of relevant experience in fields such as HR and capacity building from a reputable private sector corporate entity, multilateral agency, and/or public sector organization. Age of a candidate shall not be more than 55 years on the date of this advertisement.
7.	Projects Associate (L4)	At least a Bachelor's or equivalent degree from an HEC recognized institution (equivalent to at least sixteen (16) years of schooling) in relevant disciplines. Relevant qualification such as Business Administration, Finance, Economics, Accounting or Engineering, and/or specialized relevant qualifications such as ACA/ ACCA/ CA/ CPA/ CFA from an HEC recognized reputable academic institute. Minimum 2 years (post sixteen (16) years qualification) of relevant experience in fields such as public-private partnerships, project finance, corporate finance, investment advisory, management consulting, portfolio management, etc. from a reputable firm, investment bank, multilateral organization, and/or public sector organization. Age of a candidate shall not be more than 40 years on the date of this advertisement.
8.	Associate Secretariat (L4)	At least a Bachelor's or equivalent degree from an HEC recognized institution (equivalent to at least sixteen (16) years of schooling) in relevant discipline such as Business Administration, Management or Public Policy. Minimum 2 years (post sixteen (16) years qualification) of relevant experience in operations, office administration, communications & PR, from a multilateral organization and/or public sector organization. Age of a candidate shall not be more than 40 years on the date of this advertisement.

- Competitive remuneration package, commensurate with experience and qualifications and in accordance with P3A's Human Resources Regulations, 2022 will be offered to the selected candidates.
- Interested applicants should submit their CVs [online](http://www.p3a.gov.pk) on P3A's official website (www.p3a.gov.pk). The deadline for submission of applications is August 15, 2024, 11:59PM PST.
- Detailed job descriptions are available on www.p3a.gov.pk/jobs.php

P3A is an equal opportunity employer. We support diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all in our organization.

011-35811000 | 011-35811001 | 011-35811002 | 011-35811003
 011-35811004 | 011-35811005 | 011-35811006 | 011-35811007
 011-35811008 | 011-35811009 | 011-35811010 | 011-35811011
 011-35811012 | 011-35811013 | 011-35811014 | 011-35811015

DAWN DISCLAIMER

Readers are requested to make inquiries before making any request or advertisement both in sending advertisements for publication and in relying on published advertisements. PPAI (Pakistan Herald Publication Pvt. Ltd.) does not vouch for the content of any advertisement and shall not be liable for any loss / inconvenience suffered as a result of reliance placed on any advertisement. PPAI also does not guarantee that advertisements placed shall not be deleted, excluded or edited for want of space or reasons of policy. Readers are hereby also reminded that while all precautionary measures to avoid fraudulent advertisement bookings are adopted at all times, the management shall by no means be held liable for any advertisement(s) which may have been booked or inserted intentionally or otherwise by an individual / public at large or which may involve a property, possession, service or commodity otherwise owned / operated by someone else. Advertisers are requested to take necessary precautions at the time and place of advertisement booking to ensure that no classified advertisement, exclusively intended for publication in DAWN is reproduced in any other publication / website without their prior consent. PPAI shall not be liable for any consequential damage suffered as a result of either an unauthorized or incorrect publication of an advertisement. Advertisers are also requested to note that acceptance of an advertisement and the placement thereof shall remain solely at the sole discretion of PPAI.

Sadiq Public School

Tel: 062-2877692 TENDER NOTICE Fax: 062-2890229

Sealed tenders based on item rates / percentage above or below an approved estimated amount are hereby invited from the contractors / Firms enlisted / renewed in the relevant category / registered with SPS and above with Pakistan Engineering Council for the current financial year 2024-25 under T.S. No. PR/103 dated 15-03-2024 in the field of building works mentioned below:-

Sr	Project Name	Estimated Cost (M)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Comp. Period
1.	Construction of New Boarding House, T. Covered Area 2443750	218.684 M	4,373,698	18 Months

Terms & Conditions

- a. Prescribed tender documents can be obtained immediately from the date of publication of this advertisement and upto 15-08-2024 upon written request accompanied with attested copies of PEC license, CNIC of contractor/ Managing Partner / Director of the firm along with proof of attestation on charges of Rs. 5000/- in the shape of CDR/DD/cashier cheque from the Accounts Office, SPS during office hours OR downloaded from the PPA website.
- b. The sealed tender will be received on 28th Aug 2024 upto 11:00 hrs and shall be opened on same date at 11:30 hrs at Pavilion building in presence of interested participants or their authorized persons. In case of any Gazetted / Local Holiday then the tenders will be received / opened on next working day.
- c. Procedure of open competitive bidding i.e. single stage one envelope system shall be adopted.
- d. If the rate quoted by the lowest and successful bidder is 05% or more below of the estimated cost, he shall have to deposit Quality Assurance Security within 10 days after opening of the bid which is equal to difference of the estimated amount.
- e. Conditional, un-signed, incomplete, cutting, overwriting, doubtful bids will be not accepted.
- f. The Procuring agency may reject all tenders / bids at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid / tender proposals under PPA Rule-15 (Rejection of Bids). However, procuring agency shall upon request communicate to the bidder / tenderer who submit a bid / tender the grounds for its rejection.
- g. The contractors are required to submit their bids on prescribed form otherwise, the same will be rejected.
- h. The contractors are bound to conduct all the quality control tests on their own expenses.
- i. If any further information is required regarding the tenders, please visit the office of Estate Officer/Project Director during working hrs prior to date of opening.

Principal
Sadiq Public School, Bahawalpur
E-Mail: principal@sps.edu.pk

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids in accordance with PPRR Rule No. 24(3) are invited by below mentioned office for the following requirements as per (Rs.):-

Description & IT No	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Fixed Bid Security (Rs.)	Bid Submission Date / Time	Bid Opening Date / Place
SLA FOR MAINTENANCE OF MODULAR UPS EMERSON APM 150 QTY: 02 FOR THREE YEARS IT NO: HQCAA060606060606	5000/-	Total Rs. 250,000/-	15-08-2024 11:00 Hours (MST)	15-08-2024 11:30 Hours (MST)

Bids may be submitted as per conditions set out in bidding documents downloadable (free of cost) from the website www.caa.gov.pk and www.pprp.org.pk and obtainable physically from the address given below on any working day between 0900 hrs to 1200 hrs by paying Bid Fee (non-refundable) through deposit slip in Account No 6-1-2-20614-714-11525 (Title of account "Civil Aviation Authority") in Habib Metropolitan Bank Ltd. Star Gate Branch Karachi and submitting the request letter along with bank deposit slip, proof of Active Taxpayer & GSTIN Certificate of the bidder. No Bidding Documents would be issued on the bid opening date. Bids must be dropped in bid drop box placed at under mentioned office on or before bid submission date / time as per schedule.

Note: All bidders disseminating the bidding document from PCAA website shall immediately inform PCAA before bid opening date through request letter (along with proof of Active Taxpayer List & GSTIN Certificate of FBR) at the address below for inclusion in subsequent communication. PCAA will not be responsible for any lack of communication or non-receipt of information by bidders due to ignorance / violation of this instruction.

Time period for performance of contract: Till the satisfactory completion of contract and warranty period. PCAA reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids due to cogent reasons which will be communicated to bidders on request. This advertisement is also available on PPRR website www.pprp.org.pk and CAA website www.caa.gov.pk.

Warning: Any financial instrument submitted by bidder if found false or got defuncted at any stage would result in blacklisting and legal action as per law.

Additional Director, I.T.
HQs Civil Aviation Authority, JIAP Karachi.
Tel: 021-99072587; Fax: 021-99242184
www.caa.gov.pk

MISCELLANEOUS



160 Years of Excellence Government College University, Lahore

MS/MPhil ADMISSIONS OPEN

SESSION: 2024-2026

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

16 years of education with minimum 2.5/4.00 CGPA (semester system) OR 50% marks (annual system) in MA/MSc, BA/BSc (Hons) OR equivalent degree from HEC recognized institution.

Only candidates who have passed GCU-GAT 2024 (I, II & III) or Valid GAT General conducted by NTS are eligible for admission. The result of the entrance test must be valid till the last date of submission of forms.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

The general eligibility and in detailed subject wise eligibility is available on GCU website. The candidates are requested to read the eligibilities before applying.

HOW TO APPLY

GCU GAT qualified candidates can apply through their already created account at:

www.gcuonline.pk



Candidate shall fill up online Admission Form and then download Processing Fee challan of Rs. 1500/- to be deposited in any branch of UBL across Pakistan. Payment through any Mobile App / UBL Omni is not acceptable.

Hard copy/ printout of Admission Form is **not required** to be submitted OR posted to the GC University Lahore. However the original documents along with one (01) set of photocopies will be required only at the time of interview.

- Last date to apply is **08-08-2024** during banking hours.
- A separate admission form shall be submitted for each Discipline.
- Online admission forms are available from **28-07-2024** to **08-08-2024**.
- Interviews will be conducted from **15-08-2024** to **20-08-2024**. (Detail is available on website)

NOTE

PEEP master level merit & need based scholarships are available for students.

[/gcuuniversitylhr](https://www.facebook.com/gcuuniversitylhr) [/gcuuniversitylhr](https://www.instagram.com/gcuuniversitylhr)

Last Date
08-08-2024

The Government College University Lahore invites applications from suitable candidates for admissions to the following disciplines of two-year MS/MPhil programs:

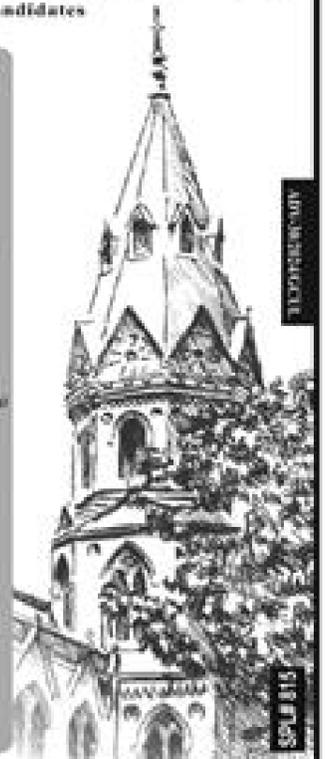
The schedule of interviews will be uploaded at: www.gcu.edu.pk

PROGRAMS OFFERED AT MAIN CAMPUS KATCHERY ROAD

- Applied Physics (CASP) (Morning)
- Banking & Financial Economics (Morning)
- Biotechnology (Morning)
- Botany (Morning & Evening)
- Chemistry (Morning & Evening)
- Computer Science (Morning)
- Data Science (Morning)
- Environmental Science (Morning & Evening)
- Economics (Morning)
- Electrical Engineering (Morning)
- Electronics (Morning)
- English Literature (Morning)
- Entrepreneurship and SME Management (Morning)
- Freshwater Biology, Fisheries and Aquaculture (Evening)
- Executive MBA (Morning)
- Industrial/Organizational Psychology (Morning)
- Islamic Studies (Morning)
- Mathematics (Morning)
- Microbiology (Morning)
- Persian (Morning)
- Philosophy (Morning)
- Physics (Morning)
- Political Science (Morning)
- Psychology (Morning)
- Punjabi (Morning)
- Public Policy & Governance (Morning)
- Sociology (Morning)
- Urdu (Morning)
- Zoology (Morning & Evening)

PROGRAMS OFFERED AT NEW CAMPUS, LOCATED AT KALA SHAH KAKU

- Archive Studies (Morning)
- Art History (Morning)
- Disaster Management (Morning)
- Geography (Morning)
- History (Morning)
- Physical Education & Sports Sciences (Morning)
- Statistics (Morning)



PROF. DR. SHAZIA BASHIR
VICE CHANCELLOR

For queries related to ONLINE submission of admission forms, please send email at onlineadmission@gcu.edu.pk For further information regarding admissions, please contact the relevant Department of GC University Lahore. UAN: 111-000-010 (Extension: 210 OR Dial '0' for operator) OR EMAIL at registrar@gcu.edu.pk



University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore

Provoking Potentials Producing Professionals



Last Date Extended for Application **09-08-2024**

U V A S

142 Years of Legacy

Admissions 2024

2nd Year (Part II) 1st Annual Exam 2024 Result Awaiting Candidates of Intermediate or equivalent are eligible to apply

Among Top 10 Universities of HEC
Opening New Horizons of Professional Education

WHY CHOOSE UVAS

- Field-oriented degrees approved by HEC and accredited with respective councils
- Highly qualified and foreign trained faculty
- Maintains external linkages with international universities / organizations
- Industrial liaison for economic development
- Need-based degrees and training programs designed to cater market demand and local societal needs
- Market oriented internship programs

FACILITIES AVAILABLE

- Scholarships for meritorical and deserving students.
- Spacious air-conditioned lecture rooms with cutting edge technologies & audio-visual aids
- Fully equipped research laboratories as per international standards
- State of the art IT infrastructure equipped with computer labs, video conferencing facility and 24/7 broadband facility
- Hands-on training facilities
- ISO certified diagnostic and research Laboratories
- Veterinary Academy for trainings and workshops

Revised Schedule of UG Admission 2024	Dates
Last Date for Submission of Applications	09-08-2024
Hafiz-e-Quran Test	15-08-2024
Display of Tentative Master List	16-08-2024
Display of Final Master List	20-08-2024
First Merit List	22-08-2024
Last Date for Deposit of Dues	27-08-2024
Second Merit List	29-08-2024
Last Date for Deposit of Dues	02-09-2024
Third Merit List	04-09-2024
Last Date for Deposit of Dues	06-09-2024
Fourth Merit List	09-09-2024
Last Date for Deposit of Dues	11-09-2024
Fifth Merit List	13-09-2024
Last Date for Deposit of Dues	17-09-2024
Orientation Commencement of Classes	17-09-2024
Near And Dist Test	02-09-2024
Sports Trials	03-09-2024 to 05-09-2024
Medical Board for Disabled Applicants	06-09-2024
Display of All Quota Lists Except Nominations From Other Provinces / Armed Forces	10-09-2024

Note: Subsequent merit lists other than above mentioned schedule against the initial seats (if any) in respective programs may be displayed upto three weeks after the commencement of classes.

Undergraduate Degree Programs

Five Year Degree Programs

- DVM Lahore Campus / Rawl Campus, Pattoki (Morning/Evening)
- DVM-Jhang Campus (Morning/Evening)
- DVM-Narowal Campus (Morning/Evening)
- Pharm D-Lahore Campus (Morning/Evening)

Four Year Degree Programs (Lahore Campus)

- BSA (Morning/Afternoon/Evening)
- BS Applied Microbiology (Morning/Evening)
- BS Medical Laboratory Technology (Morning/Evening)
- BS Biotechnology (Morning/Evening)
- BS Biochemistry (Morning/Evening)
- BS Food Science & Technology (Morning/Evening)
- BS Nutrition & Dietetics (Morning/Evening)
- BS Environmental Sciences (Morning/Evening)
- BS Biological Sciences (Morning/Evening)
- BS Computer Science (Morning/Evening)

Four Year Degree Programs (Rawl Campus, Pattoki)

- BS Computer Science (Morning/Evening)
- BS Medical Laboratory Technology (Morning/Evening)
- BS Biotechnology (Morning)
- BS Food Science & Technology (Morning)
- BS Poultry Science (Morning)
- BS Dairy Technology (Morning)
- BS Biological Sciences (Morning)
- BS Zoology (Morning)
- BS Botany (Morning)
- BS Fisheries and Aquaculture (Morning)

Four Year Degree Programs (Narowal Campus)

- BS Medical Lab Technology (Morning)
- BS Applied Microbiology (Morning)
- BS Applied Microbiology (Morning/Evening)
- BS Biological Sciences (Morning)
- BS Zoology (Morning)

For more information about eligibility/merit criteria visit at www.uvas.edu.pk

Prospectus / Online Admission Panel is available on website for further details please visit www.uvas.edu.pk

seats are available at hostels purely on merit basis. Incomplete application will not be entertained in any case.

Email: ugadmission24@uvas.edu.pk

APPLY ONLINE

Step wise procedure for filling and submission of ONLINE APPLICATION FORM for undergraduate admissions

- Prospectus can be downloaded from the University Website, www.uvas.edu.pk
- Application will be filled Online at University Website.
- Candidate will pay an amount of Rs. 2000/- as Admission Processing Fee (only for one program). The candidates applying in more than one program will pay Rs. 500/- for each additional program. If the application is to be submitted against any quota, then the candidate has to pay additional fee of Rs. 500/-
- If the application is to be submitted against any Overseas Pakistanis / Industrialist Quota then the candidate has to pay Rs. 120000/- (Refundable, if not admitted) at the time of submission of application.
- Candidates can deposit Admission Processing Fee through Online Generated Bank Challan in any branch of Bank Alfalah in Pakistan.
- Candidates are directed to upload paid challan form at specified place in online admission form.
- Only successful Candidates are required to submit Printed Copy / Hard Copy of the Admission Form along with Original Paid Bank Challan as well as other supporting documents to the relevant Departments after the Commencement of Classes.

Eligibility Criteria / Merit Criteria

Admission Criteria will be only based on Matric (30%) and Intermediate or on or before 2023 (70%)

- Age Limit: Candidate must not be over 25 years of age on the last date of submission of application i.e 09-08-2024
- Second year (Part-II) results awaiting candidates of intermediate or equivalent (1st Annual exam 2024) are eligible to apply if they have passed all subjects of Part-I.
- Candidates who have already passed their intermediate or equivalent exams in 2023 or earlier, will be evaluated on the basis of their Part-I result only.
- Candidates will be granted admission provisionally, after securing the admission, they must pass Part-II 1st Annual exam 2024 and meet the minimum eligibility criteria of the relevant degree program as well as they must also submit their result card within stipulated time period, failing which admission will be cancelled and deposited fee will not be refunded. The same will be applicable in case of DAE & O/A Level candidates.
- Candidates possessing O/A Level or any foreign equivalent qualifications must have to submit the equivalence certificate from BGC, Islamabad - Pakistan within stipulated time in the relevant Departments.
- The Candidate can update his/her already uploaded data, except Quota and the degree program in which he/she has already applied, after depositing of Challan fee till the last date for online apply.
- If any discrepancy / false information / facts are found, applicant shall be responsible, and the university has the right to cancel/reject his/her application.

Note:

- In case of less than 10 students in any program (Morning/Evening), classes will not be started of that specific program.
- Limited numbers of seats are available at hostels purely on merit basis.
- Incomplete application will not be entertained in any case.

Convener, Admission Committee
University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Out fall Road, Lahore-54000,
Tel: 042-99213563, 042-99211374 Ext: 340

METRO

North



France and Britain victorious in triathlon, first gold for Guatemala
Pg.20 SPORT

ISLAMABAD
Sunset 07:12pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:15am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 26°C
Maximum 29°C
Outlook Rain



MANY temples from the pre-partition era still exist in Rawalpindi city. Though they no longer cater to the Hindu community as many have been converted into residences or offices, the temples dotting the city's skyline serve as a reminder of the communities that once thrived here. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

DHA bigwigs in the dock for eating up 'amenity land'

Plea says plots meant for martyrs and differently-abled children converted into residential, commercial land

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: A former administrator of the Islamabad Defence Housing Authority (DHA) has taken the army-run housing scheme to court against the conversion of essential amenity plots into residential and commercial pieces of land.

Retired brigadier Qasim Shahzad filed the petition before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) through his counsel Raja Iram Ameen Minhas, and the registrar's office after the preliminary scrutiny filed the petition before Justice Mianqul Hassan Anwar after hearing on Thursday (today).

The petition claimed that the DHA management committee had changed the status of essential amenity plots in the Town Plan of Phase 2, DHA Islamabad, which were meant for the welfare of the bereaved families of martyrs, war wounded, differently-abled, and other persons of the defence forces.

The petition said that the DHA management committee was also the beneficiary of the "unauthorised" conversion of amenity land into others.

The petition said that the amenity plots were converted into residential and commercial units "to extend benefit" to the members of the then-managing committee, including the administrator and the secretary. The plea also referred to a similar case of the National Police Foundation where the NPF managing director got residential plots allotted by converting the amenity plot (reserved for a park) into a residential one, terming it a classic case of abuse of power.

The petition stated that 50 kanal on Central Boulevard reserved for a school, including a

hospital for special children, had been converted into residential plots of "unusual size" of 2.5 kanal.

The petition added that almost every plot was a corner plot that was allotted to the senior management of the then-DHA administration at unprecedented subsidised rates.

It said that in addition to the school for special children, a hospital and mess was also planned for the boarding and lodging requirement for the children of bereaved families of martyrs, war wounded, differently-abled, and others.

Likewise, another 31.18 kanal plot meant for a hospital had been converted into commercial and residential units, the petition said, adding that the green belt on Iqbal Boulevard had been converted into 8 marble commercial plots allotted to the senior hierarchy of the management committee.

The petition stated that the area dedicated in the Town Plan of Sector F (Phase 5) for martyrs, war injured, differently-abled and junior ranks had been redesigned for the allotment of plots to a land-providing company, EDCFC Pvt Limited, on an exemption model.

It said the company was not entitled to exemption plots, especially in this area where 50pc quota was reserved for the said categories.

The petition said the DHA act mandated the authority to adhere to the Islamabad Master Plan and that could not be altered without the approval of the government. The sub-section 5 of the act ensured the minimum quota for martyrs and junior ranks. In addition, Section 21 defines that the provisions of the DHA Islamabad Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.

The aforesaid conditions implied that the DHA Islamabad master plan has to be approved by the CDA as the DHA cannot change it on its own, the petition said, asking the court to set aside the unauthorised amendments and issue direction to the DHA to restore the amenity plots in accordance with the approved master plan.

Over a dozen Pims doctors unpaid for seven months

By Iqram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: As many as 16 doctors at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) appointed under the Medical Teaching Institution (MTI) have been working without salaries for the past seven months, forcing two more to quit their jobs in July this year.

The two doctors were the latest to quit due to the non-payment of salaries, saying it was impossible for them to work at the hospital without salaries. 100 nurses have already been laid off at the hospital. In light of the financial crisis, these doctors have asked the president and the prime minister to intervene for the payment of their dues.

During the PTI government, MTI was introduced despite the reservations of the hospital staff. Eventually, over 200 employees, including 44 professors, associate professors, assistant professors and casualty medical officers, 548 charge nurses, and six members of the management committee, were appointed during the tenure of MTI.

However, after the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government repealed the MTI act, the employees continued to work at Pims and subsequently their contracts were extended till December 2023. They also approached the Islamabad High Court earlier this year and obtained a stay order against possible layoffs.

A doctor on the condition of anonymity said they had not been paid since Jan 2024. "We were appointed under the MTI [law] and a number of doctors left their jobs to join Pims. Later, the MTI Act was repealed by the PDM government but we were allowed to continue working here," he said, adding that their case was being heard in the high court but they were not being paid by the hospital.

"The fact is that the management has been trying to force us to quit our jobs," he claimed. "This month two more doctors i.e. Dr. Adnan and Dr. Zahid resigned as they could not work anymore without a salary," he said. A spokesperson for the health ministry refused to comment on the issue and said the matter was sub-judice.

It is worth mentioning that in November 2020, then-president Dr. Arif promulgated the MTI Ordinance under which the Pims was to be run through a board of governors (BoG). The members were appointed and notified by the health ministry on the recommendation of a search and nomination council.

Even though employees protested against the ordinance, it sailed through parliament and subsequently some appointments were made under the MTI Act 2021.

The PDM government passed the MTI Repeal Bill and sent it to the president to get his nod but he returned it asking the government to reconsider it.

Eventually, the bill was tabled in a joint session of parliament where it was passed. The bill was again passed on December 20, 2023, in a joint sitting of the parliament house and employees, who were appointed regular employees under MTI, lost their status.

Rauf Hassan among 10 PTI activists shifted to Adiala jail

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Ten activists of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) including its Secretary Information Rauf Hassan arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency under the "Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2010 (Peca)" were shifted to Adiala jail on Wednesday.

The FIR was registered with the FIA police station Islamabad against the activists, allegedly involved in "anti-state propaganda".

Besides Rauf Hassan, the PTI media cell members who were shifted to Adiala jail were identified as Afaq Ahmed Ahi, resident of Islamabad, Hameedullah, resident of Islamabad, Rashid Mahmood, resident of Rawalpindi, Zeshan Farooq, resident of Rawalpindi, Syed Osama Wajid, resident of Rawalpindi, Mohammed Rizwan Atzal, resident of Toba Tek Singh, Mohammed Farique, resident of Peshawar, Syed Hamza, resident of Islamabad and Liaquat Ali, resident of Islamabad.

PTI spokesperson Feroz Hassan and other activists were arrested by the Islamabad police on July 22 as the interior ministry accused the party of peddling "anti-state propaganda".

Hassan, who was arrested last Monday, was initially placed on a two-day remand, followed by a three-day extension, and then another two-day remand for further investigation.

Judicial Magistrate Shabbir Bhatti on Tuesday sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Information Secretary Rauf Hassan and other activists of the party to jail on a 14-day judicial remand.

NOC dispute

Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday asked Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the district administration to resolve dispute related to the 'No Objection Certificate' for PTI's public gathering.

IHC Chief Justice Ameer Farooq hinted at initiating contempt proceedings against the district administration over non-compliance with the court order.

During the course of hearing, PTI's counsel Shoaib Shauhan argued before the court that the district administration was not complying with the judicial order.

Advocate General Ayaz Sheikh said that the PTI could hold its gathering after Jamal-i-Islam concludes its sit-in. IHC CJ urged both parties to resolve the matter mutually, warning the district administration of a show cause notice.

He advised both the PTI and district administration to deliberate upon the issue and reach a logical conclusion by Thursday (today).

Subsequently, further hearing in this matter adjourned till today.

Last week, IHC Justice Saman Razaq Inayat asked the district administration to decide the venue for PTI's public gathering in accordance with the relevant constitutional provisions.

She disposed of the petition of PTI with the observation that the constitution guaranteed freedom of peaceful assembly with reasonable restrictions which could not be taken away on the pretext that a political party poses a threat.

CPEC transformed Pakistan into attractive investment destination: minister

Second phase to generate new momentum for development, Chinese official says

By Adnan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said Pakistan would have been on the brink of collapse had it not been for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which turned it into an attractive investment destination.

He was speaking at a seminar titled, 'CPEC 2.0: Prospects and Challenges' organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). The event focused on CPEC, its second phase as well as the emerging

opportunities.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Minister Counselor at the Chinese embassy Yang Nuo, economist Dr. Ashfaq Hassan Khan, diplomats, academicians and researchers also attended the seminar.

Mr Iqbal said the strong bond of trust and shared vision that existed between China and Pakistan enabled them to overcome initial challenges.

"Now as we enter the second phase of CPEC, the focus will be on industrial collaboration, regional connectivity and socioeconomic development," he said.

The minister went on to say that peace, political stability, continuity of policies and "unity as one nation and one team" were necessary for the success of CPEC.

"CPEC 2.0 aims to enhance technologies, create job opportunities and ensure food security through agricultural mechanisation," he

said, adding that "as we embark on this journey, it represents a critical opportunity for Pakistan to build a brighter future for generations to come".

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said the centre of power was shifting from the West to the East.

China is becoming a scientific superpower, contributing 40pc of research in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and establishing top-ranking universities, he said.

Senator Syed said China's diplomacy and role in the world had also broadened, adding that Beijing viewed its relationship with Islamabad as a strategic long-term partnership based on mutual trust and cooperation.

He also spoke about attempts made by hostile elements who wanted to sabotage CPEC.

Yang Nuo said the second phase of CPEC was poised to generate

new momentum for Pakistan's development, building on the project's success over the past 11 years, which had attracted \$25 billion in investments and transformed the country's economic and social landscape.

"Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders have reached a consensus on advancing integration and enhancing Pakistan's economic and social development through the second phase of CPEC," Yang Nuo said.

"Joint efforts would focus on developing Special Economic Zones (SEZs), accelerating project implementation and increasing Pakistan's agricultural exports to China," he added. This, he said, would contribute to both China's modernisation and Pakistan's growth.

Principal and Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities at Nust Dr. Ashfaq Hassan Khan said

CPEC was a comprehensive project that aimed at promoting connectivity, regional cooperation and integration.

"Its success is reflected through the participation of over 150 countries and 40 international institutions, underscoring its potential as a regional initiative," Dr. Khan said.

An academicians from Fudan University, Prof. Zhang Jiahong, emphasised on the importance of dispelling propaganda regarding Chinese companies and focusing on frameworks to create more jobs and business opportunities.

Associate Professor at Bahria University Dr. Hasan Daud Butt said urban-rural synergy was crucial for the success of CPEC Phase 2.0, citing the example of Hakkouli Khan Road as an illustration of this synergy.

Executive Director of the Pakistan Research Centre for a

Community with Shared Future Khalid Taimur Akram said Pakistan should explore other regional corridors and their integration with CPEC to promote regional connectivity and leverage its role as a regional hub for trade and connections, aligning with the UN's framework of development.

Earlier, in his welcome remarks, IRS President Ambassador Jaffer Saleem said the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China had reached new heights with the launch of CPEC 2.0, which focused on high-quality development, technological innovation and sustainable growth.

"CPEC 2.0 offers great opportunities for job creation, youth empowerment and economic growth, provided security and institutional challenges were addressed to ensure productive investments," he said.

PRAYER

Fajr 05:47
Zuhr 12:18
Asr 05:09
Maghreb 07:11
Isha 08:46

Starting time in Islamabad

REFLECTIONS

CC THINK OVER IT THAT BY SIMPLY GRANTING YOU THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYING FOR HIS SAVINGS AND MISERIES, HE HAS HANDED OVER THE KEYS OF HIS TREASURES TO YOU. >>

— HAFIZ ALI (A.S.)

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Senate body comes down hard on climate change ministry

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary body on Wednesday raised concerns about the Ministry of Climate Change's planning, prioritisation and preparedness in addressing environmental challenges.

The Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, chaired by Senator Sherry Rehman, highlighted significant shortcomings in the ministry's approach.

Expressing disappointment with the ministry's presentation on climate change, Senator Rehman said: "The presentation was outdated and lacked

clear priorities or a strategic plan. As the chair, I expected a robust and technically sound approach to this pressing national issue."

Striving on the urgency and scale of the climate challenges facing Pakistan, Senator Rehman emphasised the need for a coordinated response. "Climate change is a national crisis and yet the ministry has not demonstrated the necessary commitment or strategic direction," she added.

The senator also criticised the ministry's lack of ownership of key initiatives and policies, noting that the current approach was unlikely to impact policy outcomes or meet

national commitments. "There is a troubling disconnect within the ministry regarding its own institutional mandate and a lack of coordination among its departments," Senator Rehman said.

She also stressed the need for a comprehensive communication strategy to raise public awareness about climate change. She criticised the ministry for its lack of awareness about plastic regulation and failure to track nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

"It is astonishing that the ministry is unaware of key regulatory issues and there is no system in place to track our NDCs," she said.

She further noted the significant oversight of emitting any mention of energy transition in the presentation, calling it a crucial aspect of the climate action plan that was absent.

The committee also discussed the recent fire incident at the I/S Sunday Bazaar, where an explosion of batteries used for storing solar energy affected around 625 stalls.

Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Muhammad Ali Raza informed the committee about the incident and Senator Rehman recommended that safety protocols in such bazaars be improved in line with international practices.

In her closing remarks, Senator Rehman urged the ministry to enhance its institutional capacity, engage experts and develop a clear plan with defined priorities, adaptation, mitigation measures and initiatives.

She also requested a detailed report on international engagements, including participation in COP conferences, and called for improved quality and transparency in future presentations.

The meeting was attended by key stakeholders including the Coordinator for Climate Change Komana Khattak, the secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change and other officials from relevant departments.

PTA uncovers 'theft' of seized iPhones by customs officials

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has uncovered the use of illegally smuggled iPhone 14 Pro Max devices by customs officials, instead of destroying them in accordance with the rules.

According to the documents available with Dawn, PTA in response to the letter sent to the authority in connection with the inquiry against the Islamabad International Airport (IIA) Collectorate disclosed that the expensive cell phones seized from passengers which were required to be destroyed were operational.

Source: prior to the matter said that the decision to destroy the cell phones was taken by relevant authorities with a committee com-

prising senior officials of FBR formed to oversee the process. The items that could not be auctioned are supposed to be destroyed under the supervision of the committee.

The Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) has also taken notice of this matter and sought action against officials responsible for the 'theft'. FTO also sought explanation from the IIA Collectorate.

According to the documents, the issue of the theft of 42 iPhones was raised in a complaint. The FTO ordered the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to "conduct proper probe into a allegation that impugned mobile phones are active (not destroyed) and take appropriate action against customs officials found responsible."

During the probe, the PTA informed the Collectorate that "operational utilisation of 2 non-type

approved and 20 other mobile phones with iCloud status reflected ON."

"This leads to the inference that at least 22 iPhone 14 Pro Max out of a total 42 were actually not destroyed," the inquiry report stated. The IIA Collectorate is ordered to cover up the theft shifted the responsibility to another Collectorate, as per the report.

FTO in its order observed that the case was a "Defiance of Recommendations" as the inquiry officer failed to identify the persons responsible for the theft and subsequently sought explanation from the IIA Collectorate.

"Collectorate, Collectorate of Customs IIA, Islamabad is given a last opportunity to comply with recommendations," the order stated while instructing to take appropriate action against the members of staff found responsible.

PML-N Azad Kashmir appoints information secretary

By Tariq Noqash

MIRAFAPARABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has appointed Raja Ashraf Iqbal, former Director General of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Public Relations Department, as its regional Additional Secretary of Information.

His primary task will be to disseminate the party's message to the grassroots level, fostering deeper connections and support.

Expressing his gratitude to the party's central president, Nawaz Sharif, and regional president, Shah Ghulam Qadir, the newly appointed officer Quair, who hails from a prominent political and entrepreneurial family in Sumbati, Bijnor district, pledged on Monday to fully utilize his experience, expertise, and networks to enhance the party's popularity across the state.

"I am deeply hon-

oured by this appointment and the trust placed in me by the leadership. I am committed to leveraging my skills and connections to ensure that the PML-N continues to resonate with the people of AJK," Mr Iqbal stated during a brief interaction with journalists.

He asserted that the PML-N was a formidable political force in the region, one that had consistently met the expectations of the masses.

"The people of Kashmir are eager to see our party form the government single-handedly in the state," he added.

Mr Iqbal announced his plans to embark on a statewide tour to propagate the party's "message of peace, love, and development". He outlined his vision for a prosperous AJK, highlighting the urgent need of safety and progress. "Our mission is to build a future where every Kashmiri feels represented and empowered," he remarked.

GENERAL NOTICE

Apartment No. 12, Floor No. 03, Plot No. C-7, Commercial Block No. 3, Area 544 Sq.R By Registration No. C-8094, River Gardens Housing Scheme, Zone 5, Islamabad in the name of Raja Muhammad Ghayas son of Raja Muhammad Mehboob. The CNIC number is 37495-8677243-7. His original allotment letter has been lost. I am selling above mentioned apartment to Yasar Nawaz son of Raja Muhammad Gul Nawaz ID card number 37495-319112-1. If any person or organization has any objection then inform in written within 15 days to Managing Director Raza Wynans Developers Private Limited, Khan Chambers, 88, Connaught Road, Saddar, Rawalpindi. No later extension will be accepted.

Al-Musharafa
Raja Muhammad Ghayas, Son of Raja Muhammad Mehboob

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR INSTITUTE OF KIDNEY DISEASES HAYATABAD PESHAWAR

CORRIGENDUM/ADDENDUM

Reference to this office advertisement for different positions at Institute of Kidney Diseases, Hayatabad Peshawar under MTI Reforms Act, 2015 (amended from time to time), published in Daily Mashriq Advertisement No. INF (P) 1895/24 dated: 28.07.2024 & other. In Terms & conditions SRI the account # may be read as "3002194839" instead of "00463-00-5". Other contents of the advertisement shall remain the same.

DIRECTOR
Institute of Kidney Diseases
Hayatabad Peshawar

QUAID-I-AZAM UNIVERSITY

CORRIGENDUM

In connection with already published advertisement tender notice in Daily Jang and Daily Ahsan both dated 10 July 2024 and Daily Dawn dated 11 July 2024 is amended as under:-

Read - Last date of tender submission 30.07.2024 date of opening 31.07.2024

Fee - Last date of tender submission 19.08.2024 date of opening 20.08.2024

The interested bidders are requested to submit their bids / proposals online through EPADS at <https://epads.gov.pk> before opening date, and original bids / proposal must be submitted at Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad on or before 11:00AM on 20.08.2024

Dr. Muhammad Zaman,
Department of Sociology
Ph. 051-90642042

CDA CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

3rd CORRIGENDUM (TENDER NOTICE)

Retribution of House No. 17-A, F-7/3, Islamabad

The amendments in the invitation of bids published in Daily Newspaper Daily DAWN 24-07-2024 vide INF(3) No.34104, in the work **Retribution of House No. 17-A, F-7/3, Islamabad** may be made. Other terms and conditions indicated in the original invitation of bids shall be same

FOR	TO BE READ AS
Tender	Single stage / Two envelope
Last Date for Submission of Application for Purchase of Tender Documents	03-07-2024
Date for Submission and Opening of Financial Bid	03-07-2024 11:30 AM
Date & time for submission of Bid	03-08-2024 11:00 AM
Time for opening of technical bids	11:30 AM

Deputy Director
Sector Development Division-8, CDA
1st Floor, Shah Jahan Road, Building F-4 Markaz, Islamabad, Phone No 051-9222788

Three passengers travelling to Spain on fake documents arrested

By Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Immigration staff of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) at the Islamabad International Airport on Wednesday arrested three passengers intending to travel to Europe via Saudi Arabia on fake documents and also rounded up a travel agent involved in human trafficking.

According to sources, the arrests of the passengers came about when the checks of passengers for FIA flight PK-753 was underway. As the passengers approached the FIA immigration counter, their travel documents were found fake which led to their detention.

The passengers were traveling to Saudi Arabia on an Umrah visa.

The accused were from Gujrat, Muzib Bahadudin and Bahawalpur.

The FIA said during search, fake Brazilian passports, Spanish resident cards of different people, Pakistani and Spanish passports were recovered from the baggage of the passengers.

According to FIA's preliminary investigation, the passengers obtained travel documents from an agent after paying Rs14.5 million.

The agent who was also traveling along with the passengers, was detained on the identification of the passengers.

The accused were shifted to FIA's Anti-Human Trafficking Cell for further investigation. — Staff Reporter

HEALTH SERVICES ACADEMY
Degree Awarding Institute under HSA (Governing) Act, 2008
Government of Pakistan

CORRIGENDUM PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

FOR HIRING THE SERVICES OF DATA COLLECTION FIRMS/COMPANIES TO CONDUCT NEED ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCES FOR DRIVING INNOVATION AND ACHIEVING SDGS 2030

Reference to the Advertisement No. PID(I) 624 / 24 published on 27 July 2024 in different newspapers (The Jang, Daily Express, DAWN, Dunya News, and others) regarding the subject captioned above. It is informed that all bidders to submit their prequalification documents through EPADS on the PPRA website before the closing date.

Project Director
Health Services Academy
PM National Health Complex, Park Road Chak Shahzad, Islamabad
Ph No. 051-9255596
Email: tariqqa@hca.edu.pk

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR MTI, MARDAN MEDICAL COMPLEX, MARDAN

Applications are invited from the candidates having domicile of KP & its merged districts for the following positions on contract basis at MTI/MAC Mardan.

S.R.	Name of Posts	Posts in 2024	Qualification & Experience
1	Nursing Manager No. of Post (Supervisory level) A. Admin & Supervision (24) B. MSB (02) C. CP (04) (Male/Female)	17	Post No. 02: Nursing or MSB (Contract) from Accredited institutions and registered from Pakistan Nursing Council, with Specialty in relevant field as per (A & B) the required specialty in Hospital Management or MSB. Post No. 03: Post qualification experience required in relevant specialties from a reputable teaching hospital. Post No. 04: Grade Nurse: Three (03) years General Nursing and 01 Year Master of Post basic clinical specialization in relevant field. OR MS Nursing/Post MS Registered with Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) Experience in relevant specialty will be preferred.
2	Charge Nurse No. of Posts: • Male: 04 • Female: 04	08	MS Nursing/Post MS Registered with Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) Experience in relevant specialty will be preferred.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- In-service employees shall apply through proper channel, whereas upon selection they will have to resign from their jobs.
- No fee/CA will be admissible for test/interview.
- The MTI-Mardan is an equal opportunity Employer.
- The competent authority has the right to increase/decrease or cancel any of the positions.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Interested candidates must visit NTS web site: www.nts.org.pk to apply online within 20 days of publication of advertisement. Submit your test fee via i-Link 1888 Participating Banks/ATM/Internet Banking/Mobile Banking/Easy-Paisa/Jazz-Cash/7CS Express Counters by depositing test charges from NTS website.
- The candidates shall send hard copy of duly filled online application form along with required attested educational i.e. 2x attested recent passport size photos, CNIC, domicile and attested copies of educational degrees/certificates, Experience certificates to NTS Headquarters (MTI, Mardan Project), Plot #58, Street #04, Sector H-8/7, Islamabad within due date.
- Only online filled Application Forms within due date will be entertained. Hand written and by hand submitted Application Forms will not be entertained.
- Separate Application Form must be sent for every post in class of applying for more than one category/post.
- For further information and test details, please keep visiting www.nts.org.pk or call at 051-8844441.

INF (P) 1895/24 HOSPITAL DIRECTOR 058-62

MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION HAYATABAD MEDICAL COMPLEX-PESHAWAR

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Medical Teaching Institution, Hayatabad Medical Complex invites Applications for the following position:

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

Qualification	Candidates must possess a recognized Master's degree in Hospital Management or Health Services Management or Business Management or Public Health or Public Administration or any other relevant qualification. Provided that a person, who possesses a recognized medical degree, may also apply for the post, with the condition that he/she shall have an additional master's degree and required experience.
Gender	Male/Female
Term	5 years or till the age of superannuation 60 years whichever comes earlier.
Experience	Candidates must possess at least 7 years of experience in management.

Terms & Conditions:

- Applications accompanied with complete bio data and academic / experience / domicile certificates along with 02 recent photographs and CNIC photocopies only enclosed must reach the Office of Secretary, Hayatabad Medical Complex (20 Working) of the publication of this advertisement on a prescribed form.
- Application Forms are available on MTI/MAC website i.e. www.mti.org.pk / www.hmc.gov.pk and will be submitted to the Office of Secretary Hayatabad Medical Complex along with Bank Draft / Payment Order of Rs 2,000/- in favor of Hayatabad Medical Teaching Institution (MTI/MAC) through direct deposit to Bank of Hayatabad, HMC Branch, Branch Code 0285, A/C Number PLS-3000187189.
- The applications duly completed with supported attested documents should reach personally or through registered courier service to undersigned on or before due date of closing.
- The contents of the concerned will be governed, under the Hayatabad Medical & Teaching Institutions Reforms Act 2015 (amended from time to time) and MTS Regulations 2012.
- If the closing date fixed for the receipt of application form falls on a public holiday, the next working day shall be considered as the closing date.
- An application after the closing time and date shall stand rejected.
- Scrutiny Committee shall be competent to reject applications which are incomplete, however the approved candidates can appeal to the competent authority of HMC for review. The decision of the competent authority shall be final.
- Any candidate may be disqualified or excluded from interview if he/she is (a) Convicted by the court of law (b) Dismissed from public service, (c) Knowledgeably furnishes any false information, (d) Suppresses any information which may lead to his/her disqualification, (e) Attempts to obtain supply for his/her candidature by improper means, (f) Submits forged certificates, (g) Tempers with the entries in his/her age and academic certificates, (h) Misbehaves in the interview.
- Original documents should be produced at the time of interview.
- No fee/CA will be allowed for test / interview.

058-62 **SECRETARY-BOARD OF GOVERNORS**
MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION-HAYATABAD MEDICAL COMPLEX, PESHAWAR

WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES PESHAWAR
GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Income tax/ Sales tax register firms, authorized dealers/ suppliers registered with KPRA and Public Health Department for supply, installation and commissioning of approved pumping machinery of tube well as per following details and terms & conditions.

Lot#	Supply & Installation, testing and commissioning of pumping machine at Peshawar (between Sarat tube well)	Q1 No	PKR 1,733,415
Lot# 2	Supply & Installation, testing and commissioning of pumping machine at Bana Mans UC-35, PK-75 Peshawar	Q1 No	PKR 1,524,468

Terms & Conditions:

- SOI and other bid documents can be obtained on written request from the office of the undersigned on presenting the KPRA registration and endorsement/registration with PHCD department in supply and installation of tube well pumping machinery, authorized dealership certificate and providing the slip of PKR 3000/- (non-refundable) payable in WSSP A/C Bank of Khyber, Phase 3 Chowk Hayatabad Peshawar (BAN) or PKR 10000 (10000 PKR) immediately after publishing of advertisement in newspaper up to August 13, 2024 or may be downloaded from WSSP website (e-bidding portal <http://epads.gov.pk>) in the date of download from the website (e-bidding portal) the slip of fee for Rs. 3000/- must be submitted with bid.
- Two 2% Bid Security of the total cost in the shape of call-deposit in favor of Chief Executive Officer, WSSP must be accompanied with the bid.
- The Pre bid meeting is scheduled to be held on 7th August 2024, 2:00 pm at WSSP Conference Room as per below mentioned address, where the interested contractors/firms will be apprised about bid submission on e-bidding system of WSSP and bidder should also apply through e-bidding along with manual submission of bidding documents in near future only submission through e-bidding system will be allowed.
- The sealed bids must be submitted by 11:00 am on or before Tuesday August 13, 2024 preferably through courier services and will be opened by the bid preparation and evaluation committee on the same day at 11:30 am in the presence of all the bidders or their authorized representatives, who wishes to attend.
- The bid must be stamped and signed by an authorized person of the firm. All federal and provincial duties/stamp duties/fees including KPRA taxes will be recoverable as per directives of the government inspectors time to time. Firms must be a registered entity with KPRA. (Slur: 30X, 07A, 07P, 07Q)
- Any delinquent/over writing, misrepresentation in tender/BID shall be liable to rejection. Other terms and conditions are available in SOI.
- The Competent Authority reserves the right to reject anyone or all the bids the reason for rejection shall be communicated to the Contractor/firm upon request.
- The bidders are required to register their self on WSSP website vide URL address: <https://wssp.peshawar.org.pk/terms/endorsement-registration-form>. (M/P) 1851/24

GENERAL MANAGER HR/Admin/Procurement (WSSP),
Local Government Complex Plot no 33, Street 13, Sector E-8,
Phase-VII, Hayatabad, Peshawar. Phone#: 051-9219098-121

ADVERTISER

TO ADVERTISE IN DAWN

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E-mail: shahid.yah@dw.com

CHANGE OF NAME

MANSEHRA

I, Syed Aftab Shah (Shah) s/o Syed Munir Khan (Shah) residing at Plot No. 42/11, 00000-3, B-10, Jinnah Park, Faisal Road, Sector 10, Mansehra changed my name to Syed Aftab Shah. Please call me with my new name and make changes in records. (0546278155)

COURT NOTICE

DR. PAYAN

In the Court of Allah Best Out Judge, High Court Islamabad (Sd Court Dr. Payan, Suit No. 9/8 year 2024, Next Date of hearing 10-08-2024, Case Title: Maryam Bibi vs. Syed Aftab Shah, Sd. No. (2) 195 (1) Muhammad Riaz (2) Muhammad Husain sons of Muzaffar Khan (Late) R/o Khan Talakh Tahir Tameem Jaffer Khan Talakh, Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants cannot be served in the ordinary way it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in the Court at 10:00 am on 10/08/2024 the proceeding will be taken against them on the behalf and seal of this Court. (2024/79189)

Commitment to wildlife conservation reaffirmed on World Ranger Day



By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Key stakeholders on Wednesday reaffirmed complete commitment to wildlife conservation at an event organised to mark the World Ranger Day at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

The speakers underscored the collective resolve to protect and preserve Pakistan's rich biodiversity and wildlife habitats for future generations.

The event showcased wildlife photos by an internationally known Pakistani wildlife photographer, Jamal Leghari, launching of a book by the late Zaidi Baig Mirza and screening of a documentary 'The Silent King' on the snow leopard.

The key segment of the ceremony was the inaugural Pakistan Wildlife Protection Awards, where efforts of wildlife protection champions were celebrated.

The event was jointly organised by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Snow Leopard Foundation and Devcom-Pakistan with the support of Snow Leopard Trust, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, PNCA and the provincial wildlife and forest departments of Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

PM's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Raza Raza Khan was the chief guest. Guests included Energy Minister Sardar Asim Ali Khan Leghari, Head of Climate Change at the British High Commission in Pakistan, Anna Rubens, Norwegian Ambassador Per Albertsson and Senator and Wildlife Ambassador Sardar Jamal Khan Leghari.

The Pakistan Wildlife Protection Awards honoured six wildlife guards, watchers and rangers.

Ranger Forest Officer of the Gilgit-Baltistan Parks and Wildlife Department Sarfraz Shauq won the Second-Leopard Award in the national category. Fazal Durrani, Multi-Divisional Forest Officer, and Kamaluddin, Wildlife Inspector of the Gilgit-Baltistan Parks and Wildlife Department won the Best Award and the Blue Sheep award for their conservation and protection efforts in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Two officers of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife Department, the Wildlife Ranger Royal Munsaf Ali Shah and the Deputy Ranger Wildlife Zaid Ahmad were declared winners of the Markhor Award and the Wolf Award respectively.

The Mark Deer Award was earned by Jan Mohammad Nani, Game Watcher, AJK, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

also presented with a souvenir, an appreciation certificate, a field kit and cash prizes of Rs150,000 for the national award winner and Rs250,000 for the rest of the five regional award winners.

Ms Alam highlighted the indispensable role of wildlife guards, watchers and rangers in safeguarding the country's natural heritage.

She emphasised the importance of their dedication and bravery in combating wildlife poaching and preserving ecosystems.

"Today, we recognise six exceptional wildlife protectors from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. These individuals have shown extraordinary courage and dedication in protecting our precious wildlife and natural habitats," she said.

Wildlife Ambassador Sardar Mohammad Jamal Khan Leghari said: "Through my lens, I have brought to life the grace of the soaring raptors, the strength of the roaring big cats, and the vibrant colours of the endemic bird species that call Pakistan home."

Snow Leopard Foundation Director Dr. Mohammad Ali Nawaz said: "The global illegal wildlife trade has surged to become the fourth-largest black market, with an estimated worth of at least \$20 billion per year."

Data vital for sustainable population growth: speakers

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The media has been called upon to play a pivotal role in urging both federal and provincial governments to ensure the availability of inclusive, disaggregated data.

The data is essential for crafting informed policies and implementing them effectively, ultimately achieving sustainable population growth and fostering a resilient and equitable future for all citizens.

This call to action was a key topic of discussion during the Media Coalition Meeting organised by the Population Council with the support of UNFPA in Islamabad. The Media Coalition on Population, comprising journalists from major media outlets across Pakistan, periodically highlights the cross-sectoral

impact of rapid population growth to raise awareness and hold governments accountable for the well-being of the people.

Senior Director Programs Population Council Dr. Ali Mir emphasized the pivotal role of the media in advocating for the regular availability of disaggregated data based on age, sex, disability, geography, and economic status.

"With targeted interventions based on robust data, we can ensure that everyone is counted and accounted for, as each individual plays a vital role in national development," he stated.

Ikram ul Ahsan, Deputy Manager Communication, Population Council, presented the latest Census 2023 data, emphasising the need for Pakistan to follow the example of neighbouring Muslim countries that have successfully lowered their fertility rates.

Hefty electricity bill drives man to commit suicide

TAXILA: A man committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan after being unable to pay a hefty electricity bill in Bhakke Bada area in the limits of Taxila police station on Wednesday, family sources claimed.

According to sources, Malik Tahir, a father of two had been jobless for the past four months and was distressed as the electricity bill's due date had already passed. This was further exacerbated by heated arguments exchanged with his brothers over the unpaid bill. On Wednesday, Tahir locked himself in a room and took his own life. Later, police handed over the body after autopsy at the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Taxila police registered a case and launched further investigation. — Correspondent

MQM's concerns about IPPs to be removed: minister

By Kamal Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday said the government was stable and that there was no need to worry about the current political situation in the country.

Mohsin Naqvi addressed concerns raised by the government's coalition partner, Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) through its main leader and federal education minister, Dr. Khalid Mahmood Subzui, over the IPP issue, and said that they would be resolved promptly.

Speaking after attending a sports kit distribution along with Mr. Subzui at P-6 college, Mr. Naqvi said that the MQM concerns would be removed.

He added that the MQM had recently raised the IPP issue with Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif, who in turn discussed it with the

Federal Minister for Energy.

The government will address all reservations to the policy regarding IPPs, Naqvi resolved while noting that the PM had initiated a consultation process for the same.

The interior minister stressed that the government is stable and the PM along with his team are working diligently for the progress and development of the country. Responding to a question regarding the founder of PTI, who had stated that he would not talk to Mr. Naqvi, the interior minister said, "Only God knows to whom he would talk and to whom he would not."

Regarding Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) ongoing stir and demands including the IPP issue, he stated that the government is actively working to resolve the issue, with a committee already formed for this purpose.

Speaking to the media earlier, the federal education minister

said that MQM had reservation over the IPP issue and had informed interior minister of them. The government should take the public into confidence over the issue, he said.

Earlier, both ministers distributed sports kits and track suits among students at the P-6 College. In the ceremony, two girls and two boys were handed track suits while seven heads of schools were given sports kits.

In this drive, the education minister through the federal government's funds will distribute 20,000 track suits to students of primary schools as their administrations would be provided sports kits for promotion of sports. The education minister said that schools are nurseries of sports and the government is focusing to promote sports in educational institutions to restore the glory of sports in the country.

OFFICE OF THE HOSPITAL DIRECTOR MTI, MARDAN MEDICAL COMPLEX, MARDAN

Applications are invited from the candidates having domicile of KPK & its merged districts for the following positions on contract basis at MTI/MC Mardan.

Sl. No.	Positions	Age in yrs.	Qualification & Experience
01	Supervisor No. of Posts 02 - 01 for ICU - 01 for Paeds (Male/Female)	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSc (Hons) Bachelor (B) MTI Home Science with field & addition on a relevant or equivalent qualification in the relevant field from recognized university/institution. Three (03) years post qualification experience in a well reputed hospital is required.
02	Specialist (General) The total No. of Posts 01 (Male/Female)	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MBBS/MD (Hons) in General & Emergency Medicine from recognized university. Three (03) years post qualification experience in a well reputed hospital is required.
03	Pharmacist No. of Posts 04 (Male/Female)	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSc in pharmacy (PharmB) from recognized university of HEC. Three (03) years post qualification experience in a hospital/Pharmacy in a reputed teaching hospital is required.
04	Physiotherapist No. of Posts 02 (Male/Female)	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSc Physiotherapy (B) degree from recognized university. Hospital One (01) year relevant post qualification experience from reputable hospital. 03Y from recognized university. Relevant experience in hospital will be preferred. BS/BSc degree in Cardiac Technology from HEC Recognized degree awarding institution. Two (02) years of post qualification Card Tech experience in reputed or tertiary care hospital. BS/BSc degree in Medical Laboratory Technology OR equivalent. Qualification from HEC Recognized degree awarding institution. Experience in Molecular Biology in a well reputed hospital will be preferred.
05	Lab Lab Technologist for Paeds 08 (Male/Female)	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 03Y from recognized university. Relevant experience in hospital will be preferred. BS/BSc degree in Cardiac Technology from HEC Recognized degree awarding institution. Two (02) years of post qualification Card Tech experience in reputed or tertiary care hospital. BS/BSc degree in Medical Laboratory Technology OR equivalent. Qualification from HEC Recognized degree awarding institution. Experience in Molecular Biology in a well reputed hospital will be preferred.
06	Senior Clinical Technologist (Pathology) No. of Post 08 (Male/Female)	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSc in relevant Technology from HEC recognized university. 03Y from recognized university. Relevant experience in hospital will be preferred. BS/BSc degree in Cardiac Technology from HEC Recognized degree awarding institution. Two (02) years of post qualification Card Tech experience in reputed or tertiary care hospital. BS/BSc degree in Medical Laboratory Technology OR equivalent. Qualification from HEC Recognized degree awarding institution. Experience in Molecular Biology in a well reputed hospital will be preferred.
07	Senior Clinical Technologist (ECG/DAG) No. of Post 02 (Male/Female) for District General Hospital	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSc in relevant Technology from HEC recognized university. 03Y from recognized university. Relevant experience in hospital will be preferred. BS/BSc degree in Cardiac Technology from HEC Recognized degree awarding institution. Two (02) years of post qualification Card Tech experience in reputed or tertiary care hospital. BS/BSc degree in Medical Laboratory Technology OR equivalent. Qualification from HEC Recognized degree awarding institution. Experience in Molecular Biology in a well reputed hospital will be preferred.
08	Senior Clinical Technologist (Physiotherapy) No. of Posts 04 (1 Male & 03 Female)	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSc in relevant Technology from HEC recognized university. 03Y from recognized university. Relevant experience in hospital will be preferred. BS/BSc degree in Cardiac Technology from HEC Recognized degree awarding institution. Two (02) years of post qualification Card Tech experience in reputed or tertiary care hospital. BS/BSc degree in Medical Laboratory Technology OR equivalent. Qualification from HEC Recognized degree awarding institution. Experience in Molecular Biology in a well reputed hospital will be preferred.
09	General Technologist No. of Post - Surgical (10) - Pathology (05) - Cardiology (11) - Pathology (05) - Pharmacy (04) - Anaesthesia (05) - Microscopy (Technical) (05) - Radiology (02) - Ophthalmology (05) - Otorhinolaryngology (05) - CT-POP (04) - Emergency Technologist (ECG) - Paeds (05) & - Pharmacy (05) (Male/Female)	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male with science and diploma in the relevant field from medical faculty. 03Y from recognized university. Relevant experience in hospital will be preferred.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- In-service employees shall apply through proper channel, wherein upon selection they will have to resign from their post.
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- The candidates shall send hard copy of duly filled online application form along with required attached testimonials (i.e. 2x attested recent passport size photos, CNIC, domicile and attested copies of educational degrees/certificates. Experience certificates to NTS Headquarters (MTI, Mardan Project), Plot #96, Street #64, Sector H-6/1, Islamabad within due date.
- Only online filled Application Forms within due date will be entertained. Hand written and By hand submitted Application Forms will not be entertained.
- Separate Application Form must be sent for every post in case of applying for more than one category/post.
- For further information and test details, please keep visiting www.nts.org.pk or call at 051-3444441.

(058-6)

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METRO Central



France and Britain victorious in triathlon, first gold for Guatemala
Pg.20 SPORT



AKBARI Mandi closed in protest against withholding tax on food items. — White Star

Fresh spell of rains in Punjab from today

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Wednesday forecast the start of monsoon rains in Punjab from Thursday (today).

Rains were predicted in various districts of the province from Aug 1 to 6. Most of the districts in Punjab are likely to face strong winds and thunderstorms during the period.

Monsoon rains are expected in Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Ferozpur, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalpur, Lahore, Faisalabad, Sahiwal and Gujrat divisions. An alert has been issued to the administration.

PDMA spokesperson said the water level in rivers, dams, and streams was rising due to the monsoon rains.

He said the river Indus was in low flood at Turbat and Kalabagh and there could be a moderate to high-level flooding in the river Jhelum at Mangla from Aug 1 to 4.

He said the rain spell would continue until Aug 4 and arrangements had been completed in vulnerable districts in view of potential flood threats.

PDMA Director General Ijaz Ali Khatib said the commissioners, DCs, Wase, Irrigation Department, Kowas, Civil Defence and other relevant departments should remain alert and complete advance arrangements. He said the situation was being monitored 24 hours at the PDMA control room.

Earlier, the Cabinet

Continued on Page 15

Four dacoits, SHO killed in katcha area clash

Police party had visited the region to rescue a kidnapped villager

By Ifrazul Haq

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Four dacoits were killed with a policeman died and another injured in a clash in Muzki police limits on Wednesday.

According to a press release issued by the district police spokesperson, a police party was in katcha area of Muzki near Gadhra Barrage to rescue a man kidnapped for ransom through 'snare-trap' by outlaws of Sheer gang.

He said the dacoits opened fire on the police party which was retreating by police. In the mean-

time, RYK District Police Officer Imran Ahmed Malik and Sub-Inspector Asif Ayaz Khan reached the scene along with a heavy contingent of police.

Station House Officer of Muzki Muhammad Razaan was martyred during the encounter while constable Qaiser Channa was injured.

Four dacoits of Sheer gang were killed during the encounter but their names were not mentioned in the press release.

According to a source, the encounter started between police and dacoits near the South-Punjab border along the protective spur of Indus. He identified three of the slain dacoits as Ramu Sheer, Sadique Sheer and Rakibullah.

He said Muzki SHO Razaan was struck in nearby ground during the encounter and died of heart attack due to extremely hot

and humid conditions.

The injured constable was shifted to the Sheikh Zayed Medical College Hospital (SZMCH) where his condition was said to be stable. The firing between police and dacoits was continuing till the filing of this report at 7pm on Wednesday.

According to a resident of Sheer area, a man named Kamran had fled from Gadhra Dam Dam was kidnapped by unidentified persons near a canal bridge in Sheer police limits on Wednesday night.

Sheer area was reportedly picked up by people who arrived in a car and took him away with his motorcycle but police sources didn't confirm any such incident.

This was the second clash between outlaws and police in less than two months in the katcha area where policemen also died. Three policemen were

martyred during a robbery on June 7 last when dacoits opened fire on them in Khasbela town of Lajpattar tehsil.

Sources said the dacoit gangs were still active in the katcha area of Indus at different locations in the districts of RYK, Rajanpur and Charki (Sindh).

MARVAM: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif congratulated the Punjab police on carrying out a successful operation against the dacoits in the katcha area.

The CM paid tribute to Inspector Muhammad Razaan on undergoing martyrdom. The CM expressed her heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved family and ordered best treatment for the injured constable.

The chief minister lauded professional abilities of the police force for killing the dacoits of Sheer gang.

Bushra moves LHC against arrest in new Toshakhana case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Incarcerated Bushra Bibi, the wife of jailed PTI founding chairman Imran Khan, on Wednesday approached the Lahore High Court against her arrest in a third case of Toshakhana.

A petition filed through Advocate Saeed Latif Khosa stated that Bushra Bibi and her husband had been granted bail in the Toshakhana case, but they were re-arrested in a new case with a malicious intent.

It highlighted that during the arrest, the female officials assaulted and humiliated the petitioner in Alisha Jail, Rawalpindi.

She was arrested in the third case without a warrant from the NAH chairman and was imprisoned as an act of political victimisation, the petition added.

The petition asked the court to take action against the jail superintendent and the female officials involved in the assault on the petitioner. It also urged the court to declare her arrest in the third

Continued on Page 15

MNA in custody of ACE 'kidnapped by armed men'

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: A Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA from Mandi Bahaudin, Haji Imtiaz Ahmed, who was in the custody of Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE), was allegedly kidnaped by armed men on Shadwal Road, near Gujranwala, on Tuesday night.

The opposition lawmaker was in the custody of the ACE on physical restraint in connection with a graft case, facing charges of receiving Rs2 million commission in a development scheme.

Gujranwala Headquarter Circle Officer (CO) Aftab Haider

told Gujrat police that an ACE team had taken Mr Imtiaz to Mandi Bahaudin for the recovery of the "commission amount" he had allegedly received, adding that a sum of Rs300,000 had already been recovered from the suspect.

However, the CO said, as the ACE team was bringing the lawmaker back to Gujranwala on Tuesday night, around a dozen armed men in three vehicles intercepted the official vehicle on new Shadwal Road, and opened indiscriminate fire.

The CO said that to save themselves from the bullets, the ACE officials left the vehicle to find shelter. Meanwhile, he said, the

armed men took away the MNA, who was still in the official vehicle, with them.

Gujrat Sadder police have registered a kidnapping case against the unidentified suspects under sections 353, 324, 427, 186, 224, 225, 148 and 149 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), on the report of ACE CO and started investigation.

Mr Imtiaz had been elected as an independent candidate (elected by the PTI) in February 8 polls. Earlier, he had been elected as an MNA for the first time, in 2018 elections on the PTI ticket.

RAMPE: Two minor girls were allegedly raped

Continued on Page 15

LHC stays action against 100 literacy dept employees

LAHORE: Justice Anwar Hussain of the Lahore High Court on Wednesday suspended the termination letter of an employee of the Punjab Literacy Department and also restrained it from taking any adverse action against over 100 other employees.

The judge passed the order on a petition filed by Qamar Shahzad and 138 others who had assailed illegal action of the Punjab Public Service Commission and the Literacy Department.

The petitioners have been working in the department since 2016 and some from 2000. First the petitioners have been recruited on a contract basis under a project but later on the project was converted into non-development and all the employees also adjusted into the literacy department.

Representing the petitioners, Advocate Hafiz Tariq Nadeem argued that all the employees had been recruited after they passed the NTS test and had a legitimate opportunity to be regularised.

The counsel contended that their writ had been allowed by the high court and after that all appeals of the Punjab government against orders of regularisation of the literacy department were dismissed.

Justice Hussain asked an assistant advocate general of Punjab and the counsel for the PPSC to state under what provision of law the employees' result had been withheld and the commissioner's recommendations withdrawn when the matter already attained finality up to the Supreme Court.

However, the counsel stated they would seek instructions from the government.

The judge issuing notices to the PPSC and the literacy department also suspended the termination order of petitioner Qamar Shahzad.

The judge also restrained the department from taking any adverse action against 138 other employees till the next hearing. — Staff Reporter

DC given more time to decide on PTI's plea for rally

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Wednesday gave the deputy commissioner more time to decide on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) application for permission to hold a rally in the city.

Justice Muzamil Akhtar Shabbir heard the petition filed by PTI Lahore Vice President Ahmad Khan Bari.

Assistant Advocate General Fattah Sahil appeared before the court and sought two days for the DC to decide the application of the petitioner.

The judge allowed the request, restraining the government and the police from causing any harassment to the petitioner or his family. He noted that the government needed to make a swift decision on the petitioner's request.

The judge questioned what would happen if the government denied the request a day before the scheduled rally. He directed the law officer to present a report on Friday (tomorrow).

The petitioner's lawyer stated that a similar situation occurred for the Islamabad rally, where permission was not granted at the last moment.

The petitioner had contended that his party wanted to hold a rally at Minar-i-Pakistan on Aug 14 and submitted a request for it, but received no response. He assured the court that the rally would be peaceful and in accordance with the law.

He argued that holding rallies was the right of every political party, but the PTI was being deprived of this fundamental right. — Staff Reporter

Remodelling changes character of Nasser Bagh

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: Members of civil society and the literati have expressed serious concerns over "remodelling" of the historical Nasser Bagh on The Mall, including removal of the protective fence around it and establishment of a fast-food restaurant, replacing Chausal, a place for literary gatherings.

The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) had carried out "remodelling" of the historical park that used to be called Rasool Sana Garden due to military band performances held there during the Raj. However, after the Partition it was renamed as Gole Bagh, and later named after Egypt's second president Jamal Nasser.

The park spanning over 100 kanals had lush green grassy lawns, colorful flowerbeds and fountains. It is nestled between Lower Mall and Kewberry Road

and neighbours the Government College University (GCU), Punjab University and the Town Hall.

As a part of the remodelling project, the iron fence around the park has been removed by the PHA with a view to provide "a fresh visual experience" to the public.

Concerned citizens talking to Dawn lamented that the park, had converted old trees and lush green lawn, along with Chausal - a place to hold literary gatherings for the city's writers, poets, and art lovers.

They regretted that the park has now been converted into a fast-food restaurant, depriving the literati of the city of their favourite haunt. They argue that there was no need to establish the fast-food outlet in Nasser Bagh as food streets of old Anarkali and Gawalmandi were located in its vicinity.

They said the park was a rare and irreplaceable spot for approximately one-third of Lahore's population for activities like

walking, exercise, and recreation.

They say the removal of the park's protective iron fence has turned it into a haven for stray dogs, drug addicts and smugglers, while it also allows opportunistic people to throw sugar and garbage under the unregulated trees endangering them. Unregulated hawkers and self-proclaimed healers also damage these trees by stripping the trees bark and cutting the branches for use in different desi "medicines", they deplored.

They say the removal of fence has also allowed motorcycles and cyclists to enter the park unchecked, risking the life and limbs of those running or walking on its jogging track. They demanded immediate removal of the fast-food joint from the historical park, clearing encroachments on the jogging track and re-installation of the iron fence to ensure safety of the visitors and the preservation of trees.

Some concerned citizens have lodged a

complaint with the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) director general for restoration of the protective fence and removal of fast-food outlet from the park.

Some citizens have also filed a petition in the Lahore High Court in this regard, but the registrar office refused to fix it for hearing, saying only the case of "urgent nature" are entertained during the court's summer vacation.

A PHA spokesperson told Dawn that the last interim government had ordered remodelling of the park and the fence was removed under the plan. Similarly, he said, the restaurant was established, replacing Chausal and the civil defence bunkers had been converted into an art gallery as part of the same project.

He said a parking stand has been established in the park to facilitate the public, adding that the authority had so far no plan to reinstall the iron fence around the park.



STRAY dogs loitering in an unweeded lawn of Nasser Bagh. — Dawn

METRO

North



France and Britain victorious in triathlon, first gold for Guatemala
Pg.20 SPORT

PESHAWAR
Sunset 07:17pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:23am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 29°C
Maximum 34°C
Outlook Cloudy



A VIEW of the devastation of glacial lake outburst flood that hit Sorech village in Upper Chitral on Wednesday morning. (Right) An elderly man crosses Manora stream in Manohra through an ingeniously made chaattri installed in Manohra area where a flash flood swept away a bridge. — Dawn

Families homeless as Glof destroys Chitral village

Flash floods destroy roads, bridges, crops in parts of KP

Dawn Report

CHITRAL: A glacial lake outburst flood devastated a large part of Sorech village in the Upper Chitral district on Wednesday morning, leaving 30 families homeless. The villagers rushed to safety after being alerted by announcements from mosques, from the flood-resistant town of Sorech. Former village council member Sher Bahadur told Dawn that the glacial lake exploded at around 6am, and the flood hit the upper part of the village within 15 minutes, forcing residents to flee to the higher ground. He said a man, a woman, and two children were swept away by floodwaters amid chaos, but divers rescued the children and shifted them to the tribal headquarters hospital in Shigram, where their condition was out of danger. The former mayor said the vil-

lage, which had 85 households, had been severely affected, with half of the homes either destroyed or damaged. He said GLOF hit the village for the first time. When contacted, local deputy commissioner Abdul Haseeb Khan said an additional assistant commissioner had led a team with food and medical items to the troubled village as the administration's first response to the natural calamity. He said further aid would be sent in light of flood assessment. Meanwhile, thousands of tourists, mostly women and children, remained stranded in Kaghan and Manohra valleys of Manohra district on Wednesday due to the destruction of a bridge on the Manohra-Narain-Jalkhad Road in the Manohra area by flash floods. The tourists complained they're struggling to cope with the aftermath of the flooding, which was triggered by the monsoon downpour on Tuesday. The residents of Manohra Valley insisted that they're cut off from the rest of the district due to a delay in the rehabilitation of four bridges, which were washed away in the floods.

Mr Aziz said Manohra Valley was hit by food shortages as all roads and bridges, including the main bridge at the MNJ Road, were washed away by floodwaters. He also revealed the destruction of five turbines installed on local streams to supply electricity to parts of the valley. The resident said bodies of a woman and her son swept away in floods had yet to be recovered. He feared more damage to public life and property in the days ahead due to the downpour forecast. Adviser to the chief minister Zahid Chaman and local MPA Mansur Hussain Lambani visited Manohra residents and assured them of the government's support. The district administration insisted that more than 2,500 visitors, mostly women and children, were still stranded in the Kaghan Valley. District police officer Shafiqullah Gurdagar said the entry of tourists to Kaghan and neighbouring Manohra valley through the Manohra-Narain-Jalkhad Road, Hazara Expressway and Karakoram Highway had been restricted until the reconstruction of the

Maharajki Bridge. Meanwhile, four young men, who were trapped in the middle of the Koster River while catching wooden beams from floodwaters, were rescued in the Shawal area of Batakot here on Wednesday. Amir Khudam of Rescue 1122 told reporters that the emergency service's divers carried out the rescue operation, bringing Rishwan Hussain, 12, Zain Siraj, 14, Suljan Shoukat, 15, and Mansur Nadeq, 15, out of the river. The Upper West Development Authority on Wednesday restored a bridge on the Jalkhad-Narain road, restoring traffic to and from Kaghan Valley. Saeed Rehmani, a spokesman for the authority, said the bridge was washed away by flooding on Tuesday evening. USDA deputy director Karan Ali said the bridge had been repaired and reopened to traffic within 24 hours of destruction. He said the main Kalam-Bahrairi Road was restored. Tourists confirmed the reopening of the road and said they didn't face any difficulty in reaching their destinations. In Bajaur tribal district, flood-

ing destroyed private properties and damaged maize, tomato and other crops. Residents and officials told Dawn that flash floods washed away a restaurant and a store crushing suit in Manohra and Thami areas, respectively. They also revealed the destruction of walls around agricultural lands and the damage to maize, tomatoes and other vegetable crops on the riverbanks in Shagal and its adjacent areas. The residents said the floods had damaged three bridges in Jar and Shinkot areas of Khar taluk and Gadhni area of Umarbakhel. They said the flash floods also damaged links roads in the remote areas of Manohra and Salarai talukas, and disrupted electricity in some hilly areas. Swab residents complained that drains, including those in the district headquarters, were choked after heavy rains, causing inundation of the roads, especially Swabi-Jehangir Road, to the inconvenience of motorists, motorcyclists and pedestrians. They said floodwaters entered shops in Taji markets, destroying goods.

Two brothers, teenager killed in Waziristan attack

By Our Correspondent

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: Two brothers and a teenage boy were killed when unknown persons opened fire on them in Miral taluk of the North Waziristan district on Wednesday, the police said. They said that Malik Noor Mohammad, a former Khasadar, and his brother, Gulab were buying commodities in the bazaar when unknown persons opened fire on them, killing them on the spot. The police said that it was a targeted attack. They said that a passerby, Agha, 13, was also killed in the firing. They added that the bodies were shifted to the Miral Hospital. The police said that the accused persons managed to escape. A case was registered against them.

Man arrested for killing boy after assault

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The police arrested a man accused of assaulting and killing a boy a month ago, a senior police officer said here on Wednesday. DSP Muslim Khan said that the incident occurred in the limits of Darazinda police station. Addressing a press conference, he said that complainant Hani Khan had reported to the Darazinda police about one month ago that an unknown person assaulted and killed his young nephew, Shadi Khan, 12, and escaped from the scene. He said district police officer Nasir Mahmood had formed a three-member investigation team headed by him (DSP Darazinda Muslim Khan) to trace the blind murder case and arrest the accused. He said on the basis of scientific investigations and use of modern equipment, Darazinda police arrested an accused, Adil Khan in the case. During investigation, the accused confessed that he strangled Shadi Khan after assaulting him. Meanwhile, a young man was killed by his rivals over an old enmity in Mohallah Pir Khaki Shah of Panjyala in the jurisdiction of Nawab Shahabad police station, an official said on Wednesday. The official said Irfan Mohammad, 32, lodged a report that his brother, Mohammad Irfan, 35, and relative, Muhammad were looking for their missing calf when Safiullah Muhammad opened fire on them. As a result, he died on the spot. The motive behind the incident is stated to be an old enmity. The Nawab Shahabad police registered a murder case against the accused and started further investigation. — Correspondent

Police to get bulletproof vests, night vision devices

PESHAWAR: Country Director Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) Lori J Antolinez has said \$5 million would be provided to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police for purchasing bulletproof vests, surveillance equipment and night vision devices. Speaking to reporters during an online interaction, Ms Antolinez said INL had provided a lot of personal protective gear, armoured vehicles and surveillance equipment to the police. She said the new support to the KP police was focused in the areas considered the hotspots. "There are five different police stations that we're looking at reinforcing in

southern KP," she added. She said that INL had a long-standing relationship with Frontier Corps. "Over the last few decades we have put \$1 billion assistance into the programmes that have strengthened law enforcement capacity and the justice sector, and over half of it has been in KP and Balochistan," she said. She said they were working with the FC before it was split into FC North and South, and they would continue to support it. Besides, Ms Antolinez said there was also a lot of investment that went into peppy eradication. "This initiative has probably benefited the most people in KP. The roads we have built have helped

about 20,000 households in KP," she added. Ms Antolinez said they had also done a lot of infrastructure support of border outposts again working closely with FC to enhance the work of the government. She said they were also helping standardise and improve the curriculum that's used to train the KP police force. She said \$28 million was spent on joint police training centre in Nowshera, where police's elite force was trained following the merger of Lawian force into the KP police. She said INL had helped build 176 border outposts along the Pak-Afghan border. — Bureau Report

Funeral prayers in absentia held for Hamas leader

PESHAWAR/BAJAUR: Jamaat-Islami (JI) local chapter offered funeral prayers in absentia for senior Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in the provincial capital on Wednesday. According to JI office bearers, a huge number of JI workers and locals attended the funeral prayers at Bagh-i-Narain in Hayatabad. They further said that JI provincial emir Professor Ibrahim would also be leading funeral prayers in absentia for the martyred Hamas leader at Markazi-Islami on Thursday (today). Moreover, the JI workers, party leaders and local residents offered the funeral prayers in absentia for the martyred Hamas chief at the JI seminary in Isayati Kalay town in Bajaur tribal district. The funeral prayers for the deceased Hamas leader was held on the directives of JI's central leadership said a party statement. According to the statement, the participants paid glowing tributes to the martyred Hamas chief and described his assassination as a great loss to the Muslim world. — Dawn Report

PHC orders smooth power supply to prisons at night

Seeks report on govt steps for improving jail conditions

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court on Wednesday ordered smooth electric supply to prisons across the province at the night time and asked the Peshawar Electric Supply Company not to carry out load-shedding "on any pretext." A bench consisting of Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry and Justice Ijaz Awan observed that if the need arose, it would order both federal and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments to

supply electricity to prisons from separate feeders. It directed additional chief secretary (Home) Mohammad Akbar Majid to produce a report within 30 days about the steps taken by the government for improving conditions of prisons in the province and addressing complaints of inmates. The court directed prison authorities to resolve issues of prisoners on priority, and fixed for Aug 13 the next hearing into an application sent in by Khushnawaz Ali Khan, who is serving a life term in the Haripur Central Prison. The prisoner pointed out several problems facing prisoners, including power outages. ACS (Home) Mohammad Akbar Majid, IG Prisons Usman Mehsud, Peshawar chief executive

Akhtar Hameed Khan, president of the PHC Bar Association Fida Gul, additional advocate general Nazamuddin Haq and other officials appeared before the bench. When the bench asked Peshawar officials why load-shedding was being carried out in prisons, they said load management was carried out according to schedule. The chief justice observed that he visited several prisons in the province and examined the living conditions. The bench observed that it was the responsibility of the government to provide facilities to prisoners. It added that recently, prisoners suffered from different diseases due to the scorching heat. The bench observed it won't tolerate power load-shedding in prisons at night.

ACS Akbar Majid said it was their top priority to provide maximum possible facilities to prisoners and for that purpose millions of rupees had been allocated. He said that they had been installing big fans as well as air coolers in different prisons. The official said the project had already been completed in major prisons at Peshawar, Mardan, and Haripur. He, however, said authorities faced problems due to the shortage of funds. The chief justice asked him to address the issue on an emergency basis saying better prison conditions are the court's top priority. The bench wondered what would happen to the prisoners if they won't sleep all through the day due to power cuts.

Justice Ijaz Awan opined that the government should go for the solarisation of prisons as electricity charges were on the rise. IG Prisons Usman Mehsud said prisoners had been taken out of barracks to sit in the open so that they could get fresh air. The ACS informed the bench that he headed a committee on prison reforms and would look into the application and other petitions about prisons to ensure early resolution of the problems of inmates. The prisoner also complained that jail authority had withdrawn facilities of self-cooking by prisoners. He claimed that several inmates were unwell and couldn't have the prison food. The bench observed that the government should allocate proper funds for prisons.

Ghaznikhel tehsil council okays Rs295m budget

LAHORE/PAFIAWAT: The Ghaznikhel tehsil council of Lakki Marwat district on Wednesday approved the annual budget with total outlay of over Rs295 million for the fiscal year 2024-25. The council met at the municipal office in Ghaznikhel town for the budget session. Tehsil municipal officer Ahsanullah Khan, tehsil officer finance Atif Khan, members of the council and officials of the municipal administration and line departments were in attendance. Tehsil council chairman Zeeshan Mohammad Khan highlighted the key points of the budget, saying that Rs161 million had been allocated for development expenditure. He said that Rs134 million would go for non-development expenditure. He said that the municipal body would generate over Rs90 million from its own sources, while it would get Rs1.57 million from the provincial government. The tehsil chairman told the house that Rs45 million would be spent on uplift schemes in the social sector and Rs19 million had been allocated for promotion of sports, soil conservation, sanitation, provision of municipal services and infrastructure development. Shedding light on his priorities, he promised that with support of members of the council and officials of line departments, he would make the Ghaznikhel tehsil a model one in the province. He asked the provincial government to realise the importance of local government in provision of basic amenities of life to the citizens and bringing development at the grassroots level. Mr Zeeshan said that he was also in contact with the federal government authorities for construction of small dams in the area to boost agriculture and its component sectors. — Correspondent

PRAYER

Fajr 05:52
Zuhr 12:23
Asr 05:14
Maghrib 07:16
Isha 08:51

Starting time in Peshawar

REFLECTIONS

CC THINK OVER IT THAT BY SIMPLY GRANTING YOU THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYING FOR HIS SAVINGS AND MERCIES, HE HAS HANDED OVER THE KEYS OF HIS TREASURES TO YOU. >>

— HADRAAT ALI (A.S.)
74M447

Govt reply sought in agriculture project non-extension case

Officers complain govt didn't include their project in ADP 2024-25

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court on Wednesday asked the agriculture secretary to respond to a petition challenging the non-extension of an agriculture development project under the Agriculture Transformation Plan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The orders were issued by Justice Shafiqul Ahmad and Justice Fazal Siddiqi during the

hearing into a joint petition of Saba Akbar and 170 other agriculture officers (BPS-17), who requested the bench to declare illegal the government's act of not including their project in the Annual Development Programme 2024-25.

The court fixed the next hearing for Sept 2. The petitioners requested the bench to order the government to extend the project. They insisted that 70 per cent of the project's budget was unutilised, so it could be easily extended for a year.

The petitioners also prayed the court to stop the government from acting against them until the disposal of the petition.

The counsel for the petitioners said that in 2021-22, the provincial government introduced information and communication technology based improvement of agriculture extension services in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under the Agriculture Transformation Plan. He said that PCI of the project was approved in ADP for the settled areas, while similarly the same project was also introduced for the unsettled areas for which another PCI was approved in December 2021.

He said that in pursuance of the approved PCI, the provincial government through the director general, department of agriculture extension, advertised a total of 171 posts of agriculture officers (BPS-17) with prescribed qualifications.

The counsel said that after scrutiny and interview by the project selection committee, the petitioners were selected for those posts before being appointed on January 17, 2023.

He argued that the petitioners were highly qualified and had mostly completed their PhD and MPhil courses in the relevant subject.

The lawyer said that the petitioners were posted in different districts after fulfilling all social formalities.

He contended that they performed their services to the best of their abilities and appreciation letters were issued to them from time to time.

The counsel pointed out that the project was extended by the

previous government through a notification on July 26, 2023, for one year from 2023 to 2024.

He said that the new government, which was formed soon after the Feb 8 general elections, was trying to sabotage the project to accommodate its favourite people.

The counsel said that the government did not include the project in the ADP. He added that the petitioners agitated the matter before the agriculture secretary by writing appeals to him, but in vain.

The lawyer claimed that similar projects were extended in Punjab and Sindh provinces. He said that around 70 per cent of the fund (Rs1.65 billion) earmarked for the project was unutilised.

A senior official of the communication and works department confirmed non-availability of funds stalled the work on Rs800 million worth of projects in Lower Dir. The official said funds were not available for the ongoing projects, while tenders of new projects had also been issued, which was quite surprising.

Meanwhile, deputy commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan chaired a meeting on the incomplete development projects in the district.

He directed the additional deputy commissioner finance and planning Jan Muhammad to submit a detailed report on the reasons causing delay in completion of the ongoing development projects.

He also directed the contractor to complete work on the shoulders and retaining walls of the Talash Bypass. The meeting was informed that a report would be sent to the provincial government for release of funds.

The DC also directed the litigation cell to submit detailed reports regarding the court cases of development projects.

Islamabad, Kabul urged to withdraw hike in tariffs

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The fruit and vegetable merchants on Tuesday called upon Pakistan and Afghanistan to withdraw 'unjust and unrealistic' increases in tariffs and duties.

The demand was made in a resolution, which was presented and unanimously endorsed during a meeting held at the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

SOCI president Faisal Ishaq presented the resolution, which also asked for abolishing the taxes on both sides to ease difficulties of traders and boost bilateral trade.

The resolution also demanded a free trade agreement between Islamabad and Kabul for trade of export of perishable items.

It also expressed grave concern over the provincial government's proposal of setting up new markets and asked for fostering the already

established ones.

On the occasion, Faisal Ishaq said the business community was protesting against the imposition of 'illegal' taxes by the government. He said economic conditions were very difficult as doing business and trade in such a situation had become a cumbersome task. He urged the government to review the policies and make them business and trade friendly.

Malik Muhammad Ali Sohani, president of All Pakistan Agricultural Producers' Federation, said the increased taxes had led to significant increase in prices of commodities.

He said that the provincial government's decision to establish new markets after every two kilometres was inappropriate and impractical, and called for regularising the existing ones.

Abul Jan (president of Peshawar Fruit Traders' Association), expressed concern over the imposition of 'unnecessary and illegal

taxes', and demanded their immediate withdrawal.

He called for reduction in duties and taxes to promote trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He proposed the formation of a joint committee between the two neighbouring countries to remove the obstacles in mutual trade.

He expressed full confidence in the leadership of the Peshawaran Forum's leader and former senator Ilyas Ahmed Bilour for the upcoming elections of the chamber.

Shaukullah, president of Gar Maseh traders' association, also expressed full confidence in the leadership of Mr Ilyas Bilour for the elections.

On the occasion, Mr Bilour said that the Peshawaran Forum had always served the business community selflessly. He said that the sacrifices and services for the business community were not hidden from anyone.

Dir activists resent delay in completion of projects

By Our Correspondent

LOWER DIR: Political and social activists on Wednesday complained non-availability of funds had stopped work on over 50 development projects, causing concern among the citizens.

Talking to reporters here, they said local MNAs and MPAs had failed to get the funds approved for speedy completion of the projects.

The activists pointed out that work on these projects started during the last government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, but most of the projects remained incomplete.

The activists regretted that appreciation of Shaukullah Jan Akbar Hospital, Lal Qila, had been excluded from the Annual Development Programme. They said the project had been approved at a cost of Rs110 million. They said the contractor initiated the work on the project, but now it had been dropped from the ADP scheme.

They demanded the government to release funds for the projects.

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GENERAL NOTICE

Apartment No. 12, Floor No. 03, Plot No. C-7, Commercial Block No. 3, Area 546 Sq.R By Registration No. C-8094, River Gardens Housing Scheme, Zone 5, Islamabad in the name of Raja Muhammad Ghayas son of Raja Muhammad Mehboob. The CNIC number is 37495-8677243-7. His original allotment letter has been lost. I am selling above mentioned apartment to Yasar Nawaz son of Raja Muhammad Gul Nawaz ID card number 37495-3191152-1. If any person or organization has any objection then inform in written within 15 days to Managing Director Raza Wynans Developers Private Limited, Khan Chamber, 48, Connaught Road, Saddar, Rawalpindi. No later extension will be accepted.

Al-Mushkar
Raja Muhammad Ghayas, Son of Raja Muhammad Mehboob

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR INSTITUTE OF KIDNEY DISEASES HAYATABAD PESHAWAR

CORRIGENDUM/ADDENDUM

Reference to this office advertisement for different positions at Institute of Kidney Diseases, Hayatabad Peshawar under MTI Reforms Act, 2015 (amended from time to time), published in Daily Mashriq Advertisement No. INF (P) 1895/24 dated: 28.07.2024 & other in Terms & conditions SRI the account # may be read as "3002194839" instead of "00463-00-5". Other contents of the advertisement shall remain the same.

DIRECTOR
Institute of Kidney Diseases
Hayatabad Peshawar

QUAID-I-AZAM UNIVERSITY

CORRIGENDUM

In connection with already published advertisement tender notice in Daily Jang and Daily Ahsan both dated 10 July 2024 and Daily Dawn dated 11 July 2024 is amended as under:-

Read - Last date of tender submission 30.07.2024 date of opening 31.07.2024

Fee - Last date of tender submission 19.08.2024 date of opening 20.08.2024

The interested bidders are requested to submit their bids / proposals online through EPADS at <https://epads.gov.pk> before opening date, and original bids / proposal must be submitted at Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad on or before 11:00AM on 20.08.2024

Dr. Muhammad Zaman,
Department of Sociology
Ph. 051-90642042

CDA CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

3rd CORRIGENDUM (TENDER NOTICE)

Retariffment of House No. 17-A, F-7/3, Islamabad

The amendments in the invitation of bids published in Daily the Newspaper Daily DAWN 24-07-2024 vide INF(7) No.34104, for the work Retariffment of House No. 17-A, F-7/3, Islamabad may be made. Other terms and conditions indicated in the original invitation of bids shall be same.

FOR	TO BE READ AS
Tender	Single stage / Two envelope
Last Date for Submission of Application for Purchase of Tender Documents	08-08-2024
Date for Submission and Opening of Financial Bids	09-08-2024
	11:00 AM
	11:30 AM

Deputy Director
Sector Development Division-3, CDA
1st Floor, Minar-e-Quaid Complex Building
F-4 Markaz, Islamabad, Phone No 051-9222738

Man gets life imprisonment in Shangla murder case

SHANGLA: The district and sessions judge of Shangla, Nawzish Khan Ganshgar sentenced here on Wednesday an accused to life imprisonment and fined him Rs200,000 for killing a woman and injuring her husband in 2021 in Banjar area of Alpur taluk of the district.

According to the counsel for the complainant party, Nisar Khattak had shot dead Shaukulla Bibi and injured her husband on October 9, 2021, and the police station concerned registered an FIR against the accused under relevant sections of law.

After completion of trial in the case, the court pronounced the verdict and sentenced the accused Nisar Khattak to the

murder and attempted murder case. 5 PROSECUTORS SENT TO JAIL. Assistant Commissioner, Chakdara Taluk, Muhammad Hamid Sahidagai conducted raids in Ganshgar and Banjar areas and sent five shopkeepers to jail for overcharging the customers and selling substandard food items.

The assistant commissioner, along with police personnel, checked the shops and businesses in business for display of price lists and inspected the food quality. During the checking, he found five shopkeepers overcharging the customers, who were booked for the offence and sent to jail.

— Correspondent

HEALTH SERVICES ACADEMY
Degree Awarding Institute under HSA (Government) Act, 2004
Government of Pakistan

CORRIGENDUM PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

FOR HIRING THE SERVICES OF DATA COLLECTION FIRMS/COMPANIES TO CONDUCT NEED ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCES FOR DRIVING INNOVATION AND ACHIEVING SDGS 2030

Reference to the Advertisement No. PID(I) 624 / 24 published on 27 July 2024 in different newspapers (The Jang, Daily Express, DAWN, Dunya News, and others) regarding the subject captioned above. It is informed that all bidders to submit their prequalification documents through EPADS on the PPRA website before the closing date.

Project Director
Health Services Academy
PM National Health Complex, Park Road Chak Shahdai, Islamabad
Ph No. 051-9255596
Email: haripd@hsa.edu.pk

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR MTI, MARDAN MEDICAL COMPLEX, MARDAN

Applications are invited from the candidates having domicile of KP & its merged districts for the following positions on contract basis at MTI/MAC Mardan.

S.R.	Name of Posts	Posts in BPS	Qualification & Experience
1	Nursing Manager No. of Post (Openly) vide A. Admin & Supervision (24) B. MS (20) C. CP (04) D. Infection Control (08) (Male/Female)	27	Post holder should be working in BPS (Contract) from recognized institutions and registered from Pakistan Nursing Council, with Specialty in relevant field relevant for (A & B) the required specialty in hospital management or MHA. Five (05) years of Post qualification experience required in relevant specialties from a reputable teaching hospital. Registered "A" Grade Nurse (Two (02) years General Nursing and 01 Year Master of Post basic clinical specialization in relevant field, OR BS Nursing/Post RN Registered with Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC). Experience in relevant specialty will be preferred.
2	Charge Nurse No. of Posts: • Male: 04 • Female: 04	08	BS Nursing/Post RN Registered with Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC). Experience in relevant specialty will be preferred.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- In-service employees shall apply through proper channel, whereas upon selection they will have to resign from their post.
- No fee/CA will be admissible for test/interview.
- The MTI-Mardan is an equal opportunity Employer.
- The competent authority has the right to increase/decrease or cancel any of one of the positions.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Interested candidates must visit NTS web site: www.nts.org.pk to apply online within 20 days of publication of advertisement. Submit your test fee via i-Link 1888 Participating Banks/ATM/Internet Banking/Mobile Banking/ Easy-Pass/Jan Cash/TCS Express Counters by downloading fee challan from NTS website.
- The candidates shall send hard copy of duly filled online application form along with required attested testimonials i.e. 2x attested recent passport size photos, CNIC, domicile and attested copies of educational degrees/certificates, Experience certificates to NTS Headquarters (MTI, Mardan Project), Plot #58, Street #04, Sector H-6/7, Islamabad within due date.
- Only online MTI Application Forms within due date will be entertained. Hand written and by hand submitted Application Forms will not be entertained.
- Separate Application Forms must be sent for every post in class of applying for more than one category/post.
- For further information and test details, please keep visiting www.nts.org.pk or call at 051-8444441.

INF (P) 1895/24 HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION HAYATABAD MEDICAL COMPLEX-PESHAWAR

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Medical Teaching Institution, Hayatabad Medical Complex invites Applications for the following position:

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

Qualification	Candidates must possess a recognized Master's degree in Hospital Management or Health Services Management or Business Management or Public Health or Public Administration or any other relevant qualification. Provided that a person, who possesses a recognized medical degree, may also apply for the post, with the condition that he/she shall have an additional master's degree and required experience.
Gender	Male/Female
Term	5 years or till the age of superannuation 60 years whichever comes earlier.
Experience	Candidates must possess at least 7 years of experience in management.

Terms & Conditions

- Applications accompanied with complete bio-data and academic / experience / domicile certificates along with 02 recent photographs and CNIC photocopies only attached must reach the Office of Secretary, Hayatabad Medical Complex (20 Working) of the publication of this advertisement on a pre-registered form.
- Application Forms are available on MTI/MAC website i.e. <https://www.mti.gov.pk/Downloadable> and will be submitted to the Office of Secretary Hayatabad Medical Complex along with Bank Draft / Payment Order of Rs 2,000/- in favor of Hayatabad Medical Complex or through direct deposit to Bank of Pakistan, HMC Branch, Rawalpindi Account, Branch Code 0285, A/C Number PL-3000187189.
- The applications duly completed with supported attested documents should reach personally or through registered courier service to undersigned on or before due date of closing.
- The services of the concerned will be governed, under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical & Teaching Institutions Reforms Act 2015 (amended from time to time) and MTI Regulations 2022.
- If the closing date fixed for the receipt of application form falls on a public holiday, the next working day shall be considered as the closing date.
- An application after the closing time and date shall stand rejected.
- Scrutiny Committee shall be competent to reject applications which are incomplete, however the approved candidates can appeal to the competent authority of HMC for review. The decision of the competent authority shall be final.
- Any candidate may be disqualified or excluded from interview if he/she is (a) Convicted by the court of law (b) Dismissed from public service, (c) knowingly furnishes any false information, (d) Suppresses any information which may lead to his/her disqualification, (e) Attempts to obtain supply for his/her candidature by improper means, (f) Submits forged certificates, (g) Tempers with the entries in his/her age and academic certificates, (h) Misbehaves in the interview.
- Original documents should be produced at the time of interview.
- No fee/CA will be allowed for test / interview.

INF-62
SECRETARY-BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION-HAYATABAD MEDICAL COMPLEX, PESHAWAR

WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES PESHAWAR

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Income tax/ Sales tax register firms, authorized dealers/ suppliers registered with KPRA and Public Health Department for supply, installation and commissioning of approved purging machinery of tube well as per following details and terms & conditions.

Lot#	Supply & Installation, testing and commissioning of purging machine at Peshwa (between Sarat tube well)	01 No	PKR 1,733,415
Lot# 2 <th>Supply & Installation, testing and commissioning of purging machine at Bana Marri UC-35, Pk-75 Peshawar</th> <th>01 No</th> <th>PKR 1,524,468</th>	Supply & Installation, testing and commissioning of purging machine at Bana Marri UC-35, Pk-75 Peshawar	01 No	PKR 1,524,468

Terms & Conditions

- BOQ and other bid documents can be obtained on written request from the office of the undersigned on presenting the KPRA registration and endorsement/registration with PHED department in supply and installation of tube well purging machinery, authorized dealership certificate and providing copy of PKR 2000/- (non-refundable) payable in WSSP A/C Bank of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 3 Chokk Hayatabad Peshawar (IBAN) PK49-0495 0003 0005 0015 2076 immediately after publishing of advertisement in newspaper up to August 13, 2024 or may be downloaded from WSSP website www.wssp.gov.pk (http://www.wssp.gov.pk) in the case of download from the website e-bidding portal the copy of fee for Rs. 3000/- must be submitted with bid.
- Two (2%) Bid Security of the total cost in the shape of cash deposit in favor of Chief Executive Officer, WSSP must be accompanied with the bid.
- The Bid opening is scheduled to be held on 7th August 2024, 2:00 pm at WSSP Conference Room as per below mentioned address, where the interested contractors/firms will be apprised about bid submission on e-bidding system of WSSP and bidder should also apply through e-bidding along with manual submission of bidding documents in near future only submission through e-bidding system will be allowed.
- The sealed bids must be submitted by 11:00 am on or before Tuesday August 13, 2024 preferably through courier services and will be opened by the bid preparation and evaluation committee on the same day at 11:30 am in the presence of all the bidders or their authorized representatives, who wishes to attend.
- The bid must be stamped and signed by an authorized person of the firm. All federal and provincial duties/stamp duties/fees including KPRA taxes will be recoverable as per directives of the government inspectors time to time. Firms must be a registered entity with KPRA. (Rule: 307-A/P/1993).
- Any outbidding/over writing, re-qualification in tender/BOQ shall be liable to rejection. Other terms and conditions are available in BOQ.
- The Competent Authority reserves the right to reject anyone or all the bids the reason for rejection shall be communicated to the Contractor/firm upon request.
- The bidders are required to register their self on WSSP website vide URL address: <https://www.wssp.gov.pk/terms/condition-registration-form>. (MFP) 1851/24

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I, Saeed Akbar Khan (Saeed) s/o Saeed Akbar Khan (Saeed) residing at Block No. 10, Plot No. 47/1, Manseroh-3, Block No. 10, Manseroh-3, District Dir Lower Dir. My name in Saeed Akbar Khan. Please call me with my new name and make changes in records. (054278151)

COURT NOTICE

DIR PAVAN

In the Court of Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Judge Civil Trial Court District Dir Peshawar, Suit No. 498 of 2024. Next Date of hearing 10-08-2024. Case Title: Maryam Bibi vs. Pawan s/o. Nitika To No. (2) Jansal (2) Muhammad Riaz (3) Muhammad Yusuf s/o. Musaffer Khan (Late) R/o Khyber Taluk Tehsil Temogon Peshawar District. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants cannot be served in the ordinary way it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in the Court at 9:00 am on 10-08-2024 the proceeding will be taken against them without my hand and seal of this Court. (202479189)



TWO workers cut wood into pieces at a stall on Hazarkhware Road in Peshawar on Wednesday. — *Wafa Star*

PTI flayed for excluding tribal women from reserved seats' list

By Our Correspondent

KHYBER: A senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) woman leader Mehrin Afridi expressed serious reservations over her party's decision of denying any representation to tribal women in the list of reserved seats for national and provincial assemblies.

Talking to journalists in Baramulla on Wednesday, the PTI former Peshawar wing deputy general secretary vehemently rejected the list of her party's candidates for reserved seats for women and termed it as a "robbery" on the legitimate rights of tribal women.

She said that excluding tribal women from at least 22 to 23 reserved seats in the provincial and ten reserved seats in the national assembly respectively, was a huge disappointment for

the party leadership and workers in the merged districts.

She alleged that some vested elements within the party had also conspired to exclude her name from the list of tribal women recommended for reserved seats despite an initial approval from the top party leadership.

PTI's woman leader further alleged that an anti-workers group in the party was not letting committed candidates to come forward and serve the party and the common people in the parliament.

Mehrin Afridi appealed to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to order judicious investigation into the sudden exclusion of names of tribal women from the list of reserved seats quota, and put an end to the sense of deprivation among the female workers of the party in merged districts.

KMU opens campus in DI Khan

DI KHAN: Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar is all set to open a new campus here, offering 20 different allied health sciences degree programmes, including BS Nursing and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT).

A team of the KMU visited DI Khan on Wednesday to explore potential locations for establishing a new training campus.

The team, led by Dean of Allied Health Sciences Prof Dr Hader Durrani, inspected various proposed buildings and also met with the management of the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital to discuss the establishment of the training campus.

Talking on the occasion, the team said that this new campus would serve as a hub for these training programmes, providing advanced health-care education and training opportunities in the region. — *Correspondent*

CM outlines guidelines for industry's rehabilitation

Says development of industrial sector along modern lines vital for progress

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur outlined the policy guidelines and issued necessary directives to the provincial ministries concerned for reforms in industries of the province and technical education department for attracting private sector investment in the province.

According to an official statement, issued from the chief minister's secretariat, here on Wednesday, the chief minister issued directions for collecting data about causes for the closure of industrial units in the province and asked the departments concerned to propose steps for immediate rehabilitation of the industrial sector.

The chief minister, while chairing a meeting of the industrial and technical

education department, had ordered for reforms in its subsidiaries including Small Industries Development Board (SIDB), KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company (EZDMCO), Board of Investment and Trade (BOIT) and Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA).

The statement read that the chief minister had issued directions for a comprehensive and integrated strategy for promoting industrial activities and ordered that the KP government's state of doing business policy must be implemented in letter and spirit by further strengthening new window operations, digitizing all the affairs of ministries of the industry and devising an effective mechanism of coordination among relevant departments.

"The ultimate goal is to develop the industry sector on modern lines for which the autonomous bodies have to perform exceptionally well", the statement quoted Mr Gandapur as saying.

The chief minister directed that experts in the relevant fields should be included in the board of directors of aforementioned autonomous bodies. He further directed for necessary

amendments in the relevant legal framework with the purpose to align these important subsidiaries with the needs of modern era.

KP CM ordered for utilization of available state land for establishing new economic zones and the steps for providing low cost electricity to the industries in the province. He also directed officials concerned to come up with viable proposals for making the non-functional woodwork centres functional and more profitable.

He also underlined the need to align the existing system of technical training with the contemporary needs and requirements, and directed that a viable plan should also be devised for this purpose.

"Technical training in the relevant field should be made mandatory for recruitment against electrician, carpenter, cook and all other technical posts in government departments," the chief minister ordered.

The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Industries Abdul Karim, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Anjum Ali Khan, Secretary Industries Amir Afaq and officials from TEVTA and relevant government departments.

Three passengers travelling to Spain on fake documents arrested

RAWALPINDI: Immigration staff of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) at the Islamabad International Airport on Wednesday arrested three passengers intending to travel to Europe via Saudi Arabia on fake documents and also rounded up a travel agent involved in human trafficking.

According to sources, the arrests of the passengers came about when the check-in of passengers for FIA flight PK-751 was underway. As the passengers approached the FIA immigration counter, their travel documents were found fake which led to their detention.

The passengers were travelling to Saudi Arabia on an Umrah visa.

The accused were from Gujarat, Mansi Babushkin and Babarullah.

The FIA said during search, fake Brazilian passports, Spanish resident cards of different people, Pakistani and Spanish passports were recovered from the baggage of the passengers.

According to FIA's preliminary investigation, the passengers obtained travel documents from an agent after paying Rs14.5 million.

The agent who was also travelling along with the passengers, was detained on the identification of the passengers. The accused were shifted to FIA's Anti Human Trafficking Cell for further investigation. — *Staff Reporter*

OFFICE OF THE HOSPITAL DIRECTOR MTI, MARDAN MEDICAL COMPLEX, MARDAN

Applications are invited from the candidates having domicile of KPK & its merged districts for the following positions on contract basis at MTI/MMC Mardan.

Sr	Positions	Age in yrs	Qualification & Experience
01	Supervisory No. of Post 02 - 01 for ICU - 01 for Paeds (Male/Female)	17	• BSC Human Nutrition (B) • MSc Home Economics with food & Nutrition as a subject or equivalent qualification in the relevant field from recognized university/institution. • Three (03) years Post qualification experience in a well reputed hospital is required.
02	General Practitioner No. of Posts 01 (Male/Female)	17	• MBBS/BSM (Hons) in General & Emergency Medicine from recognized university. • Three (03) years Post qualification experience in a well reputed hospital is required.
03	Pharmacist No. of Posts 04 (Male/Female)	17	• BSc in Pharmacy (PharmB) from recognized university of HEC. Three (03) years Post qualification experience in a hospital. Pharmacist in a reputable teaching hospital is required.
04	Physiotherapist No. of Posts 02 (Male/Female)	16	• BSc Physiotherapy (B) degree from recognized university. • Hospital One (01) year relevant post qualification experience from reputable hospital. • BSc from recognized university. • Relevant experience in hospital will be preferred.
05	Lab Lab Technologist No. of Posts 08 (Male/Female)	16	• BS/BSc degree in Clinical Technology from HEC Recognized degree awarding institution. • Two (02) years of Post qualification Lab lab experience in a reputed laboratory is required.
06	Senior Clinical Scientist (Pathology) No. of Post 08 (Male/Female)	16	• BS/BSc degree in Medical Laboratory Science/BS Graduate qualification from HEC recognized degree awarding institution. Experience in Molecular Pathology in a well reputed hospital will be preferred.
07	Senior Clinical Scientist (SOD/MS) No. of Post 02 (Male/Female) for District (Mardan Hospital)	16	• BS in relevant Technology from HEC recognized university. • Experience in Neurophysiology from Medical faculty KPK with 02 years of Post qualification experience in relevant field in a well reputed hospital is required.
08	Senior Clinical Scientist (Physiology) No. of Posts 04 (Male & Female)	16	• BS/BSc Honors/4 years BSc in Physiology degree from recognized university. • Higher relevant qualifications & experience from a well reputed hospital will be preferred.
09	General Technologist No. of Posts: • Surgical (10) • Pathology (05) • Cardiology (10) • Pharmacology (05) • Microscope Technologist (05) • Radiology (05) • Optometry (05) • Diagnostics (05) • ENT (05) • CT POP (05) • Forensic Technology (05) • Forensic (05) & Pharmacy (05) (Male/Female)	12	• BSc in relevant technology from HEC recognized university. • Experience in relevant field from a well reputed hospital will be preferred.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- In-service employees shall apply through proper channel, wherein upon selection they will have to resign from their post.
- My TA/DA will be admissible for test/interview.
- The MTI/Mardan is an equal opportunity Employer.
- The competent authority has the right to increase/decrease or cancel any or one of the positions.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Interested candidates must visit NTS web site: www.nts.org.pk to apply online within 20 days of publication of advertisement. Submit your test fee via TLink 598 Participating Banks/ATM/Internet Banking/Mobile Banking/Easy Payment/Cash/CCS Express Counters by downloading fee challan from NTS website.
- The candidates shall send hard copy of duly filled application form along with required attached testimonials i.e. 2x attested recent passport size photos, CNIC, domicile and attested copies of educational degrees/certificates. Experience certificates to NTS Headquarters (MTI, Mardan Project), Plot #96, Street #64, Sector H-6/1, Islamabad within due date.
- Only online filled Application Forms within due date will be entertained. Hand written and By hand submitted Application Forms will not be entertained.
- Separate Application Form must be sent for every post in case of applying for more than one category/post.
- For further information and test details, please keep visiting www.nts.org.pk or call at 051-3444441.

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HOW TO APPLY

- GCU GAT qualified candidates can apply through their already created account at: www.gcuonline.pk
- Candidate shall fill up online Admission Form and then download Processing Fee challan of Rs. 1500/- to be deposited in any branch of UBL across Pakistan. Payment through any Mobile App/ UBL Ozmi is not acceptable.
- Hard copy/ printout of Admission Form is **not** required to be submitted OR posted to the GC University Lahore. However the original documents along with one (01) set of photocopies will be required only at the time of interview.
- Last date to apply is **08-08-2024** during banking hours.
- A separate admission form shall be submitted for each Discipline.
- Online admission forms are available from 28-07-2024 to 08-08-2024.
- Interviews will be conducted from 15-08-2024 to 20-08-2024. (Detail is available on website)

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