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Arshad hurls himself into history with Olympic gold

• Sets new Olympic record with monstrous 92.97m throw; terms his victory 'early Independence Day gift' for the country
• Win marks Pakistan's first medal since 1992, first individual gold ever

By Siddharth Saxena

PARIS: Arshad Nadeem entered the Stade de France for the javelin throw final with his arms in the air and a smile on his face, but left with a gold medal and an Olympic record.

In the quiet, understated manner that has become his trademark in the javelin throw, the 27-year-old stormed the field to take a terrific, historic gold at the finals here at the Paris Olympics with a mammoth 92.97m off his second throw.

It was an Olympic record, beating the existing one of 90.57m, set by Andreas Thorkildsen at Beijing 2008.

For the under-powered Pakistan contingent in Paris — with the once-legendary men's hockey team absent from the Olympic stage — this was arguably the country's greatest moment in decades.

Arshad's gold is Pakistan's only gold medal outside of hockey, which they last won 40 years ago at Los Angeles in 1984. It is also Pakistan's first medal of any colour since 1992.

Before Arshad's remarkable victory, Pakistan had never won an individual gold medal at a

Summer Games. Prior to Thursday, only two Pakistan athletes had won individual medals of any colour — Muhammad Hashir's wrestling bronze in 1960 and Hussain Shah's boxing bronze in 1988.

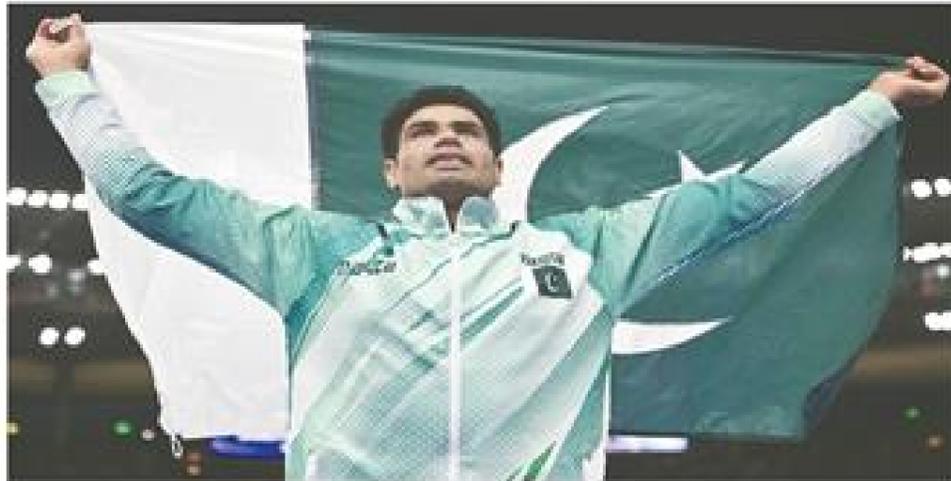
Arshad's feat makes him perhaps the country's greatest-ever Olympian. With the eyes of the world on him, he fell to the ground in protest after scoring the win, before draping the Pakistan flag over his broad shoulders to celebrate his glory.

"It's an amazing feeling... to win Olympic gold," a beaming Arshad told reporters afterwards. "I'm thankful to Allah for giving me the fruit of my labour and to all the people back home who prayed for me. I'll try to do even better next time around."

Since bursting into the national consciousness at the last Olympics in Tokyo — where he finished fifth — Arshad has had a tough time with injuries, but has bounced back on each occasion, and won several accolades along the way.

"I would like to say a special word of thanks for Dr Ali Sher Bajwa, who helped me during surgery and rehabilitation, and to my

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PARIS: Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem celebrates his 'gold and glory' with the national flag, after winning the men's javelin final with a record-breaking throw at the Stade de France, on Thursday.—AFP

PM boasts of 'exemplary institutional harmony'

• Stresses efforts to wipe out TTP threat; army chief urges clerics to promote tolerance
• COAS says social media being used to spread 'anarchy'; calls for protests to remain peaceful

By Syed Iftan Faiza

ISLAMABAD: As the government and the military declared their intentions to go after the "violence and anarchy" purportedly spread through social media by any means, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday spoke of "unprecedented cooperation" between the political government and the institutions, proclaiming it a "role model" for future administrations.

This resolve was expressed at the 'Ulema and Madhakh Conference' on Thursday, where both PM Shehbaz and Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir urged clerics to actively counter disinformation and extremism, and promote tolerance and unity in society, instead of discrimination.

According to the PM, the coalition government and national institutions are in "unprecedented harmony and cooperation" to serve the national interests and steer the country out of prevailing challenges.

"The country never needed [this kind of] unity and national harmony which [it] required today. I have never seen such a level of cooperation between a political government and the institutions throughout my political career," he said, adding that the collaboration between the military establishment and the government was a "role model" for the future.

PM Shehbaz told the gathering that the government was making efforts to address

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Nepra hikes power tariff by Rs2.56 per unit

By Mubarrak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: Amid rising electricity bills, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has announced an increase in electricity tariffs by Rs2.56 per unit, resulting in an additional collection of over Rs33 billion from consumers in August.

The tariff hike was revealed on Thursday as part of the monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for June. These additional charges will be reflected in the August bills of electricity customers. The hike will not affect lifeline consumers and R-Electric users.

This marks the second consecutive increase, as there was a Rs3.33 per unit rise for fuel adjustment in May, collected from consumers in July. Nepra allowed ex-Wapda distribution companies (Disco) to raise an additional Rs41 billion from consumers in July.

According to a notification, the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA), responsible for procuring electricity from power plants on behalf of distribution companies, requested an increase of Rs2.63 per unit. However, during a hearing on July 31, Nepra approved a slightly lower fee of Rs2.56 per unit, leaving the judgment pending.

A recent Nepra inquiry report revealed that

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BYC calls off protests after talks with govt bear fruit

GWADAR: The leadership of the Baloch Youth Committee (BYC) has called off its sit-in in Gwadar and other areas of Balochistan, following a marathon round of talks with government officials that concluded late on Thursday night.

The negotiations were held in Gwadar, with senior minister Mir Zahoor Ahmad Buledi leading the government delegation and Dr Mahyar Baloch and Sammi Dhan representing the BYC.

Officials confirmed that all issues between the government and the BYC were resolved during the final round of discussions, which lasted several hours. Dr Mahyar then announced the decision to call off the protests in Gwadar and other regions.

"After ending our sit-in in the port city, the BYC convoy will leave for Turbat where a public gathering will be held," she stated.

The convoy is set to depart for Turbat at 10am, with a public rally planned for the afternoon.

Mohran Commissioner Dawood Khalil, Gwadar DC Haroonfar Rahman, SSP Najeeb Painswari, and National Party leader Hussain Adhadi were also part of the talks.—Behram Baloch

ON OTHER PAGES



Yunus takes over as interim B'desh leader

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus moved to steer Bangladesh back to democracy after he took oath as the country's interim leader on Thursday. Dr Yunus, who returned to the country from France hours earlier, said he would uphold, support and protect the constitution. "Today is a glorious day for us. Bangladesh has got a second independence," the 84-year-old told reporters. Page 12

Seats row a 'test case' for separation of powers

• Elections (2nd amendment) Act 2024 gets presidential assent • Legal experts believe SC will definitely examine vires of latest law as it 'reverses direction' of July 12 short order • Say smart move would've been to enact law while seats case was still pending in court

By Malik Asad in Islamabad

CHANCES to the elections law — seemingly aimed at shutting the doors of parliament on PTI's 'independent' lawmakers — are set to become the latest legal battleground between the government, opposition and the judiciary.

But legal experts say the ramifications of this wrangling could even extend to and redefine the scheme of separation of powers between the legislature, executive and the judiciary, which in itself is quite a thorny issue.

On Thursday, sources in the Senate Secretariat said President

Auf Ali Zardari had signed the bill restricting independent candidates from joining parties of their choice after the stipulated time period had expired.

This was the government's second move to amend the Elections Act 2017 after the Feb 8 polls — the first being an amendment to appoint retired judges to election tribunals without the input of high court chief justices.

Even that matter is yet to be settled. Initially passed as an ordinance, the government gave the move legal cover in July after the amendment was assented in court.

Although the chief election commissioner and the Lahore High

Court chief justice have held a meeting in this regard, the matter is still pending before the Supreme Court. As of now, most election tribunals are also not taking up cases, rather, are kicking the can down the road by issuing a new date in most (if not all) scheduled hearings.

Legislating on a sub-judice matter

The latest piece of legislation, moved by a PM's N lawmaker and passed by both houses of parliament amid protests from the opposition, does not contain much that isn't already part of parliamentary convention.

The primary bone of contention is that it seeks to have retrospective

effect from 2017 — the date of the passage of the original Elections Act, under which the Feb 8 elections were held.

As per the fresh amendment, candidates cannot change their party after joining one within three days of their victory being notified.

Furthermore, reserved seats cannot be allotted to a party that did not win a single seat in the election.

The amendment also says that candidates should be considered independents if they do not file declarations with the relevant returning officer (RO) about their affiliation with a particular political

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Dengue cases on the rise in Punjab

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Following rains, dengue cases are on the rise in Punjab as 20 people tested positive for the virus during the last one week or so across the province.

The public health experts warned that the number of cases may further increase in the days to come following the stagnant water in the streets, ponds, rooftops of the buildings and on open places due to the spells of rain.

According to the official figures, 57 dengue positive cases were reported across Punjab during the last 30 days.

On the other hand, some officials claimed that the health authorities were not properly reporting statistics pertaining to the dengue fever cases. They feared that the number of dengue cases may be 30 times more than what is being reported officially.

They said the family physicians running clinics in streets across Punjab were also reporting a considerable number of patients visiting with dengue fever symptoms.

The health authorities would have to expedite the anti-dengue activities to check and destroy larvae to stop breeding of the mosquitoes causing dengue fever, the experts suggested.

Family stranded in flooded house rescued

By Our Correspondent

MIANWALI: As many as 14 members of a family stranded in a flooded house situated in the Katcha area were rescued.

Reports said rescue officials received a call from Shahkhal village of Mianwali to save a family from flood. The rescue teams rushed to the affected area and rescued 14 members of the family beside belongings and cattle heads.

It is surprising that despite repeated announcements by the district administration to vacate Katcha area with flood threat, due to rising water flow of the Indus which spread from Katabagh after emerging out of mountains and inundates areas in Mianwali and Isakhel tahsil, people remained unmoved.

The district administration has arranged various flood relief and medical camps in Katcha area and rescue teams are alerted to evacuate stranded people.

Mianwali Deputy Commissioner Khalid Javed Gorrage visited by boat flood-affected area in Katcha and checked all the relief camps. He met people still living there who demanded declaring flood-hit areas as calamity-stricken due to loss of huge chunk of crops spread over hundreds of acres due to flood. In Isakhel tahsil, hill torrent inflicted a huge loss followed by the swollen Indus.

Playwright case key suspect sent to jail

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Thursday sent the key male suspect, Hassan Shah, to jail for his identification parade in the case of alleged honey-trap, kidnap for ransom and torture of known playwright Khalid Rehman Gamar.

The police presented the suspect before the court with his face covered.

The investigating officer (IO) told the court that prime suspect Arna Arooj had asked Hassan Shah to blackmail the playwright. He said together, both suspects planned the playwright's kidnapping.

He said Shah, along with his other accomplices, kidnaped Gamar and demanded \$1 million ransom.

The IO requested the court to allow shifting of the suspect to jail for identification parade.

The suspect's lawyer opposed sending his client to jail for identification parade, claiming Shah was innocent.

However, Judge Khalid Arshad noted that all the suspects, including Ms Arooj, had stated that Hassan Shah was the main culprit.

The judge allowed the request for the identification parade of the suspect and directed the police to present him again on Aug 15 after completion of the legal procedure.

In this case, nine other suspects are on physical remand with the police, while Ms Arooj has been sent on judicial remand and her bail petition is pending with the court.

—Staff Reporter

Work on lowering greenbelts level begins

LAHORE: Level of greenbelts at various spots in the city has been lowered to the road level in a bid to improve rainwater drainage and raising underground water table.

The move is a part of the project to lower level of 45 parks and greenbelts across Lahore to improve drainage of rainwater, which otherwise accumulates on roads and causes inconvenience to the people besides damaging the infrastructure.

—Staff Reporter



LAHORE: Clerks protest at Sheria Pahari Chowk in favour of their demands. —Wafa Site

PTI's plea for rally DC also rejected Nasser Bagh, Mochi Gate venues, LHC told

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court was told on Thursday that the deputy commissioner also rejected PTI's request for holding a rally at Nasser Bagh or Mochi Gate on Aug 13, following the earlier denial to allow the event at Mianwali-Pakistan.

An assistant advocate general stated this during the hearing of a petition filed by PTI Lahore chapter President Akmal Khan, challenging the DC's refusal to grant permission for a rally in the city.

The government's lawyer also presented the DC's report rejecting the PTI's request for the rally.

However, Justice Ali Raza Nadeem expressed dissatisfaction

with the DC's report.

PTI lawyer Khuram Latif Khan said the DC had rejected the request for the rally despite change of the venue. He said the dates had also been changed and suggested allowing the rally on another day, if not on Aug 13 or 14, proposing Aug 18 or 20 dates for the party event.

The government's lawyer said that Nasser Bagh had recently undergone renovation, so a public gathering could not be allowed there, while political rallies were also not allowed at Mochi Gate.

The PTI lawyer said his client complied with the court's order and submitted requests for new locations.

Referring to Jamana-Islami's ongoing sit-in in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, the

judge asked what the government had to say about it.

The law officer said the requests from the PTI and two other political parties had been rejected.

However, he said that JI had not been granted permission for the sit-in.

The judge then asked what action had been taken against the JI, to which the law officer expressed his ignorance, saying cases against the party officials might have been registered in Rawalpindi.

The judge remarked that how a ban could be placed on a particular political party's rally.

Justice Nadeem asked the law officer if the petitioner's party submitted an affidavit for complying with the government conditions.

The judge observed that if,

despite that [an affidavit], the PTI engaged in illegal activities, the law will take its course.

"What are you afraid of? You are in the government, it's your government. If there's a small plot in the city, like two or five marlas, they can hold their rally there," the judge asked the government's lawyer.

The law officer wondered how they (the PTI followers) can fit in such a small space.

The judge adjourned the hearing for Friday and instructed the law officer to seek further instructions from the government.

NOTICE: Justice Shabram Sarwar Chaudhry of the Lahore High Court on Thursday issued a notice to the deputy commissioner on a PTI petition for permission to hold a cake-cutting

ceremony on the Liberty grounds on the Independence Day.

PTI Punjab Senior Vice President Afzal Anwar Pehat filed the petition, challenging the refusal to grant permission for the event on Aug 14.

The Punjab government's lawyer Khwaja Mahsin opposed the petition.

The petitioner's lawyer, Rabbia Bajwa pointed out that Aug 14 is a national day, and PTI wishes to hold a cake-cutting ceremony at Liberty Chowk on the night between Aug 13 and 14.

She said a request was submitted to the DC for this purpose, but permission was denied.

The judge directed the government's lawyer to submit a detailed response on Aug 12.

'Conditional apology' PML-N leaders reject Imran's offer

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The PML-N leaders, rejecting former prime minister Imran Khan's offer to tender a conditional apology, leading to any reconciliation with the military establishment, over May 9 events, insisted the PTI founder should be punished for "orchestrating" the violent episode.

They say the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder leader Imran Khan should not be pardoned even if he seeks an apology for May 9 riots.

Mr Khan had on Wednesday offered to tender an apology for the May 9 riots, provided the involvement of PTI supporters in

the violence was proved.

Reacting to Khan's offer, Punjab Information Minister Arna Bokhari said on Thursday that the "unreserved" of the May 9 incidents was asking for forgiveness.

"The person who once claimed that he would not grant anyone an NRO is now pleading for mercy. Even if Imran Khan tries to clear his name, the dark stain on his reputation cannot be erased," she said.

The minister alleged that Mr Khan incited people and manipulated their minds. "These unfortunate individuals turned the status of our national heroes," she said.

Ms Bokhari further said that on the day Imran Khan was

arrested, his key associates urged people to take to the streets. "The day after his arrest, Imran Khan himself admitted that the public reacted to his arrest," she added.

She said that under the leadership of PTI leaders Yasmin Rashid, Ijaz Chaudhry and Mahmood Rashid, the party activists attacked the Lahore Corps Commander's House, while Hassan Nuri (former's nephew) burnt the corps commander's uniform. At the time of the attack on the Corps Commander House, Akram Khan, Uzma Khan, and Razi Khan (Imran's sister) were present, she alleged.

She said the video evidence of the attacks on military installa-

tions and sensitive agency's offices was available. "The courts do not even accept unconditional apologies, how come the people of Pakistan accept conditional apologies for burning the status of martyrs," Ms Bokhari said.

PML-N leader Javed Latif said if Imran Khan was not given pardon because of international pressure, the nation would not forgive this.

He said Khan still has his "sympathisers in the institutions", alleging that the "network of former CJP Sugh Nisar and ex-BSI chief Fiaz Hamid" was still in place.

PML-N Senator Tahir Chaudhry also pleaded for handing down punishment to Mr Khan.

ATC adjourns Imran's pleas

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Thursday adjourned the petitions of PTI founding chairman Imran Khan seeking post-arrest bail in eight cases of the May 9 riots, including an attack on the corps commander's residence.

Barister Salman Saffar appeared on behalf of the former premier and presented his initial arguments in support of the bail. He said the petitioner was currently under judicial remand in all the cases. He argued that there was no recovery to be made from the petitioner.

He said the police cases were malicious and driven by political victimisation. He asked the court to allow post-arrest bail petitions in eight cases.

Judge Khalid Arshad adjourned the hearing of the bail petitions till Sept 7 for further arguments.

The PTI founder filed bail pleas in cases, including attacks on Jinnah House, Ashraf Tower and Shaheen police station.

Separately, ATC III Judge Arshad Javed adjourned post-arrest bail petitions of Imran Khan in four other cases, including burning the PML-N office in Model Town, a container near Khatra Chowk and police vehicles in Callberg during the May 9 riots.

The judge will resume the hearing on Sept 5.

The bail petitions have been filed after the Lahore High Court quashed the physical remand of the former premier in 12 cases.

—Staff Reporter

Mianwali DPO removed over corruption complaints

By Asif Chaudhry & Khuram Ahmed Khan

LAHORE/MIANWALI: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz removed the Mianwali district police officer (DPO) on Thursday over corruption complaints and directed the Inspector General of Police to replace him with a 'suitable' officer.

The action was initiated during the CM's visit to the Mianwali district where she spent a busy

day. Chairing a meeting at the DC office which was also attended by local politicians, matters pertaining to the police operation against hawala criminals and crime also came under discussion.

Official sources said the CM was briefed about numerous serious complaints of corruption in the district police. Maryam Nawaz expressed her utter displeasure over the complaints, saying she had already issued directions to show zero tolerance towards corruption in the police

department.

Taking a prompt action, she ordered the removal of DPO Marzullah and issued directions to replace him with an experienced officer of integrity. IGP Iftikhar Anwar confirmed to Dawn the CM had removed the Mianwali DPO following complaints of corruption and inefficiency. Posted in Feb 2023, Mr Marzullah served Mianwali for 18 months or so.

Late in the night on Thursday, the IGP issued a notification of

his transfer, directing him to report to the Central Police Office till further order.

During her visit to the DPO hospital, the CM announced to establish the first cardiac care centre in Mianwali.

It was decided to undertake sodalities of agricultural tubewells in the area of Chakbar in Mianwali. The CM reviewed development projects for Mianwali. Local media was not allowed to cover her visit due to security concerns.

Delayed Walton Road project a constant nuisance

The project whose deadline was July prolonged till September-end

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: The much-awaited Walton Road project, initially slated for completion by the end of July, has faced significant delays, causing widespread frustration among local residents and shopkeepers. The project, aimed at upgrading the road infrastructure and improving traffic flow, has been plagued by various setbacks, causing a delay in the completion of the project.

Residents and shopkeepers along the Walton Road have expressed their concerns as the Central Business District (CBD) has failed to complete the project within the seven-month timeframe and it is now asking for additional time. The delay in construction has heavily impacted businesses and properties in the area.

"The delay is causing a lot of trouble. Our sales have dropped because customers avoid the area due to the construction noise. The noise and dust pollution are unbearable and the traffic congestion is disrupting our daily activities," says Ahmad Raza, a shopkeeper.

The CBD launched the project in November 2023, covering an 18km stretch from Walton Airport to the Hafiza Drain. One of the main parts of the project is to clear and cover the Airport Drainage Authority (ADA) drains, which runs parallel to the road and has become a source of pollution and flooding, especially during the monsoon.

The ADA drains, originally built to manage 80 cusecs of rainwater, has been contaminated with sewage from various localities, including Ashari, Badliya, Cavalry, Gossains, Walton, and Falcon Colony. This contamination has raised the drain's level by four feet, reducing its capacity to handle rainwater and causing frequent overflows during the monsoon, leading to water logging and traffic jams on the Walton Road.

Residents and shopkeepers along the road have raised concerns about the slow pace of work, especially with the cur-

rent monsoon rains exacerbating their problems.

"The elevated road level means rainwater from the road is entering our shops and homes, damaging our properties," complains Aroba Khan, a resident of the road. "The delay is making things worse," she adds.

On Thursday, Lahore Commissioner Zaid bin Masood held a meeting to review the progress of the Walton Road Development Scheme.

CBD Executive Director Tahirul Haq Hussain briefed the meeting, saying that the 4km long Walton Road, having six lanes, would be completed by the end of September. He reported the project was 33pc complete and the 4.3km deep trunk drain on road had been completed 100pc.

The commissioner also reviewed the construction progress of the Walton Road Trunk Drain System, flyovers, disposal stations and sewers. He said that the street water should not flow back into street sewer lanes after construction of rider sewers on the Walton Road. An underground trunk for utilities was being constructed and green belts would also be built.

It has been revealed during the meeting that two disposal stations are being constructed on the Walton Road, with work on one station 75pc complete and the other 25pc done. The old Nullah on Walton Road would be demolished and wastewater would pass through the deep trunk drain.

The commissioner directed the CBD to complete the Walton Road project as per the deadline.

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Ji calls off sit-in as govt agrees to form task force

Panel to finalise report within 45 days, submit it to PM Shehbaz • Hafiz Naeem says party will stage sit-in again if govt fails to keep promises

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: The Jamaat-i-Islami has called off its two-week-long sit-in after it reached an agreement with the government on the formation of a task force aimed at addressing issues related to independent power producers (IPPs), reducing electricity bills and lowering taxes on the salaried class.

The announcement came in the early hours of Friday after the two sides concluded the fifth round of talks at Ji's premises in Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh.

However, Ji amir Hafiz Naeem Rehman insisted that the party was deferring and not ending the sit-in, warning that his party would follow up on the government's promises and would stage a sit-in again if it failed to keep its words.

The task force formed as a result of the agreement is expected to finalise its report within one and a half months and submit it to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Ji's main critic, Liaqat Baloch, addressed participants alongside Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Information Minister Ataulah Farar and announced that the government had agreed to meet Ji's demands after a 14-day sit-in by workers.

Talking about the agreement, Mr Baloch said the task force would conduct an audit of IPP agreements and include foreign experts to ensure transparency. He emphasised that monitoring the energy sector is crucial to provide further relief to consumers.

"The IPP issue is a major problem for Pakistan's economy," Mr Baloch said. "The government approached Ji for highlighting this issue. A committee will also be formed to address tax issues for

the business community and agricultural tax for large landholders, with relief to be announced for farmers."

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said both the government and Ji were committed to providing relief in the public, with plans to reduce electricity bills soon.

"We aim to make the country prosperous," he said, adding that Ji's peaceful approach to meeting their demands should be commended.

Information Minister Ataulah Farar added that Ji's demands were in line with PML-N's agenda, noting that the PML-N government had already provided relief to consumers using up to 200 units of electricity, with Rs50 billion allocated for this purpose.

Talks between Jamaat and the government resumed on Tuesday after a five-day gap. It was decided that the government would respond to the party's demands in writing by Wednesday, after which Ji amir Hafiz Naeem Rehman would decide the fate of the sit-in.

The Ji delegation, led by Liaqat Baloch, included Amirul Azeem, Syed Farooq Shah, and Nasrullah Randhawa. Hafiz Naeem also attended the meeting.

The government delegation, led by Mr Naqvi, included Information Minister Farar.

Earlier, addressing a press conference at the Rawalpindi sit-in, Hafiz Naeem rejected what he called a "double, triple" tax system and insisted that any agreement with the government be documented in black and white.

"It's strange that the salaried class pays tax on their salaries and then pay tax on flour, sugar, dal, ghee and match-box," the Ji chief said, warning that people were worried and "this lava can erupt anytime".



RAWALPINDI: Participants of the Jamaat-i-Islami sit-in march from Liaquat Bagh to Committee Chowk, on Thursday.—Online

'Missing' PTI MNA Haji Imran 'rearrested' from Multan Airport

Punjab ACE claims lawmaker was trying to board flight to Qatar

By Zulqarnain Tabir

LABORE: Punjab's anti-corruption watchdog on Thursday claimed to have rearrested "missing" PTI MNA, Haji Imran Ahmed, from Multan airport.

In a statement, an Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) spokesperson said the lawmaker was trying to board a flight for Qatar when he was arrested at the Multan airport.

The whereabouts of the lawmaker had been unknown since armed men attacked a convoy on the new Shadwal Road near

Gujranwala and freed him from ACE's custody on July 31.

The ACE arrested him for allegedly receiving a Rs1 million commission in a development scheme.

A team of the anti-corruption watchdog was bringing him back to Gujranwala from Multan — where he was taken for the recovery of the commission money — when around a dozen armed men in three vehicles intercepted the official vehicle and opened indiscriminate fire. The ACE officials left the vehicle to find shelter as the armed men took away the MNA.

After the "kidnapping" of their party members, PTI lawmakers raised the matter in the parliament and also moved the court for his safe recovery.

In a recent session of the National Assembly, Leader of the Opposition Omar Ayub Khan said

Mr Ahmed had been declared "a lawfully disappeared person".

While addressing the speaker, Mr Khan asked: "Who is restoring him, intelligence agencies or army? The responsibility lies on you, Mr Speaker, as custodian of the house."

In reply, the speaker, Ayaz Sadiq, told PTI lawmakers that he had been told by the police that Mr Ahmed was neither in their or ACE's custody.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had also assured the opposition members that he would personally look into the alleged disappearance of Mr Ahmed.

Mr Ahmed had been elected as an independent candidate (backed by the PTI) in the general elections held on Feb 8. Earlier, he had been elected as an MNA for the first time in 2018 on PTI's ticket.

Justice Shah stresses Islamic principles in jurisprudence

ISLAMABAD: The senior justice judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Noid Mansoor Ali Shah, emphasised on Thursday the importance of interpreting laws through the lens of Islamic principles, citing the Holy Quran and the Sunnah as sources of eternal guidance for mankind.

Speaking at a ceremony at the Federal Judicial Academy (FJA) in Islamabad, Justice Shah stated, "We must see everything from an Islamic perspective and interpret our laws in line with Islamic principles."

The ceremony marked the conclusion of a four-day regional training programme on "Islam and International Humanitarian Law."

Justice Shah stressed the need to integrate Islamic values of mercy and compassion into daily life to create a more harmonious society. "Our religion has plenty of wisdom embedded in its sources," he remarked, adding that an articulate fusion of this wisdom into jurisprudence would make it more effective, culturally acceptable, and indigenous.

"We must highlight Islamic wisdom and assimilate it in our laws and judgments. We have to open our minds and explain Islam together with modern realities," he observed.

Justice Shah also pointed out the relevance of Islamic environmentalism, noting that the Holy Quran contains numerous references to environmentalism.—Staff Reporter

Peace in KP top priority of govt: interior minister

By Hishkar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi said on Thursday that establishing peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the top priority of the federal government.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kardai, who called on Mr Naqvi at the Ministry of Interior in Islamabad. They also discussed the law and order situation in KP, including the situation in Kurram.

The interior minister and the KP governor expressed their grave concern over the Kurram incident and agreed to formulate a multi-faceted joint strategy to prevent such incidents in future.

They expressed deep grief over the loss of precious human lives due to land dis-

pute in Kurram and noted that some elements gave a wrong perception to the clash between the two groups, which increased the tension in the area.

Mr Naqvi said that he met dignitaries of the area led by MNA Hamid Hussain of Majlis-i-Wahdat-i-Muslimeen and took immediate steps to normalise the situation. He said that security forces also took effective measures in view of the situation.

He held out an assurance to the governor that every possible effort was being made to improve law and order situation in KP, including Kurram.

He stated that the role of external elements in sabotaging peace efforts in the area cannot be ruled out.

The KP governor thanked the interior minister for his cooperation in efforts to establish peace in the province.

GB traders warned against continuing protest

GILGIT: Pakistan Customs on Thursday advised the protesting traders in GB to stop their sit-in as the port after having been imposed from China.

Besides, the Gilgit-Baltistan customs announced approaching the GB Chief Court with a request to vacate its orders halting collection of taxes, sales tax and additional sales tax from traders on items imported from China.

Last month, Justice Raja Shaukat Ahmed of the Chief Court stopped FRR and Customs from collecting these taxes, observing the Karakoram Highway (KHE) and sea pending travel and trade between Pakistan and China for implementation of the court directives.

Assistant Collector Customs East Justice Shigri through a notice sent to GB Importers and Exporters Association president Muhammad Iqbal on Wednesday sought clearance of the customs premises. "You are hereby strongly advised to clear the occupation of customs premises and allow the normal trade activity to flow. You are also strongly advised to clear your goods so that other traders have opportunity to use the port," read the notice.

Defying the notice, the traders continued their sit-in outside the dry port and KKH on Thursday. They announced that they would call off the protest only after their demands were fulfilled. Addressing the protesters, traders' representatives Jamil Hussain, Muhammad Abbas, Imran Gilgit and others accused the customs officials of insulting the Chief Court and GB Assembly.—Jamil Nagri

CII seeks review of SC verdict in Mubarak Sani case

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) has expressed reservations over a number of reasons, given by the Supreme Court in its July 24 verdict in the Mubarak Ahmad Sani case, and urged the judges to review their ruling.

"The whole nation is perturbed over it [the SC ruling]. This is a matter of faith and love for the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) instead of legal technicalities," said the CII in a statement issued after its meeting on Thursday.

The meeting, held to discuss the SC ruling, was presided over by CII Chairman Dr Muhammad Raghif Hussain Naqvi.

The statement said CII would soon send its detailed report on the matter to the SC, adding that there were many parts of the decision which are considered inappropriate by religious scholars and the CII in light of the Islamic injunctions.

The CII members expressed hope that the SC "will soon review its decision". The CII also urged the government, particularly Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to play an

effective role in the matter.

On Feb 6, an SC bench, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, had overturned the conviction of Mubarak Sani, who was accused of an offence in 2019 under the Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) (Amendment) Act.

In its judgement, the court ruled that the offence which the defendant had been accused of was not criminalised till 2021. Consequently, the apex court set aside the conviction and ordered the immediate release of the petitioner.

This led to what the government and the legal community termed a "malicious and deliberate campaign" against the chief justice, even prompting the Supreme Court to issue a clarification.

The decision was subsequently challenged by the Punjab government on the grounds that the paragraph 5 of the order, regarding Article 20 of the Constitution, needed to be modified as rights of the citizens as envisaged under the provision were not absolute and instead subject to law, public order and morality.

While accepting the plea, the Supreme Court on July 24 reportedly declared that the right to profess religion and religious freedom, as ensured by the Constitution, was subject to law, morality and public order.



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PTI student wing announces movement for revival of unions

Plans rally in Islamabad to be attended by students from different political parties and organisations

By Kashaf Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Apparently impressed by Bangladeshi students whose protests brought down the government of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the student wing of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday demanded the revival of student unions in the country.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, representatives of Inaf Student Federation (ISF) announced to launch a movement for the restoration of Constitutions and revival of the student unions in the country.

ISF President Arshad Hussain, Vice President Ahsan Ali and others said the country had been facing unprecedented inflation with exorbitant electricity bills and taxes besides a "system of fascism."

Therefore, "we are going to launch a students' movement to get the country out of crisis," they said, adding they will soon hold a rally in Islamabad which will be attended by a large number of students from different political parties and organisations.

Election at QAU met in sight

Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad has not yet announced a schedule for the election of the students' union which could have led to the revival of the students' unions across the country.

In September 2023, Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Issa while attending a QAU syndicate meeting had lent his support to a decision to revive the students' union at the university. It was hoped that the move will pave the way for the revival of student unions in other universities as well. After the decision, the university took considerable time in finalising rules and regulations for holding the election which were presented before the syndicate meeting in February this year.

The syndicate after approving a code of conducts gave the go-ahead signal to the university for holding the election in August or September this year. But so far, no further progress has been made.

A senior official of QAU, who was contacted on Thursday, by denying to know the update on the union election, said: "Right now I have no knowledge about the election and can't get the required information tomorrow."

However, another QAU official said there was no sign of holding the student elections at the university anytime soon. Rather, he said, the university wants to hold elections of the alumni first.

Student unions were banned in 1984 by military dictator Ziaul Haq in an effort to quell student uprisings against his oppressive policies.

The decision left a significant vacuum in Pakistan's political landscape. Four decades later, the students at QAU last year seemed poised to be the first to get their democratic rights back. Successive governments made several commitments for the revival of student unions but none of them could take practical steps.

Earlier in 2017, the Senate of Pakistan headed by Mian Raza Raza had passed a resolution for revival of the student unions, but nothing happened.

During the PTI government, the then prime minister Imran Khan also expressed support for the restoration of student unions following protests across the country, but he too failed to get the unions restored.

Over 1,600 cases of child abuse reported during last six months: report

By Iqram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: SAHIL's Six Months Cruel Numbers data reveals that a total of 1,630 cases of child abuse were reported from across the country.

In the first six months of 2024, 862 cases of child sexual abuse, 558 cases of abduction, 82 cases of missing children and 18 cases of child marriages were reported. This year, 48 cases of pornography after sexual abuse were also recorded.

Six-monthly data shows that out of the total reported cases, 1942- 59pc of victims were girls and 1648- 41pc were boys.

According to a statement, Sahil is working on child protection with special focus on child sexual abuse since 1996.

It aims to develop a protective environment free from all forms of violence for children, especially child sexual abuse.

It also provides legal, emotional and psychological support to the victims.

This year 81 daily national and regional newspapers were monitored from January to June 2024 to collect data of child sexual abuse, abduction, missing children and cases of early marriages.

The areas include the four provinces

along with the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), and Gilgit Baltistan (GB).

The data shows that the most vulnerable age group remains children aged 6-15 years, with 693 cases reported in this bracket. Additionally, 94 cases involved children aged 0-5 years, 231 children were from the age bracket of 16-18 years, and in 612 cases, the age of the victims was not mentioned.

In the year 2024, January-June, the abusers involved in 47pc of the total cases were acquaintances, 18pc were strangers, while in 3pc acquaintances along with strangers committed

crimes against children.

In the first six months of 2024, 78pc of the total cases were reported from Punjab and 6pc from the ICT. The rest of the cases were reported from other provinces including 18pc cases from Sindh, 3pc cases from KP, and 2pc cases from Balochistan, AJK and GB.

Out of the total reported cases, 44pc were from urban areas and 56pc were from rural areas.

This year, Sahil has also monitored the cases of violence against women. A total number 1,732 cases were reported which includes different forms of violence such as murder, suicide, abduction, rape, honour killing and torture.

Over 30 health ministry, Drug officers transferred

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Following the intervention by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, over 30 officers of the health ministry and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drac) were transferred amid allegations of malpractices.

Some insiders, however, have criticised the move as merely cosmetic, arguing that apart from a few cases, officers have been shuffled rather than the initiation of investigations and suspensions.

According to notifications, available with Dawn, Director General (DG) Health Dr Mohammad Ahmed Khan, who also had charge of Federal Directorate of Immunisation (FDI), has been removed from both posts and reassigned to Sindh as he was District Health Officer (DHO) District South Karachi. The Establishment Division has been requested to issue his repatriation orders as his services are no longer required.

National Coordinator Common Management Unit (CMU) for AIDS, TB and Malaria Dr Razia Kazim

Fatima has been terminated with immediate effect. Similarly, Deputy Director Admin Federal General Hospital Dr Mir Mohammad Hassan Ballo has been removed.

Abdul Kadir Khalil, Mohammad Ishaq, Imran Ali, Rawan Nahi Baloch and Irfanullah Khan have been transferred within the health ministry.

In Drac, Dr Akhtar Abbas, Ajmal Sobani Anif, Dr Ghazwan Ali Khan, Dr Syed Zia Hussain, Munazza Khan, Mehvish Ansari, Salazem Wassam Philip, Umar Latif, Akbar Ali, Rana Ahsan ul Haq Athar, Mehvish Jamil Butt, Iqra Athar, Hassan Afzal, Asadullah, Abdul Wahed, Farooq Anam, Farzana Raja, Shahrukh Ali, Mehvish Tanveer, Shafiq Hussain, Zulfiqar Ali Brohi, Rabnawaz Khan, Hamza Malik, Iqbal Haq and Zahid ul Din have been transferred. They have been directed to ensure proper handover of official records.

Additional charge of post of DCI Health has been assigned to DG Population Dr Shabana Saleem for a period of three months or till further orders.

Moreover, Ghazala Rashid Memon has been appointed as DG Development in the health

ministry.

Sources indicate that these transfers were made under the directions of the Prime Minister Office, following a detailed inquiry conducted by intelligence and security agencies, the report for which was submitted to the PM Office.

A Drac official, requesting not to be quoted, said that Drac lacked an internal accountability system. He accused the health ministry of covering up malpractices in the authority due to which intelligence and security agencies had to initiate an inquiry.

"I believe that the transfers in the Drac are an oversight as officers, who were involved in malpractices, have been just shuffled. Some of them have been transferred to Quality Management System (QMS) where they will do nothing but relax. In the past, officers used to be dumped in Federal Drugs Surveillance Lab (FDSL)," he said.

The official said that according to Drug Act, the authority should establish laboratories, as it has to deal with therapeutic goods, cosmetics and drug devices along with medicines.

Contempt pleas filed against restaurants at Monal for perceived violation of SC order

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Two petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court seeking contempt proceedings against perceived violation of the June 11 order of the court to relocate restaurants, including Monal, out of the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) area within three months.

Moved through Advocate Umar Ijaz Gillani, the first petition was filed by a citizen, Bilal Haque, and the second by Rina Saad Khan, highlighting her removal as the chairperson of Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB).

The petitions were moved under Article 204 of the Constitution read with Order 26 of the Supreme Court Rules 1980 as well as sections 3, 4 and 12 of the Contempt of Court Ordinance 2003.

The petition moved by Mr Haque pleaded that private businessmen operating restaurants inside the MHNP - the proprietors of Monal and La Montana - had volunteered vacating the facilities in three months, insisting that it would take three months for dismantling the structures.

"But almost two months down the lane, unfortunately, the process of dismantling of the commercial restaurants inside the national park has yet to start. Not a brick has been removed by the respondents, which clearly shows a lack of intention to obey the court order," the petition stated.

"Instead of dismantling the restaurants, the respondents namely Secretar Cabinet Karam Ali Afzal, Interior Secretary Afzal Sherrani, Principle Secretary to Prime Minister Asad

Rahman Gillani, Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Ali RazaBhawa etc., seem to be focused on doing the very opposite," the petition alleged.

"They are dismantling IWMB, the institution which played a cardinal role in championing the cause of wildlife protection over the last few years," it alleged.

The petition regretted that on July 19, 2024, the respondents removed an independent expert, Rina Saad Khan, from the post of the IWMB chairperson and replaced her with the additional secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change.

It said this move was legally questionable since it violated the duty of public officials to disclose sound reasons for all administrative decisions arising out of Article 4 and Section 24A of the General Clauses Act.

"They also violated the duty of public officials to provide an opportunity of hearing to anyone aggrieved of their orders and thereby all it violated the object and purpose of the very provision which it relies upon: Section 4.

The petition requested that about a fortnight after the removal of the chair-

person IWMB, the administrative control over the board was taken away from the Ministry of Climate Change and handed over to the Ministry of Interior.

This was done through a letter dated Aug 2, 2024, issued by the Prime Minister Office.

"Interesting, the board, its chairperson and its members are not even copied on this notification which shows how abominably and non-transparently the respondents were operating," the petition alleged.

It alleged that, historically, there had been friction between IWMB and the interior ministry on account of CDA falling within the control of the latter.

The petition alleged that the CDA had been at the forefront of real-estate and commercial development in MHNP — acts not only detrimental to the environment, but also the flora and fauna. CDA, has spearheaded the construction of roads in the MHNP along with granting licenses to commercial establishments in the national park area. As a result, the primary purpose of MHNP, i.e. the protection and preservation of the flora and fauna, was squandered at CDA's behest, the petition alleged.

UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI
Tel: (021) 9928-1200-07 Ext 2215 Toll-free: 99281200
Email: purchase@uok.edu.pk
Reg. No. PU/13246-2024 Date: 07th AUGUST 2024

TENDER NOTICE FOR PROCUREMENT OF PAPERS FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI

SEALED BIDS are invited on prescribed Document for the Supply of below mentioned items on Single Stage One Envelope procedure from Registered Firms, registered with Sales Tax & Tax Authorities. Further details of the items, Quantity and Terms and Conditions are contained in the Bidding Document, which is available from Purchase Department, UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI from 09th AUGUST 2024 on Payment of Rs. 3,000/- Each (Non-Refundable) in shape of Pay Order drawn in favour of UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI.

Bidding Documents should be dropped in the "Tender Box" kept in the Purchase Office on 28th AUGUST 2024 at 11:30 AM. 2% Bid Security should be attached with the Bidding Documents in shape of Pay-Order drawn in favor of UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI.

1 LOCAL PAPER 18x30 68 Gms
2 DUPLICATING PAPER 65 Gms
3 OFFSET PAPER 80 Gms (A-4 and Legal Size)

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The PURCHASING AGENCY may reject Any or all bids at any time prior to the acceptance of a Bid under SPP-Rules, 2019 (updated January 2024).
- Bids NOT accompanied by the BID SECURITY shall NOT be considered.
- The Bid must be submitted along with the detailed Company Profile.
- The Prices should be quoted in Pak Rupees
- The Successful Bidder who refuse or FAIL to Execute the Contract, shall be liable to forfeiture of their Bid Security as Penalty.
- The Bids shall be evaluated on the following Criteria:
 - Lowest Evaluated Bid in Terms of Value for Money
 - As per Specifications, Terms & Conditions mentioned in the Bidding Document
- The LAST DATE for ISSUANCE of Bidding Document is 27th AUGUST, 2024 by 04:30 pm.
- The LAST DATE of RECEIPT of Bidding Document is WEDNESDAY 28th AUGUST 2024 at 11:30 am. The Bids shall be opened on the Same Day at 12:00 Noon in presence of the Bidders who may wish to be present.
- In case of any Holiday or any Disturbance on the Opening Date, the Bids shall be received/opened on the Next Working Day as per Same Schedule.
- This Tender Notice & Bid Documents are also available on the Official Website www.pprastdnh.gov.pk as well as on Purchasing Agency's Website: www.uok.edu.pk

Purchase Officer
UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI

GUJRANWALA ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY LIMITED
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GEPCO LTD.
585-A MODEL TOWN, GEPCO HEAD QUARTER
G.T. ROAD, GUJRANWALA (MM SECTION)

GEPCO TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited for the supply of following item on the basis of Single Stage Envelope bidding procedure as per PPRA Rules from Prequalified/Registered and Un-Registered firms as per Drawing/Specifications (amended to date) detail given in bidding documents without any element of foreign exchange and for free delivery at Regional Store GEPCO, 132-KV Grid Station Shahzadabad, Gujranwala. The firm participating in the tender must have valid prototype approval from Chief Engineer (S&S), NTDC Lahore/DISCOs (if applicable). The tender will be opened in public in the office of undersigned as per following schedule:

Tender No.	Description	Unit	Tender Qty.	Tender submission Date & Time	Tender opening Date & Time
GJMM/TW/2024-25	LT Copper Wire 200-KVA	Kg	1,200	02-09-2024 Up to 11:00 A.M	03-09-2024 11:30 A.M
	LT Copper Wire 10 to 100-KVA	Kg	1,211		
GJMM/TW/2024-25	Phase Tap Paper 3 18-AM	Kg	3,885		
	Phase Road Sheet 1-AM	Kg	6,100		
GJMM/TW/2024-25	Phase Road Sheet 30-AM	Kg	2,517		
	HT Phospor Sulfate 10 to 300-KVA (Packing in wooden box)	No.	2,000		
GJMM/TW/2024-25	HT Rod Complete set 10 to 200-KVA (with 3 No. Nuts & Double washers)	No.	5,300		
	LT Rod Complete set 10 to 100-KVA (with 3 No. Nuts & Double washers)	No.	3,488		
GJMM/TW/2024-25	LT Rod Complete set 200-KVA (with 3 No. Nuts & Double washers)	No.	3,675		
	Water Cook Sheet 4.5 MM	No.	445		
GJMM/TW/2024-25	Sheet	Kg	208		
	MS Nuts & Bolt size 1-1/2" x 3/8"	No.	78,000		
GJMM/TW/2024-25	MS Nuts & Bolt size 1-1/2" x 1/2"	No.	27,450		
	MS Nuts size 3/8"	No.	16,500		
	PVC Sleeve-01 No.	No.	5,300		
	PVC Sleeve-02 No.	No.	7,500		
	PVC Sleeve-03 No.	No.	10,000		
GJMM/TW/2024-25	PVC Sleeve-04 No.	No.	10,000		
	PVC Sleeve-05 No.	No.	10,000		
	PVC Sleeve-06 No.	No.	1,800		
GJMM/TW/2024-25	PVC Sleeve-07 No.	No.	5,100		
	Sound Rubber Washer 12"	No.	23,100		
GJMM/TW/2024-25	Sound Rubber Washer 3/4"	No.	6,800		

1. Tender documents can be obtained from the office of undersigned after payment of Rs. 4,000/- each tender (non-refundable) up to a day before tender opening date.

2. The bid shall remain valid for acceptance for 120 days from the tender opening date and must accompany Bid Guarantee/CDR not less than 2% for registered and 4% for un-registered firm of the total quoted quantity amount valid for 150 days issued by any Scheduled Bank of Pakistan on specified Performa along with Sales Tax Registration Certificate.

3. The firm must be on active Taxpayers List (ATL) of FBR Government of Pakistan and have Sales Tax Registration Certificate.

4. Conditional tender or tender without Bid Guarantee will not be accepted.

5. GEPCO reserves all rights to reject any/all bids as per PPRA Rules.

6. The said tender notice will also be available on PPRA & GEPCO Web Site.

7. For further details information contact on any working days during office hours.

Manager (MM)
GEPCO Ltd Gujranwala
585-A Model Town, Gujranwala
Ph. 055-9200527. Fax: 055-9200528

PID(L)391

PAKISTAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (PVT.) Ltd (PIDC)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) is a State-owned enterprise owned by the Federal Government. It seeks applications for the following vacant positions from highly motivated individuals.

S.No.	Position	Minimum Qualification	Age & Minimum Experience
01	Assistant Manager (Project Site) Islamabad	Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering (10-year education) (Registered with PEC)	Minimum 08 Years of experience in construction supervision and design/contractual supervision, drafting of Engineering documents (BOQ, general risk assessment and cost control, Checking of bills, cost work on various efficiency etc. Maximum Age: 35 years
02	Assistant Manager (Technical) Islamabad	Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering (10-year education) (Registered with PEC)	Minimum 08 Years of experience in construction supervision of electrical work in large scale buildings, especially commercial office buildings, factories of handling EPC contracts will be an advantage. Maximum Age: 35 years
03	Officer (Human Resources) (Fazilpur, Rawalpindi)	Bachelors/Postgraduate Degree in Human Resources/HRM Administration	Minimum 02 years relevant job experience in human resources, proficiency in HR office Suite, ERP systems and a solid understanding of HR operational processes, documentation policies, and relevant labor laws is preferred. Maximum Age: 35 years
04	Graphic Designer, Karachi	Bachelors in Communication / Design / Media Studies / Fine Arts in related field	Ability to create vibrant and engaging marketing content, e.g. high-impact corporate presentations, creative graphics for brochures, newsletters, flyers, banners, marketing videos, etc. Required skills: Proficiency in graphic design & animation software such as Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Premiere), Sketch, or similar tools. Minimum 02 Year experience in Graphic Designer or similar role, with a strong portfolio showcasing creative work. Maximum Age: 30 years
05	Officer Accounts (Project Site) Islamabad	Bachelor's Degree (10-year education)	Minimum 08 Years of experience in auditing proper accounts and record keeping of project related documents. Maximum Age: 35 to 38 Years
06	IT Officer, Karachi	B.E / B.Sc. engineering (Computer / Electronics)	At least 5 years of experience as a System and Network Administrator or similar role. Strong knowledge of network protocols, hardware, appliances, operating systems and virtualization technologies. Proficiency in firewall and security technologies. Maximum Age: 35 years

General Conditions:

- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews, which will be conducted at the place of vacancy.
- No TVDA will be paid for appearing to the interviews.
- We are an equal opportunity employer and all positions are merit based.
- Any attempt to influence the hiring process may lead to disqualification.
- Degrees must have been earned from PEC recognized institutions. No job offers in the entire academic career will be acceptable.
- Successful candidates will be offered salary at a suitable level within the salary band/range of the applicable grade, commensurate with their credentials.
- Age relaxation may be considered in case of exceptional candidates.

Interested candidates may apply in confidence at the following address with their CC copies of academic degree/certificate/marksheet, Dac and a passport size photo, within 15 days of the publication of this advertisement. Applications through email will also be accepted with members of the post applied in the subject. PEC reserves the rights to reject/accept any or all applications.

Manager (HR)
PAKISTAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (PVT.) LTD.
2nd Floor, PIDC House, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road, Karachi. Ph: +92-21-32009500-9
Website: www.pidc.gov.pk Email: hr@pidc.gov.pk

Lawyers urge govt to address issue of missing persons

Demand implementation of judicial commission's recommendations on Aug 8 Quetta suicide attack

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Leaders of various lawyers' organisations on Thursday demanded of the government to address the issue of missing persons of Balochistan and implement the judicial commission's recommendations regarding the attack on lawyers on August 8, 2016.

Sixty-two lawyers were among 73 people who were killed eight years ago when a suicide bomber blew himself up in the Civil Hospital, Quetta, where lawyers had gathered after the killing of Balochistan Bar Association president Bilal Anwar Kasi, who was shot dead in a targeted attack.

A condolence reference was held at the Balochistan High Court on the anniversary of the attack where several resolutions were adopted.

The lawyers, including former Supreme Court Bar Association president Ali Ahmed Karz, Senator Hamid Khan, Advocate Mansoor Ahmed Kakar, Saadiq Ali Muhammad, Mansoor Ahmed Bharti, and others, demanded that the review petition filed in the Supreme Court regarding the report of three justice Qazi Faez Isa about the attack should be fixed for hearing.

The lawyers also announced that if terrorism cases filed against lawyers were not withdrawn, they would launch a country-wide movement from Lahore in September.

Through another resolution, they expressed concern over increasing incidents of terrorism and termed it failure of law-enforcement agencies and rejected the launching of operation Azadi-e-Balochistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

The lawyers also rejected the compensation announced by the government for missing persons' families.

"We reject the offer of paying Rs5 million compensation to each family of missing persons," the resolution said, adding that instead of announcing the compensation, the government should recover all missing persons.

Another resolution demanded that cases against civilians, which are being heard in military courts, should be shifted to civil courts and all political prisoners in the custody of the military should be released.

The resolution also termed the parliament's recent amendments to the Elections Act "an interference in the verdict of an independent judiciary".

The lawyers' organisations also expressed solidarity with the Baluch Yakjober Committee, which had been holding protests across the province over the past few weeks.

Speaking at the reference, the lawyers called for unity like the 2007 movement for success of any movement for restoration of real democracy in the country.

UN panel starts review of law to end racial discrimination

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) has commenced its session in Geneva, and started review of Pakistan on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Pakistan, Venezuela, Iran, Bosnia and Herzegovina, UK, Iraq and Belarus are among 182 states parties to the international convention, and they are required to undergo regular reviews by a UN committee of 18 independent international experts on how states parties are implementing the

Convention.

The UN committee, holding its session from August 5 to 23 in Geneva, will debate the implementation of the Convention by Pakistan for two days to complete the review on Friday.

The committee, which has received reports from non-governmental organisations and human rights institutions, will discuss and address a range of issues with the seven state delegations.

In its last report, submitted to the committee, the government said that Pakistan is fully cognisant of its international and domestic obligations related to human rights.

Regarding the protection of persons from enforced disappearances,

the report said, strong domestic measures have been adopted.

The report said that a Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances is working and investigating any alleged case of enforced disappearance. Pakistan also regularly engages with United Nations Working Group on Enforced Disappearances as well. The constructive engagement with the Working Group has been acknowledged in its reports.

It said that Pakistan has consistently condemned all forms of discrimination and has been pursuing, through all available means, both nationally and internationally, to eliminate discrimination, and to promote understanding among all segments of its society.

PM boasts of 'exemplary harmony'

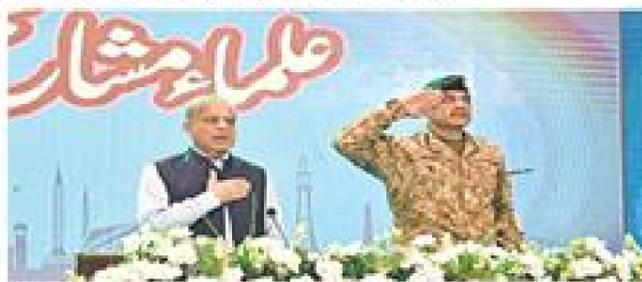
Continued from Page 1

the economic challenges and expected the upcoming International Monetary Fund package to be the last one. He said the coalition government was working on a comprehensive plan to ease the burden on the inflation-stricken people and that the province would soon announce their respective plans.

In his address, the premier also called for efforts to wipe out the hated Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) which he referred to as 'Pina-e-Kharwar' and also paid tribute to the security forces and law enforcement agencies.

"We salute those who risk their lives daily to protect the nation, offering the highest sacrifice for the motherland. We honour the sacrifices of our martyrs, who have given their lives to defend the nation."

The premier also tried to link the May 9 violence with what's happening in Bangladesh following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina government and said: "The worst heart-breaking incident in the history of the country took place on May 9 and you have



PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir attend the National Ulema and Mashayikh Conference.—APP

seen what is happening today in Bangladesh with the characters of 1971 'Fall of Dhaka' when Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's country was split into two states."

"Food for anarchy"

Addressing the conference, CDAS Gen Syed Asim Munir warned that social media was being used to spread "anarchy". "Fisad-e-Fil-Ari is the biggest sin and we firmly stand against it," he said. "If someone tries to create chaos in Pakistan, by God, we will stand before him. No power in the world can harm Pakistan because this country is built to last," he added.

The army chief urged scholars and clerics to encourage tolerance and unity in society instead of extremism or discrimination, saying they

should "bring back moderation in the society and reject corruption in the world".

The army chief also talked about terrorism and said, "Kharwar is a great crime." He said the Pakistan community had made a lot of sacrifices in the war against terrorism and said the nation stood with it.

He said criminal and smuggling mafias were supporting terrorism, adding that there was no compromise in religion in Islam.

"We stand united and resolute in our commitment to eradicate terrorism from our soil. We will not tolerate extremism, violence, or law-mongering," he said.

The army chief condemned "twisted ideologies that seek to divide us, senseless killings that aim to instill fear, and

infectious tactics employed by Pina-e-Kharwar that attempt to break our spirit."

"Let us strive for a Pakistan where everyone can thrive in peace and prosperity. We are one nation, one people, and together we can achieve greatness," the CDAS added.

The army chief said Pakistan had been losing millions of Afghan refugees for the past four decades. "We are explaining to them not to oppose their neighbor, brother Islamic country, and long-time friend for the sake of the Kharwar filna," he said, apparently referring to Pakistan's longstanding demand from the Afghan Taliban.

On the topic of protests, the army chief said, "We tell the people that if you want to protest, do it, but remain peaceful."

CM inaugurates digital arms licence system

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has completely digitised the system for issuing arms licence in Quetta and it would soon be replicated in all 35 districts of the province, the chief minister said on Thursday.

While talking to reporters after launching the digitised arms licence centre at the Quetta Deputy Commissioner Office, Mr Bagri said anyone with Balochistan's domicile certificate can obtain a licence to own a weapon, either for protection or sports activities.

He said the government will extend old arms licences for some time to allow them to be digitised. After the deadline, he added that old licences would be cancelled.

According to Mr Bagri, the digital arms licence programme had been pending since 2017.

He added that there have been complaints of people applying for government jobs and availing other benefits across the country on Balochistan's domicile.

To address this issue, the provincial government is digitising the process to issue all legal documents, including domicile certificates, the CM added.

The event was also attended by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Zahid Saleem, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Imran Zarkoon and Quetta Deputy Commissioner Saad Ihsan Anwar.—Saleem Shahid

Man kills wife in Nasirabad

DERA MURAD JAMALI: A woman was brutally murdered and her alleged perpetrator injured by her husband in the name of honour in the Mangoli area of Nasirabad district on Thursday night, police said.

The incident took place in Gohi Aghar where the man opened fire on his wife, killing her on the spot, they said. He also opened fire on one Ashiq Ali, leaving him seriously injured.

Police rushed to the scene of crime and shifted the body and the injured to district hospital Dera Murad Jamali.

"The murder is of honor killing," senior police officer Muhammad Umar Anwar said, adding that the suspect has been arrested.—Ali Jam Mangi

Nepra hikes power tariff

Continued from Page 1

millions of users across the country faced inflated bills during the April-June period after losing their right to reduced rates and slab benefits.

The inflated bills particularly affected low-income consumers (using 51-100 units per month) and those in the protected category (up to 200 monthly units), as they were pushed out of the monthly ceiling, resulting in higher rates than their actual consumption warranted.

Meanwhile, to address criticism of capacity payments to independent power producers (IPPs), the government established a task force on Aug 5 to investigate financial and operational issues in the power sector.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also appointed En-

ergetic caretaker energy minister Muhammad Ali as a special assistant on energy and co-chairman of the task force.

Mr Ali has already undertaken a review of the IPPs and recommended that the government conduct a forensic audit of the IPPs.

Former caretaker minister Ghulam Iqbal has stated that the nation is closely watching the task force, which is expected to review shortcomings in the electricity sector and IPP capacity payment issues within 30 days.

Experts have warned the government that rising energy costs will make it difficult to accept export orders from international clients. Domestic industries have already passed the increased electricity costs onto consumers through higher retail prices.

PESHAWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL BUSINESS PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PESHAWAR VALLEY IN JV/PPP MODE

New Peshawar Valley is an esteemed project of the provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Project is being executed by the Peshawar Development Authority. New Peshawar Valley (NPV) is approximately thirteen (13) Km from the Grand Trunk road/Motorway Peshawar toll plaza on the southern side. A one lakh six thousand (160000) Kanals of land, where seventy-six thousand (76000) land in Peshawar while thirty thousand (30000) kanals land in district Nowshera. At present, land identified have multiple access while a new access road having a length of 9.6 kms, starting from Tanu Jabba GT Road Peshawar is part of Master plan. The access road is planned to have a width of 3.30 feet and a total of 600 ft right of way (ROW) where it has Commercial lands on both sides of the main boulevard.

The project will create an alternate city taking off the burden from Peshawar where aside from the provision of quality living/housing, appropriately designed high rises for business/commercial activities will be established. Masterplan of the project has already been finalized.

The Peshawar Development Authority, through this Notice, invites the well reputed, resourceful and experienced companies/firms/consortia/JV in developing, planning, designing, large housing societies/colonies/cities; to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI)/ Proposals in having partnership with PDA in developing the parts/phases of the scheme according to their capacity and preference in either Joint Venture or PPP Mode.

Request for Proposal (RFP) will be available on the website of PDA www.pda.kp.gov.pk after 15th August, 2024.

A pre proposal meeting regarding EOI will be convened 20th August, 2024 in the Committee room of Director General, PDA, Peshawar.

Proposals/EOI must reach office of the undersigned by 31st August 2024 at 11:30 AM through registered post/courier services and will be opened on same date at 12:30 PM.

Project Director,
New Peshawar Valley,
PDA Commercial Complex Phase V Hayatabad, Peshawar.

31st Aug 2024

Fahd Haroon appointed SAPM

ISLAMABAD: Fahd Haroon has been appointed minister of state by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Mr Haroon, who will also be designated as special assistant to prime minister (SAPM), previously served in different positions during the caretaker set-up, the PDM government led by Shehbaz Sharif, and in international and local media houses, including as chairman of the press and electronic media committee of the FPCCI and membership of the Pakistan Broadcasters Association.

He serves on the advisory committees of several educational institutions, and his leadership has been recognized by numerous awards, including the Sitara-e-Imtiaz.—Press Release

TransPeshawar
www.transpeshawar.pk | TransPeshawar | TransPeshawar

Corrigendum to Request for Proposal

"Provision of External Auditor's Services to TransPeshawar"

Date: August 09, 2024
Ref No. TPC-UD-148-OCB-2024-25-001

Reference to the Advertisement published in Daily Dawn and Jang on August 5, 2024 for "Provision of External Auditor's Services to TransPeshawar". The deadline for submission of proposals is hereby extended. Submission of proposals will be closed at 11:30 AM PST, August 23, 2024 and proposal will be opened at 11:45 AM PST on the same date.

All other terms and conditions of earlier advertisement shall remain unchanged.

Chief Executive Officer
TransPeshawar (The Urban Mobility Company)
TransPeshawar Head Office, First (1st) Floor, Main BRT Depot, Opposite NHA Complex, Chaknala, Peshawar
Ph: + 92 99 2679292

PARCO PEARL GAS (PRIVATE) LIMITED

Tender# 0000002200-24-27

Users are invited from the reputable parties for the following:

No.	Items Description	Est. Submission/Opening Date and Time
1.	Procurement and reconstruction of meter and replacement of associated LPG vessels in Mangochi Plant	Est. Submission: Through SAP ARBA, 07.08.2024, 09:00 hrs. Est. Opening: 07.08.2024, 13:00 hrs.

Tender Economic Order / Tender Fee | **SAP ARBA PORTAL LINK**

Tender Invitation Through SAP ARBA: 06.08.2024 to 26.08.2024
Price of Cost: https://sarpportal.arba.gov.pk/00002200

Any party interested to participate may send its request for Tender documents through SAP ARBA Portal Link by uploading the following documents:

Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on Company's letterhead along with the scanned copy of valid NTN card details.

The Service Provider should be registered with the Federal Reserve for payments, and shall maintain its status as an active Tax filer with those tax authorities while rendering services to PPOL.

This advertisement is also available on PDA, website <http://pda.gov.pk> and SAP ARBA Discovery.

PPOL reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to cancel the entire bidding process without assigning any reason whatsoever before or after the Est. Opening.

Manager Materials

"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
(SOUTH-ZONE REGION)

INVITATION TO BIDS
02x PERIODIC MAINTENANCE WORKS ON N-55 FOR AMP 2019-20

1. National Highway Authority (NHA) invites Bids from the Contractors, registered with Income Tax Department and who are an Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council for the following Works:

Sr #	CONTRACT NO.	DESCRIPTION (LOCATION FROM KM TO KM)	SCOPE OF WORK	ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE (RS.)	PIC CATEGORY/SPECIALIZATION
COMPLETION PERIOD: 06 MONTHS DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD: 12-MONTHS					
1	PM-2019-20-SN-05	KM 410 TO 420 (N-55) KARAMPUR - GHOSUPUR	PERIODIC MAINTENANCE (STRUCTURAL OVERLAY)	180,831,771.00	C-4 & Above (CE-01 & CE-10)
2	PM-2019-20-SN-06	KM 420 TO 426 (N-55) GHOSUPUR - KANDHOOZ	PERIODIC MAINTENANCE (STRUCTURAL OVERLAY)	115,827,565.00	C-4 & Above (CE-01 & CE-10)

2. Bidding documents, containing method of procurement (Single Stage - Two Envelope), detailed terms & conditions etc. will be available on the website mentioned below from August 15, 2024 for downloading fee of cost. Prospective bidders are also advised to follow the said website for updates of schedule and addendum(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 30, 2024 08:15:00 Hours. Technical bids will be opened on the same day at 11:30 Hours.

4. This Advertisement is also available on PPA website at www.ppa.gov.pk.

MEMBER (SOUTH ZONE)
National Highway Authority
NHA Complex, Near Drig Road Railway Station, Shahr-e-Paaisal, Karachi
Tel: 021-99248305 & Email: director@nha.gov.pk
Website: www.ebidding.nha.gov.pk

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

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan offers an excellent opportunity to showcase your products and develop business with international buyers through this fair

CHINA INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL FAIR- CMEF
Shenzhen, Guangzhou- China
12 - 15 October 2024

Products in focus:
Surgical instruments & Dental equipment, Hospital Textiles, medical devices, bandages etc.

Participation fee in PKR: 250,000

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

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

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

The companies registered at Trade portal will be given preferences in SELECTION.

ONLY online applications will be considered, the companies may apply online at www.tdap.gov.pk/mib/

The companies may send their submitted application with original payorder to TDAP within due date

Last date to apply: August 22nd, 2024

Ms. Sana Khokhar, Deputy Manager
021-99202182 | E-mail: sana.khokhar@tdap.gov.pk

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE - GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
Block-A, 9th Floor, Finance & Trade Centre, Shaukat Khanum, Karachi-75300 U.K. | www.tdap.gov.pk

Political paradox

WHAT happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object? It is a question political observers in Pakistan have grappled with over the past two-and-a-half years. On the one hand, there's the PTI; seemingly unstoppable, despite all efforts to impede its march. On the other, there is the establishment; unmoved despite the many challenges it has encountered. The stalemate created by these two actors' inability to reach a settlement has upended the country and destabilised the economy. It cannot hold forever, which is why recent remarks by PTI founder Imran Khan have aroused feverish speculation. Will they, won't they? The concern is palpable, even though both sides still seem unwilling to compromise. The needle is stuck on May 9, with one side demanding an unconditional apology, and the other unwilling to give one without ifs and buts. Who will make the first move? Much is on the line.

Mr Khan has recently suggested that he is ready to offer an apology if the state can prove its position on May 9. This "softening" of his stance is being seen as a major development. He insists, however, that the allegations against his party be investigated by an independent commission first. Perhaps the accusation that the events of that day were a "premeditated conspiracy" do indeed need to be probed, but Mr Khan surely agrees that it was his party that was out in the streets on May 9; participating in, if not precipitating, the violence that occurred that day? If he believes that what happened was wrong, he should at least apologise for the protests turning violent and the damage to public properties that was caused. All else may be left to a commission to resolve.

At the same time, the security establishment, too, must relent, mainly because its insistence on treating the protests as "terrorism" and a "conspiracy against the state" is unlikely to yield positive outcomes or help the nation move forward. Protests can turn violent, especially if those participating feel they have a right to be angry. The way Mr Khan was manhandled by dozens of Rangers personnel on that same day and the circumstances of his arrest from the Islamabad High Court cannot be ignored. They provide necessary context for understanding why the protests broke out. What happened next was unequivocally wrong, but the state, too, should reflect on its mistakes. It must turn over all evidence to prosecutors and let those accused of May 9-related crimes be tried in ordinary courts. It would be within its rights to demand punishments in proportion to their crimes. The attention of Pakistan's leadership needs to be focused on policies, not events. The future of millions is at stake. For their sake, the nation must move on now.

Need for unity

THE Muslim world's collective response to the 10-month-old Israeli assault on Gaza, as well as the associated violation of the sovereignty of various regional Muslim states by Tel Aviv, has been feeble at best. Most Muslim-majority states have done little more than issue strongly worded condemnations of Israel, while a unified response from the OIC has been severely lacking. However, this attitude appears to be changing, though at a glacial pace, as Muslim states respond to the challenge of Israeli violence and its destabilising effects in the Middle East. There was a welcome show of unity at an extraordinary OIC meeting held in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday. The meeting was called by Iran and Palestine following Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh's assassination in Tehran last month. The OIC secretary general slammed Haniyeh's murder, as well as the "genocide committed by Israel" in the occupied territories. Moreover, Saudi Arabia, which does not always see eye to eye with Iran, and has also had troubled relations with Hamas, condemned Haniyeh's assassination as a "flagrant violation" of Iran's sovereignty. Elsewhere, Türkiye, which has ties to Israel, has sought to join South Africa's genocide case against the Zionist state at the International Court of Justice, signalling a hardening of Ankara's stance because of Israel's criminal behaviour in Gaza and beyond.

The resolutions and criticism of Israel are welcome, yet the OIC must now move beyond words and take solid steps to end the genocidal campaign in Gaza. This can include Muslim states speaking with a unified voice at all international forums in defence of Palestine, and taking punitive measures against Israel and those states that provide it with weapons to murder Palestinians, as well as countries that unflinchingly defend Tel Aviv's atrocious crimes on the global stage. If words are not backed by actions, they will, as always, remain hollow. Moreover, since the Gaza carnage began, Israel has violated the sovereignty of several Muslim states, including Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Iran. These provocative actions have brought the region to the brink of war. Therefore, the Muslim bloc needs to ensure that Israel is reined in by its Western supporters before it succeeds in setting the Middle East on fire. The international community should know that if hostilities expand in the region, their impact will be felt across the globe.

Long economic journey

In his policy statement before a parliamentary panel, State Bank governor Jameel Ahmad on Wednesday spelled out the central bank's views on risks to inflation, monetary policy stance, growth outlook, and external sector sustainability. Much of what he told the parliamentarians is part of the latest monetary policy statement. In spite of criticism from the panel against the tight monetary policy and its impact on growth, he said the bank would continue to pursue a tight stance and maintain its policy rate in positive territory to tackle risks to inflation. Though he projected inflation to remain in the range of 11.5-13.5pc, he elaborated that prices might surge in the coming months because of inflationary budgetary measures and potential increases in global energy prices emanating from the Middle East crisis.

Though these developments have been factored in the projected range of inflation for the present year, he noted, the pursuit by the government of expansionary fiscal policies and sunset foreign loans could push inflation higher than anticipated levels, putting pressure on our meagre reserves. Hence, the bank would follow a cautious monetary policy stance, at least in the near term. Nonetheless, he reassured lawmakers, the foreign debt repayment crisis was over. This assertion can be questioned. Mr Ahmad's overly optimistic view stems from recent debt rollovers secured from China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and the anticipated approval of a new IMF deal this month, which still hinges on the extension in the maturity periods of Chinese bank loans of \$4.4bn. He is also hopeful of reserves rising from around \$9bn to \$13bn at the end of this fiscal, even after meeting all debt payments. This talk betrays the grim reality that economic recovery remains fragile and the medium-term growth outlook subdued. It is going to be a long journey. Any push to accelerate growth without controlling the fiscal deficit and curbing public debt will only deepen the crisis.

OPINION

BY ZAFAR MIRZA



FAQs about UHC

UHC is a simple concept, without being simplistic, and is possible.

DESIMTE, a simple-sounding concept, universal health coverage (UHC) is often misunderstood and misinterpreted at all levels, including among policymakers.

UHC is a national commitment under the Sustainable Development Agenda. Many countries, including Pakistan, have incorporated it in their national health policies and strategies. It is a simple concept without being simplistic, and is possible even in poor countries.

SDG-3 states: "To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." Target 3.6 under this goal reads: "Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all." The deadline is 2030.

I have written on UHC in several of my articles in these pages, including "The need for UHC literacy" (Nov 19, 2021). There are, however, some frequently asked questions about UHC which I would like to clarify.

1. What is UHC? Under UHC, all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, which are of effective quality. It also ensures that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.

2. Can a country achieve UHC? There is no absolute in UHC; it is a progressive universalism based on the right to health. It is never fully achieved but we can always advance towards it. Depending on their political choices, financial commitment and continuing, countries can progressively move towards UHC, provided there is a correct roadmap.

3. What is the correct roadmap for UHC in low- and middle-income Countries (L&MICs)? UHC is a five-lane road. To start with, we need to be on the right road, which is equivalent to a clear policy vision. First, to select a minimum set of health services, which must be available to every citizen. Second, strengthen qPHC (quality primary healthcare) because this is where the bulk of health service coverage can be provided. Third, prioritize those most in need and protect them from financial hardship in healthcare. Fourth, ensure the quality of healthcare. Fifth, monitor and report progress for any course cor-

rection and ensure continued advancement and expansion. Poor countries need UHC more because of unmet healthcare needs and their negative implications for human capability and national economic development.

4. Whose responsibility is it to develop the UHC roadmap and how? It is the government's responsibility to construct this road and define the essential minimum package of health services (EPMIS), which is commensurate with the national burden of disease, and to finance its provision. The entire healthcare system must be aligned with the goal of reliable provision of this package to all people. A robust and aligned health system to ensure EPMIS provision includes good health governance, enhanced financing, a well-trained health workforce, reliable health information, availability of essential medicines, diagnostics etc., and digitisation of the healthcare system, with a focus on qPHC. Additional financing can be mobilised through fiscal prioritisation and innovative financing, instead of giving the excuse of lack of fiscal space. Looping in the private sector as a partner and continuously monitoring progress are essential conditions.

5. What minimum package and which health services? Backed by more than 25 years of health services research by World Bank and other agencies, there is now a better understanding about which are the essential and minimum services that a government must provide to its people to protect them from diseases and health risks, and effectively treat them through early diagnosis. A nine-volume study was published in 2017 covering all major groups of diseases, including infectious, non-communicable, mother and child health, mental health, cancers, surgery etc. It is called Disease Control Priorities, third edition (DCP3). Thousands of health services were reviewed for their relevance to the global burden of disease and cost effectiveness and eventually a package of 218 essential health services was proposed for L&MICs that should be provided through government financing. Of those, 104 services are of highest priority, which is the minimum that all governments must provide. This is the model which L&MICs are urged to follow by developing their own national package of health services.

6. Are we talking only about curative health ser-

vices? No, the DCP3 package consist of preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative health services. The integrated delivery of these services are at five levels of healthcare: community, first-level PHC facility, first-level hospital, tertiary-level hospital and population level (for instance, media campaigns on health education, can ensure an essential or minimum level of UHC. Up to 90 per cent of these services can be provided at the first three levels and only 10pc of patients with advanced problems should be referred to tertiary-level hospitals. This is why qPHC and district-level healthcare are so important.

7. Has Pakistan developed these health services packages? Yes, it is the first country to follow DCP3 guidance and has developed a National Essential Package of Health Services after robust efforts spanning three years. It was launched in October 2022 and contains 88 high-priority health services which must be provided at the qPHC level and first-level hospitals. All provinces have also developed their own EPMIS. These packages have been costed.

8. What about financial protection? Most L&MICs, like Pakistan, have mixed health systems and many patients go to the private health sector where they should be financially protected for the provision of EPMIS by GPs through, for example, a government-financed health insurance system, like Pakistan's Sehat Sahulat programme, which is currently limited to hospitalisation.

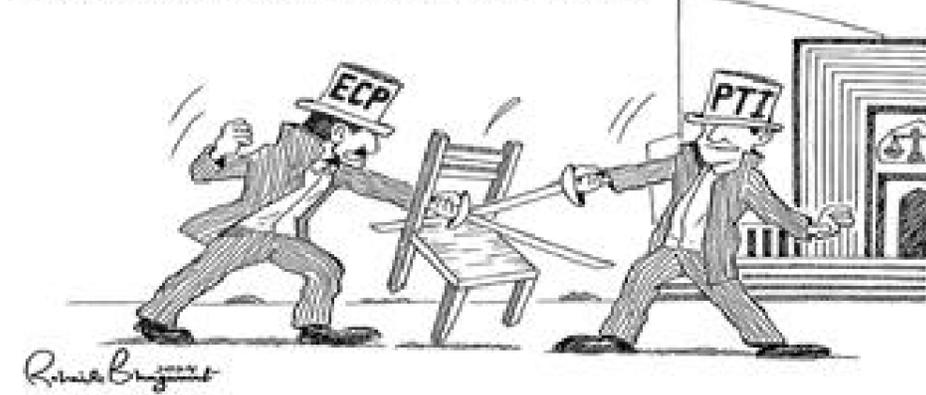
9. How to ensure quality in healthcare? By developing a national quality policy for health care, developing quality standards, training health professionals on compliance with these standards and by monitoring adherence.

10. Can UHC be monitored? Yes, through reliable collection of data on 14 proxy health services and health system indicators and calculating the UHC Service Coverage Index, which ranges from one to 100. Pakistan's SCI in 2022 was 52.7. The 2030 target is to achieve an SCI of 80.

All resources mentioned in this article are available online. ■

The writer, a former health minister, is currently a professor of health systems & population health at Shaheed Suhrawardy University. zafmir@pau.edu.pk

PTI, ECP RUN TO APEX COURT AGAIN OVER SEATS SPAT



BY ZAFAR MASUD AND SAYEM ALI

Trade, debt and poverty reduction

THE World Bank's *International Debt Report 2023* highlights that rising interest rates and external shocks have intensified debt vulnerabilities in all developing countries. In the past three years alone, there have been sovereign defaults in 49 developing countries — greater than the number recorded in all of the previous two decades. The report warns that about 60 per cent of low-income countries are at high risk of debt distress or already experiencing it.

In a recent WTO panel discussion in Geneva on "Mainstreaming trade: the way out of debt crisis for developing countries", it was argued that trade competitiveness and productivity are prerequisites for better debt management.

While the reduction of debt through trade (and FDI) is a long-drawn process, it's the only sustainable path to growth and poverty reduction. According to the World Bank, a one per cent increase in FDI as a share of GDP leads to a 0.38pc increase in economic growth. South Korea is an example of how implementation of trade liberalisation and comprehensive industrial policies has led to a war-scarred state in the 1950s graduating to a high-income country in the 2000s.

The starting point in achieving trade competitiveness is striking a balance between promoting exports (export bias) and protecting domestic interests (import substitution). The success of the Asian economies and China in moving from protectionism to trade liberalisation has led to a significant increase in incomes and a reduction in poverty over the last three decades.

Pakistan has experimented with trade liberalisation; however, there has been a complete shift back to protectionism since 2008, with rise in customs duty and additional taxes (regulatory duties). The tariffs collected at the import stage constitute around 48pc of Pakistan's total tax in 2022. Pakistan's weighted average import tariff of 12.7pc is the highest amongst the top 70 exporting countries in the world. In comparison, the weighted average tariff of the top 70 exporting nations is 2.7pc. The South Asian average is 5.5pc, the Asian average is 2.5pc, China is 1.9pc and India 1.8pc. Pakistan has the second highest effective protection for domestic producers of final consumption goods in the world, as intermediate inputs and raw materials typically have

much lower tariffs than consumer goods.

As a result, Pakistan has been unable to develop a strong export base, and has fallen behind regional economies in terms of per capita growth. Even today, more than 50pc of its exports rely on only four markets — the US, EU, China and Afghanistan. The country has been losing competitiveness in international markets and finds it harder to sell its exports within its traditional markets. About 70pc of Pakistan's exports continue to be low-tech; the country is unable to diversify its commodities and markets, with textiles and clothing (about 5pc to world trade) accounting for around 50pc of our total exports.

Pakistan's loss of competitiveness is evident from the fact that its exports-GDP ratio was only 8.4pc in 2023, whereas in India it was 19pc

The starting point in achieving trade competitiveness is striking a balance between promoting exports and protecting domestic interests.

and in Bangladesh 15pc. A recent World Bank report highlights that between 1991-2021, labour productivity in Pakistan lagged behind other countries, rising only from about \$3,200 to \$4,700, a multiple of 0.5, compared to Vietnam, where it shot up from \$1,200 to \$4,000, a multiple of five.

The country has also tried selected liberalisation through free trade agreements with selected countries. However, this has not led to any incremental increase in exports, and, in fact, has led to widening of the trade deficit.

Pakistan has distorted trade relations with its neighbours. The World Bank suggests that a 10pc reduction in trade barriers within South Asia could lead to a 31pc increase in regional trade. A study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute suggests that a 1pc increase in trade openness leads to a 0.9pc decrease in the risk of interstate armed conflict.

The World Bank estimates that Pakistan's exports could increase by a staggering 80pc, or about \$25 billion, if trade with India reached its full potential.

According to the State Bank, about 45pc of Pakistan's imports could be imported from India at a lower cost than the rest of the world, with average savings estimated between 0.1pc to 0.7pc of GDP per annum, whereas, about 70pc of the items exported from Pakistan have unit value less than or equal to the Indian imports' unit values, indicating a scope to enhance exports to 1.1pc of GDP.

While we strongly advocate the removal of trade barriers, any policy changes must be done gradually to allow domestic firms time to position themselves to benefit from the reduction in trade barriers. Apart from tariff rationalisation, there's also a need to build trade infrastructure and improve trade facilitation. The World Bank estimates that a 1pc reduction in the cost of trade leads to a 0.7pc increase in trade volumes.

We also need to revamp the fiscal and monetary incentives to exporters, introducing targeted and time-bound incentives that are linked to performance. The access to these incentives should not be limited to only traditional export industries.

These reforms have become critical to enhancing exports, attracting long-term foreign investment, and getting Pakistan out of debt distress. Vietnam launched the Doi Moi reforms in 1986, moving away from a "centralised planned economy" to a global manufacturing and export hub, sustaining a growth rate of 7pc over the last three decades. Poverty rates fell from 45pc in the 1980s to less than 5pc in 2022.

Pakistan needs a new, home-grown economic plan. The current structure of the economy distorts the allocation of resources, stifling productivity growth. The new growth plan must focus on integrating Pakistan with the global economy by removing the anti-export bias and protectionist policies. There is an urgent need for corrective actions to improve the investment climate, which will boost private and foreign investments in the economy. ■

Zafar Masud is president and CEO of the Bank of Punjab. Sayem Ali is an economist.

OPINION



BY ZUBEIDA MUSTAFA

Story of a hari

PAKISTAN: A Hard Country, by Anatole Liaven, was published in 2011. Thirteen years later, Pakistan is a 'harder' country still. But not everyone here is aware that the hardships, like our wealth, are not spread evenly. We tend to analyse our economic problems in financial terms. But hardship also has a human face and confronts psychosocial challenges, which the better off fail to notice.

Look at the agricultural sector. It is one of the most lucrative, contributing 22.9 per cent to Pakistan's GDP. It provides livelihood to the highest number of people, accounting for 37.8pc of the labour force (Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24). Every man who tills the soil is helped by his family. But the women are not counted and are reduced to being invisible.

The hardship begins from day one, when a deal is struck between the landowner and hari (farmer). It is a brazenly unequal deal. The landowners in Pakistan are probably one of the most privileged classes, who have special benefits and advantages.

We are told that the landowners were assured at the time of Partition that their holdings would not be touched. Hence, no land reforms were contemplated in the first decade, unlike India. It was in 1959 and then in 1972 that reforms were announced, but in practical terms they made no impact as they were circumvented by wealthy families who retained their land. Now, the concept of land reform has received an honorable burial, with the Federal Shariat Court having pronounced it un-Islamic in 1989. Additionally, the landowners also enjoy immense political powers, irrespective of who is at the helm.

Treating the hari with contempt, the landowners have safeguarded their wealth. For instance, in northern Sindh, most deals are done on a crop-sharing basis. It means the hari has to till the land and share the crops harvested equally with the landowner. The caveat lies in the conditions imposed. The hari has to pay for all the inputs, such as seed, fertilisers of two types, pesticides, tractor and thresher charges, seed planters, etc. It is estimated that if the hari were spared this burden, their income would double. Rough calculations put a hari's income for an acre of land that he tills at Rs50,000 per annum. The hari receives half the crop harvested. They store some for their own consumption and sell the rest for cash. Needless to say, they are exploited mercilessly by the middle men.

The hari get no relief from the government, which is dominated by the land-

owning class. Children in the rural areas are denied the benefits of good education and healthcare. Census 2023 tells us that 51pc of the country's population lives in the rural areas, but anecdotal evidence suggests that schools are not located in the same ratio. More schools function in the towns and cities, where fewer people live. This is certain that the children of the hari do not get the education that empowers them to resist the oppression imposed on them.

In this ocean of misery, there are some islands of compassion tempered with dignity and self-esteem. One of them that emerged about three years ago is the Trust Project set up by the Ali Hasan Margi Memorial Trust in Kheira Dero (District Larkana). It is dedicated to a hari called Alid Hassan, who suffered from chronic liver disease. In spite of his health disadvantage, Alid's was a smiling face of dignity and courage. He was always at the forefront when collective action was the need of the hour.

At one time, a small bridge over a nullah collapsed, causing a lot of hardship to the farmers who had used it to transport goods and crops. Despite repeated reminders, the authorities did not respond. Hence, Alid mobilised the hari to provide free labour.

The Trust paid for the material, and the bridge was repaired. It was Alid who came up with the suggestion that the Trust should acquire a tractor to loan it to the hari at a low rate. Thus, their cost of inputs would be considerably reduced. Now the Trust has two tractors and the farmers are benefiting. Those who are allowed to avail this facility by their landlords manage to save a substantial amount.

It is time our landowners, who are hardly taxed, opened their eyes to the poverty around them. Is it too much to ask them to create a fund in line with corporate social responsibility, as the business sector has done? It would mean a turnaround in their attitudes towards the people who generate the wealth they possess. But of most importance is the fact that the face of poverty should be fringed with dignity and self-respect. What the tillers of the land are looking for are their rights and not charity. ■

www.zubeida-mustafa.com



BY JAMIL AHMAD

Deep-sea mining

MINING in the deep sea has turned into a hot topic in the discourse on controlling planet-warming gases in the atmosphere.

To steadily transition away from fossil fuels, low-carbon technologies will require uninterrupted supplies of large quantities of critical minerals, or 'battery minerals' — cobalt, nickel, copper, and manganese. Scientific evidence suggests that small rocks, or 'nodules', on the seabed, usually at a depth of four to six kilometres, contain large amounts of critical minerals.

Expansion in the photovoltaic industry and the recent growth in electric vehicles has increased demand. While terrestrial mining is largely meeting the current market demand, future demand, price volatility and supply chain concerns have put options for deep-sea mining in the spotlight.

The International Energy Agency's Critical Minerals Market Review 2023 notes that the energy sector requirement was the main factor behind the "tripling in overall demand for lithium, a 70pc jump in demand for cobalt, and a 40pc rise in demand for nickel". The IEA reported a 60pc increase in the sale of electric cars in 2022, exceeding 10 million units. In 2023, the number neared 14m and is expected to rise further, pushing up the demand for battery minerals and causing a rush to the bottom of the sea.

After a steep price rise in 2021 and 2022, the prices of lithium, nickel, cobalt and graphite declined in 2023, according to IEA's Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2024. Meanwhile, some countries appear to be preparing for deep-sea mining in their jurisdiction. Several others want to wait till more evidence is gathered on its impact on marine ecosystems and on economies dependent on terrestrial mining.

For areas beyond national jurisdiction, the absence of rules and regulations makes it riskier for marine biodiversity and ecosystems. The International Seabed Authority is working on preparing ground rules for deep seabed exploration.

Environmental groups have voiced concerns that rushing to dive deep for extracting minerals would have repercussions for the marine environment and marine life as it would degrade one of the remaining ecosystems that has so far stayed largely secure from human intervention.

We face the disastrous consequences of extreme weather events, biodiversity loss and pollution, linked to health problems, economic losses and increase in poverty and inequality. Can the world afford to open a new front against nature? Emboldened by human-induced environmental challenges and climate change, the planet is already in a fragile state. It

cannot withstand another anthropogenic onslaught, this time on its seabed.

Available scientific data and information is insufficient to conclude that scraping the bottom of the sea for minerals will not harm ecosystems. Or that it will be economically beneficial compared to options for terrestrial mining.

A UNEP briefing paper notes the "paucity of data to support a detailed understanding of ecological relationships and impacts associated with deep-sea mining". The paper, *Marine marine ecosystems*, points out the "current scientific consensus" that "deep-sea mining will be highly damaging to ocean ecosystems" as, presently, no robust, precautionary approach exists to safeguard the ocean against its potential ecological impacts. The fishing industry and large coastal communities in developing countries dependent on fishing could be negatively affected too.

Planet Tracker, a UK think tank, has questioned the economic viability of industrial seabed mining. According to its report, *How is sea bed mining affecting the value of activity for the ocean floor and terrestrial mining could be between \$30 billion to \$120m globally*.

This scientific uncertainty has led governments, scientists, environmentalists, and the private sector to call for a moratorium on deep-sea mining until the ecological consequences are better understood. In an *Issue Note*, UNEP has pointed out that the "environmental, social, and economic impacts of exploiting the deep seabed are uncertain and potentially grave". It has called for "a comprehensive analysis" to address the potential impact of deep-sea mining on marine and terrestrial ecosystems. The UN Convention on Migratory Species has urged governments not to support deep-sea mining until robust scientific data is obtained that such activities won't harm "migratory species, their prey and their ecosystems".

The implications of digging the seabed need to be analysed and understood, given the potential for grave risks. Sustainable consumption and production and circularity of critical minerals is one option to manage the demand, protect jobs and reduce the environmental footprint of terrestrial mining. ■

The author is director of strategic environmental affairs, United Nations Environment Programme.

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Nixon quits

WASHINGTON: President Richard M. Nixon has decided to resign because of the Watergate scandal and will announce his decision over national television tonight [Aug 8]. Press Secretary Robert Ziegler, his voice breaking with emotion, announced the plan for the broadcast ... after a meeting between Mr Nixon and Vice-President Gerald Ford.

Presidential aides say Mr Nixon, who has been in the White House 2,026 days, told Mr Ford at a 70-minute meeting ... that he was quitting and handing over power to him. The Vice-President, in office only since December and relatively unknown outside the United States, takes over the burden of leading the most powerful Western country out of the troubles of Watergate.

As the President's last hours in office ticked away, he summoned Republicans and Democratic leaders in Congress to inform them officially that he was ... abandoning his struggle in the face of virtually certain impeachment by the House of Representatives and removal from office by the Senate. The resignation ... will end Mr Nixon's 20 years in public office ... Meanwhile, a resolution that would give President Nixon immunity from prosecution if he resigns was introduced in the Senate today. — News agencies

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

Equitable water-sharing

KARACHI: Pakistan may have to rob the inter-Dominion canal water dispute to the International Court of Justice if India does not in the near future agree to an equitable and fair solution of the problem, well-informed observers in Karachi forecast. The Government of Pakistan, it was learned ... on Monday [Aug 8], has sent a communication to the Government of India embodying the real concerns made by Foreign Minister Chaudhry Mohammad Zafarullah Khan on the Indian Government's Note handed over to the Pakistan delegation on the last day of the recent inter-Dominion conference held in New Delhi.

The communication, it is understood, reiterates Pakistan's standpoint that the only permanent solution of the dispute is an equitable sharing of the waters of the rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej which rise in India but have passed through Pakistan territory to join the Indus ... Official as well as unofficial opinion ... is unanimous on the point that the agricultural prosperity of the West Punjab, Sind and the adjoining states of Bahawalpur depends to a large degree on the waters of these rivers. — News agencies

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@dawn.com

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

Gaza starvation as a weapon of war



RECENTLY, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has revealed that 22 per cent of the total Gaza population is facing a catastrophic food insecurity, while the prevalence of acute-level food insecurity is 76pc. As millions linger on the verge of famine, the situation, in the words of FAO, is "beyond unpredictable and critical".

Since Oct 7 last year, agriculture has been completely crushed in Gaza. In a very systematic and categorical manner, Israel has been taking away the ability of the Palestinian people to feed themselves, and consigning them to a slow and excruciating death. In effect, it has mobilised starvation as a weapon of war to break the people of Gaza.

Unsurprisingly, what Israel is doing is nothing new, as deprivation as well as starvation have been tried and tested techniques of war throughout history. As such, some consider the Athenians' commercial ban against the merchants of Megara in 432 BC during the Peloponnesian War as the first ever recorded instance of the usage of sanctions.

During every stage of a fortified city or fortified settlement, the assailants have relied on blockading the defenders and depriving them of key supplies of food, water and weapons to gain victory. Israel is the latest to join the ranks in this regard.

While deprivation has always been a time-honoured weapon in the arsenal of empires, it is only in recent times that mankind has gained the ability to use it on a scale so gargantuan that entire nations populated by millions of people can be deprived of essential resources. Needless to this more is evidence than in Israel's murderous rampage through the Gaza Strip.

It is now more than nine months since Israel began its invasion. In the amount of time it takes to bring a life into this

world, Israel has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza; well over 15,000 of them being children. And these are just the fatalities so far; the conditions of starvation, malnutrition and food insecurity created by Israel are such that infants, children and pregnant and nursing mothers are most at risk.

On the surface, so much has changed in the world. We have the United Nations to act as a platform for the international community. We have the International Court of Justice to arbitrate disputes. We have learned from the Holocaust, as well as the genocides in Rwanda, Armenia, Myanmar.

We have said "never again" countless times in the face of one horrifying tragedy after another. And, yet, nothing seems to have actually changed.

Despite all the progress, we are yet again failing to put an end to a genocide, a genocide every minute of which is broadcast within seconds around the world. Indeed, nothing has changed. And if the international order stays as it is today, nothing is likely to change either.

Mansur Ali Tareq
Lahore

University woes

THE Senate of the COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) is scheduled to meet later this month (Aug 15), and the relevant stakeholders are hoping that the meeting will actually be held as the process has already seen delays. The meeting is critical as the decisions it is likely to take will practically decide the immediate and long-term future of the institution.

CUI possesses the country's largest pool of PhD faculty, but the academic and administrative environment in such that a large number of faculty members have already jumped the ship, especially under the interim setup that has been running the university like a high school.

Senior officers within the administration have either been filled by unpaid staff, unskilled individuals or have been kept vacant to ensure the monopoly of a few. Nepotism, ad hocism and blatant abuse of authority have been the trademark of most administrative decision taken in recent years. An education "mafia" has been calling the shots at the public-sector university, and it has been doing it for the last two decades with great impunity.

Truly, higher education institutions have a significant role of nurturing future generations through quality teaching, innovation and research.

For this, faculty as well as statutory bodies need to diligently work in harmony. Moreover, it is equally essential to appoint intellectual leaders with integrity on the sole basis of transparency and competence merit.

Prof (Dr) Mahmud Q. Mansoor
Islamabad

Illegal structures

PROPERTY rights across Pakistan are governed by a myriad of laws as well as regulations, including the Transfer of Property Act of 1982 and many other rules and regulations. While those laws are there in the books, their enforcement remains weak due to bureaucratic red tape, corruption and lack of transparency in the domain of land administration. Furthermore, there are cumbersome delays that compel the people to find legal loopholes or even illegal ways to get things moving.

There is an alarming rise in the number of unauthorised buildings in major cities, including Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. These illegal constructions thrive due to corrupt practices within the relevant departments.

They undermine the relevant rules and laws, as well as encourage a parallel culture. Even when the authorities know about an illegal construction, they are unable to take action because of political interference. As such, most buyers are not aware at the time of making a purchase whether they are signing up for something legal or otherwise.

The relevant authorities must streamline the building permit process to make it efficient and transparent. Strict action must be taken against corruption, bribery and other illegal practices. Moreover, investment in public awareness campaigns will be helpful to educate the people about the dangers and legal ramifications of unauthorised structures.

Muhammad Ihsanul Haque
Islamabad

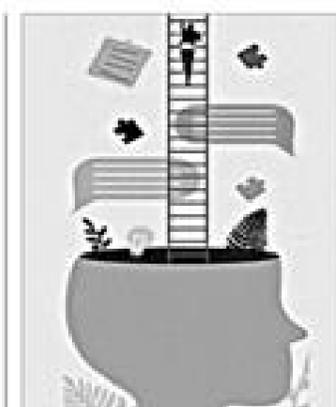
Justice delayed

THE legal maxim *damnum sine injuria* means "to damage without injury", and stipulates that acts of commission and omission by someone should be exempted if such persons are doing it within legal capacity. It does not mean that people are permitted to do what ever they want; it simply refers to a situation where a person suffers losses, but cannot claim damages and compensation.

Ironically, those who seek justice in Pakistan happen to be at the receiving end of damages sine injuria, as cases linger on due to over-personal commitments of judicial and court officers.

Unfortunately, delayed justice, it seems, has been normalised in Pakistan. The loss of time, money as well as energy of the people, who are a broadly victims of injustice, means nothing to anyone. Delayed justice is such a "normal" now that one cannot go against the system for it. Suffer, people. Just suffer silently.

Sadia Usman
Islamabad



Critical thinking

SOCIAL media platforms and the constant stream of daily vlogs are crippling the ability of people to think critically and with rationality. These elements are the very foundation of social progress. Vlogs, oft an showcasing ordinary routines and unscripted conversations, foster a culture of discontent and dissatisfaction among the viewers.

The continuous pursuit of the "perfect" life depicted online makes us feel imperfect and disconnected. Furthermore, the ease of creating vlogs, compared to the dedication required to develop valuable skills, is creating a generation more tilted towards internet fame rather than genuine education and self-improvement.

One fails to fully understand what would become of these young minds in the long run. The situation is a worrying. Many of these individuals, lacking critical thinking and self-development abilities, are likely to struggle to navigate a world without the constant stream of entertainment, likes, comments and online recognition.

The current scenario emphasises the urgent need for course correction. We must foster a culture of mindful technology usage, where smartphones will be tools for learning and connection, not mindless consumption.

Likewise, encouraging critical thinking, prioritising education and skill development, and promoting activities that cultivate self-awareness are crucial steps to ensure that the young generation does not get left behind in the race of technological advancement, which is actually a human bid to race towards a better future.

Ahmed Naveed
Makhdar

► **UNIVERSITY FEE:** Due to hike in university fee, students from humble backgrounds have been struggling to pay their semester dues. The unreasonably high tuition fee deprives many students of a chance to get admission to universities, and forces others to quit their studies midway. If the authorities do not take action against this fee structure, a time will come when youngsters would be left behind in their educational journey simply due to poverty. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) should rationalise the fee structure of universities so that the students may continue their respective academic journey without facing hurdles. **Sadia Ishaque Ghauri**

► **UNREPAIRED BRIDGE:** The bridge connecting Hala and Karachi that was rendered unusable during the heavy rains and resulting floods of August 2022 has remained unrepaired two years later. The construction work had started after a long delay, but then it was stopped by the authorities for reasons that are only known to them. A temporary pathway was carved out by the local authorities to keep the wheels moving to some extent, but the recent spell of rain has destroyed that pathway as well. The higher authorities should look into the matter and have the issue resolved without any delay. **Rashid Rabbani Wadh**

► **BIASED LEGISLATION:** Since Pakistan has been a frontline state in the war against terrorism, making significant sacrifices in the global war on terror, the United States India Defense Cooperation Act moved by Senator Marco Rubio, which aims at stopping security assistance to Pakistan, is based on unfounded grounds. The proposed legislation disregards these efforts as well as the complex security dynamics of the region. Pakistan must reject any accusation of being a sponsor of terrorism against India, and call this bill a biased attempt to undermine regional stability. Pakistan should demand that the US adopt a balanced approach aimed at promoting peace and cooperation rather than division in the region. **Sajjad Raza Lahore**

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

Lawmakers complain of compensation denial to victims of landmine, toy bomb blasts

30-member body to resolve land disputes in Kurram

They also highlight supply of adulterated milk

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: Members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Thursday expressed concern about the lack of compensation for victims of landmine, toy bomb blasts and house destruction in the merged tribal districts.

On a calling attention session during a session chaired by Speaker Babar Salwani, treasury MPA Asif Khan said several people lost limbs and eyes in 27 incidents of landmine and toy bomb explosions but they've yet to be compensated.

He also said the people in the South Waziristan tribal district who received their houses due to a military operation in 2007

received compensation for their destroyed properties. The lawmaker said the houses were destroyed by bombing and shelling at militant hideouts.

He complained that the operation ended eight years ago but compensation had yet to be paid to tribal residents.

"We [members of tribal districts] should also be treated as citizens of Pakistan like others. They'll own you [authorities] only if you own them," he said.

Mr Khan requested the chair to constitute a special committee of the house to call the additional chief secretary (home) and provincial police chief on the matter.

The speaker declared a long delay in the disposal of 27 compensation cases unjustified and said people displaced in 2007 had yet to be paid for their damaged properties.

Law and parliamentary affairs minister Afsh

Alan Afridi told the house that the current government couldn't respond to the issues from the time prior to the Pak-KP merger.

He said it was the responsibility of the relief department to pay compensation.

Mr Afridi said compensation delays were not only the issue of the South Waziristan tribal district but of the entire merged districts as well.

He said complaints of the residents of North and South Waziristan district on the matter were pending.

Hearing minister Dr Anjum Ali suggested the call for a house committee's formation for examining the compensation issue.

The speaker said he would refer the matter to the relevant standing committee.

Treasury member Tufail Agha wondered who received billions of rupees reportedly distributed as

compensation for losses in military attacks and military offensives.

JUI-F MPA Adnan Khan said he survived a militant attack in 2013 but one of his guards lost life whose family was driven from pillar to post for compensation.

The chair, however, referred the issue to the relevant assembly committee for discussion and recommendations.

During the sitting, both treasury and opposition members expressed concerns about a recent Halal Food Authority exercise, which recorded adulteration in over 90 per cent of animal milk's samples collected from across the province.

In an adjournment motion, PML-N member Sabia Shafiq said 500 samples of animal milk supplied to people were obtained from different parts of the province and 93 per cent of them were found to be "antibiotic, unhealthy and hazardous

for consumption."

She added that 231 out of 224 milk samples taken from the provincial capital were declared hazardous.

Ms Shafiq claimed that chemicals meant for protecting bodies from decay were used in milk.

Aasma Alam, who was also among the motion movers like Ms Shafiq and JUI-F's Rehana Ijaz, said adulterated milk caused several health issues among women, the elderly, and children, especially infants.

The house adopted the motion for a detailed discussion on the matter.

PPP lawmaker Ahmad Karim Karri said the Halal Food Authority was established with the promise that its annual reports would be shared with the house but that never happened.

JUI-F member Ijaz Mohammad called for a ban on the animal milk transported to the province from Punjab, insisting that milk was collected

from several Punjab villages and chemicals were added to it to prevent spoiling before transportation to KP in containers.

Inventory minister Faisal Hakim Khan acknowledged milk adulteration saying it is causing harm to the health of the people, especially children.

"We [government] will make no compromise on such issues," he said.

The speaker said a detailed discussion was required on the matter, so the house would continue looking into it for the sake of people's health.

He later put off the sitting until 2pm today [Friday].

KURRAM: A delegation of parliamentarians and religious leaders visited Kurram district on Thursday to oversee efforts for restoring lasting peace in the district.

The delegation comprised MNA Shohayr Afridi, MNA Maulana Nasim Ali Shah, MNA Yasir Khan, parliamentary leader of Majlis Wahdat Muslimon Engineer Hamood Hussain, chief of Sunni Supreme Council Nabihzada Humaid Raza and chief of Majlis Wahdat Muslimon Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafari, general secretary MWM Nasir Abbas Sherazi, Commissioner Kohat Mutasim Billah Shah and Deputy Commissioner Kurram Javedullah Mallah.

The delegation held meetings with the elders of Turi Bangash tribe and Bahadur tribe and reviewed efforts for restoring lasting peace in the district.

It was decided on the occasion that a 30-member committee would be formed for resolution of land disputes in the area.

Three injured in Dera armed clash

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Three people, including a boy, sustained bullet injuries during an armed clash in the limits of Dera Tarn police station here on Thursday.

According to details, 28-year-old Shaukat Ullah Betani and his brother Rehman Ullah Betani had a dispute with their brother-in-law Habib

Rehman Marwat of Hamra Town which led to firing, injuring Shaukat Ullah, Rehman Ullah and a passerby boy Jussal Betani.

The injured were rushed to the local hospital by the Revenue tehsil for medical assistance.

TWO IPS: The district police claimed to have

arrested two outlaws including an absconder and recovered two stolen cows and Rs 300,000 cash from the possession of one of them in the limits of Shabud Nawab Khan police station.

According to a police spokes

man, a team of Shabud Nawab Khan police station arrested an absconder, wanted in murder and attempted murder cases. He was identified as Muhammad Hameem, resident of Rehmani Khel.

—Correspondent

Virtual University of Pakistan

CORRIGENDUM

Tender No. VU/24-25/07/707

Tender Notice was published on July 27, 2024 with title "PVC CARD PRINTER ACCESSORIES (GENY)". Following amendment has been made in the advertisement:

- Tender opening date has been extended till August 19, 2024 at already given timings.

Corrigendum is also available at PPRAs Website (www.ppra.org.pk) and university's website

NATIONAL BANK OF PAKISTAN

INVITATION TO e-BID

PROCUREMENT OF AIR-CONDITIONERS WITH ANCILLARY SERVICES FOR NBP BRANCHES UNDER REGIONAL OFFICE MANSEHRA & MARDAN

- NBP MAIN BRANCH ATTOCK, MARDAN (BR CODE 315)
- NBP BRANCH GUJRAT DISTT MARDAN, MARDAN (BR CODE 921)
- NBP PIND SULTANI BRANCH, R.O, MARDAN (BR CODE 1400)
- NBP CITY BRANCH MANSEHRA, MANSEHRA (BR CODE 1372)

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

- e-bidding documents as per regulations, containing detail terms and conditions, specifications and requirements etc. are available for the registered bidders on EPADS at <https://epads.pcb.gov.pk>.
- The electronic bids, prepared in accordance to the instructions contained in the bidding documents along with bid security (Rs. 250,000) instrument and required documents must be submitted by using EPADS on or before September 04, 2024 at 11:00 AM. Manual bids, shall not be accepted. In case of any technical difficulty in using EPADS, prospective bidders may contact PPRAs Team, Director MIS Room No.108, 1st Floor, FBC building Sector G-5/2, Islamabad. Contact Number 001-111-137-237.
- Original Bid Security instrument MUST be submitted to the under signed before closing hours of the bids submission time otherwise respective bid will not be opened. Electronic bids will be opened on the same day at 12:00 Noon through EPADS in the presence of Procurement Committee and bidders who opt to participate at the following venue:

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

Note: Notification of the GFC constituted in terms of Rule-48 of PPRAs rules, 2004 is provided on EPADS at <https://epads.pcb.gov.pk>.

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

WING HEAD (Central & North)
Procurement Division,
Legislative Communications & Marketing Group,
NATIONAL BANK OF PAKISTAN
Regional Head Quarters, 26 McLaughan Road, Lahore-Pakistan.
Direct: +92-42-99212884
FAX: +92-42-99210641 Ext: 3505, 3510

PESHAWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL BUSINESS PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PESHAWAR VALLEY IN JV/PPP MODE

New Peshawar Valley is an esteemed project of the provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Project is being executed by the Peshawar Development Authority, New Peshawar Valley (NPV) is approximately thirteen (13) Km from the Grand Trunk road/Motorway Peshawar toll plaza on the southern side. A One lakh-Se thousand (10000) Kanals of land, where seventy-six thousand (76000) land in Peshawar while thirty thousand (30000) kanals land in district Nowshera. At present, land identified have multiple access while a new access road having a length of 9.6 Kms, starting from Taro Jabba OT Road Peshawar is part of Master plan. The access road is planned to have a width of 330 feet and a total of 800 ft right of way (ROW) where it has Commercial huts on both sides of the main Boulevard.

The project will create an alternate city taking off the burden from Peshawar where aside from the provision of quality living/housing, appropriately designed high rises for business/commercial activities will be established. Master Plan of the project has already been finalized.

The Peshawar Development Authority, through this Notice, invites, the well reputed, resourceful and experienced companies/firms/consortia/JV in developing, planning, designing, large housing societies/apartments/towers, to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) Proposals in having partnership with PDA in developing the parts/phases of the scheme according to their capacity and preference in either Joint Venture or PPP Mode.

Request for Proposal (RFP) will be available on the website of PDA www.pda.kp.gov.pk, after 10th August 2024.

A pre-proposal meeting regarding EOI will be convened 20th August, 2024 in the Committee room of Director General, PDA, Peshawar.

Proposals/EOI must reach office of the undersigned by 21st August 2024 at 11:30 AM through registered post/courier services and will be opened on same date at 12:30 PM.

PROJECT DIRECTOR,
New Peshawar Valley,
PDA Commercial Complex Phase V Hayatabad, Peshawar

"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

- This Notice is published for the information of all Stakeholders and General Public that EPA Sindh has admitted the application of the following project to accord Environmental approval required under Section 11 of Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2021.

Name of the Project	Project Location	District
"Construction of Mirpur Mathelo Interchange on Sukkar - Multan motorway (M-5) & its link with National Highway (N-5)/G.T. Road (7 km)	Mirpur Mathelo Interchange	Ghokri

- All Stakeholders and General Public are invited to submit their comments/foor against the grant of Environmental Approval. The comments may be submitted to Director (EA), EPA Sindh, Street No 21, Sector 23 Korangi Industrial Area, Karachi, Sindh within a period of **10 Days** from the date of publication of this notice. Copy of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report submitted by the proponent is available at the following locations for review of stakeholders/general public.
 - A soft copy of EIA Report will also be available on EPA Sindh website (www.epasindh.gov.pk).
 - Public library in project area
- The Public Hearing will be conducted as per following schedule:

Date	Day	Time	Location
28-08-2024	Wednesday	10:30 AM	Green Tonight Hotel & Restaurant, Near Data Patrol Pump, Mirpur Mathelo, District Ghokri

- All stakeholders and the general public are invited to attend the hearing proceedings to share their proposals/suggestions.

For Further Information, please contact:

DIRECTOR GENERAL Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Street No. 21, Sector 23, Korangi Industrial Area, Karachi, Sindh Ph: 021-35063950 Website: www.epasindh.gov.pk	GENERAL MANAGER (EALS) National Highway Authority 27-Mauve Area, Sector G-9/1, Islamabad Ph: 051-9250214
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National Disaster Risk Management Fund
(A company set up under section 42 of the Companies Act 2017)
Making Pakistan Resilient

TEMPORARY VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) is a government owned not for profit company, established under Section 42 of the Companies Act 2017. It provides grant financing for projects that contribute to enhancing Pakistan's resilience to climate and other natural hazards and to strengthen the government's ability to quickly respond to disasters triggered by natural hazards. NDRMF requires services of young, vibrant & qualified students/professionals for following Islamabad based positions:

Sr.	Position	For detailed application procedure and Detailed website description please visit:
1.	NDRMF OFFICE ASSISTANT (M-16) (10 Posts) M-16 (M-16) (10 Posts)	Interested applicants may apply by filling up an "Application Form" available on the website of NDRMF at www.ndrmf.gov.pk . The closing date for applications is 10:00 AM on 19th August 2024.
2.	Research Analyst - Climate Change (10 Posts) M-16 (M-16) (10 Posts)	M-16 (M-16) (10 Posts) requires a minimum of B.A. or B.Sc. in environmental studies, climate change related, statistics, social sciences, strong research and analytical skills with a demonstrated ability to conduct research, writing and data analysis. Minimum age for applying is 18 years and maximum age is 30 years.

NDRMF is an equal opportunity employer; female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. The last date of applying for the position of Sr No.2 is 19th August, 2024.

INVITATION TO e-BID THROUGH SAP ARIBA DISCOVERY

e-Bids are invited through SAP-Ariba Discovery for the services/material given below under competitive bidding procedure as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules:

S. No.	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGGCL-SCM-LD-PT-PNP-UCH-258445969-2024	PROCUREMENT OF FIRE RATED DOORS FOR MCH-1 AND UCH-2 PLANT, BALUCHISTAN PROVINCE	26.08.2024 AT 11:30 HRS
2.	OGGCL-SCM-LF-PT-DCMP-19-260724869-2024	SUPPLY OF TYRES, TUBES & FLAPS	27.08.2024 AT 11:30 HRS
3.	OGGCL-SCM-LH-PT-PNP-19-260446103-2024	PROCUREMENT OF SPARES FOR ABS TURBOCHARGERS OF MASHPA PLANT, DISTRICT KARAK, KP PROVINCE	27.08.2024 AT 11:30 HRS
4.	OGGCL-SCM-LF-PT-PENFG-KNR-258520448-2024	DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, CALIBRATION, COMMISSIONING OF GUN BARREL AND CRUDE STORAGE TANKS, KUNWAR PLANT HYDERABAD, SINDH PROVINCE	30.08.2024 AT 11:30 HRS

- All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bids closing date/ time.
- Tender Notice/detailed instructions are available on Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) website at www.ppra.org.pk
- Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through e-procurement portal at <https://egpdl.com/sap-ariba-tenders> or discovery.ariba.com/profile/AN01562899621. For details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents.
- OGGCL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule-39.

GENERAL MANAGER (SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT)
OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
OGGCL HOUSE, JINNAH AVENUE, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN
Phone No. 01-91-920023540/3795

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HOUSING AUTHORITY
10-MAUVE AREA, G-10/4, ISLAMABAD
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR TECHNICAL

Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Ministry of Housing & Works, Government of Pakistan invites Online (Electronic) Bidders from Registered Firms for the below mentioned project:

Name of Work	Completion Period	Bid Security
Infrastructure Development Works Of Sub-Sector G-14/1, Islamabad	24 Months	Rs. 50 Million; COB/Bank Guarantee

- The firm must have valid Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in Category C-B as above, possessing relevant seeds, having valid Income Tax Registration (ITR) & Sales Tax Registration (STR) with FBR, and possessing qualification as per the Bidding Documents.
- Single Stage-Two Envelope (SSTE) Procedure of Open Competitive Bidding shall be adopted in accordance with Clause 36(b) of PPRAs Rules, 2004. The bid shall comprise a single package containing two separate envelopes: Each envelope shall contain separately the Financial Proposal and the Technical Proposal.
- Interested bidders may download the Tender documents from e-PADS (<https://epads.pcb.gov.pk>), PPRAs Website (www.ppra.org.pk) and FGEHA Website (www.fgeha.gov.pk). Free of cost.
- For registration on EPADS or in case of any technical difficulty in using EPADS, prospective bidders may contact PPRAs office, 1st Floor, FBC building sector G 5/2, Islamabad, or Contact at 001-111-137-237.
- A Pre-bid meeting will be held on August 28, 2024, at 11:00 AM in the Committee Room of FGEHA, 10-Mauve Area, Sector G-10/4, Islamabad.
- The Proposals (Technical & Financial), be prepared in accordance with the instructions provided in the bidding documents, and must be submitted on EPADS (<https://epads.pcb.gov.pk>) through electronic means only, by August 27, 2024, upto 12:00 Hrs. Proposals received after prescribed time and date shall be rejected.
- Original Bid Security must be submitted to the below mentioned address prior to the online submission deadline of the bid. E-Tenders without submission of Bid Security in favour of FGEHA will be rejected.
- Technical Proposals shall be opened on the same date at 12:30 Hrs. Bidders will be "Pre-Qualified" on the basis of information provided with the proposals in the light of Bidding Documents. Firms who fail to qualify technically shall not be considered further.
- All the applicable Federal/Provincial taxes (Income tax, sales tax, etc.) must be included while preparing the Financial Proposal and are required to be built in the quoted rates and not to be mentioned separately.
- Partial, incomplete and conditional bids will not be entertained.
- The bidders providing false, forged, unsubstantiated and false information shall be liable to legal actions i.e. disqualification and blacklisting.
- This advertisement is also available www.ppra.org.pk and at www.fgeha.gov.pk.
- FGEHA reserves the right to reject all bids in accordance with PPRAs Rule No. 33.

Project Director G-14/1, FGEHA, Room #04, Basement, 10-Mauve Area, Sector G-10/4, Islamabad Phone #051-9106229; www.fgeha.gov.pk

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Balochistan must exploit renewables' potential, says WB

Long-term development can generate export surplus, cut reliance on imports

By Arin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan should harness its vast potential of variable renewable energy (VRE) to create a surplus of electricity that can be exported to other provinces or internationally, reducing its reliance on power imports, suggests a World Bank study released on Thursday.

The Balochistan Renewable Energy Development Study notes that the existing import connection lines can be used to stabilise the grid, exchange electricity with other countries at a competitive price, and optimise the annual supply mix.

In the short term (2028), a surplus VRE supply may not be available for consistent export throughout the year, but there might be a seasonal opportunity for export (renewable power flow) through the soon-to-be Central Asia-South Asia (CASA1000) HVDC transmission line to Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, and potentially Kazakhstan).

In this Central Asia Regional Electricity Market (CAREM), countries have an electricity deficit in winter, and demand is growing. According to the study, countries in Central Asia might be interested in supporting the GW-scale opportunity for their seasonal electricity demand deficit.

The study points out that Balochistan offers an impressive, largely untapped resource potential for economically viable solar and wind power generation. With a Photovoltaic (PV) potential ranging from 2,000 to 2,500kWh/m², Balochistan emerges as one of the world's most resource-rich regions. PV power in Balochistan can achieve up to 35 per cent grid utilisation, and its supply profile correlates positively with the demand profile.

Additionally, excellent available Direct Normal Irradiation (DNI) of up to 2,500kWh/m² per year in some areas of Balochistan offers the best opportunity for Concentrated Solar Power (CSP). Balochistan has the best spots for wind power within Pakistan in the remote areas of Chagai and Pasdarg, corresponding to a 15-40 MW power generation potential capacity at a highly competitive cost from clean energy resources.

Roughly 50% of short-term opportunity in 28 sites for different types of technology have been identified. Based on the long list of priority sites identified by the VRE Location Study, exploring the grid slots and land availability in more depth and analysing them further to achieve the most competitive generation from VRE. The study says this significant potential capacity is the "low-hanging fruit" opportunity, which can be unlocked in the short term (2028) by utilising the current grid infrastructure.

The study says implementing the identified VRE by 2028 would not only help Balochistan transition fully toward clean energy — as the VRE potential surpasses the Balochistan demand in 2028 — but also create an opportunity for other provinces to access competitive low-cost RE energy.

In addition, there is a potential for 1.7GWp Distributed PV to address about 28,000 grid-connected tube wells operated by farmers. Installation of DPV would not only free up additional grid capacity for further VRE installation but, when combined with the investment in efficient motors and pumps, dramatically reduce the electricity losses in this segment.

It would improve the electricity company's financial stability by reducing its annual \$500 million annual losses by 2028, contributing to lowering the sector's circular debt.

Mari Petroleum posts highest-ever profit

KARACHI: Mari Petroleum Company Ltd (MPCL) has reported the highest-ever earnings of \$27 billion during FY24 from Rs548m in FY23, up by 38 per cent.

The company declared a final cash dividend along with interim dividend of Rs232 per share for FY24, thus translating into payout ratio of 40pc in FY24 compared to 35pc in FY23. Mari also announced a bonus of 80pc (eight shares for every one share held).

According to Sunny Kumar, CEO of Mari Petroleum, net sales increased by 35pc year-on-year in FY24 where hydrocarbon sales volume climbed to 35.01 million barrel of oil equivalent, up 7pc year-on-year. Net sales margin by 25pc to Rs181m from Rs146m in FY23.

A five-year extension of Mari E&P lease was approved by the government, extending the company's rights on the lease until November 2029 with an additional payment of 15pc without value.

Mari's subsidiary Mari Mining Co (Pvt) Ltd has been awarded two mineral exploration licenses in Chagai district of Balochistan.

Mexican Bank Ltd (MBL) on Thursday reported its consolidated earnings surged 55pc to Rs26.89bn in the second quarter of calendar 2024 from Rs17.39bn in the same period last year.

Earnings per share (EPS) rose to Rs4.90 compared to Rs3.55. In a stock rally on Thursday, supported by better corporate results and falling yields on treasury bills.

Ahsan Mansoor of Arif Habib Corporation said the market surged as investors weighed up to 54 basis points cut in the yields of different tenors of the treasury bills in Wednesday's auction.

This strengthened the market expectation of further softening of monetary policy in the coming months as trade and industry players have consistently been demanding rationalisation of lending costs to revive economic activities.

He said strong corporate earnings and payouts in the oil sector also helped revived investor buying interest.

He said the bull run in global equities, the RRP government's assistance for the external sector, share-appeal amid debt rath-

ers, the finance minister's affirmation of economic stability and positive evaluation of credit rating agencies and likely IMF board approval for a new loan also contributed to the bullish close.

Topline Securities Ltd said the KSE index surging in initial trading as the cut in the

yield rate brought the cement, steel, and accessories into investors' radars.

However, Mari Petroleum surprised the market with a higher-than-expected financial result and massive payout.

Its stock price hit the upper circuit in a matter of minutes after the

announcement, contributing the day's highest 221 points to the index.

Oil and Gas Development Company and Pakistan Petroleum followed suit, adding 193 and 74 points to the index, respectively.

As a result, the benchmark index hit an intra-day high of 77,969.27

points and a low of 77,985.48. However, it settled at 77,874.22 after adding 759.73 points or 0.99pc on a day-on-day basis.

The overall trading volume rose 10.18pc to 493.09 million shares. The traded value also surged 40.54pc to Rs25.84bn on a day-on-day basis.

Stocks contributing sig-

nificantly to the traded volume included Kohinoor Spinning (70.86m shares), Fajr Fertiliser Bus Qasim (33.97m shares), Air Link Communication (25.14m shares), Oil and Gas Development Company (24.25m shares) and K-Electric (20.71m shares).

The shares registering the most significant increases in absolute terms were Mari Petroleum Company Ltd (Rs259.89), Mohanood Textile Mills Ltd (Rs57.15), Khyber Textile Mills Ltd (Rs48.56), PIA Holding Company (IB) (Rs45.34) and Lerner Pak Gelatine Limited (Rs41.11).

The companies registering significant decreases in their share prices in absolute terms were Reliance Cotton Spinning Mills Ltd (Rs47.99), Halkmark Company Ltd (Rs21.85), Ruffan Mills Products Company Ltd (Rs21.71), Philip Morris (Pakistan) Ltd (Rs17.66) and Sapphire Textile Mills Ltd (Rs16.64).

Foreign investors remained net buyers as they bought shares worth \$9.27m.

Vendors stop supply of tractor parts to assemblers

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Nearly 250 direct suppliers to the country's major tractor assemblers, Millat Tractors and Al-Ghazal Tractors, have stopped operations due to delayed payments for parts supplied, an official source of the Pakistan Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (Paapam) said on Thursday.

Mushtaq Ali, the Paapam's senior vice chairman, said the tractor industry was on the brink of shutdown since the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has withheld refund of general sales tax (GST) and the new GST regime has made doing business difficult.

This situation has created a severe cash flow crisis across the entire supply chain, affecting everything from raw material suppliers to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the engineering sector, he said. "Assemblers are unable to pay their suppliers, forcing vendors

to shut down their operations. If this situation persists, tractor assemblers will be forced to cease operations within a week," Mr Mushtaq said.

The root of the problem lies in SRO 563, which governs GST refunds to tractor assemblers. Before 2022, refunds were issued under SRO 363, but SRO 563 has introduced complications by limiting refunds to farmer buyers only. There is currently no mechanism to distinguish between farmer and non-farmer buyers, leading to billions of rupees in refunds being withheld by FBR.

Moreover, other refunds under SRO 363 remain unpaid, along with penalties, pushing assemblers to seek legal recourse, he added. This unresolved issue has left the entire tractor industry in limbo. Without these refunds, assemblers are incurring losses on each tractor sold, forcing them to rely on bank borrowings.

As a result, they are no longer accepting fresh bookings or invoicing tractors, except those financed through banks.

This cash crunch has caused months-long delays in payments to suppliers, a situation that the SME sector cannot sustain, Mushtaq feared.

PM's assistance

The issue has aggravated to a point where Paapam has decided to seek the prime minister's assistance as previous attempts to resolve the matter with the finance and industries ministries were futile, Paapam chairman Akbar Rehman Akbar said.

"It appears that the FBR has more powers than the government itself, holding the entire engineering base of the country hostage," he said. "The situation is dire as GST refunds have been withheld from tractor assemblers for years and SRO 563 has further complicated matters."

Mr Akbar explained that the entire supply chain from steel suppliers to the vast engineering SME base is at a standstill. "The FBR's actions threaten not only jobs but also tax revenue, import substitution,

and the export of tractors and parts."

Millat Tractors Limited (MTL) has informed the Finance Ministry last month that the decision to impose 10 per cent sales tax on the sale of tractors has resulted in closure of operations since July 1 as the mechanism for processing sales tax refunds has not been notified by the FBR.

As a result, MTL had not been able to take a single order or invoice a single tractor, causing significant financial losses to the company. As per the law, refund of excess transferred input tax relating to supplies may be claimed if the excess input tax is not adjusted. After imposition of 10pc sales tax, there will be a requirement to claim refunds to pass on the benefit fully to farmers.

As the mechanism to process refunds has not been announced by the FBR, the tractor industry suffered huge financial losses when such refunds were being processed. The MTL claimed that refunds amounting to more than Rs10 billion are pending since April 2020.

Pakistan, Turkiye agree to remove trade barriers

Visiting delegation proposes increasing investment in infrastructure

By Mubarak Zeb Khan



FINANCE Minister Muhammad Awan (left) receives Trade Minister of Turkey Mehmet Nihatci (right) on Thursday. —PTI

ISLAMABAD: After endorsing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), a high-level Turkish business delegation arrived on Thursday to explore investment opportunities and remove barriers to increasing bilateral trade.

The Turkish business delegation is in Islamabad, led by Trade Minister Prof Dr Omer Bolat, and has met with Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatisation, and Communications Abdul Ahsan Khan and Finance Minister Muhammad Awan to discuss potential investment prospects.

Minister Bolat proposed measures to facilitate investment for Turkish companies to enhance investor confidence and recommended increasing flight connectivity between Pakistan and Turkey to support greater economic exchange. He said the economic, business and bilateral ties are going to be a new beginning, as Turkey will also create all possible cooperation in all circumstances.

Turkish business leaders proposed increasing bilateral investment in various sectors, including infrastructure. Representatives of Pakistan's main commercial institutions welcomed Turkey's proposals and said that Turkey can develop better with an modern machinery and Pakistan

with its raw materials.

In a meeting with the finance minister, Mr Bolat highlighted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Erdogan's shared commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, with a particular focus on increasing trade and investment. He identified key sectors for potential investment, including services, health, education, medicine, and fashion.

Finance Minister Muhammad Awan acknowledged the significance of historical and cultural ties between Pakistan and Turkey and provided an update on Pakistan's improving economic fundamentals, including a stable currency, foreign exchange reserves exceeding \$9 billion, and declining inflation rates.

He informed Mr Bolat of a recent staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund to ensure long-term stability. He out-

lined ongoing reforms in taxation, energy sector and state-owned enterprises. The minister also highlighted the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in streamlining investment processes and attracting foreign direct investments.

Both ministers reiterated their dedication to strengthening bilateral relations and expanding trade volume. Mr Awan expressed assured Minister Bolat of the Pakistan's commitment to supporting investors by streamlining regulations supporting ease of doing business.

Meanwhile, Mr Bolat and Privatization Minister Abdul Ahsan Khan co-chaired a Round Table Business Conference.

Deputy Trade Minister of Turkey Mustafa Tunca, the Ambassador to Pakistan, Mehmet Pasaci, and the presidents of various trade chambers of Turkey were also present. At the same time, prominent business community figures from Pakistan joined this session.

While addressing the conference, Mr Awan said that the two countries have already signed economic and joint business agreements. He added that Pakistan wants to promote bilateral investment and business ties in various fields with Turkey because time is prime time to increase the economic activities between Turkey and Pakistan.

Mr Khan welcomed the business community's interest in Turkey and said that it would benefit both countries and that all possible support would be provided.

OICCI, UNDP forge alliance for sustainable Pakistan

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: In a groundbreaking move, the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) has partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan to advance the vision of a more sustainable and inclusive Pakistan.

This partnership is set to spearhead initiatives focusing on gender equality, diversity, inclusion, and social impact investments, reflecting both organisations' commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the MoU signing ceremony on Thursday, OICCI Chief Executive and Secretary General M. Ahsan Ahsan said, "Together with UNDP, we are committed to leveraging collective expertise to create impactful

research reports, advocacy campaigns, and knowledge-sharing events."

UNDP Pakistan Resident Representative Dr Samad Rik said, "The bankability of Pakistan is increasing, and this collaboration is a testament that businesses can be both profitable and socially responsible."

OICCI Managing Committee Member Andrew Bailey said, "OICCI's goal is to foster an environment where businesses, government, and the public can thrive and contribute to a more equitable and sustainable future for Pakistan. This partnership marks a significant step towards achieving our shared objectives."

The collaboration will focus on capacity building, policy research and advocacy, and public communication and campaigning around green finance, climate resilience, energy, diversity and inclusion, and digital transformation.

Stocks rally on strong corporate results

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: Amidst political and economic uncertainty, the stock market staged a robust rally on Thursday, supported by better corporate results and falling yields on treasury bills.

Ahsan Mansoor of Arif Habib Corporation said the market surged as investors weighed up to 54 basis points cut in the yields of different tenors of the treasury bills in Wednesday's auction.

This strengthened the market expectation of further softening of monetary policy in the coming months as trade and industry players have consistently been demanding rationalisation of lending costs to revive economic activities.

He said strong corporate earnings and payouts in the oil sector also helped revived investor buying interest.

He said the bull run in global equities, the RRP government's assistance for the external sector, share-appeal amid debt rath-

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

THE TOP FIVE		LOSERS		LEADERS*	
GAINERS					
Man Petroleum	259.89	Reliance Cotton	47.99	Kohinoor Spinning	93.88
Mohanood Textile	57.13	Halkmark Company	21.85	Fajr Fertiliser	33.97
Khyber Textile	48.56	Ruffan Mills	21.71	Air Link Commun	25.14
PIA Holding Ltd	45.34	Philip Morris	17.66	Oil & Gas Dev	24.25
Lerner Pak Gelatine	41.11	Sapphire Textile	16.65	K-Electric	20.71

INDICATORS			
	Today	Previous	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points)	77,874.22	77,114.49	▲ 759.73
KSE 20-SHARE INDEX (Points)	26,941.29	26,647.96	▲ 293.33
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	10,400,680	10,200,820	▲ 199,860
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	25.844	18.288	▲ 7.556

ACTIVITY	
Total Intra	532
Active	434
Gainers	182
Losers	198
PARTICIPANTS	
Foreign	▲ \$0.21m
Companies	▼ \$0.20m
Banks	▼ \$3.52m
Mutual Funds	▼ \$5.42m
Individuals	▲ \$2.11m

US DOLLAR BUY:PKD 15279.30 SELL:PKD 15280.40

EURO BUY:PKD 13033.80 SELL:PKD 13035.34

GBP BUY:PKD 15283.03 SELL:PKD 15285.13

SAUDI DIRHAM BUY:PKD 1979.84 SELL:PKD 1978.35

INDIA RUPEE BUY:PKD 15742.30 SELL:PKD 15743.20

GOLD TOLA 19258.500 TD 19485 19279.050

Taliban chief asks public workers to attend mosque

KABUL: Afghan government employees must attend mosque five times a day or face punishment, Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada said on Thursday in his latest edict.

Since the 2021 Taliban takeover, Akhundzada has overseen sweeping restrictions on society — shutting women and girls out of modern education, ordering male chaperones for females and effectively banning music.

"The officials of the ministries and institutions of the (Taliban government) are obliged by Sharia to pray in congregation at their fixed times," said the order signed by Akhundzada.

It added that employees who miss a prayer "without a reasonable excuse" should receive a warning, and if they repeat the transgression "the relevant official is obliged to appropriately punish him".

A Taliban government spokesman did not respond to a query asking what the punishment would entail. It was not immediately clear how the order for employees to attend prayer during non-work hours would be policed.

Akhundzada directed the government from his hideout in northern Kandahar, the spiritual heartland of the Taliban movement which first ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. He rarely appears in public, and when he does he is usually surrounded by bodyguards and security forces, and he has been seen in public only once since 2021. But his internet edicts have defined how Afghans can lead their lives.

A United Nations report last month said "restrictive measures to regulate activities of individuals in both public and private spheres contribute to a climate of fear and intimidation among segments of the population." —AFP

UN warns IS Afghanistan branch growing in strength

UNITED NATIONS: A UN counterterrorism official warned on Thursday that the Afghanistan branch of the militant Islamic State group poses the greatest external terrorist threat to Europe as it boosts its organisational strength.

"ISIL-K has improved its financial and logistical capabilities in the past six months, including by tapping into Afghan and Central Asian diaspora for support," Vladimir Voronkov, undersecretary general for counterterrorism, said.

ISIL-K, or ISIS-K, is an acronym of the group's branch in Afghanistan, known as Islamic State Khorasan Province. The group claimed a March attack on a music hall in Moscow, which left 145 people dead.

The risk of the Afghanistan branch carrying out terrorist attacks abroad has "become greater," Voronkov said, noting the group has also intensified its recruitment efforts. In the latest report from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the subject, published last month, it was noted that authorities were on high alert against potential attacks during the Euro football championship and Paris Olympics.

"I call on all member states to unite to prevent Afghanistan from again becoming a hub of terrorist activities that affect other countries," Guterres wrote.

Elsewhere, Voronkov warned of resurgence of IS's core structure in the Middle East, as well as a deteriorating situation in Africa, where IS West Africa Province and IS's Sahel branch "have expanded and consolidated their areas of operations." —AFP



CATALONIA'S ousted leader Carles Puigdemont delivers a speech in Barcelona upon return from France, on Thursday.—AFP

Catalan separatist leader evades capture on chaotic return to Spain

BARCELONA: Former Catalan separatist leader Carles Puigdemont defied an arrest warrant to appear at a rally in Barcelona on Thursday after seven years of self-imposed exile, before fleeing the scene with the help of a local police officer.

Amid a heavy police presence, Puigdemont had led a crowd of thousands of followers in the Catalan capital he aimed to revive the independence drive that plunged Spain into political crisis in 2017.

"They thought they'd be celebrating my arrest and they thought that this punishment would dissuade us," he said. "Well, they are wrong." When he had finished speaking, Puigdemont got into a white car belonging to a police officer and left the vicinity, a Catalan government source said, sparking a frantic search by authorities to apprehend him.

The regional police, known as the Mossos d'Esquadra, said one of its officers had been arrested as part of its investigation into Puigdemont's whereabouts. The separatist leader, 61, fled to Belgium seven years ago after a failed secession bid and has been living in exile ever since.

He faces an arrest warrant for alleged embezzlement related to a 2017 independence referendum ruled illegal by the Spanish courts. Puigdemont says the vote was legal and therefore the charges linked to it have no basis.

A Mossos spokesman said there was no prior arrangement with Puigdemont for his arrest and the force had decided the detention should be made "at the most appropriate time so as not to generate public disorder." Puigdemont ally Laura Borrás described the arrested officer as X as "a patriot and exemplary Mossos." The team the Puigdemont crossed traffic chaos in Barcelona and near the border with France as police set up road blocks and searched car boots.—Reuters

Bodies of 34 Rohingya refugees found after boat sinking off BD

A number of people fled their villages in Rakhine state and their small craft sank in Naf river

Teknaf border town, said the boat was carrying Rohingya from Myanmar. Local councillor Abhin Naitan said the bodies were being buried.

"The Rohingya people were fleeing with their lives from Myanmar," he said. At least 1,000 Rohingya have fled the war in Myanmar's Rakhine state to Bangladesh in the past few weeks, Choudhury said.

Clashes have rocked Rakhine since the Arakan Army (AA) attacked junta forces in November, ending a ceasefire that had largely held since a military coup in 2021.

Abdul Kalam, 35, a Rohingya refugee, arrived on a different boat on Wednesday after fleeing the Rakhine town of Maitanglun and said thousands were trying to escape. "Arakan Army were killing us... they want to kick us out of Rakhine," he said. "I saw much bloodshed. They are killing Rohingya." Choudhury said the recovery of the bodies had been delayed by torrential rain in Bangladesh after weeks of student-led protests ousted the prime minister.

"We could not send our security officers to the accident spot, as they were busy containing political clashes," Choudhury said.

"Pressuring the young" Since May, armed Rohingya nationalist groups have been holding community meetings throughout the 13-camp refugee settlement in Bangladesh, intensifying efforts to recruit young Rohingya males for military service in Myanmar, targeting boys as young as 14.

"The situation deteriorated by the day," said Mahmudul, a Rohingya humanitarian worker. "The gang conducts arrests around the clock, targeting anyone, particularly volunteer workers from our community, such as teachers and humanitarian aid workers. They have been organising meetings in every camp for this purpose," he said.

Over 500 Rohingya refugees have reportedly been pressured by armed groups to join the ongoing war in Myanmar, according to Radio Free Asia, a regional news service.

Nearly 1 million people live in the Cox's Bazar camps, according to the United Nations.—Agencies

UN deplures ban on Thai party

GENEVA: The United Nations on Thursday said the dissolution of Thailand's main opposition Move Forward Party was "deeply troubling" and seriously impacted fundamental freedoms.

The Constitutional Court, Thailand's top court, voted unanimously on Wednesday to dissolve the MFP, the vanguard of the country's youthful pro-democracy movement, and ban its executive board members from politics for 10 years.

"This decision seriously impacts fundamental freedoms of expression and association, and people's right to participate in public affairs and political life in Thailand," UN human rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement. "No party or politician should ever face such penalties for peacefully advocating legal reform, particularly in support of human rights." The MFP took first place in a general election last year after pledging to reform Thailand's strict royal defamation law.

Calling the court move "deeply troubling," Turk said UN human rights mechanisms had long expressed concern about Thailand's law-majors law, saying they were inconsistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.—AFP

Ukraine's troops advance deep into Russia's Kursk region

MOSCOW: Russia's army was fighting a major Ukrainian border invasion for the third day running, Moscow said on Thursday, with independent analysts saying Kyiv's troops had advanced up to 10 kilometers into Russia.

Pro-Kyiv forces moved into the southwestern Kursk region on Tuesday morning, deploying around 1,000 troops and more than two dozen armored vehicles and tanks, according to the Russian army.

It appears to be the most significant of several cross-border attacks mounted by Ukraine since Russia launched its full-scale military offensive in February 2022. Russia's defense ministry said its troops were "continuing to destroy" armed Ukrainian units

and were using air strikes, rocket and artillery fire to try to push them back.

It said it had rushed in reserves and was "threatening attempts to break through" deeper into the Kursk region. The independent UN-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW) said Ukraine had made significant territorial gains in the first two days of the invasion. "Ukrainian forces have made confirmed advances up to 10 kilometers into Russia's Kursk Oblast amid coordinated mechanized offensive operations on Russian territory," it said in its latest update.

"The current confirmed extent and location of Ukrainian advances in Kursk Oblast indicate that Ukrainian forces have penetrated at least two Russian defensive lines

and a stronghold," it added. Kyiv has not officially taken responsibility for the operation, but an aide to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Moscow was to blame for the invasion. "The root cause of any escalation, shelling, military actions, forced evacuations and destruction of normal life forms — including within the Russian Federation's own territories like Kursk and Belgorod regions — is solely Russia's unprovoked aggression," presidential aide Mykhailo Podolyak said on social media.

Without mentioning the Kursk attacks, Zelensky himself said on Wednesday: "The more pressure we put on Russia... the closer we will get to peace. A just peace through just force." Russian President Vladimir

Putin has called it a "large-scale provocation" by Kyiv and Russia's top general vowed on Wednesday to crush the incursion.

"Retrenching" The surprise attack appeared to catch Russia's army off guard, triggering criticism of its top brass by the country's influential military bloggers. The Ukrainian advance has centered on the logistical hub of Sudzha, a town of around 5,000 inhabitants located eight kilometers from the Ukrainian border.

Russian military bloggers, who have links to the army, also reported on Thursday that Kyiv had made significant advances. "The situation is complicated and continues to worsen," blogger Yuri Podolyak said in a

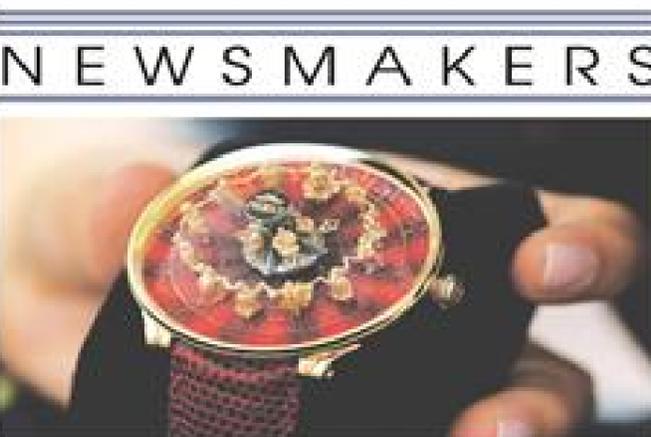
post on Telegram. "Sudzha has been completely lost," he said. The Dea Mayora Telegram channel said Ukraine was "retrenching, indicating that the fighting is likely to be long-term."

Russian energy giant Gazprom said on Thursday it would curtail shipping gas through the Sudzha railway station, the last transit point for Russian gas heading to Europe via Ukraine.

Moscow also said its forces had destroyed a US-made Bradley Fighting Vehicle that Ukraine was using in the incursion. The defense ministry had initially blamed a pro-Ukrainian "sabotage group" for carrying out the raid, but it has since said Ukraine's army is carrying out the raid.—AFP



GAJ (Colombia): Dancers perform during the Carnival of the East (Carnaval de Oriente) on Wednesday.—AFP



PRIMORDIAL Passion, a handcrafted watch by Albanian jewellery house Pirro, worth roughly \$1.4 million.—AFP

Jeweller's eye-popping watch is love letter to Albania

TIRANA: Albanian jeweller Pirro Bozo laboured day and night for five years to capture the essence of his country in a sportscar luxury watch.

Now the timepiece, worth roughly \$1.4 million, is set to face off against the best watches from across the world at the Geneva Watchmaking Grand Prix in November.

Set under a sapphire dome, the hours are marked by 12 golden folk dancers — each in different regional dress — set on Mirano glass, the minute and hour hands adorned with eagle talons in homage to Albania's national symbol.

Bozo's rollercoaster rise mirrors that of Albania, from poverty and isolation in the most closed communist regime in Europe, to collecting capitalisms. Along the way the jeweller overcame jealousy, the secret police and being sent into internal exile to rise to the pinnacle of

his profession.

It all began for Pirro — as he is known in his homeland — in 1985, when he was asked to make a medal in red and gold bearing the head of Enver Hoxha, the paranoid dictator who ruled the small Balkan nation with an iron fist for more than four decades. "That saved me," he said from his workshop tucked away in an alley in the capital Tirana. The medals were awarded to the regime's most loyal supporters and later caught the eye of Hoxha's wife.

The turn of fortune saw thousands more produced and worn by communist cadres across Albania. Down but not out, he was able to bounce back after crafting a ring bearing the image of the late husband of a member of the communist politburo and in July 1990 won a prize for a piece featuring Albania's 15th-century national hero Skanderbeg.—AFP



KABUL: Afghan students from a madrasah attend their graduation ceremony, on Thursday.—AFP



WARSAW: A semi-autonomous Delivery Couple robot waits for a green traffic light to cross a road while delivering burgers.—AFP

US stealth planes arrive in Middle East

WASHINGTON: Advanced American F-22 stealth warplanes arrived in the Middle East on Thursday, the US military said, as Washington boosts its forces in the region ahead of an expected Iranian counterattack on Israel.

The deployment is part of "force posture changes in the region to mitigate the possibility of regional escalation by Iran or its proxies," US Central Command said in a statement, without specifying the number or exact location of the planes. The Pentagon said last week that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin had ordered assets including additional warships and a fighter squadron to the region.

Seven American personnel were wounded in a rocket attack in Iraq earlier this week that Washington blamed on an Iran-backed militia group. And Tehran and its allies are expected to launch an attack on Israel in retaliation for the killing of top Hamas and Hezbollah figures in strikes last week either blamed on or claimed by Israel.

The killings are among the most serious in a series of 18-month attacks that have heightened fears of a regional conflagration stemming from the Gaza conflict.—AFP

Israel revokes diplomatic status of Norway's envoys to Palestinian Authority

JERUSALEM / WASHINGTON: Israel said on Thursday it was revoking the diplomatic status of Norway's envoys to the Palestinian Authority accusing Oslo of "anti-Israeli behaviour" during the Gaza crisis and drawing a formal protest.

Norway — a key facilitator in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, particularly in the secret negotiations that led to the Oslo Accords of the 1990s — swiftly summoned the Israeli ambassador to lodge a formal protest.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said he "ordered the termination of any representation on behalf of the Norwegian embassy in Israel vis-a-vis the Palestinian Authority," which has limited powers in urban areas of the Israeli-occupied West Bank.



DISPLACED Palestinians make their way as they flee the eastern part of Khan Yunis following an Israeli army evacuation order, on Thursday.—Reuters

"There is a price for anti-Israeli behaviour," Katz added in a statement, citing Norway's recent recognition of a Palestinian state and

backing of a pending International Criminal Court case implicating Israeli leaders in war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. Norway accused the hard-right government of Prime Minister Bjergman Nesoydnes of adopting an "extreme" response.

"This is an extreme action that first and foremost affects our ability to help the Palestinian population", Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide said in a statement. "We are considering what measures Norway will take to respond to the situation that the Netanyahu government has now created", he added.

Barth Eide later called in an Israeli embassy official to hear a formal protest. "A short while ago, I summoned Israel's representative to Norway and met her at the foreign ministry to protest against this decision," the minister told journalists.

US reaction

The United States on Thursday criticized its ally Israel for revoking the diplomatic status of Norwegian envoys to the Palestinian

Authority, saying Oslo has played an important role in the Middle East.

"Norway has a long history of playing a proactive role when it comes to engaging with the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters. "We don't think steps to prevent them from playing that role are particularly helpful," he said.

Miller pointed to Norway's secret diplomacy in brokering the landmark 1993 Oslo Accords, signed on the White House lawn, and more recently its collecting tax revenue transferred to the Palestinian Authority.

The United States says it supports a Palestinian state but that it needs to come through negotiations with Israel.—AFP

Canada to pull children of diplomats out of Israel

OTTAWA: Canada decided to pull the children of its diplomats and their guardians out of Israel on Wednesday amid fears of a widened conflict in the Middle East, the Canadian foreign ministry said.

Israel's tensions with Iran and Hezbollah have fueled fears of a broader conflict in a region already on edge amid Israel's assault on Gaza which has killed tens of thousands and caused a humanitarian crisis, including widespread hunger.

Their fear from an increased risk of escalation into a broader Middle East war after the killings of Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran and of Hezbollah military commander Foad Shaker in Beirut drove threats of retaliation against Israel.

The foreign ministry, in

a statement on Thursday, said it had approved temporarily relocating the diplomats' children and their guardians to a safe third country. It added that diplomats stationed in Ramallah in the West Bank and in Beirut do not have dependents living with them.

Canada on Saturday warned citizens to avoid all travel to Israel, saying the regional armed conflict also poses its citizens to not travel to Gaza and the West Bank.

The embassies in Tel Aviv and Beirut and the representative office to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank "all remain fully operational and continue to provide essential services to Canadians," the ministry said in a statement.—Reuters

Arshad hurls himself into history with Olympic gold

Continued from Page 1

coach Salman Razi who entered I came back even stronger and better," he said, before adding that his gold medal was an "Independence Day gift for the country".

A share of the cheers at the Stade de France — the scene of so many France's imperious football successes — were expectedly reserved for India's Narsing Chopra, the defending Olympic champion and crowd favourite, interspersed by the din for the women's long jump at the far end of the arena.

Then, they were distracted by the men's 200m final and the thought that it brings.

In the midst of all this, Arshad had already made his first throw, a feeble effort with the spear landing well behind any well-respecting thrower's attempt. The watching crowd may have

even mistaken it for a trial throw as the javelin competition seemed to halt for the track events, which included the women's heptathlon programme.

"I was feeling so good today that I almost blurted up my name," Arshad would admit later.

Chopra, too, seemed typically contented by the atmosphere, a fine opening throw raised when he touched the white line with his elbow during his landing scramble. Naturally, all eyes were on the Indian, close rival Jilvin Jacob of Germany and Czech Jakub Vadlech, whom the pace built just moments before to take home his own first win. Arshad's fluorescent green spear flew into the now-crowded Stade de France air and darkening skies of Paris, climbing in a most deceptive arc, almost like a jet aircraft on take-off, grooming under the weight of excess baggage.

It climbed and climbed, and then came Arshad's moment of magic — and history. Two years ago at the Commonwealth Games, he had thrown 90.18m to clinch gold and here, at the biggest stage, he bettered it.

As the noise of the men's 200m subsided, Arshad — the fourth thrower in the line-up — galloped in and flung the spear completely and unerringly. Only the 200m winner, London Tobiogo of Botswana seemed to be reminding the world that something special was on its way, when he rang the ceremonial bell just moments before to take home his own first win. Arshad's fluorescent green spear flew into the now-crowded Stade de France air and darkening skies of Paris, climbing in a most deceptive arc, almost like a jet aircraft on take-off, grooming under the weight of excess baggage.

It climbed and climbed, and then suddenly remembered it had a job to do. So, like a guided missile that has identified its target, it changed path and headed, after what seemed an eternity, across the 90m mark.

The whole stadium fell silent, at the other end, Arshad looked on in disbelief, his mouth open and eyes wide. Then the peery crowd erupted, and he let out a silent roar. The crowd erupted, as the Pakistanist raised his arms in the air in an early, most untimely triumph. His coach, Salman Razi, jumped with joy in the stands. The contest was good as ever. The rest of the field, Chopra included, could pack in their javelin and go home.

But then there's the pride of competing. Arshad's early salvo, even before the javelin field was up and about, jolted the rest into action. Strong, Chopra replied with a similar-looking effort and a 89.45m throw catapulted him

immediately into second place, setting up the anticipation of a fine contest between the two South Asians. But the defending champion was having a miserable night, losing four throws at the start. His second-placing 89.45m — Chopra's season's best — was his only legitimate throw till the halfway mark.

Arshad, in contrast, need not have bothered. He continued to ring the javelin with decreasing effort and returns thereafter — 88.72m, 79.48m, 84.82m — somewhat content in the idea that the rest were only playing catch-up, and that they had a lot of catching up to do.

In the end, no one could, in their final throw — the sixth, Neeraj faded again, while Arshad came up with a near-stroke 93.79m.

By special arrangement with Times of India

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By special arrangement with Times of India

Seats row a 'test case' for separation of powers

Continued from Page 1

party, before seeking the allotment of a poll symbol.

Although parliament is well within its rights to make changes to any law, the timing of these amendments — coming after the Supreme Court's July 12 judgement in the reserved seats case — muddies the issue behind the passage of this particular amendment.

As the government has been at pains to prove that a detailed order in the reserved seats case is still awaited. In addition, both the ECP and members of the ruling coalition (PML-N and PPP) have already moved review petitions against the verdict.

This means that, technically, the matter is still sub-judice.

Shutting door on PTI?

Kashif Ali Malik, a lawyer well-versed in election laws, told Dawn that while parliament is empowered to legislate, amending retrospective legislation in a matter where the Supreme Court has already interpreted the law, is tantamount to "defeating the judgement".

In his opinion, the government would have been better served if it had promulgated the law while the reserved seats case was still pending before the SC. The fact that the law was enacted in the wake of the short order makes it obvious that it is meant to target one particular

political party — the PTI. Therefore, in Mr Malik's view, the apex court has all the rights to look at the vires of the law.

Loading constitutional expert and PTI Senator Hamid Khan agrees that this was not the appropriate time to amend the Elections Act.

In his view, since the court had already interpreted the law, these amendments were strictly introduced to circumvent the judgement.

Moreover, Mr Khan said, the amendments cannot be given retrospective effect as the July 12 judgement deals with the rights of the PTI, and giving a law retrospective effect would deprive the party of its constitutional rights.

Tripartism of powers

Irrespective of the outcome of this courtroom battle, legal experts believe the time has come to redefine the tripartism of powers.

Farooq H. Naik — who pleaded the PPP's case in the matter of reserved seats — told Dawn that in two cases, the apex court had exercised the power of the legislature: the reserved seats and the matter of Punjab chief minister's election in 2022.

Mr Naik, who is also vice chairman of the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), opined that the apex court went beyond its jurisdiction in the reserved seats case, leaving directions for the allocation of seats to PTI on a petition filed by a sepa-

rate political party, the Sunni United Council (SUC), and effectively amended the procedure laid down in the Elections Act.

Previously, he said, this was done in the Punjab chief minister's election case, when the apex court effectively amended Article 63 of the Constitution.

In contrast, Hamid Khan believes that the Supreme Court is the appropriate forum to define how the tripartism of powers plays out.

Another senior lawyer, Raja Inam Amoon Mirhas, said that this particular round of litigation would redefine the distribution of powers among the three pillars of the state.

The Supreme Court's short order identified a vacuum in the election law and issued certain directions, he said, adding that the detailed judgement would expound on what those gaps were and why the court arrived at this conclusion. However, the legislature amended the law "against in the opposite direction," he said.

In his view, legislation cannot be altered merely through a short order and a detailed verdict — which is expected once judges of the superior judiciary return from their annual vacations — would have clarified many things.

However, he said, the government took advantage of this delay and introduced amendments, which may complicate matters further.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date:	09 th August 2024
Loan No. and Title:	4415-PAK: Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Corridor Development Investment Program - Tranche-B Projects
Contract No. and Title:	<p>OCB/CAREC/T-08: Construction of Additional Carriageway from Rajapur - DG Khan N-03 Highway Section (171.3 Km) and DG Khan - DI Khan N-03 Highway Section (208.0 Km) from Two-Lane to Four-Lane</p> <p>Lot-1: Rajapur - Jampur Section (37.50 Km) Lot-2: Jampur - DG Khan Section (34.0 Km) Lot-3: DG Khan to TibiGalaner via Shabdan Lund Section (111.70 Km) Lot-4: Tibi Galaner to DI Khan via Ramast Section (65.245 Km)</p>
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	11:00 hours (Islamabad Time) on 26 th September 2024

1. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has received financing from the Asian Development Bank toward the cost of Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Corridor Development Investment Program - Tranche-B Projects. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The National Highway Authority (NHA) ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the lots as mentioned above ("the Works"). Bidders may submit separate bids for one or all Lots. However, a bidder may be awarded one or all lots if it submits the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bid(s) provided such bidder meets the aggregated qualification requirements for one or all Lots.
3. Open Competitive Bidding (international advertisement) will be conducted in accordance with the ADB's (Single-Stage, Two-Envelope) bidding procedure and is open to all eligible Bidders as described in the Bidding Document.
4. National Bidders are required to be registered with Pakistan Engineering Council with a valid registration Certification in Category as mentioned in Section 3 of the Bidding Document.
5. Only eligible Bidders with the following main key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

Contract No.	Description of Package	Participation in at least one contract that has been successfully or substantially completed within the last seven (07) years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds amounts mentioned below. The similarity of the Bidder's participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology or other characteristics as described in Section 6. Employer's Requirements of the Bidding Documents.	The bidder should have a minimum Average Annual Construction Turnover as mentioned below calculated as total certified payments received from contracts in progress or completed, within the last three (03) years.	The bidder should have cash flow requirement
Lot-1	Rajapur - Jampur Section (37.50 Km)	PKR 11.0 billion or US\$ 39.20 Million	PKR 10.30 billion or US\$ 36.80 million	PKR 2,300.0 million or US\$ 8.22 million
Lot-2	Jampur - DG Khan Section (34.0 Km)	PKR 13.30 billion or US\$ 47.40 million	PKR 12.50 billion or US\$ 44.80 million	PKR 2,783.0 million or US\$ 9.90 million
Lot-3	DG Khan to TibiGalaner via Shabdan Lund Section (111.70 Km)	PKR 22.10 billion or US\$ 79.0 million	PKR 20.71 billion or US\$ 74.00 million	PKR 4,802.0 million or US\$ 18.90 million
Lot-4	Tibi Galaner to DI Khan via Ramast Section (65.245 Km)	PKR 18.80 billion or US\$ 69.0 million	PKR 15.70 billion or US\$ 59.10 million	PKR 3,500.0 million or US\$ 12.90 million

If there are any discrepancies between this invitation for bid and the Bidding Document, the Bidding Document shall prevail.

6. To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, Bidders should contact NHA at the address mentioned below.
7. To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible Bidders should:
 - Write to address mentioned below requesting the bidding document as mentioned above.
 - Pay a non-refundable fee of PKR 15,000/- (Pak Rupees Fifteen Thousand Only) or US\$ 60 (US Dollars Sixty Only) by Pay Order / Demand Draft for each lot in favour of National Highway Authority.
 - The eligible bidders also have the option to download the bidding document at an cost from NHA website via www.nha.gov.pk. Eligible bidders opting to download the bidding document from NHA website shall obtain NHA in writing at the address given below failing which NHA shall not be responsible if the bidder does not receive clarifications and amendments, if any, in case of any discrepancy between the downloaded document and hard copy, the latter shall prevail.
 - The Documents may be collected in person at the address mentioned below or may be delivered for an additional fee of PKR 5000/- (Pak Rupees Five Thousand Only) for domestic delivery by express airmail or US\$ 100 (US Dollars One Hundred Only) for overseas delivery. No liability will be accepted for loss in transit or late delivery.
8. A pre-bid meeting shall take place on 26th August 2024 at 11:00 hours (Islamabad Time) at the address mentioned below.
9. Define your bid(s):
 - To the address:

General Manager (P&C)
National Highway Authority
28-Mauve Area, Sector G-9/1, Islamabad - Pakistan,
Telephone No. 051-9032727, Fax No. 051-9260419
Email address: gmrc@nha.gov.pk
 - On or before the deadline at 11:00 Hours (Islamabad Time) 26th September, 2024.
 - Together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document(s).
10. Electronic submission of Bids is not allowed, and late bids will not be accepted.
11. Technical bids will be opened on 26th September 2024 at 11:00 Hours (Islamabad Time) in the presence of bidders' representative who choose to attend, whereas the Financial Bids shall remain sealed and unopened and shall be placed locked. The Price Bids of only Technically Responsive and Qualified Bidders shall be opened after technical bids evaluation, whereas the price bids of those bidders whose technical bids are not responsive and not qualified shall be returned unopened.

GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
National Highway Authority
28-Mauve Area, G-9/1, Islamabad - Pakistan
Telephone No. + 92-51-9032727, Fax No. + 92-51-9260419, Email: gmrc@nha.gov.pk

AND SO THE INTELLIGENT CONVERSATION BEGINS...

THIS SUNDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS:

EOS

PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIETY, CULTURE, IDEAS.

COVER: PRIDE AND PREJUDICE IN PAKISTAN

For more than seven decades, Pakistan and Pakistanis have harbored a unique ability to discriminate against groups on every possible basis — from their ethnicity, to their religion, cast, social class and caste. As each successive generation continues to inherit these prejudices, Pakistan's BCCF Secretary General Farhat Ishtiaq, vice vice deemed to remain a largely divided country and people?

PARTITION: TRAIN TO PAKISTAN

The Partition of the Subcontinent resulted in a bloody mass migration, which claimed over a million lives and uprooted at least 10 million people. Two villages recall the traumatic events of their own migration from Sindh to Lahore in 1947.

SPORTS: THE FIRESTORM AROUND IMRAN

Female cricketers have known Imran Khan was wrongly accused of being a spy or a traitor when the best white European batsman

BOOKCLASH: Imran Khan's 'How New World' How at All Revolution Education and Why Don't a Good Thing? Challenge Khan's Age to the 40s, and Selected Pakistan and Follower from Delhi and Other Languages compiled by Ghulam Farooq Ishtiaq.

EOS: Search for Australian Novel Powerfully

PLUS: Pakistan 1, Parade on The Movie Apparent, Farid Akbar on a 15th-century Heroic Mary, Why Don't the Basics Why, Feroz Ishtiaq, Ghee and Eggs on Lahore's Egg Sellers, Dr Shweta Ali Shah's Gardening, Anita Agni and Veda Ching

INSIGHT INTO ENTERTAINMENT, PERFORMING ARTS, STYLE, CELEBRITY.

SPOTLIGHT: THE EYES OF INDEPENDENCE

In the lead up to Independence Day, two had conversations with eight trailblazing women who have paved diverse, distinctive career paths. They are proud that real independence is also a state of mind.

FLASHBACK: BRAIN GAIN SUCCESS

Producer-director Parvaz Malik's 'Zangeneh' released exactly 40 years ago, was ahead of its time, highlighting the still-persistent issue of brain drain from Pakistan.

PLUS: Review of R. Nighat Siddiqui's 'Fayyaz aur Baflo' the Decadence, How Fantasy Implies History in 'Shoos of the Dragon', The Gypsies, The Tale and Sindh's Top Politician Dawn

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40 Palestinians killed as Israel steps up strikes

Houthis vow response to Israeli attacks with allies in region

CAIRO: Israeli forces stepped up airstrikes across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, killing at least 40 people, Palestinian medical aid, in further battle with Hamas fighters as Israel braced for potential wider war in the region.

Israeli airstrikes hit a cluster of houses in central Gaza's Al-Bureij camp, killing at least 15 people, and the nearby Al-Nasser camp, killed four, medical aid.

Israeli aircraft also bombed a house in the heart of Gaza City in the north, killing five Palestinians, while another airstrike in the southern city of Khan Younis killed one person and wounded others, according to medical aid.

Later on Thursday, 15 Palestinians were killed and 30 injured in Israeli bombings of two schools east of Gaza City, the territory's Civil Emergency Service said in a statement.

Footage circulated on social media showed casualties being brought to a hospital on donkey carts.

The armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad said they were firing anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs at Israeli forces operating across Gaza, causing deaths and injuries among them.

Israel's military said it had struck dozens of military targets across Gaza over the past 24 hours, including rocket launching pads.

Since Oct 7 last year, at least 25,000 Palestinians have been killed, including 22 within the past 24 hours, and 91,722 injured in Israel's devastating air and

ground war in Gaza, the Gaza Health Ministry said in an update on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Houthis will coordinate with other members of the 'Axis of Resistance' in any joint operations, the group's leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi said on Thursday, using the name that Iran and its regional allies use for groups aligned with Tehran. He said any decision to respond to Israeli attacks would be made by the axis as a whole.

More burials

On Thursday, dozens of Palestinians rushed into Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis to bid farewell to slain relatives before carrying them away for burials.

Reuters footage showed relatives moving on to the bodies of their loved ones in plastic bags with names written on them, and holding special prayers before the funerals.

The Israeli military renewed evacuation orders to Palestinian residents in several districts in eastern Khan Younis, saying it would act forcefully against fighters who had unleashed rockets from these areas.

The army posted the evacuation order on X, and residents said they had received text and audio messages. Residents said dozens of families had begun to leave their homes and head west towards Al-Mawasi, a humanitarian-designated area but one that is overcrowded by displaced families from around the enclave.

On Thursday, the World Central Kitchen, a US-based, non-governmental humanitarian agency, said that a Palestinian staff member, Nadi Sallout, had been killed while apparently off duty on Wednesday near Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza.—Reuters



PRESIDENT Muhammad Shahabuddin administers the oath to Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus as head of the interim government in Dhaka, on Thursday.—Reuters

Nobel laureate sworn in to lead B'desh interim govt

Cabinet includes one brigadier, top student leaders • Yunus vows to restore law and order; India, US and EU welcome new leader

DHAKA: Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was sworn in on Thursday as Bangladesh's interim leader, vowing to guide the country back to democracy after a student-led uprising ousted the 15-year rule of Sheikh Hasina earlier this week.

Yunus, who only returned to the country hours earlier, swore to "uphold, support and protect the constitution", in front of political and civil society leaders, generals and diplomats at the presidential palace.

"Today is a glorious day for us," the 84-year-old told reporters when he returned to Dhaka from Europe.

"Bangladesh has created a new victory day. Bangladesh has got a second independence."

"Law and order is our first task... We cannot take a step forward unless we fix the law and order situation," he said.

More than a dozen members

of his cabinet - given the title of advisers, not ministers - also took oath. The group included two top leaders of the Students Against Discrimination group that led the week-long protests, Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmood.

Others included a former foreign secretary, a former attorney general, an environmental lawyer, and prominent rights activist Adilur Rahman Khan, who was sentenced to two years in jail during Hasina's rule.

The caretaker administration is a civilian team, but one retired brigadier-general.

Yunus was checked with emotion Thursday as he recalled the killing of student activist Abu Sayeed, shot dead in July by police from close range.

He paid tribute to the youth who sparked the protest movement and those who risked all for their desire for change.

"They protected the nation

and gave it a new life", he said.

During Hasina's reign, Yunus was hit with more than 100 criminal cases and a smear campaign by a state-led Islamic agency that accused him of promoting homosexuality.

Yunus had travelled abroad this year while on bail after being sentenced to six months in jail on a charge condemned as politically motivated. A Dhaka court acquitted him of that charge on Wednesday.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered his "best wishes" to Yunus, saying New Delhi - which had close ties with Hasina - was "committed" to working with Dhaka.

The United States and European Union also voiced readiness to work with the interim government, with State Department spokesman Matthew Miller saying Washington hoped to work together as Bangladesh "charts a democratic future".—AFP

Qureshi assails PPP for 'playing both sides'

By Waqf Ahmed Sheikh

LAHORE: Although many PTI leaders — including incarcerated former PM Imran Khan — have repeatedly faulted the downfall of the incumbent setup, another top party leader on Thursday offered a rare hint about why they believe the government's days are numbered.

Speaking to reporters at Kot Lakhpat jail, incarcerated PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi hit out at the PPP — the PML-N's main ally — criticising it for "playing both sides".

"The party claims it is not part of the government, but continues to enjoy the perks associated with being in power. Mr Qureshi said after a hearing at the anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore.

Coming from the former foreign minister, who doesn't speak to the media as often as the party leader, this statement is being viewed by political observers with great interest.

It is worth noting that before he was put behind bars, Mr Qureshi was Imran Khan's best friend in the PTI hierarchy. He is also among the most well-connected political players in the party and has a great deal of insight into the PPP, a party with which he has had a long and close association.

In recent months, rumours of possible contacts between the PPP and PTI have been swirling. These alleged ties when the former went public with its charges against the ruling PML-N for not involving it in decision-making in Punjab, or convincing it over key decisions, such as the move to ban PTI.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters at Adiala Jail after a hearing of the 1990 million corruption case against him, PTI founder Imran Khan once again predicted that the government's time was likely to run out in two months.

Addressing criticism of the apparent change in his stance — following his indication that he was willing to apologise over the incidents of May 9 and open to dialogue with the establishment — he said that he was not looking for any kind of deal, rather wanted dialogue for the sake of the country.

He also clarified his offer of a "conditional apology" made a day earlier, saying that he had only expressed his willingness to apologise if CCTV footage proved PTI's involvement in the May 9 violence. He then alleged that the CCTV footage was being concealed.

Qureshi on riots

On Thursday, ATC judge Khalid Arshad adjourned the hearing in the Shalimar police station attack case till Aug 10 for further arguments of defence against the charge-sheet filed by the prosecution.

Speaking to mediapersons afterwards, Mr Qureshi said he was ready to take oath on the Holy Quran that he was not involved in the May 9 riots, adding that those who had registered such cases should also take a similar oath.

Malik Asad in Islamabad also contributed to this report.



DISPLACED Palestinians leave eastern Khan Younis to head west after the Israeli army issued a fresh evacuation order, on Thursday.—AFP

Austrian teen held over 'IS plot' to bomb Swift concert

US singer cancels three concerts in Vienna

VIENNA: An Austrian teenager arrested over an alleged plot to strike a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna had his explosive devices for his attack and had pledged loyalty to the militant Islamic State group, authorities said on Thursday.

The 19-year-old man, who has North Macedonian roots, made a full confession in custody, Austria's general director for public security Franz Red told a news conference.

He swore allegiance to the IS group's leader in the interview and had chemical kits, munitions, and technical devices at his home in the town of Trofai in preparation for an attack, Red added.

The suspect, whose name was not given, was planning a lethal assault among the estimated 20,000 "Swifties" fans set to gather outside Ernst Happel Stadium, said national intelligence head Omar Haqqani-Pirchegger.

"He wanted to carry out an attack in the area outside the stadium, killing as many people as possible using the knives or even using the explosive devices he had made," he said, adding there were no explicit threats to other concerts.

Two other Austrian youths aged 17 and 15 were also detained on Wednesday over the foiled plot.

Authorities painted a picture of the main suspect as having self-radicalised, transforming his appearance and sharing Islamic propaganda online. He quit his job on July 25, telling people he had "big plans", Red said.

One neighbour told Austrian broadcaster ORF that he kept himself to himself and had grown a "Taliban beard".

Swift's three concerts in Vienna, due to start on Thursday for a sold-out

65,000 audience each, were cancelled, to the consternation of fans, many of whom had travelled far.

"It's just heartbreaking, just frustrating. But at the end of the day I guess it's for everyone's safety," said Mark del Rosario, who had flown from the Philippines to see the wildly popular US singer.

Music world rocked

US broadcaster ABC cited law enforcement and intelligence sources as saying Austrian authorities had received information about the Swift concert threat from US intelligence.

It cited the sources as saying at least one of the suspects had pledged allegiance to IS-K, a resurgent wing of IS, on Telegram in June, though the plot was IS-inspired rather than directed by the group's operatives.

Austrian Interior Minister Gerhard Karner said foreign intelligence agencies had helped with the investigation, as Austrian law does not allow monitoring of messenger apps.

Event organiser Live Nation urged fans of Coldplay, which is due to play at the same stadium on Aug 21, to stay calm and said it was in contact with authorities.

It did not comment on whether the show would take place.

British police said on Thursday there was nothing to indicate that the planned attack in Vienna would have an impact on Swift's shows at Wembley Stadium in London next week.

Large concerts are often a preferred target of attackers, said Karner, listing the 2015 attack on Paris' Bataclan venue and the 2017 bombing at the Manchester Arena where US pop star Ariana Grande had played.

The plot in Austria also brought to mind a foiled plan by three IS-linked suspects against Vienna's gay pride parade last year.—Reuters

2024 'very likely' to be hottest on record: EU

PARIS: It is "increasingly likely" 2024 will be the hottest year on record, despite July ending a 13-month streak of monthly temperature records, the EU's climate monitor said on Thursday.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said last month was the second warmest on record books going back to 1980, only slightly cooler than July 2023.

Between June 2023 and June 2024, each month eclipsed its own temperature record for the time of year. "The streak of record-breaking months has come to an end, but only by a whisker," said Samantha Burgess, deputy director of C3S.

Last month the global average temperature was 15.95 degrees Celsius, only 0.04C below July 2023, according to C3S's monthly bulletin. But "the overall context hasn't changed, our climate continues to warm," said Burgess.

"The devastating effects of climate change started well before 2023 and will continue until global greenhouse gas emissions reach net zero," she said.

From January to July global temperatures were 0.70C above the 1991-2020 average. This anomaly would need to drop significantly over the rest of the year for 2024 not to be hotter than 2023 — "making it increasingly likely that 2024 is going to be the warmest year on record", said C3S.

July 2024 was 1.48C warmer than the unadjusted average temperature for the month during the period 1850-1900, before the world started to rapidly burn fossil fuels. This has translated into persisting heat for hundreds of millions of people.

The Earth experienced its two hottest days on record with global average temperatures at a virtual tie on July 22 and 23 reaching 17.6C, C3S said.

Meanwhile, the World Meteorological Organization said extreme heat hit hundreds of millions of people throughout July, with a domino effect felt right across society.—AFP



ریونیو اورینٹل
فیدرل بورڈ آف ریونیو
حکومت پاکستان



یاد رکھیں

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SPORT

Ex-players disheartened as PCB fails to increase pension

By Our Sports Reporter

LAHORE: The delay in the approval of the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 has left former Test cricketers disheartened, as their monthly pension for July remains unchanged.

The PCB typically raises these pensions annually in line with inflation, but this year's increase did not materialise.

"I received my pension cheque this week with no increase," a former player told Dawn on Thursday. "We had anticipated an adjustment similar to what we received last year, but there was none."

The pensioners emphasised that this support is crucial, as many former players are struggling financially.

They remain hopeful that the PCB will uphold its policy of adjusting pensions to match inflation rates.

In addition to the pension concerns, the PCB staff is also left waiting for a salary increase.

The lower-tier staff, in particular, are looking to the PCB—a wealthy organisation—to address their financial strains, exacerbated by rising utility costs.

Notably, some employees are still earning Rs12,000 a month, below the Punjab government's mandated minimum of Rs17,000.

The PCB has been allocating substantial funds, spending Rs12.80 billion to renovate its stadiums in Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi. Additionally, it acquired a Lahore building for Rs4 billion for hotel purposes and purchased a plot adjacent to a 400-acre site for Rs630 million, intending to develop a seven-star hotel.

The PCB also doubled its budget for domestic cricket to Rs4.5 billion this year. Despite these investments, indicating a healthy financial status, PCB's reserves stood at Rs21 billion as of March 31, 2024, while their expenditure on the mentioned projects are around Rs25 billion.

A PCB spokesperson explained that the delay in the 2024-25 budget approval prevented any immediate pension increases.

However, they assured that pensioners would receive the due increase, along with arrears, next month.

Furthermore, ongoing renovations at Gaddafi Stadium have necessitated the relocation of PCB offices to the National Cricket Academy (NCA), which has been causing operational disruptions.



PAKISTAN pacer Mir Hamza bowls to batter Saad Shafeeq during a net practice session at the Mairanabad Club Ground on Thursday.—courtesy PCB

Naseem wants Pakistan to focus on future after T20 World Cup debacle

ISLAMABAD: Naseem Shah is adopting a forward-looking approach after the Pakistan's disastrous T20 World Cup campaign and the poor season every stakeholder of the team to take on the forthcoming challenges with "clear head and intention".

Pakistan were eliminated in the first round of the tournament, which are then shocked by co-hosts United States before arch-rivals and eventual champions India effectively knocked them out.

The defeats came amid reports of internal politics and griping within the national squad, while Pakistan's dropping fitness and skill levels were evident through the showpiece.

The national side will regroup for the first time since the debacle when they take on Bangladesh for two Test matches on home turf from Aug 21-25 and Aug 30-Sept 1.

For Naseem, who will make his Test return after a 13-month-long injury absence, it is time for himself and his teammates to move on from the pain and onto a better future. "If we know the next in mind, things will become very difficult," he told reporters on the sidelines of a training camp ahead of the Bangladesh series here at the Islamabad Club. "You can't ignore the fact that we played poorly in the T20 World Cup and hence based criticism."

"But as a nation, we need to find joy in each other's successes and have a clear heart and intention. Moving forward, we should be focused on the upcoming challenges."

I believe that when we are united and focused, we can play good cricket and achieve success."

The Bangladesh series will provide Pakistan an opportunity to start again. Their calendar until April next year is packed and includes crucial series against England, Australia, South Africa, West Indies and New Zealand.

But before the season culminates in April next year, Pakistan will host the ICC Champions Trophy in February-March. Naseem said the national team players needed to get in with each other if they are to go for glory in the eight-team tournament.

"Everyone regrets and realises what went wrong, and we need to understand how to improve and play better cricket," the 21-year-old noted. "With the Champions Trophy coming up, we need to present a united and strong team. It should be clear to everyone that we are working towards better performance."

While showing no hesitance in admitting that Pakistan got up a gear during the T20 World Cup, Naseem believed the team should still reflect on the errors it made and the weaknesses it showed during the tournament and look to rectify them.

"We must admit that we haven't played good cricket," he observed. "Various issues such as skill, team bonding, and others come into play. We need to realise where we went wrong and work on those areas to improve."

Naseem has been included in the

Pakistan Shabroon squad for the first of the two four-day-match series against Bangladesh 'A', which will precede the two Test between the senior sides of both countries.

The Shabroon matches will facilitate Naseem with the opportunity to regain his game form following a long time away from the red-ball format and the bowler said he was looking forward to playing against Bangladesh 'A' next week.

"I haven't played [recently], and obviously, Test cricket and international matches come with their own pressure and preparation," he said. "So, I've prepared quite a bit, bowled a lot."

"Now, this is a good opportunity to play a match here, and I'll get some practice."

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has adopted a strict policy regarding managing fast bowlers' workload. It has gone on to strip Shabroon Shah Afridi from the Test vice-captaincy to ensure the policy is implemented properly.

Naseem, however, said he hadn't received any special instructions from Test team head coach Jason Gillespie or someone from his staff over workload management.

"At the moment, no specific plan has been given about what to do or what not to do," he revealed. "But as a professional, I know that it's not easy after a long time."

"No matter how many practice matches you play, there's a huge difference between that and international Test matches."—Agencies

Sri Lanka raise security concerns over England Test series

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka has raised security concerns with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) amid the ongoing anti-immigrant riots in Britain, with players requesting increased security ahead of their upcoming Test series against England.

Sri Lankan players already in England for training before the three-match Test series have asked their cricket board for better arrangements as they do not have a security plan before the entire test squad reaches London on Sunday.

"Most of the issues seem not to be close to where we are but everyone is still a little concerned," a Sri Lankan player in England told ESPNcricinfo. "We can't go out to dinner or do anything like that. Mostly we stay in the hotel. Naseem wants to run into trouble and get beaten up."

"We've asked the board to try and ask for some security for us until the main team arrives, but we haven't heard anything back yet."

Sri Lanka team manager Mahinda Haldinanda said he raised the security issues with the ECB after reading reports of riotous in Manchester, where the first test is scheduled.

"I raised the issue with them, and the ECB responded very quickly and went to their commitments to security arrangements," Haldinanda told ESPNcricinfo. "We'll be having a security liaison on the tour from them as well."—Reuters

Portugal's Pepe retires

LISBON: Portugal defender Pepe has retired from football, the 41-year-old said on Thursday.

Pepe's last game came at Euro 2024, where Portugal were defeated by France on penalties in the quarter-finals, and he became the oldest player to appear at a European Championship finals tournament.

"I want to thank God for giving me the wisdom to be able to continue my journey," an emotional Pepe said in a video on social media which looked back on his career.

"I can't help but also thank all the presidents who've believed in me to be able to perform my work. To all the employees of all the clubs I've been to, who are the soul and essence of the clubs and the national team. And I want to thank everyone in the background. I want to leave a thank you and a hug of gratitude for all of you. And thank you all very much."

Pepe made 144 appearances for his country, winning the Euro in 2016, and spent 10 seasons at Real Madrid where he won three La Liga titles and three Champions League trophies, as well as two FIFA Club World Cups.—Reuters

Female employee's appeal against Horner verdict dismissed

LONDON: The female Red Bull employee who accused Christian Horner of inappropriate behaviour has had her appeal against the investigation which cleared the team principal dismissed, The Times reported on Thursday.

The newspaper said a new independent KC—a senior barrister—reviewed all of the evidence from the initial investigation which cleared Horner on the eve of the Formula One season.

The woman's complaint changed the 50-year-old's future as head of one of the most successful teams in Formula One history into serious doubt. But having always categorically denied the allegations, which emerged in February, and then being cleared, Horner has carried on in his post and remained a familiar figure on this season's Grand Prix circuit.

A statement given to The Times by Red Bull published Thursday said: "Earlier this year a complaint raised against Christian Horner was investigated."

"That complaint was dealt with through the company's grievance procedure by the appointment of an independent KC who dismissed the grievance. "The complainant exercised the right to appeal, and the appeal was carried out by another independent KC. All stages of the appeal process have now been concluded, with the final outcome that the appeal is not upheld. The KC's conclusions have been accepted and adopted by Red Bull. The internal process has concluded."

The female employee concerned has been suspended on full pay since March.—AFP



POINT OF SPAIN: South African opener Tony de Zorzi plays a shot during the first Test against West Indies at Queen's Park Ground on Thursday. De Zorzi scored 70 off 145 balls to push the visitors to 152-23 by lunch on the second day of the match, which started with South Africa on 45-1. Jamal Warican and Kemar Roach took the two wickets on the second day for the hosts.—AFP

Alam edges Ahmed for CNS Open lead

KARACHI: Muhammad Alam had a red-hot opener. So did Ahmed Raza.

In a closely-contested opening round of the Chief of Naval Staff Open Golf Championship, both golfers fired seven birdies each but it was Alam who came through with a one-stroke lead on Thursday.

Alam fired a six under 66 with Ahmed returning a card of 67 in a congested leaderboard which had Mohammad Musir and Zubair Hussain tied on 68.

On a cloudy day at the Karachi Golf Course, Zubair struck six birdies while Musir had five.

Jafar Hussain and Mohammad Ashfaq were a further stroke adrift at 69 while defending champion Shabbir Iqbal was in a group of three, four shots off the lead, alongside Waseed Raheem and Mohammad Nazir.

The first hole-in-one of the championship came on the opening day thanks to Mohammad Qasim, who had an otherwise unremarkable round of 81.—Sports Reporter

SL's Jayawickrama charged over match-fixing approach

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka spinner Praveen Jayawickrama has been charged with three counts of anti-corruption code breaches for failing to report an approach to fix matches and obstructing an investigation, cricket's global governing body said on Thursday.

Jayawickrama, 25, was approached to fix international matches and was asked to approach another player to fix matches in the 2021 season of the Lanka Premier League, said the International Cricket Council (ICC).

"Regrettably, the Sri Lanka bowler was found to have deflected messages related to the approach for conducting corrupt practices," the ICC said in a statement. "Jayawickrama has 14 days from 6 August 2024 to respond to the charges."

Jayawickrama made his international debut in April 2021, taking 11 wickets in his first test against Bangladesh. He has not played for Sri Lanka since June 2022.—Reuters

Cobolli topples medal-man Auger-Aliassime in Montreal

MONTREAL: Canadian hopes collapsed on Wednesday at the ATP Montreal Masters as Olympic medalist Felix Auger-Aliassime was knocked out 6-3, 6-2 by Flavia Cobolli.

The Montreal-born mixed doubles bronze medal winner with Gabriela Dabrowski went down in 66 minutes to the Italian, who finished runner-up to Sorely's Washington final.

The six marks the end of local competitiveness as Viktor Peng lost out after three games with back pain against Washington champion Sebastian Korda.

Auger-Aliassime never found his rhythm and went down a double break in the second set after 3rd-ranked Cobolli secured the first.

"Congrats to Felix for his medal," the winner said, adding: "I did the perfect match today. I don't know how I did it. I just tried to make a dream come true."

Twotime Canadian semi-finalist Gael Monfils was dismissed 6-3, 6-3 by qualifier Thanasi Kokkinakis.

The Australian failed to serve out the match leading a set and 5-1 but advanced two games later as his French opponent retired long.

"Gael is a great champion, a legend in the game," the Australian said. "I stayed focused during the match even if it was a bit choppy at the end, but I kept my nerve. I had to trust my game—it doesn't get any easier from here."

Ben Shelton survived a tricky start ending to defeat device doubles partner Alexander Bublik 7-6 (7-4), 6-2.

The 19-year-old American, who reached the semi-finals last week in Washington, could only laugh out loud on match point as Bublik tried to reach a drop shot.

Knowing he would be unable to get there in time, the colourist fed Kuznetsov's skilledly tossed his racket under the dropping ball on the run before it landed, causing



TUNISIAN Oma Jabeur plays a backhand return against Naomi Osaka of Japan during the Toronto Open second round match at the Bobyev Stadium.—Reuters

ing a reverse drop shot back over the net into Shelton's court. The maneuver was, of course, illegal, with Shelton winning the match with a huge smile after 89 minutes with nine aces among his 27 winners. Bublik finished with the same number of unforced errors.

"It was crazy, but a special one regardless," the 21-year-old American said. "I asked after the match and the point doesn't count if the racket leaves your hand before it touches the ball. "But it shows the skills he can do. This was a funny moment on match point that we shared—'he's the only guy who could do something like that."

Shelton said waiting for his opponent was key on the day: "It was important that I stayed patient throughout. He's a guy who gets a lot of balls."

Shelton earned his 27th win of the season as he reached the second round on his second appearance in Canada. The American had lost two previous matches with Bublik, both played on clay at Masters 1000s in Rome and last spring in Madrid. Both members of the American bronze medal doubles team advanced.

Tommy Paul made a quick turnaround from Paris, posting a 6-4, 7-6 (7-2) win over Luciano Dardot as he made the transition from clay to hardcourts.

"It was a solid match, the level went up in the second set and we played longer points," the winner said. "I felt more normal on court. It's a tough transition."

OSAKA GUESTS JABEUR: Moroccan, former world number one Naomi Osaka advanced to the second round

of the WTA Toronto Masters with a 4-3, 6-3 victory over Tunisia's Oma Jabeur.

The four-time Grand Slam champion from Japan needed only 72 minutes to eliminate ninth-ranked Jabeur and collect her fifth triumph this year over a player ranked in the top 20 in her return from maternity leave.

Osaka has won all seven of her WTA titles on hardcourts, including the 2018 and 2020 US Opens and 2019 Australian Open crowns, and hopes to add this US Open hardware's lineage to the list.

"Everyone knows I really love hard courts. I wasn't thinking too much. It was very instinctual," Osaka said of her victory. "When I play the best players, like Dina, I need to play better."

"I'm feeling quite confident in myself as a person and as a player, and I think that showed a little."

Osaka took her first triumph in Canada since reaching the 2019 quarter-finals with 14

winners and 13 unforced errors while Jabeur made 27 unforced errors in her first match since Wimbledon.

Next in Osaka's path is Belgium's Elise Mertens, with whom she fought two matches this year. Mertens won at Indian Wells. Osaka was on grass at 't Hartenbosch in the Netherlands.

Washington Open winner Paula Badosa of Spain eliminated Dorothea Erakovic from 6-1, 6-4, stretching her win streak to five matches and setting up a second-round match with fourth seed Jelena Ostapenko.

Olympic doubles silver medalist Dina Shneider, the 14th seed from Russia, was down a break three times in the final set before rallying past Britain's Harriet Dart 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-2).

China's Yuan Yue ousted Spain's Cristina Bucsa 6-3, 6-3 to reach a second-round match against second seed Aryna Sabalenka, the two-time and reigning Australian Open champion.—AFP



Naseem wants Pakistan to focus on future

KARACHI

Times: 07:12 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow): 06:03 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum: 28°C
Maximum: 31°C
Humidity: 77%
Outlook: Cloudy

Online store fined for delivering substandard products

By Iqbalur Raheem

KARACHI: A consumer court has imposed a fine of over Rs100,000 on an online clothing store for delivering substandard products and failing to refund the consumer.

Plaintiff Uzma Nawab filed a lawsuit under the relevant sections of the Consumer Protection Act 2014 before Judicial Magistrate of Consumer Protection Court (East) Fatima Salim against the online clothing store Ms Parkland, seeking compensation for their alleged faulty services, refund, physical inconvenience, mental agony, and financial losses.

The plaintiff informed the court that she had purchased two synthetic 'Yasmin' clothing brand deals from an online store based in Lahore for Rs41,000. Upon receiving the parcel through a courier service, she discovered that the order was not as depicted in the pictures and that the quality of the clothes was substandard.

After filing the complaint, the court issued multiple summons to the respondent through all modes, including publication in newspapers. However, the respondent failed to appear before the court, and consequently, the matter proceeded in default.

In its detailed verdict, the judge ordered the online clothing store to pay Rs41,000 as compensation for the actual cost of the clothes purchased by the plaintiff, Rs50,000 as a penalty for not disclosing the quality of the clothes and the refund policy on their website and social media platforms, and Rs10,000 as the cost of the suit to the plaintiff.

The court observed: "The respondent is running a website under the name Ms. Parkland however, the complainant booked clothes from two different brands, viz. Yasmin Roban and Yasmin (Dhaka) by Saira Shafiq. The complainant has not mentioned anywhere that the clothes are original or replicas. It is not mentioned anywhere in the receipts and call record photos placed in the pleadings that they are original or replicas."

The court also directed the respondent to review their policy, clearly mentioning the refund/return policy and labelling the description of articles as per law.

Additionally, it ordered the respondent to display their genuine address.

Continued on Page 14



WOMEN wait for their turn outside a NADRA Mobile Registration Van at Hoppers Chowk in New Chak, on Thursday. The National Database and Registration Authority's initiative aims to increase the registration rate of women by bringing services directly to their neighbourhoods, making the process more accessible and convenient for the general public.—PPP

Even armed policemen aren't safe from robbers in city

Four policemen killed by street criminals; two others shot dead in targeted attacks so far this year, officers say

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: The audacity of street criminals in the city can be gauged from the fact that even law enforcers are not safe from them as out of six policemen killed so far this year, four were targeted by robbers.

With the recent killing of Constable Shabbir Ahmed, who was shot dead allegedly by a robber near UBL Sports Complex on Rashid Minhas Road a day ago,

the number of policemen gunned down in the metropolis has risen to six so far this year while four of the killings were believed to be carried out by street criminals, said Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) DGC Asif Iqbal Shaikh.

DGC Shaikh said the killing of a policeman in Sobrah Goth and that of DSP Ali Raza of the CTD were being probed by the counter-terrorism officials.

He said they had come to the conclusion that the killing of Constable Muhammad Yasmin and wounding of another, Safwan Akbar, in an armed attack on their post near the Jinnah Bridge off Motorway 9 on June 5, 2024 was an outcome of targeted killing, adding that the investigation showed that a banned group was involved in it.

Raza was still being probed and they believed that it was also caused by a targeted attack. DGC West Irfan Ali Baloch expressed similar views and said the murder of Constable Shabbir appeared to be a robbery-related incident and that three other policemen were also shot dead by robbers over snatching of weapons or remuneration.

He recalled that Constable Muhammad Yasmin was also shot dead by robbers over snatching of official motorcycles past on July 19 at Water Pump Bypass. Two suspects involved in the killing, Shaukat Nawaz and Zafar Hameed, were gunned down in an 'encounter' on July 27, he added.

He said the killed suspects originally hailed from Miralgarh. They were street criminals who used to take a female accom-

pany along on their bikes to avoid being arrested. City police chief reviews policemen's killing cases. Separately, Additional ICP Karachi Javed Odho held a meeting to review killings of policemen in the metropolis and directed officers to chalk out a comprehensive strategy for elimination of crime, said a police spokesperson.

Constable Shabbir Ahmed, who was posted in the investigation wing of district Central, was laid to rest on Thursday. His funeral prayers were held at the West Zone police office and attended by the ICP Sindh, Asst ICP Karachi, DGC West and other senior officers.

Speaking about the incident, ICP Chairman Nadeem Memon vowed that the culprits involved in the killing would be taken to task.

300 'microschools' planned to enroll out-of-school children

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Musad Ali Shah on Thursday directed the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) to establish 300 digital 'microschools' to enroll 300,000 out-of-school children and hire over 600 female learning facilitators and approved Rs400 million for the purpose.

He gave these directives to the SEF while presiding over its board meeting that was attended among others by Education Minister Syed Saad Shah, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Planning and Development Chairman Najam Shah, School Education Secretary Zahid Abbas, Finance Secretary Fayaz Jatoi, SEF Managing Director Kasir Kabir and board members Qasim Haseeb, Dr Gauri Masood and Dr Mohammad Memon.

Microschooling, which is the reinvention of the one-room schoolhouse, employs smartphones and tablets for implementing effective learning programmes for the benefit of children from the deprived families.

The chief minister approved the expansion of the Accelerated Digital Learning Programme (ADLP) with the Teach the World Foundation. The ADL phase II would be for three years.

The CM was told that the ADLP with the Teach the World Foundation (pilot) was approved by the Board of Governors and Cabinet in 2023, earmarking Rs710 million for approximately 12,500 learners.

Mr Shah directed SEF MD Kasir Kabir to bring 300,000 out-of-school children to schools in 2025 by establishing 300 digital microschools. He also directed the MD SEF to engage over 600 women learning facilitators for teaching.

Sharjeel urges swift construction of Yellow Line BRT project

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Thursday issued directives to expedite the construction of the Yellow Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

Chairing a high-level meeting regarding the project at his office, the minister reviewed the overall performance of the transport department and sought briefing on the progress of the Yellow Line BRT. Transport Secretary Asad Zamin, South Mass Transit Authority Managing Director Kamal Daya and World Bank representative Lincoln Flor also attended the meeting.

In the meeting, the progress on the construction of the Yellow Line BRT was reviewed and various aspects were discussed in detail, including the commencement of the work on the Yellow Line BRT depot and the ongoing construction of Jam Sadiq Bridge, said a statement issued after the meeting.

"Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon instructed all concerned parties to work on a day-to-day basis to ensure the timely completion of the Yellow Line BRT project and to diligently remove any obstacles causing delays. On this occasion, World Bank representative Lincoln Flor assured his full support for the project."

Loss of farmland to housing schemes a threat to food security: minister

Food security becoming a global problem, conference told. Need stressed for consulting communities before starting uplift projects in rural areas

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: Pointing out lapses in the state mechanisms which are exacerbating climate change challenges for the country, provincial environment minister at a conference has said that the fast conversion of farmlands near urban centres is posing a serious threat to Pakistan's food security.

Minister Dr Muhammad Rahimoon was speaking as a chief guest at The nexus between climate change and food security, a conference organised by National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) here on Thursday.

"The fast conversion of farmlands near cities into housing societies gravely endangers Pakistan's food security," Mr Rahimoon remarked, while highlighting country's chal-

lenges in the face of extreme weather events. Linking the 2022 devastating floods with climate change, the minister said the natural calamity had damaged the economy and farming sector of Sindh.

He invited all stakeholders including members of civil society to become partners with the Sindh government's drive to improve environmental conditions by upholding the relevant laws against harming the environment.

"The massive plantations of mangrove forests on the coastal belt and decreased reliance on fossil fuels for energy generation are two key aspects of the Sindh government's strategy to tackle the issue of climate change," he told the audience, while expressing government's resolve to take strict action on environmental violations.

Speaking as the guest of honour, Consul General of the United Arab Emirates, Bakheet Atroq Al-Romithi, said the recent floods had necessitated consultation of local communities prior to construction of development projects in rural areas to ensure that natural drainage passages were not blocked.

Highlighting potential of Pakistan's farming sector, the diplomat said the prospective foreign investors especially from the Middle Eastern countries were keen to invest in this sector to benefit Pakistan's food security.

"Pakistan's traditional organic food items should be marketed to international consumers who are keen to buy nourishing and delicious food from around the world to avoid unhealthy processed food."

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March for minority rights to highlight Jinnah's Aug 11 speech

Freer Hall to host event on Sunday

By Shazia Hassan

KARACHI: The organisers of Minority Rights March, which held a first march last year at Freer Hall, Karachi, on August 11, called a press conference at the Karachi Press Club here on Thursday to announce that they will be coming out again at the same place this Sunday.

While speaking to the media, social activist and classical dancer Shireen Kermani reminded of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's historic speech to the Constituent Assembly on August 11, 1947 in which he had said: "You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other places of

worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed — that has nothing to do with the business of the State."

Ms Kermani said that the country will be celebrating Independence Day on August 14. "We will fly Pakistan's flag on Independence Day. It is the same flag in which the white portion that holds the pole represents the religious minorities of Pakistan," she reminded.

She also reminded of Chief Justice Tasaddiq Hussain Jilani's judgement of June 2014 in which he had mandated the government to constitute a task force at the federal level to work out a strategy to promote religious tolerance. He also called on the government to set up a National Council of Minorities Rights to monitor the practical realisation of the rights and safeguards provided to the minorities under the Constitution

and frame policy recommendations for safeguarding and protecting minorities' rights.

Ms Kermani also pointed out that Minority Rights March is not a political party or NGO. "We are just an organic movement of people who have come together for a good cause. The majority can defend the minority," she said.

Advocate Luke Victor said that no religion spreads hatred. "All religions preach tolerance. Our Constitution also cares about the human rights of minorities. But here things such as the Jaranwala incident also happen where the Bible is burnt and the cross is broken. My Pakistan should not be like this," he said.

Pastor Ghazala Sharfque said after the Quaid's historic speech in 1947, many Christians and Hindus decided to live in Pakistan. "Quaid-e-Azam had spoken so strongly for religious minorities on August 11. We have

chosen this very day to meet and air our grievances. We also want to celebrate this day with folk dance performances. We want minorities to feel safe on this day," she said.

Political and social activist Mariya Sharma said that many religious minorities in Pakistan are actually the indigenous people of this land. "We are taken for granted and overlooked. We are like salt in floor. But remember that without salt there is no taste," she said.

Human rights activist Nafisa Javed said that often Hindus here are looked at as agents of Indian and Christians are suspected of being IS agents.

Another human rights activist Najma Mubashwar said that Hindu girls wearing a bindi on their forehead or making their hair parting are gawked so badly here that they have often opted to wear alayas in which they feel safe.



THE organisers of the minority march address a press conference at the Karachi Press Club, on Thursday.—Fahim Siddiqi/White Star

PRAYER

Fajr 4:38
 Juma 12:37
 Asr 5:19
 Maghreb 7:13
 Isha 8:35

Starting time in Karachi

REFLECTIONS

CC ONE WHO OFTEN REFLECTS, DEVELOPS HIS FORESIGHT. 33

— HAZRAT ALI (R.S.)

TRANSLATED

Police launches app for online verification

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Inspector General of Police Sindh Ghulam Nadeem Memon on Thursday inaugurated a 'verification application' established at an office of the Special Branch of Police.

Under this application, the citizens can get verification of their arms licenses, airport entry, character verification and other facilities at their homes, said the provincial police chief. DCG Special Branch on this occasion gave briefing to the HTP about crimes and other issues.

It was stated that street crimes had decreased 'significantly' this year as compared to last year. Besides that, scrap dealers were taken to task while groups involved in tampering of IMEI of mobile phones were also traced and arrested, which helped control street crimes.

Mr Memon directed the Special Branch to set up 'digital data bank' about criminals.

SHC orders formation of committee for demarcation of heritage public property in Sindh

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has directed the chief secretary of Sindh to constitute a high-powered committee for demarcation and creation of all heritage public property across the province.

The court also summoned the secretary of Auzaf department along with comprehensive details of all properties owned by the department. It further asked the secretary to apprise the court at next hearing as to whether accounts had been opened

in different districts with regard to Waqf properties.

The two-judge bench comprising Justice Salahuddin Farooq and Justice Anjum Ali Sheikh was hearing a petition filed a few months ago about preservation of heritage sites in the province.

The bench in its order noted that in April it had directed the secretary of culture, tourism & antiquities department to submit details of all ancient and antiquary buildings falling within the category of public property along with their locations.

Besides, the Auzaf secretary, religious affairs, Zakat & Ushar department was also asked to file details of buildings falling in the same category while the court further issued directions for the officials of Sindh Revenue Board (SRB) to file report about steps taken by the revenue hierarchy about mutation and demarcation of the heritage properties, it added.

However, the bench deplored that despite categorical directions passed at the last hearing, the SRB had failed to take necessary measures with regard to demarcation and mutation of heritage properties in all

over Sindh.

"We hereby direct chief secretary to constitute a high-powered committee comprising of all stakeholders in terms to ensure demarcation and mutation of all heritage public properties falling within Sindh under Ancient Monuments and Preservation Act, 1904 and Antiquities Act and Heritage Act, 1994", it added.

While adjourning the hearing till Aug 26, the divisional bench also ordered the secretary of Auzaf to appear in person at next hearing along with a comprehensive details

of properties owned by Waqf with elaboration that whether accounts have been opened in different districts with regard to Waqf properties.

It may be recalled that earlier, the SHC had also sought details of the amount allocated and released in respect of endowment fund for preservation of heritage sites in the province from secretary of the provincial culture department.

It had also expressed serious resentment over the officials of SRB for not examining entries and submitting a report about the record of land in question despite court orders.

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Auzaf dept's accountant suspended for not submitting audit record

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Sindh Assembly Nisar Ahmed Khudro on Thursday suspended the accountant of Auzaf department for not submitting the audit record of over Rs2.8 million irregularities committed in the fiscal year 2023-24.

At a PAC meeting at the Sindh Assembly's Committee Room, he also appointed Auzaf secretary as inquiry officer to conduct probe in the illegal appointment of four officers and irregularities in release of over Rs16 million to 23 employees, including 18 officers, in the head of salary and allowances.

The PAC chairman order the inquiry officer to submit the inquiry report within two weeks. The accounting also reviewed the audit papers of the Auzaf department of the three fiscal years from 2018 to 2018.

Talking to the media after the meeting, Mr Khudro said that the PAC was working to monitor the expenditure of the provincial government, while the audit papers of various departments were pending submission since 2008. "Therefore, PAC meetings will be held three days a week and the accounts of the past five years have been sought from each provincial department," he added.

However, he said, the provincial departments were still providing the

audit record of only three years.

The PAC chairman said that the audit meeting related to any department would be held on the fixed schedule and would not be postponed or put off in any case, adding that the secretaries and officials concerned would ensure their presence in the PAC meetings. He said that the PAC would initiate strict action if irregularities were found in the public treasury, adding that the public money should be spent on people.

The PAC also directed the Auzaf department to provide the details of allotment of department's 16,000-sq-ft land in different districts including Sujawal, Mirpurkhas and Tando Jinn and details of generated funds by Aug 13.

The PAC in all reviewed 19 audit paragraphs of the Auzaf department for three years from 2018 to 2018.

It was revealed in the meeting that the then chief administrator of the department had created one post of Grade 18 and three posts of Grade 17 without the approval of the competent authority.

The meeting learned that the four officers appointed in violation of rules and regulation had been getting Rs4.524 million illegally in the form of salaries and allowances, while five grade-18 office assistants were adjusted to managerial posts of grade-16, causing a loss of Rs2.193 million to the public exchequer.

PMA calls for immediate release of Dr Yasmin Rashid

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has called upon the government to release former president PMA Centre and cancer survivor Dr Yasmin Rashid on humanitarian grounds.

The demand was unanimously endorsed at a recent meeting of association's central council held at in Quetta.

"The PMA calls for the immediate release of Dr Yasmin Rashid, a cancer survivor and renowned gynecologist, on humanitarian grounds. Dr Rashid, who has been unjustly detained, is in urgent need of medical care and should be allowed to receive treatment without any further delay," says a press release.

Dr Rashid, an enthusiastic healthcare professional, had selflessly served her community for many years, it said, adding that she continued to provide high-quality care to her patients and support her colleagues in the medical field despite her own health challenges.

"Her commitment to the wellbeing of others is unwavering and deserves to be recognized and respected. We urge the authorities to consider her case with compassion and empathy and release her immediately so that she can access the treatment she needs."

"The health and wellbeing of all individuals, including those in custody, must be a top priority, and we urge the authorities to act swiftly to address this urgent situation," the association stated.

Loss of farmland to housing schemes a threat to food security: minister

Continued from Page 13

acknowledged that food security had become a global problem due to the worsening issue of climate change.

He shared with the audience the salient features of Vision-2040 of Oman, which was based on maximum reliance on renewable forms of energy to help achieve net zero carbon targets in his country.

"Fortifying food security in Pakistan will go a long way in promoting Oman-Pakistan relations in the farming sector. Up to 60 per cent of rice consumed in Oman comes from Pakistan," he

told the audience.

Former Sindh agriculture secretary Ahsan Raza Khan said the need for fully devising the subjects of environment, climate change, agriculture and food security to provinces as per the 18th Constitutional Amendment.

"Overwatering results to be constantly released to the lower Indus basin to protect the delta and Sindh's resource-rich marine ecosystem. Besides, the federal government should release its promised share of funds for constructing three combined effluent treatment plants in Karachi," he said.

Online store fined for delivering substandard products

Continued from Page 13

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independent updates their policies in accordance with the provisions of the Sindh Consumer Protection Act, 2014 (SCPA) and other relevant laws.

In case of non-compliance, the respondents will face three months of imprisonment, the court ruled.

The court emphasized that the service provider must disclose the quality of the product to the consumer. Referring to a relevant section of the aforementioned law, the court noted that the seller must display the refund/reversal policy before any transaction.

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In the Court of Civil & Family Judge XTH Main Karachi, Sindh. Family Suit No. 30/2024. Mrs. Mans Farooq vs. Mr. Mans Farooq. The undersigned is the learned Judge of the Court in the above mentioned suit. The undersigned is hereby directed to issue a notice to the respondent to appear in the Court on the date mentioned in the notice. The undersigned is hereby directed to issue a notice to the respondent to appear in the Court on the date mentioned in the notice. The undersigned is hereby directed to issue a notice to the respondent to appear in the Court on the date mentioned in the notice.

NOTICE: CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

It is to inform the general public that the undersigned is hereby directed to issue a notice to the respondent to appear in the Court on the date mentioned in the notice. The undersigned is hereby directed to issue a notice to the respondent to appear in the Court on the date mentioned in the notice. The undersigned is hereby directed to issue a notice to the respondent to appear in the Court on the date mentioned in the notice.

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NOTICE TO PUBLIC

KARACHI

OUR client has contracted to purchase building situated at Plot No. 185-F measuring 900 square yards situated at Block No. 2, PCHC, Karachi. From M/S Saeed-ul-Quadrat Co-Operative Housing Society, Karachi. Through certified copy (C/O) sale deed and has from all dues, charges, encumbrances, disputes, loans, with vacant physical possession. Any person having any objection, claim should notify to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this notice. For details contact: 021-3553274/3127

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 274, 99 Feet measuring 1000 sq feet. A project entitled 'V-Avenue' situated in both island, DHA, Karachi, consisting of three (03) bedrooms with attached bath, D/D lounge, kitchen, with all necessary fittings and fixtures. Suburb (nearby) from M. Muhammad Rafiq S/o Akbar Sheikh. CNIC: 42001-9703801-7. Plot No. 274, 99 Feet measuring 1000 sq feet. A project entitled 'V-Avenue' situated in both island, DHA, Karachi, consisting of three (03) bedrooms with attached bath, D/D lounge, kitchen, with all necessary fittings and fixtures. Suburb (nearby) from M. Muhammad Rafiq S/o Akbar Sheikh. CNIC: 42001-9703801-7.

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KARACHI

REFERENCE: ADEEL CORPORATION offers 1000 / 2000 yards Phase V best prime location of KARACHI ROYAL old houses. Contact: 0000-8201120, 00002700000

REFERENCE: ADEEL CORPORATION offers 2000 yards PHASE VI Shapourni Shalimar 2x2 best rooms between hall and driveway huge lawn. Contact: 0000-8201120, 00002700000

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Growers term corporate farming detrimental to Sindh's interests

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Abolisher (SA) has expressed its grave concern over corporate farming for which millions of acres had been earmarked in the country. It termed the move detrimental to the interests of Sindh, considering the fact that the province was already facing a shortage of water.

The issue was discussed at a meeting of SAI chaired by its president Nawab Zubair Tajpur at his residence on Thursday.

The organisation of growers wanted an explanation from government as to where irrigation water flows are going to come from to irrigate the uncultivated lands.

The meeting also regretted that the federal government was planning to build six canals with in the Indus river system.

Such projects would be great injustice with Sindh, it said.

The meeting noted that Sindh's tail-end areas were getting no water.

It said that if the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Act was amended, Sindh would face irreparable losses.

The IRSA made it clear that it would not accept or approve any amendment to the Act. It also deplored federal government's plans to impose agriculture income tax, arguing that such tax was already being recovered by Sindh government.

The meeting said that the farm economy was already taxed in several ways and if more taxes were imposed, this would destroy the agriculture sector.

The meeting demanded fixing per kilo procurement price of Rs8,500 for cotton, Rs4,000 for wheat and Rs500 for sugarcane. It demanded an inquiry into the recent breach in Rohri Canal and said it was a result of negligence on the part of local irrigation officers.

It demanded action against them and compensation to be paid to farmers.

Man, woman found shot dead

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: A young man and a woman were found shot dead by unknown assailants in the riverine area of Shikarpur within the jurisdiction of the Kot Shahu police station on Thursday.

Officials at the Kot Shahu police station told the media that they had received information about the two murders and proceeded to the specified place. Finding the two bodies lying there, they transported them to the Shikarpur hospital where the man was identified as Shaaban Jatoi. The woman was yet to be identified, they said.

After a post-mortem examination, the man's body was handed over to his heirs. The police believed that the double murder was a case of honour killing. However, they said, an investigation from different angles was started to establish the motive.

'Bilawal could not become PM due to Punjab PPP's shortcomings'

Jamiluzzaman says those holding key party positions there must quit or be removed

By Mohammad Hussain Khan

HYDERABAD: Makhdoom Jamiluzzaman, a Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MNA from Hala, has expressed his sheer disappointment over performance of his party's Punjab chapter, saying that PPP will have to endeavour in the biggest province if it wants to see Bilawal becoming the prime minister.

"PPP chairman Bilawal Bhatti-Zardari cannot become PM with Sindh's votes alone. Punjab PPP leaders have been holding important party positions yet they are failing to build up requisite strength in parliament to make Bilawal premier. Therefore, they must step down or be removed," he said.

The Makhdoom was speaking at a ceremony held in a local hotel on Wednesday evening to celebrate 85th birth anniversary of his father and veteran party leader Makhdoom Amin Fakir, who also served the party as PPP-Parliamentarian president in the last years of his life.

After recounting his father's unparalleled contributions to the party, Jamiluzzaman recalled that he (Jamiluzzaman), like many other party fellows, had lagged votes with the pledge to make Bilawal premier. "Bilawal can't become PM with Sindh's votes alone. Punjab's leaders hold party positions yet they are unable to have sufficient votes of Punjab's MNAs required

to make Bilawal the PM. Bilawal loses in Lahore, the birthplace of PPP," he quipped, wondering as to where PPP's Punjab stalwarts have gone.

He observed that voters were same and they were voting for Mariyam Nawaz and Imran Khan, except Bilawal Bhatti. "Why these votes don't go to Bilawal? How will Bilawal become PM? Why is Punjab's PPP sleeping?" he asked. "And why Punjab's people are holding important party positions? They must step down or be removed," he remarked.

Jamiluzzaman mentioned Makhdoom family's long association with the PPP and its unflinching support for the party ever since it was founded by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He recalled how PPP grew bigger and bigger in Hala with people joining it in large numbers.

He pointed out that after the 2008 general elections, Anif Ali Zardari scored remarkable achievements for the PPP by grabbing all top constitutional positions at one time which had not been seen even in Z.A. Bhutto or Benazir's era.

Payng tribute to his father Makhdoom Amin Fakir, he said: "My grandpa (Makhdoom Talibuddin) the 17th Sajjadah Nabhoon of Ghosia Haq Makhdoom Sarwar Nooh share who inspired spiritual leadership of the Normani Jammat in Hala had joined PPP on my father's advice. Conditions of other shraifs started joining PPP later. My father stood with PPP till his last breath."

He regretted that despite his long association with PPP, his father faced false cases which were registered to tarnish his image. "I and my son also faced such cases. A respectable person couldn't it to me as to whose behalf it was done. This man can disclose it on

my request. But we have forgiven all this," he remarked. He said people used to advise his father to quit PPP and then to him in 2018 as well arguing that the party didn't give anything to him. "It's fact that except for a few week minister, what did party offer to us, to my jamaat and my men?" he asked in a complaining tone. He lamented that this was done by those who would dictate terms within PPP. He avoided mentioning that who were dictating terms.

Makhdoom Jamiluzzaman said: "It's an era of 'compromises' and anyone becomes premier after compromising. PPP would have to resurrect itself. Sindh's and wars are its assemblies but they have forgotten Sindh. After leaving Sukkur, no one remembers Sindh, but Karachi is remembered as the city gives income to nurture Pakistan. Airports of Sindh and Hyderabad are lying dysfunctional and K&Y of Mitharwar's era remains incomplete," he observed.

He said Bilawal alone could complete them. "We need our PM (Bilawal)," he stressed.

He said he was confident PM (Shehbaz Sharif) would not disappoint him if he would make a request to him for development works in Sindh. He said he would lead a delegation to meet Punjab leaders with the aim of reactivating PPP in that province. He said he would not leave the party, but those having positions (in Punjab) would certainly have to quit.

Jamiluzzaman said he had good ties with MQM-P's Mustafa Kamal and Anis Kaimkhani. "Anis met me and I will invite him again to exchange views. Sarwan jamaat has votes in Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Karachi and why not we vote for Murtaza candidates there. We are planning it and will go for it," he said.

Stakeholders discuss floating solar power project at Keenjhar Lake

Dawn Report

KARACHI: A stakeholder engagement workshop was held by Sindh energy department in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) on Thursday to discuss the 500 MW Floating Solar Power Project at Keenjhar Lake in Thatta district.

The workshop, organised at a hotel in Karachi, was part of a broader series of initiatives aimed at encouraging private sector investments through feasibility studies, investor match-

making and presentations at the SING Investment Fair, said a press release.

It brought together representatives from various government departments, including the public-private partnership unit and the departments of energy, irrigation, investment, agriculture and forests.

Mehboob Niyal, additional secretary of energy department, underscored the project's importance in advancing the province's renewable energy goals.

Ms Anamara Durrani, assistant resident representative at UNDP Pakistan, and Glenn Hodges, SING Finance Specialist at UN DESA, provided context

for the discussion and highlighted the crucial role of innovative financing approaches in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Representatives from the UNDP SING Investment and Climate Finance Facility and Go Energy gave a presentation on a 500 MW floating solar power project. The presentation covered the project's technical and financial parameters to fill any information gaps and establish a collaborative framework for developing its feasibility. Go Energy also highlighted the project's key features, it said.

An open discussion followed, moderated by Hamid Rashid,

climate finance expert at UNDP Pakistan and Mehboob Qazi, director of Alternative Energy, Sindh.

Participants engaged in a dialogue on the project's potential, challenges, and the next steps to mobilise private sector investment and drive economic growth in the province.

Ms Durrani reiterated UNDP's commitment to supporting Sindh government's energy initiatives and leveraging international partnerships to bring sustainable development projects to fruition.

The workshop marked a significant step in the government's efforts to attract foreign

investment and develop high-impact, SDG-aligned projects, she said.

The collaborative approach between the government, UNDP, and UN DESA set a strong foundation for future projects and underscored the importance of innovative solutions in addressing climate and energy challenges, she said.

In his concluding remarks, Mehboob Qazi thanked the UNDP Pakistan for supporting the feasibility studies of this important project at Keenjhar Lake and assured of full support on behalf of the government to the project sponsor M/s Go Energy Pvt. Ltd.

Govt urged to withdraw appeal against SHC's verdict on Tenancy Act

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Leaders and activists of Haris' (peasants') rights organisations and groups on Thursday urged Sindh government to withdraw the appeal it had filed in the apex court against Sindh High Court's judgement on the Sindh Tenancy Act and amend the law further to make it compatible with the present day conditions.

Speaking at a joint news conference in the local press club on Thursday, they said millions of women farm workers in rural Sindh were without basic rights including health, education and wages. They were engaged in agricul-

ture, livestock and fisheries sectors but were denied their rightful entitlements, they said.

Those who spoke at the press conference included Akram Ali Khakhkhali, President of the Haris Welfare Association (HWA), Husna Ghani, President of the Law (Haris) Madhwa Trade Union (LHMU) and Jamal Mahkari of the Women Madhwa Union (WMIU).

Khakhkhali said HWA's report on violence, abuse and exploitation of women in Sindh from Jan to June 2024 counted 837 cases - 174 of suicide (suspected murders), 140 of abduction, 125 of rape, 118 of murder, 68 of domestic violence, 63 of honour killing, 13 of forced marriage, six of child marriage, three of acid attacks and 127

cases of harassment in the agricultural sector. He said police did not take women's issues seriously and reporting of cases was difficult in rural areas.

Ms Ghani said that due to non-implementation of Sindh Bonded Labour System Abolition Act of 2007 and the Sindh Tenancy Act of 1950, peasants and workers faced harsh conditions often without basic human rights. She said HWA recorded release of 11,130 peasants and workers from forced labour under court orders but the district vigilance committees under Sindh Bonded Labour System Abolition Act did not take action in any district.

Merveem Gaudhari of the LHMU, Marzi, said economic conditions of

women peasants and workers were worsening due to low or no wages. The minimum wage set by government was not being observed in agricultural sector, and women earned between Rs500 and Rs700 per day.

Jamal Mahkari said STA 1950, meant to protect rights of peasants, was not implemented to protect peasants' rights despite a lapse of 75 years. He said haris were evicted by landlords and deprived of their due share in crops.

Khakhkhali urged government to amend the STA in consultation with peasants' rights bodies, trade unions, lawyers and civil society. He called for establishing special peasants' courts in each district to hear this segment's grievances.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
DOW UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
 Baba-e-Urdu Road, Karachi-74200 Pakistan.
 Tel: 9915754-57 Ext: 5814 Website: www.duhs.edu.pk

No. DUHS/WS/2024/1199 Dated: August 8, 2024

TENDER NOTICE

Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS), Karachi is a Public Sector University invites e-bids through E-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (EPADS) from well-reputed Companies / Bidders / Firms on Active Tax Payers of SRB / FBR (whichever is applicable).

S. No	NAME OF WORK	METHOD OF PROCUREMENT
1.	HIRING OF SERVICES FOR AN ARRANGEMENT OF THE MDC AT-2024 ENTRY TEST EXAM AT VARIOUS VENUES IN THE SINDH PROVINCE. (REF NO. DUHS/ W&S/NT/148)	Single Stage - Single Envelope Procedure as per rule 46 sub rule-1 of SPP Rules 2010 (Amended upto date)
2.	SUPPLY OF PRINTING ITEMS & ACCESSORIES FOR THE MDC AT-2024 ENTRY TEST EXAM (REF NO. DUHS/ W&S/NT/149)	Single Stage - Single Envelope Procedure as per rule 46 sub rule-1 of SPP Rules 2010 (Amended upto date)
3.	SUPPLY OF FOOD & OTHER RELATED ITEMS FOR THE MDC AT-2024 ENTRY TEST AT VARIOUS VENUES IN THE SINDH PROVINCE. (REF NO. DUHS/ W&S/NT/150)	Single Stage - Single Envelope Procedure as per rule 46 sub rule-1 of SPP Rules 2010 (Amended upto date)

Tender Fee	Rs. 5,000/- (Five Thousand Only) Non-Refundable in shape of Pay Order / Demand Draft in favor of Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi.
Security	Bid Security and Performance Security as mentioned in the bidding document.

E-bidding documents as per detailed terms and conditions, specifications and requirements are available for the registered bidders on Sindh Public Procurement Regulatory Authority's EPADS at <https://portal.spprra.gov.pk/> and University website <https://duhs.edu.pk> on the payment noted above (non-refundable) on any working day except the day of opening of tenders.

The electronic bids, must be submitted by using EPADS at or before closing time **28-08-2024** at 11:00 Hrs. Manual bids, shall not be accepted. Electronic bids will be opened on **28-08-2024** at 11:30 Hrs. The tender fee (non-refundable) and earnest money of total bid (refundable) in the form of Pay Order or Demand Draft issued by a Scheduled Bank of Pakistan in the favor of Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi should be submitted in the mentioned office before the deadline for submission of (Electronic) bids through EPADS which will be opened on the same day **28-08-2024** at 11:30 Hrs.

In case of any unforeseen situation resulting in closure of office on the date of opening or if Government declares Holiday the tenders shall be submitted / opened on the next working day at the same time & venue. Any conditional or un-accompanied of the earnest money, tender will not be considered in the competition.

The Procuring Agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids subject to relevant provisions of SPP Rules, 2010 (Amended upto date) and may cancel the bidding process at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal under Rule-27 of said Rules.

For any query for e-bidding may be contact to the Office of the Director Planning & Development, Dow University of Health Sciences (DMC Campus), 9th Floor Administration Block, Baba-e-Urdu Road near Civil Hospital Karachi.

DIRECTOR
Works & Services
Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi



13th SINDH AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY TANDOJAM

CONVOCATION

The Authorities of Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam hereby announce 13th Convocation in the month of September 2024.

All the interested Graduates of Academic Year 2021-22 (Batch 2K18, 2K19) for B.Sc. (Agril/Hons.), B.Sc.(Hons.) B.E. (Agril), BSIT for DVM Degree Program (Batch 2K17, 2K18) and Postgraduates (M.Sc/M.L/ MSIT/ and M.Phil) for Academic Year 2021-22 (Batch 2K20, 2K21) and Ph.Ds, who desire to receive their Degrees/Medals in the Convocation should apply to the Controller of Examinations, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam from 5th August 2024.

Last Date For Registration
30th August 2024

The application forms can be obtained from the office of the Controller of Examinations. Forms are also available on the University website: www.sau.edu.pk

Particulars	Bachelor Degree	M.Sc, M.E. & M.Phil Degree	Ph.D. Degree
Total fee (Application forms Degree Fee + Glass Hiring Charges Allocated etc.)	Rs. 10000/- Degree Fee & Rs. 2000 Allocated Membership Fee, Total Rs. 12000/-	Rs. 10000/- Degree Fee & Rs. 2000 Allocated Membership Fee, Total Rs. 12000/-	Rs. 10000/- Degree Fee & Rs. 3000 Allocated Membership Fee, Total Rs. 13000/-

For further information please contact:

<p>Manzoor Hussain Lakhari Controller of Examinations Cell No. 0300-3331644</p>	<p>Nazeer Ahmed Thaheem Assistant Controller of Examinations Cell No. 0300-3347475</p>
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Naseem wants Pakistan to focus on future

Pg.17 SPORT

ISLAMABAD
Sunset 07:04pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:23am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 29°C
Maximum 32°C
Outlook Showers

Leh slows down after rising to 'danger' level



RESCUE workers prepare for any emergency situation as Nallah Leh swells at Gawalmandi in Rawalpindi on Thursday. — Online

Met office predicts another spell from Friday; one drowns in nullah

By Asmir Yasin & Mohammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: As rain lashed Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the water level in Leh Nullah rose to 23 feet at Kattarian Bridge and 19 feet in Gawalmandi, prompting the authorities concerned to prepare for evacuations from low-lying areas along the bank of the watercourse.

The Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa), the district administration and Rescue 1122 were on high alert as Leh Nullah swelled due to rain. According to an official, the nullah would have breached its banks had it rained for another hour. In Gawalmandi, Leh spills over at 30 feet while the danger level starts at 23 feet.

In order to evacuate people in case of any emergency, the army had also arrived with its boats along with other rescue officials who were on their toes to tackle any emergency. Fortunately, the rain - which had started in the early morning - stopped in a few hours and the water level in Leh eventually receded. By 12pm, Leh was flowing at its normal level five feet in Gawalmandi and 6.5 feet at Kattarian Bridge.

In other parts of the garrison city, people spent their afternoon draining accumulated rainwater from their houses, particularly in Nadeem Colony, Trench Bhutta, Mirial Road and Arya Mohallah.

Wasa Managing Director Saleem Ashraf told Dawn that the water level in Leh increased to 23 feet at Kattarian Bridge and 19 feet in Gawalmandi but the desilting and cleaning of the nullah facilitated its discharge without any hassles within two or three hours. "The pre-alert [level] at Kattarian is at 15.4 feet and in Gawalmandi it is 8.5 feet," he said.

The official said that water in low-lying areas was cleared in the early morning and the flood response teams cleared these areas by the morning, adding that there was no hassle to traffic in the low-lying areas either.

The Meteorological Department recorded 92mm of rain at Zero Point, 55mm in Sialkot, 80mm in Goba and 73mm in Bokra, 3mm at the Islamabad airport, 58mm in Shamsabad, 58mm in Chakdala and 4mm at Kotlaury in Rawalpindi. The met official said that monsoon currents at lower tropospheric levels from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal were penetrating the upper parts of the country and were likely to penetrate central parts from Aug 9.

Another spell

A Met advisory said more monsoon rains from August

9 to August 12 would lash the country with occasional gaps.

Rain with thunderstorm (with scattered heavy falls) are expected in Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Murree, Gallian, Attock, Chakwal, Talagang, Jhelum, Mandi Bahaudin, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Wazirabad, Sahiwal, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Narwana Sahib, Chiniot, Faisalabad, Lahore, Sheikhpura, Sialkot, Narwal, Okara, Pakpattan, Kanur, Khushab and Sangolha on 9-12 August with occasional gaps.

Man killed

On Thursday, a young man was swept away in Leh Nullah after he jumped into the water for a bath. Bilal Ahmad, a resident of Daska Ratta, lost two children before.

His body could not be traced on Thursday, with the rescue operation still not to resume today.

Body of a child, namely Ali Nazeem, who drowned in Leh on Wednesday near Buzan Road was fished out by the rescue officials on Thursday whereas the search for another kid's body - who also drowned on Wednesday - remained an exercise in futility. The rescue officials retrieved the body near Chakri. Another body was found in Korang Nullah, under the railway bridge near the Airport Housing Society on Thursday. The cause of death was not ascertained.

Wasa increases water charges by over 10pc

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) has increased the water charges for domestic and commercial consumers by 10.33 pc for the next six months while terming increased charges of electricity bills.

The former Punjab caretaker government permitted increasing water charges twice a year for the adjustment of fuel charges including petrol and electricity. In 2023, water rates increased for all five major cities of the province including Rawalpindi, Lahore, Multan, Gujranwala and Faisalabad. Moreover, water supply rates for a three-marla house increased from Rs400 to Rs440 and for a five-marla house, from Rs700 to Rs770 per month.

Earlier, Rs120 per month was being charged from consumers owning five marla houses.

A senior Wasa official told Dawn that the former Punjab cabinet allowed the five Wasas of the province to adjust the prices of water charges as per fuel prices. "It is not necessary that the water charges will increase. They might decrease after six months, as per rates of petrol, diesel and electricity tariff," he said. He said that the water rates had not increased in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Gujranwala, Multan and Faisalabad since 2008. The provincial government permitted this move in 2023.

He said that it was demand of the Wasas of the five major cities to increase the water tariff to meet the expenses of the civic agencies especially after increase in electricity charges. The electricity bills of tube wells increased manifold in the last 15 years.

He said that there was no direct funding for the civic agency and it had to meet the expenses of fuel, electricity and salaries of the employees from the water and sewerage charges. He said that the electricity tariff increased and the salary of employees also increased. It is difficult for civic agencies to manage their expenditures to run the tube wells and pumping stations as well as filtration plants, he said.

Rawalpindi gets its first female CTO

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan will be succeeded by Superintendent of Police (SP) Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) Beamish Fatima, daughter-in-law of the former Inspector General of Police Punjab, on Friday as the new CTO Rawalpindi.

Ms Fatima will be the third female police officer posted as CTO in Punjab - Ammara Athar is posted as CTO Lahore while Aisha Butt is CTO Gujranwala. She is also the first female police officer posted as CTO Rawalpindi since the City Traffic Police was formed in 2007.

CTO Taimoor Khan relinquished the charge of his office after serving since November 18, 2023.

Traffic wardens showered flowers on the outgoing CTO. Mr Khan hugged the traffic officers and employees and thanked them for their support. During his tenure, he introduced several reforms including new driving schools managed by the traffic police and new driving learner/licensing centres at different locations.

Local govt polls in Islamabad on September 29

ECP bars authorities from announcing new projects, bans transfers

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: If all goes as planned, the much-delayed local government elections in the federal capital will be held on September 29, as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued the election schedule on Thursday.

In this election, one million voters would cast their votes to elect their representatives in the 125 urban councils of Islamabad. The ECP also barred the executive authorities of the city from announcing any development

project and using state resources to influence the elections in favour of a particular candidate. The ECP stated that after the issuance of this schedule, no transfer/posting of government officers and officials would be carried out in Islamabad without its prior approval.

The ECP despite issuing schedules twice in recent years could not hold the local government election in Islamabad even though the local government ended its tenure in February 2021. The election should have been held within six months but the ECP failed to conduct polls.

A schedule issued by the election watchdog on Thursday said that polling would be held on 29 September and results would be announced from September 30 to October 4.

The schedule said that from August

15, "public notice inviting nomination papers to be issued by returning officer". From August 16 to 29, nomination papers could be filed. On September 6, electoral symbols will be issued and polling will be held on September 29.

Meanwhile, the ECP also notified the district returning officer, returning officers, and assistant returning officers. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Ifraz Nazeem Memon has been notified as the district returning officer.

Elections are going to be held under the Local Government Act 2015 on the basis of which the previous polls were held. Though members of the previous Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) on many occasions criticised the act for alleged loopholes, the PTI and PML-N governments could not make

any changes to the law. In the last elections held in 2015, PML-N and PTI candidates gave tough time to each other.

Those elections were won by PML-N and Sheikh Anwar Azeem was elected as the first mayor of Islamabad. However, the MCI failed to deliver as it could not get the patronage of the then-ruling party, the PML-N. The MCI was not given any funds from the federal government nor its financial rules were finalised for proper disposal of works.

Later, the PTI came in power at the centre but it too did not pay any heed to the MCI. As a result, the first-ever local government completed its tenure in February last year without even paying the due honorarium to the UC chairman. On the last day in their office, the UC chairman were seen making efforts to get their honorarium but to no avail.

Over 1,600 cases of child abuse reported during last six months: report

By Iqram Junaid

ISLAMABAD: Sahil's Six Months Cruel Numbers data reveals that a total of 1,630 cases of child abuse were reported from across the country.

In the first six months of 2024, 862 cases of child sexual abuse, 668 cases of abduction, 82 cases of missing children and 18 cases of child marriages were reported. This year, 48 cases of pornography after sexual abuse were also recorded.

Six-monthly data shows that out of the total reported cases, (962) 59pc of victims were girls and (668) 41pc were boys.

According to a statement, Sahil is working on child protection with special focus on child sexual abuse since 1996.

It aims to develop a protective environment free from all forms

of violence for children, especially child sexual abuse.

It also provides legal, emotional and psychological support to the victims.

This year 81 daily national and regional newspapers were monitored from January to June 2024 to collect data of child sexual abuse, abduction, missing children and cases of early marriages. The areas include the four provinces along with the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), and Gilgit Baltistan (GB).

The data shows that the most vulnerable age group remains children aged 6-15 years, with 693 cases reported in this bracket. Additionally, 94 cases involved children aged 0-5 years, 211 children were from the age bracket of 16-18 years, and in 612 cases, the age of the victims was not mentioned.

In the year 2024, January-

June, the abusers involved in 67pc of the total cases were acquaintances, 18pc were strangers, while in 15pc acquaintances along with strangers committed crimes against children.

In the first six months of 2024, 78pc of the total cases were reported from Punjab and 6pc from the ICT. The rest of the cases were reported from other provinces including 11pc cases from Sindh, 3pc cases from KP, and 2pc cases from Balochistan, AJK and GB.

Out of the total reported cases, 44pc were from urban areas and 56pc were from rural areas.

This year, Sahil has also monitored the cases of violence against women. A total number 1,712 cases were reported which includes different forms of violence such as murder, suicide, abduction, rape, honour killing and torture.



A large-size national flag flies on a van in Rawalpindi on Thursday as Independence Day celebrations pick up pace in the country. — AFP

PTI student wing announces movement for revival of unions

Plans rally in Islamabad to be attended by students from different political parties and organisations

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Apparently impressed by Bangladeshi students whose protests brought down the government of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the student wing of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday demanded the revival of student unions in the country.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, representatives of Insaf Student Federation (ISF) announced to launch a movement for the restoration of Constitution and revival of the student unions in the country.

ISF President Arslan Haider, Vice President Anjad Ali and others said the country had been facing rampant inflation with exorbitant electricity bills and taxes besides a "system of fascism."

Therefore, "we are going to launch a students' movement to get the country out of crisis," they said, adding they will soon hold a rally in Islamabad which will be attended by a large number of students from different political parties and organisations.

Election at QAU not in sight

Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad has not yet announced a schedule for the election of the students' union which could have led to the revival of the students' unions across the country.

In September 2023, Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Issa while attending a QAU students meeting had lent his support to a decision to revive the students' union at the university. It was hoped that the move will pave the way for the revival of student unions in other universities as well.

After the decision, the university took considerable time in finalising rules and regulations for holding the election which were presented before the students meeting in February this year.

The students after approving a code of conduct gave the go-ahead signal to the university for holding the election in August or September this year. But so far, no further progress has been made.

A senior official of QAU, when contacted on Thursday, by Dawn to know the update on the union election, said: "Right now I have no knowledge about the election and can get the required information tomorrow."

However, another QAU official said there was no sign of holding the student elections at the university anytime soon. Rather, he said, the university wants to hold elections of the alumni first.

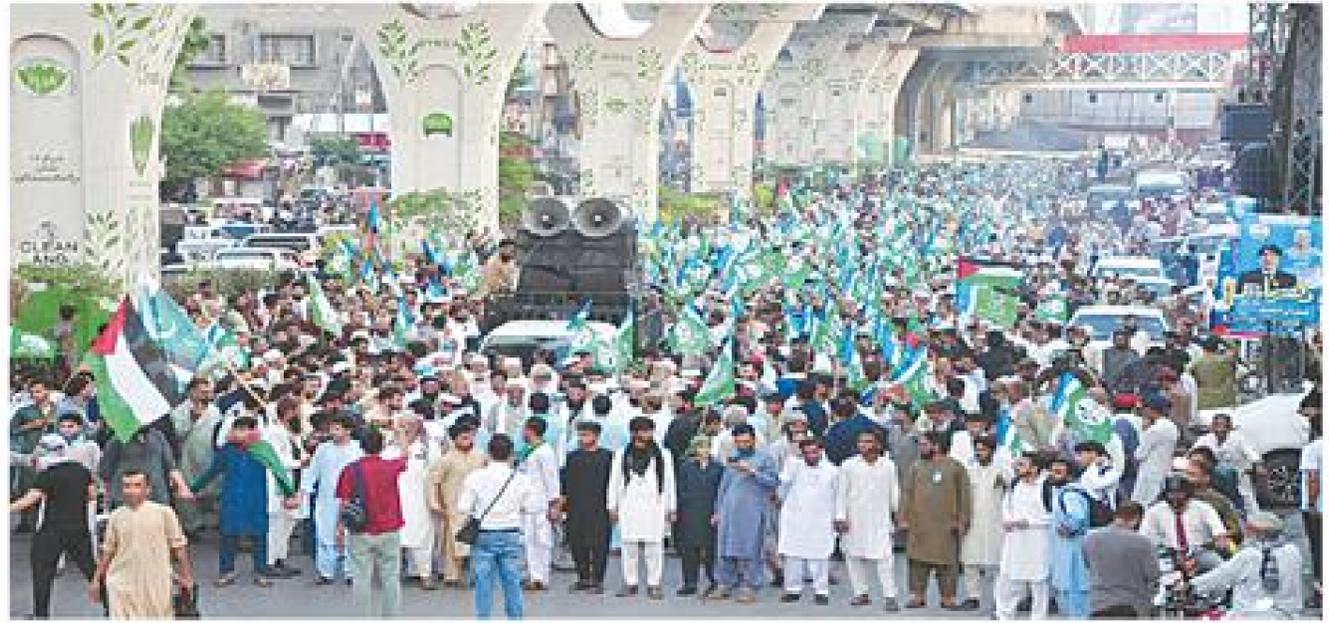
Student unions were banned in 1984 by military dictator Ziaul Haq in an effort to quell student uprisings against his oppressive policies.

The decision left a significant vacuum in Pakistan's political landscape. Four decades later, the students at QAU last year seemed poised to be the first to get their democratic rights back.

Successive governments made several commitments for the revival of student unions but none of them could take practical steps.

Earlier in 2017, the Senate of Pakistan headed by Miran Hameed passed a resolution for revival of the student unions, but nothing happened.

During the PTI government, the then prime minister Imran Khan also expressed support for the restoration of student unions following protests across the country, but he too failed to get the unions restored.



PARTICIPANTS of Ji-athon march on Marraa Road from Liaqat Bagh to Committee Chowk in Rawalpindi on Thursday. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

Contempt pleas filed against restaurants at Monal for perceived violation of SC order

So far, not a brick has been removed by operators of Monal and La Montana which clearly shows lack of intention to obey court order, says petitioner

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Two petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court seeking contempt proceedings against perceived violation of the June 11 order of the court to relocate restaurants, including Monal, out of the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) area within three months.

Moved through Advocate Umar Ijaz Gillani, the first petition was filed by a citizen, Rishi Haque, and the second by Rina Saeed Khan, highlighting her removal as the chairperson of Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB).

The petitions were moved under Article 204 of the Constitution read with Order 26 of the Supreme Court Rules 1980 as well as sections 3, 4 and 12 of the Contempt of Court Ordinance 2003.

The petition moved by Mr Haque pleaded that private businessmen operating restaurants inside the MHNP - the

proprietors of Monal and La Montana - had volunteered vacating the facilities in three months, insisting that it would take three months for dismantling the structures.

"But almost two months down the line, unfortunately, the process of dismantling of the commercial restaurants inside the national park has yet to start. Not a brick has been removed by the respondents, which clearly shows a lack of intention to obey the court order," the petition stated.

"Instead of dismantling the restaurants, the respondents namely Secretary Cabinet Kamran Ali Akbar, Interior Secretary Ahsan Ishaq, Principle Secretary to Prime Minister Anad Rehman Gilani, Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Chaudhry Mohammad Ali Razaullah Khan etc., seem to be focused on doing the very opposite," the petition alleged.

"They are dismantling IWMB, the institution which played a cardinal role in championing the cause of wildlife protection over the last few years," it alleged.

The petition requested that on July 19, 2024, the respondents removed an independent expert, Rina Saeed Khan, from the post of the IWMB chairperson and replaced her with the additional secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change.

It said this move was legally questionable since it violated the duty of public officials to disclose actual reasons for all

administrative decisions arising out of Article 4 and Section 24A of the General Clauses Act.

They also violated the duty of public officials to provide an opportunity of hearing to anyone aggrieved of their orders and also all it violated the object and purpose of the very provision which it relied upon: Section 4.

The petition requested that about a fortnight after the removal of the chairperson IWMB, the administrative control over the board was taken away from the Ministry of Climate Change and handed over to the Ministry of Interior.

This was done through a letter dated Aug 2, 2024, issued by the Prime Minister Office.

"Interesting, the board, its chairperson and its members are not even copied on this notification which shows how whimsically and non-transparently the respondents were operating," the petition alleged.

It alleged that, historically, there had been friction between IWMB and the interior ministry on account of CDA falling within the control of the latter.

The petition alleged that the CDA had been at the forefront of real-estate and commercial development in MHNP - acts not only detrimental to the environment, but also the flora and fauna. CDA has spearheaded the construction of roads in the MHNP along with granting licenses to commercial establishments in

the national park area. As a result, the primary purpose of MHNP, i.e. the protection and preservation of the flora and fauna, was jeopardised at CDA's behest, the petition alleged.

"A series of banners were erected outside the National Assembly seeking to advertise a mass housing scheme in MHNP. The fact that these banners were put up at possibly the most highly polluted locality in the country means that either the respondents were complicit in violation of the court's order regarding the preservation of the national park or they were negligent in their duty."

The Supreme Court was clear in its direction that the MHNP was to be preserved for the protection of the wildlife and for educational purposes. It is highly conspicuous that instead of striving towards the protection of the wildlife, the respondents are either complicit in or indifferent towards the construction of a major housing society in the MHNP.

The petition said recently CDA unilaterally launched a plantation drive inside the national park. This entire process was carried out without any consultation with IWMB - the legal custodian of the park - and without any independent advice from botanical experts.

This consultation process was not only the requirement of the law but was essential to ensure that only indigenous species suitable to the locality are planted.

Over 30 health ministry, Drug officers transferred

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Following the intervention by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, over 30 officers of the health ministry and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) were transferred amid allegations of malpractices.

Some insiders, however, have criticised the move as merely cosmetic, arguing that apart from a few cases, officers have been shuffled rather than the initiation of investigations and suspensions.

According to notifications, available with Dawn, Director General (DG) Health Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Khan, who also had charge of Federal

Directorate of Immunisation (FDI), has been removed from both posts and assigned to Sindh as its new District Health Officer (DHO) District South Karachi. The Establishment Division has been requested to issue his registration order as his services are no longer required.

National Coordinator - Common Management Unit (CMU) for AIDS, TB and Malaria Dr. Raza Khatir Farooq has been terminated with immediate effect.

Similarly, Deputy Director Admin Federal General Hospital Dr. Mir Muhammad Hassan Bullo has been removed.

Mohd Kabir Khalil, Muhammad Ishaq, Imran Ali, Rizwan Nadeem and Faraz Khan have been trans-

ferred within the health ministry.

In Drug, Dr. Akhter Abbas, Ajmal Sohail Aidi, Dr. Ghazal Ali Khan, Dr. Syed Zia Hameed, Musarrat Khan, Mehvish Anwar, Sakarum Wassam Phillips, Uma Laila, Akhtar Ali, Raza Aman ul Haq Athar, Mehvish Jamil Bari, Iqra Athar, Hassan Aftab, Anasullah, Akbar Wahneed, Farooq Ahsan, Farzana Raja, Shahzad Ali, Mehvish Tanzeem, Shafiq Hussain, Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, Rabunwar Khan, Hamza Malik, Iqbal Haq and Kabir ul Din have been transferred. They have been directed to ensure proper handover of official records.

Additional charge of post of DG Health has been assigned to DG Population Dr. Shabana Siddiqui for a period of three months or till further orders.

Moreover, Ghazala Rashid Memon has been appointed as DG Development in the health ministry.

Source indicate that these transfers were made under the directions of the Prime Minister Office, following a detailed inquiry conducted by intelligence and security agencies, the report for which was submitted to the PM Office.

A Drug official, requesting not to be quoted, said that Drug lacked an internal accountability system. He accused the health ministry of covering up malpractices in the authority and security agencies had to initiate an inquiry.

"I believe that the transfers in the Drug are an eye-wash as officers, who were involved in malpractices, have been just shuffled. Some of them have been transferred to Quality Management System (QMS) where there will do nothing but relax. In the past, officers used to be dumped in Federal Drug Surveillance Laboratories," he said.

The official said that according to Drug Act, the authority should establish laboratories, as it has to deal with therapeutic goods, cosmetics and drug devices along with medicines.

FACULTY REQUIRED FOR THE GOMAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY MTI DIKHAN VACANT POSITION

Applications are invited for the posts of Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors (Operative Dentistry, Prosthodontics, Periodontology, Orthodontics, Oral Medicine, Oral Biology & Tooth Morphology, Science of Dental Materials, Community Dentistry, Oral Pathology, Paediatric Dentistry and Dental Education & Research Department)

Senior Registrars/ Registrars (Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Operative Dentistry, Prosthodontics, Periodontology, Orthodontics, Oral Medicine), Demonstrators (Dental Graduate) for all the above-mentioned Departments.

ELIGIBILITY:
 1. Qualification and Experience: As per PMDC criteria.
 2. MTI Act 2015 (Amended) till date & MTI Regulations 2019 will be applicable.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:
 1. The applications accompanied by a bank draft of Rs. 1000/- in A/C No. 0004-3007942411 Bank of Khyber Circular Road Dikhan along with detail CV and attested copies of relevant documents, Experience certificates, original research publications and addresses of two referees should reach to the office of undersigned within 15 days of the publication of this advertisement. 2. Civil Servants shall apply through proper channel, however, they can send their application in advance. 3. Attractive salary package and benefits will be offered to selected candidates. 4. Number of vacancy can be increased/ decreased by competent authorities without notice. 5. Original documents shall be produced at the time of interview/test. 6. In complete & late received applications will not be entertained. 7. Those candidates who already applied for the above posts previously will need a fresh apply. 8. The services of selectees will be governed by the MTI (Amended) Act and Regulations. 9. The posts, which are sub-judice will be filled after the decision of Hon'ble Court/ MTI Appellate Tribunal. 10. No TA/DA will be admissible.

PROJECT DIRECTOR
 BDS PROGRAM, GOMAL MEDICAL COLLEGE MTI DIKHAN
 EXCHANGE: 0966-747052
 INF / P / 1953 / 2024

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR INSTITUTE OF KIDNEY DISEASES HAYATABAD PESHAWAR MTI-HMC # 091-9217261-63

SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited for the following posts under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Teaching Institution (MTI) Reference Act, 2015 (amended from time to time) of Institute of Kidney Diseases (IKD), MTI-HMC Hayatabad Peshawar from qualified candidates belonging to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa newly merged Districts of FATA as prescribed form available on TN Districts i.e. www.kdpshsawagip.pk.

Sl	Name of Post	BPE	Age Limit	Recruitment Rules & s. Qualification, experience etc)
1	Assistant Professor Transplant Urology	18	26-45 Years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/ specialty (the FCPM/SM/SC-OR other equivalent level III qualifications in the specialty (Urology/ Nephrology) approved by SRC and recognized/ Registered by the PMDC.
2	Assistant Professor Uro-Oncology	18	26-45 years	a) Ten year Fellowship in the relevant specialty OR Three year's clinical experience in relevant specialty from recognized institute after level-II qualification Publications: Two Publications in the relevant subject will be preferred.
3	Assistant Professor Urology	18	26-45 years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/ specialty (the FCPM/SM/SC-OR other equivalent level III qualifications in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/ Registered by the PMDC.
4	Assistant Professor Anesthesia	18	26-45 years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/ specialty (the FCPM/SM/SC-OR other equivalent level III qualifications in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/ Registered by the PMDC. Experience: Two years clinical experience in the relevant specialty from recognized institute after level-II qualification will be preferred. Publications: Two Publications in the relevant subject will be preferred.
5	Assistant Professor Pediatric Nephrology	18	26-45 years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC/SM/SC. b) PMDC level III qualification Nephrology/Pediatrics (the FCPM/SM/SC-OR other equivalent level III qualification in Pediatrics Nephrology OR Two years clinical experience in the relevant specialty from recognized institute after level-II qualification. Publications: Two Publications in the relevant subject will be preferred.
6	Specialist Registrar Urology & Transplant	Contract	26-45 years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/specialty (Urology/ Nephrology) (the FCPM/SM/SC-OR other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by the SRC & Recognized/ Registered by the PMDC.
7	Specialist Registrar Nephrology	Contract	26-45 years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/specialty (the FCPM/SM/SC-OR other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by the SRC & Recognized/ Registered by the PMDC level-II qualification in Anesthesia/ Paediatrics/ Medicine with Fellowship qualification in intensive care or anesthesia or diploma in anesthesia or intensive care or Paediatrics.
8	Specialist Registrar ICU	Contract	26-45 years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/specialty (the FCPM/SM/SC-OR other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by the SRC & Recognized/ Registered by the PMDC level-II qualification in Anesthesia/ Paediatrics/ Medicine with Fellowship qualification in intensive care or anesthesia or diploma in anesthesia or intensive care or Paediatrics.

Terms & Conditions: 1- The service of selected candidates for the posts from serial 07 to 08 (contractual position) will be for a period of 01 year further extendable upon three approval of the BoG, MTI HMC for a maximum 03 years once in career. 2- Processing fee (non-refundable) amounting to Rs.500 should be deposited in online Account titled "DIRECTOR INSTITUTE OF KIDNEY DISEASES PRACTICAL TRAINING ACCOUNT HAYATABAD PESHAWAR" Account # "PLS 300194829" Bank of Khyber HMC Branch Hayatabad Peshawar Branch Code 2555. Fee can be deposited at any Bank of Khyber Branch. 3- Application accompanied with Original Bank receipt, complete bio data, WhatsApp no (mandatory), cell #, two recent attested passport size pictures and attested photocopies of academic/experience documents must reach to the office of the undersigned during working hours within 15 days (15 days will count from the date of first advertisement is issued). 4- An application received after the closing date and time will not be accepted and shall be automatically sent rejected. 5- If closing date for the receipt of applications form falls on an official holiday the next working day shall be considered as the closing date for hard copy of the application only. 6- Interview calls will be issued to short listed candidates only. Short listing will be done either by written test or by their pre-interview marks. The result of the written test will be for screening about listing purpose only and shall in no way affect the pre-interview or interview marks. 7- The Scrutiny Committee shall be competent to reject applications which are incomplete. However, the approved candidates can appeal to the competent forum for review. The decision of the competent forum three of shall be final. 8- Only attend only photocopies of the documents will be acceptable on the condition that the candidates would bring the original documents when they are called for interview. 9- Candidates will be cancelled if any candidate found ineligible at any stage for any reason and in that further application will not be processed further. 10- In service candidates should apply through proper channel. 11- The competent authority has the right to increase/decrease the number of vacancies or can cancel/withdraw all or some of the vacancies at any time without giving/issuing any reason. 12- Experience/higher qualification marks will be given to those candidates who have relevant experience/qualification and only post qualification relevant experience will be considered. 13- Candidates may be disqualified/eliminated from interview if he/she is: a) Convicted by court of law, b) Dismissed from public service commission, c) Furnishes any false information, d) Submits forged certificates, e) Tampered with the entries in his/her candidature by improper means, f) Misbehaves in the interview. 14- The candidates claiming age relaxation shall be bound to provide age relaxation certificate from competent authority or government rules/regulations regarding age relaxation with the application form otherwise they shall be considered as disqualified. 15- Date of birth shall invariably be the date of birth entered on the multiplicator's equivalent certificate. 16- Errors, omissions, if any, are liable to rectification by the Institute. No TA/DA is admissible for test/interview.

DIRECTOR INSTITUTE OF KIDNEY DISEASES HAYATABAD PESHAWAR INF(P) 1971/24

LAHORE

Sunset 06:54 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:32 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 27.0°C
Maximum 35.0°C
Outlook Cloudy

AQI

Maximum (Yesterday) 122

METRO

Central



Naseem wants Pakistan to focus on future

Pg.19 SPORT



CLERKS protest at Shikha Pahari Chowk in favour of their demands. — Write Star

PTI's plea for rally DC also rejected Nasser Bagh, Mochi Gate venues, LHC told

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court was told on Thursday that the deputy commissioner also rejected PTI's request for holding a rally at Nasser Bagh or Mochi Gate on Aug 13, following the earlier denial to allow the event at Minara-Pakistan.

An assistant advocate general stated during the hearing of a petition filed by PTI Lahore chapter President Akmal Khan, challenging the DC's refusal to grant permission for a rally in the city.

The government's lawyer also presented the DC's report rejecting the PTI's request for the rally.

However, Justice Ali Raza Nadeem expressed dissatisfaction

with the DC's report.

PTI's lawyer Khuram Latif Khan said the DC had rejected the request for the rally despite change of the venue. He said the dates had also been changed and suggested allowing the rally on another day, if not on Aug 13 or 14, proposing Aug 18 or 20 dates for the party event.

The government's lawyer said that Nasser Bagh had recently undergone renovation, so a public gathering could not be allowed there, while political rallies were also not allowed at Mochi Gate.

The PTI lawyer said his client complied with the court's order and submitted requests for new locations.

Referring to Jaran-e-Islami's ongoing sit-in in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, the

judge asked what the government had to say about it.

The law officer said the requests from the PTI and two other political parties had been rejected.

However, he said that JI had not been granted permission for the sit-in.

The judge then asked what action had been taken against the JI, to which the law officer expressed his ignorance, saying cases against the party officials might have been registered in Rawalpindi.

The judge remarked that how a ban could be placed on a particular political party's rally.

Justice Nadeem asked the law officer if the petitioner's party submits an affidavit for complying with the government conditions. The judge observed that if,

despite that [an affidavit], the PTI engages in illegal activities, the law will take its course.

"What are you afraid of? You are in the government, it's your government. If there's a small plot in the city, like two or five marlas, they can hold their rally there," the judge asked the government's lawyer.

The law officer wondered how they (the PTI followers) can fit in such a small space.

The judge adjourned the hearing for Friday and instructed the law officer to seek further instructions from the government.

NOTICE: Justice Shabir Ahmad Chaudhry of the Lahore High Court on Thursday issued a notice to the deputy commissioner on a PTI petition for permission to hold a cake-cutting

ceremony at the Liberty roundabout on the Independence Day.

PTI Punjab Senior Vice President Afzal Azeem Patafi filed the petition, challenging the refusal to grant permission for the event on Aug 14.

The Punjab government's lawyer Khawaja Mohsin opposed the petition.

The petitioner's lawyer, Babbar Raza pointed out that Aug 14 is a national day, and PTI wishes to hold a cake-cutting ceremony at Liberty Chowk on the night between Aug 13 and 14.

She said a request was submitted to the DC for this purpose, but permission was denied.

The judge directed the government's lawyer to submit a detailed response on Aug 12.

'Conditional apology' PML-N leaders reject Imran's offer

LAHORE: The PML-N leaders, rejecting former prime minister Imran Khan's offer to tender a conditional apology, leading to any reconciliation with the military establishment, over May 9 events, insisted the PTI leader should be punished for "orchestrating" the violent episode.

They say the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder leader Imran Khan should not be pardoned even if he seeks an apology for May 9 riots. Mr Khan had on Wednesday offered to tender an apology for the May 9 riots, provided the involvement of PTI supporters in the violence was proved.

Referring to Khan's offer, Punjab Information Minister Arnis Bokhari said on Thursday that the "mastermind" of the May 9 incidents was asking for forgiveness.

"The person who once claimed

that he would not grant anyone an NRO is now pleading for mercy. Even if Imran Khan tries to clear his name, the dark stains on his reputation cannot be erased," she said.

The minister alleged that Mr Khan incited people and manipulated their minds. "These unfortunate individuals turned the streets of our national heroes," she said.

Ms Bokhari further said that on the day Imran Khan was arrested, his boy association urged people to take to the streets. "The day after his arrest, Imran Khan himself admitted that the public reacted to his arrest," she added.

She said that under the leadership of PTI leaders Yasmin Rashid, Ijaz Chaudhry and Mehsoob Raza, the party activists attacked the

Mianwali DPO removed over corruption complaints

By Ajit Chaudhry & Khurshid Ahmad Khan

LAHORE/MIANWALI: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz removed the Mianwali district police officer (DPO) on Thursday over corruption complaints and directed the Inspector General of Police to replace him with a "suitable" officer.

The action was initiated during the CM's visit to the Mianwali district where she spent a busy day. Choosing a meeting at the DC office which was also attended by local politicians, matters pertaining to the police operation against hardened criminals and crime also

came under discussion.

Official sources said the CM was briefed about numerous serious complaints of corruption in the district police.

Maryam Nawaz expressed her utter displeasure over the complaints, saying she had already issued directions to show zero tolerance towards corruption in the police department.

Taking a prompt action, she ordered the removal of DPO Murtaza and issued directions to replace him with an experienced officer of integrity. IGP Dr Usman Azeem confirmed to Dawn that the CM had removed the Mianwali DPO following complaints of corruption and inefficiency. Posted in

Feb 2023, Mr Murtaza served Mianwali for 18 months or so.

Late in the night on Thursday, the IGP issued a notification of his transfer, directing him to report to the Central Police Office still further order.

During her visit to the DPO Hospital, the CM announced to establish the first outreach for cardiac patients in Mianwali.

It was decided to undertake militarisation of agricultural taluqas in the area of Chaudry in Mianwali. The CM reviewed development projects for Mianwali. Local media was not allowed to cover her visit due to security concerns.

Delayed Walton Road project a constant nuisance

The project whose deadline was July September-end

By Imran Ghalib

LAHORE: The much-awaited Walton Road project, initially slated for completion by the end of July, has faced significant delays, causing widespread frustration among local residents and shopkeepers. The project, aimed at upgrading the road infrastructure and improving traffic flow, has been plagued by various setbacks, causing a delay in the completion of the project.

Residents and shopkeepers along the Walton Road have expressed their concerns as the Central Business District (CBD) has failed to complete the project within the seven-month timeline and is now asking for additional time. The delay in construction has heavily impacted businesses and properties in the area.

"The delay is causing us a lot of trouble. Our sales have dropped because customers avoid the area due to the construction mess. The noise and dust pollution are unbearable and the traffic congestion is disrupting our daily activities," says Ahmed Raza, a shopkeeper.

The CBD launched the project in November 2023, covering an 18km stretch from Walton Airport to the Hussara Drain. One of the main parts of the project is to clear and cover the Airport Drainage Authority (ADA) drain, which runs parallel to the road and has become a source of pollution and flooding, especially during the monsoon.

The ADA drain, originally built to manage 80 cusecs of rainwater, has been contaminated with sewage from various localities, including Askari, Badliya, Cavalry Grounds, Walton, and Falcon Colony. This contamination has raised the drain's level by four feet, reducing its capacity to handle rainwater and causing frequent overflows during the monsoon, leading to water logging and traffic jams on the Walton Road.

Residents and shopkeepers along the road have raised concerns about the slow pace of work, especially with the current monsoon rains exacerbating these problems. "The elevated road level means rainwater from the road is entering our shops and homes, damaging our properties," complains Ayeesha Khan, a resident of the road. "The delay is making things worse," she adds.

On Thursday, Lahore Commissioner Zaid Bin Masood held a meeting to review the progress of the Walton Road Development Scheme.

CBD Executive Director Technical Riaz Hussain briefed the meeting, saying that the 8km long Walton Road, having six lanes, would be completed by the end of September. He reported the project was 25pc complete and the 4.3km deep trunk drain on road had been completed 100pc.

The commissioner also reviewed the construction progress of the Walton Road Trunk Drain System, flowovers, disposal stations and sewers. He said that the street water would not flow back into street sewer lines after construction of rider sewers on the Walton Road. An underground trunk for utilities was being constructed and green belts would also be built.

It has been revealed during the meeting that two disposal stations are being constructed on the Walton Road, with work on one station 75pc complete and the other 55pc done. The old Nullah on Walton Road would be demolished and wastewater would pass through the deep trunk drain. The commissioner directed the CBD to complete the Walton Road project as per the deadline.

Dengue cases on the rise in Punjab

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Following rains, dengue cases are on the rise in Punjab as 20 people tested positive for the virus during the last one week or so across the province.

The public health experts warned that the number of cases may further increase in the days to come following the stagnant water in the streets, ponds, rooftops of the buildings and on open places due to the spells of rain.

According to the official figures, 57 dengue positive cases were reported across Punjab during the last 30 days.

On the other hand, some officials claimed that the health authorities were not properly reporting statistics pertaining to the dengue fever cases. They feared that the number of dengue cases may be 30 times more than what is being reported officially.

They said the family physicians running clinics in streets across Punjab were also reporting a considerable number of patients visiting with dengue fever symptoms.

The health authorities would have to expedite the anti-dengue activities to check and destroy larvae to stop breeding of the mosquitoes causing dengue fever. The experts suggested.

Family stranded in flooded house rescued

By Our Correspondent

MIANWALI: As many as 14 members of a family stranded in a flooded house situated in the Katcha area were rescued.

Reports said rescue officials received a call from Shekhal village of Mianwali to rescue a family from flood. The rescue teams rushed to the affected area and rescued 14 members of the family beside belongings and cattle heads.

It is surprising that despite repeated announcements by the district administration to vacate Katcha area with flood threat due to rising water flow of the Indus which spread from Kalabagh after emerging out of mountains and inundated areas in Mianwali and Isakhel tahsil, people remained unmoved.

The district administration has arranged various flood relief and medical camps in Katcha area and rescue teams are alerted to evacuate stranded people. Mianwali Deputy Commissioner Khalid Javed Goraya visited by boat flood-affected area in Katcha and checked all the relief camps. He met people still living there who demanded declaring flood-hit areas as calamity-stricken due to loss of huge chunk of crops spread over hundreds of acres due to flood. In Isakhel tahsil, full torrent inflicted a huge loss followed by the swollen Indus.

Playwright case key suspect sent to jail

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Thursday sent the key male suspect, Hassan Shah, to jail for his identification parade in the case of alleged honey-trap, kidnap for ransom and torture of known playwright Khulid Rahman Qamar.

The police presented the suspect before the court with his face covered.

The investigating officer (IO) had asked Hassan Shah to blackmail the playwright. He said together, both suspects planned the playwright's kidnapping.

He said Shah, along with his other accomplices, kidnapped Qamar and demanded Rs1 million ransom.

The IO requested the court to allow shifting of the suspect to jail for identification parade.

The suspect's lawyer opposed sending his client to jail for identification parade, claiming Shah was innocent.

However, Judge Khalid Arshad noted that all the suspects, including Mr Arooj, had stated that Hassan Shah was the main culprit.

The judge allowed the request for the identification parade of the suspect and directed the police to present him again on Aug 15 after completion of the legal procedure.

In this case, nine other suspects are on physical remand with the police, while Mr Arooj has been sent on judicial remand and her bail petition is pending with the court.

Man throws 'unwanted' daughter into canal

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: In a shocking incident of gender-based hate crime, a man allegedly threw his infant daughter into a canal on Thursday for not having a boy.

The incident happened at village Chak Fateh Shah of Dinga Taluka.

Rescue 1122 team launched a search for the body of the three-month-old girl in the Upper Jhelum Canal.

Initial investigation said AS Ahmed Raza Sahri was not happy after he could not have a baby boy with his wife as his daughter was born three months ago. He used to quarrel with his wife.

On Thursday again, he had a quarrel with his wife over the same matter, snatched the baby girl from his wife and threw her into the canal near his house.

Police and Rescue 1122

officials were informed about the incident. A team of divers reached the spot and launched a search for the body.

A spokesman for Gujrat Police said District Police Officer Muzammil Atta Rajwa had taken immediate notice of the incident and directed the Diga Station House Officer Inspector Mushtaq Ahmad for a strict action against the suspect. Police arrested the suspect after registration of a case against him.

ROBBERIES: A man was robbed by the unidentified armed men on the bypass road.

The armed men snatched Rs10,900 cash from Saifullah, a resident of Rehmanabad Road, and fled.

In another incident, a scooter worth Rs10,000 was stolen from the house of Amroz Hamza in the Mogowal police precincts. Police said it had registered the case.

Socioeconomic registration centres 75 Chinot teachers served notices over 'poor performance'

Public school teachers say they are sick of extra duties

By Aurangzeb Malik

CHINOT: As many as 75 teachers of different public schools of Lalian, Bhowsani and Chinnot talukas have been issued show cause notices by the district education authorities for showing "inefficiency" with regard to registration of deserving persons at Punjab Socioeconomic Registration (PSER) centres.

These public school teachers, who had been assigned special duty to register poor people

across the district at PSER centres, have been issued notices for personal hearing and submitting replies, by the deputy district education officers (DDDEOs) concerned.

The notices issued to the 75 teachers by Bhowsani DDDEO, say that as per the report of monitoring officers, they were found absent from duty at (PSER) centres on Aug 7 during the surprise visit by assistant education officers.

The teachers were directed to attend the office of the competent authority for "personal hearing" along with written reply. Non-compliance or delay will be considered as misconduct and further action will be taken under relevant laws, the

notices warn. Similarly, Chief DDDEO issued notices to 30 teachers, saying that as per dashboard, they were mentioned "inactive" during the PSER survey and were directed to appear before the competent authority for personal hearing with written reply, or face further action under law.

The notice issued by Lalian taluk DDDEO to 34 teachers says they have made "zero entry" in the at the PSER centre which is tantamount to "inefficiency and misconduct".

The administration has established some 200 PSER centres in the district for computerized registration of deserving people visiting these points. The teachers lament that

they are already burdened with additional tasks like police drops administration, making entries for census, performing election duties etc, and now PSER duties have been added to the list.

They condemned the issuance of "show cause notices" with regard to a task which is not included in their job description.

Punjab Teachers Union President Saifur Kiraj Kalra has strongly condemned the issuance of notices to the 75 teachers, claiming they remained present at the PSER centres the whole day.

"If no one visits the centre to get registered, how teachers could make any entry into the computer data," he asked. He argued that bringing peo-

ple for registration at the PSER centres was the duty of patwari and secretary union council etc, not the teachers. "The show cause notices should have been issued to those who have failed to bring people to these centres," Mr. Kalra said.

He demanded Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat to relieve the teachers of such extra duties as they could focus on their core assignment of teaching to help improve the quality of education in the public sector schools of the province.

He also demanded the minister to direct officers concerned to withdraw these "unreasonable notices" issued to 75 teachers of Chinot district.

Contract with Chinese firm for water treatment plant

By Our Correspondent

TORA TUK SINGH: A contract was signed on Thursday between the Water and Sewerage Agency (WASA), Faisalabad, and China Machinery Engineering Corporation for construction of phase-II of the surface water treatment plant.

WASA Project Director Saqib Raza and Chinese company's General Manager Wuyang signed the agreement.

Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh, FDA Director General Muhammad Anif Chaudhry, WASA Managing Director Amir Aziz, Additional Secretary Housing Department Umar Farooq and Deputy Secretary PWD Umar Hanif were also present.

Saqib Raza, while briefing on the project, said 25m gallons of water per day would be obtained from the phase-II of the project while another 5m gallons of water would be obtained per day by expanding the phase-I. He said the construction of the project would officially start from Sept 1 and it would be completed within three years while a soft loan of 94m Euros has been provided by AFD for it.

Mr Wu Guang presented his company's portfolio and said that he was very excited to start the project. He said he had already completed 21 projects in Pakistan. WASA MD Amir Aziz said there was a shortage of drinking water in the eastern part of the city and the project would provide water to the residents of the area on a daily basis.

The FDA DG and DC Abdullah Nayyar also spoke.

PARK: A central public park is being established at FDA City over an area of 84 kanals. FDA Director General Anif Chaudhry said this during a meeting in which the implementation of the Central Public Park plan was reviewed.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Mehr Ayaz, Project Director Sohail Masood Pata, Horticulture in-charge Rana Rajal and other officers while Mr Raza, the designing expert of PEA, gave a briefing on the design.

The Central Public Park would include a lake and a jogging track.

DRINK: A harvester hit a motorcycle at Akmalpur Sial, Jhang.

As a result of the accident, labor

Muhammad Sabir (21), a resident of Feroz Nagar, was critically injured. He was shifted to the taluk headquarters hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

ARRESTED: Multan-based police in Faisalabad arrested a suspect and his two accomplices wanted in murder and terrorism cases.

The main suspect was identified as Zaidan Ibrahim, a resident of Chak 186-SR, Dhillonwala. Police recovered a Kalashnikov and other weapons from his car. Police impounded his car also.

Before his arrest, the suspect chided police and blocked the traffic on the Kashmir Road by brandishing weapons and harassing the motorists; however, heavy police force overpowered him and his accomplices.

PML-N leaders

Continued from Page 13

Lahore Corps Commander's House, while Hassan Niazi (Ismail's nephew) beat the corps commander's uniform. At the time of the attack on the Corps Commander House, Ahsana Khan, Umma Khan, and Razi Khan (Ismail's son) were present, she alleged.

She said the video evidence of the attacks on military installations and sensitive agency's offices was available. "The courts do not even accept irrefragational apologies, how come the people of Pakistan accept conditional apologies for bearing the status of martyrs," Mr Bekhri said.

PML-N leader Javed Latif said if Ismail Khan was not given punishment because of international pressure, the nation would not forgive this.

He said Khan still has his "sympathisers in the institutions", alleging that the "network of former CJP Saqib Nisar and ex-183 chief Fiaz Hamid" was still in place.

PML-N Senator Taha Chaudhry also pleaded for hardening down punishment to Mr Khan. — Staff Reporter

Police on high alert after attack on picket

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Police have been put on high alert in Rajapur after marauders of a policeman while defending his picket against the attack of bandits.

On Wednesday, a policeman died while two of his colleagues were critically injured after armed bandits opened fire on a police picket in Pataun Landa in Sonmiani, Rajhan Manzil.

In response to the attack, Additional IG south Punjab Muhammad Kamran Khan and RPO DG Khan retired Capt Sajjad Hassan Khan con-

ducted a thorough inspection of Rajapur's Rajhan Tehsil on Thursday. Their focus was on the riverine area, the Inter-Provincial Check Post Shahwali, and the security of the Parvo pipeline along the Indus Highway.

During the visit, officials assessed the overall law and order situation and reviewed existing security measures. Rajapur DPO retired Capt Dost Muhammad briefed the higher authorities on the situation in the Rajhan area. The additional IG reviewed security provisions,

including the Smart Verification and Alert System (SVAS) and Anti-Vehicle Car Lifting System (AVLS) and emphasised the need for continuous monitoring through CCTV cameras. Orders were issued to keep all police camps, pickets, and stations on high alert.

RPO Sajjad Hassan Khan commended the police for their bravery and dedication in maintaining peace in the riverine area, assuring them of full support in their ongoing efforts to combat crime. — Correspondent

Man shot by robbers for offering resistance

NAROWAL: In yet another incident in the district, robbers allegedly injured a man for offering resistance during a robbery as police failed to arrest the criminals.

In third such incident occurring in the area in the last one, Shakool Ahmed (23), a milk seller, was intercepted by four armed men on two motorcycles near Mallikpur village.

When he offered resistance, the robbers opened fire, leaving the milkman seriously injured. They fled away after snatching cash and a mobile phone from Shakool.

A Rescue 1122 team called to the scene shifted the injured man to the district headquarters hospital after providing him first aid.

The injured milkman was referred to Lahore by the DHO hospital doctors, given his critical condition.

Local police also reached the spot and completed legal formalities.

Locals, including Muhammad Hafiz and Raza Usman Ali, said earlier a police Sub-Inspector Muhammad Arif and a local, Jafar Hussain, were injured by robbers in the area during the last month.

They regretted that Narowal police have failed to arrest the robbers involved in these incidents. They demanded Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Inspector General of Police Dr Usman Arwar should take immediate notice of the situation and do the needful. — Correspondent

GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT SOUTH PUNJAB SECRETARIAT BAHAWALPUR

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Government of the Punjab, Irrigation Department, South Punjab Secretariat, Bahawalpur invites e-bids from interested firms/general order suppliers/manufacturers for supply of following "General Store and Miscellaneous Items" under Framework Contract during the financial year 2024-25 (extendable for further 03-months) under the provisions of PPFRA Rules 2014 (Amended up-to-date). Tender bids, both Technical and Financial, are invited from the registered companies/firms/suppliers of the Lots mentioned below through e-PADS only by 10:00 AM on 26-08-2024. Bidders will be opened on the same day at 10:30 AM.

Lot#	Detail
1	ACC201 - Stationery
2	ACC202 - Printing & Publication
3	ACC242 - Coat of Other Stores etc.
4	ACC250 - Computer Stationery
5	ACC270 - Office
6	ACC301 - Entertainment & Gifts
7	ACC301 - Hardware
8	ACC301 - Purchase of Plant & Machinery
9	ACC301 - Purchase of Furniture and Fixture
10	A12001 - Transport (Buses)

- Bidding shall be conducted on e-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (e-PADS) through Single Stage - Two Envelopes Procedure specified in the Punjab Procurement Rules PPFRA 2014 (Amended upto date) and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the bidding document.
- Interested eligible bidders may download bidding documents from e-PADS (free of cost) or obtain from office of the undersigned on submission of written application along with payment of tender fee Rs.1000/- non-refundable. Interested firms are required to deposit bid security 40% of the total estimated value of bid in the name of Section Officer (General/Admin), Irrigation Department, South Punjab, Bahawalpur in form of Bank Draft/ Pay Order/CDR falling within the bid shall be considered as non-responsive and rejected.
- Bidding documents are also available on PPFRA website (www.pppa.punjab.gov.pk) until the closing date for the submission of bids.
- Bidding Documents must be accompanied by a Bid Security valid for 120-days as mentioned above in the form of CDR, Pay Order & Demand Draft from a scheduled Bank of Pakistan.
- The bidders are requested to give their best and final prices as no negotiation is expected.
- Taxes will be deducted as per applicable Government Rules.
- Active NTN and Sales Tax Registration Certificate are mandatory.
- Place of Submission of Bid: e-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (e-PADS).

For obtaining any further information or clarification, please contact at the following:

- Landline No. 062-9250575
- Email: ecp@irrigation.southpb@gmail.com

Section Officer (General/Admin)
Irrigation Department
South Punjab, Bahawalpur
Office Ph: 062-9250575

PUNJAB HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE

The tenders for the following schemes are invited from engineering firms / Contractors on the firm rate basis, as per PPFRA E-Tendering System, in line with relevant PPFRA Rules, (Amended upto date). According to these Rules, all the firms / contractors can participate in tendering process with the following terms and conditions:

- The intending contractors / firms who have been registered with Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant category / codes may participate.
- The contractors / firms have to be registered on Punjab PPFRA website (www.punjab.gov.pk). Any information / procedure regarding registration can be seen / obtained from website www.pppa.punjab.gov.pk.
- All intending contractors / firms have to upload the earnest money in the form of CDR in favour of the Executive Engineer 40% of the estimated / bid cost and bid rates against terms of work on the same website upto half hour before the opening date and time of opening of tenders. However, original CDR has to be submitted to the Tender Opening Committee on the same day, half hour before the opening of bids; otherwise, the firms / contractors will be disqualified in presence of Tender Opening Committee.
- After filing the bids on website, the contractors may attend the office of Commissioner Faisalabad Division Faisalabad on 26-08-2024 at 2:00 PM, where all bids will be retrieved and quoted rates / successful bidder will be announced in presence of Tender Opening Committee.
- In case of submission of any false information / document such as CDR / receipt, the contractor / firm will be disqualified from the current tendering procedure and will be blacklisted to participate in any tendering process of GHW Department. Further recommendation to PPFRA and PEO will also be made against such firm / contractor for appropriate action / blacklisting.
- The Procuring Agency may reject all bids / proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal under PPFRA Rule-25 (Disposal of Bids).
- Flag pavement shall be laid by using concrete batching plant and concrete paving machine.
- TST / DST / surfacing shall be executed by mechanized system.
- Necessary against credit of old material will be adjusted manually and accordingly the bids will be evaluated.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost / Estimated Bid	T & B Date	Contract Period	Estimated Cost / Estimated Bid	Opening Date & Time
1	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	Rs.1,00,00,000	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	Rs.1,00,00,000	26-08-2024 at 10:30 AM
2	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	Rs.1,00,00,000	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	Rs.1,00,00,000	26-08-2024 at 10:30 AM
3	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	Rs.1,00,00,000	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	Rs.1,00,00,000	26-08-2024 at 10:30 AM
4	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	Rs.1,00,00,000	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	Rs.1,00,00,000	26-08-2024 at 10:30 AM
5	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	Rs.1,00,00,000	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	Rs.1,00,00,000	26-08-2024 at 10:30 AM
6	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	Rs.1,00,00,000	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	Rs.1,00,00,000	26-08-2024 at 10:30 AM
7	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	Rs.1,00,00,000	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	Rs.1,00,00,000	26-08-2024 at 10:30 AM
8	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	Rs.1,00,00,000	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	Rs.1,00,00,000	26-08-2024 at 10:30 AM
9	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	Rs.1,00,00,000	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	Rs.1,00,00,000	26-08-2024 at 10:30 AM
10	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	Rs.1,00,00,000	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	Rs.1,00,00,000	26-08-2024 at 10:30 AM

Executive Engineer
Highways Division Sahawal

Superintending Engineer
Highways Circle Sahawal

IFL-7488

PUNJAB HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE

تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے

The tenders for the following schemes are invited from engineering firms / contractors on the firm rate basis, as per PPFRA E-Tendering System, in line with relevant PPFRA Rules, (Amended upto date). According to these Rules, all the firms / contractors can participate in tendering process with the following terms and conditions:

- The intending contractors / firms who have been registered with Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant category / codes may participate.
- The contractors / firms have to be registered on Punjab PPFRA website (www.punjab.gov.pk). Any information / procedure regarding registration can be seen / obtained from website www.pppa.punjab.gov.pk.
- All intending contractors / firms have to upload the earnest money in the form of CDR in favour of the Executive Engineer 40% of the estimated / bid cost and bid rates against terms of work on the same website upto half hour before the opening date and time of opening of tenders. However, original CDR has to be submitted to the Tender Opening Committee on the same day, half hour before the opening of bids; otherwise, the firms / contractors will be disqualified in presence of Tender Opening Committee.
- After filing the bids on website, the contractors may attend the office of Commissioner Faisalabad Division Faisalabad on 26-08-2024 at 2:00 PM, where all bids will be retrieved and quoted rates / successful bidder will be announced in presence of Tender Opening Committee.
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- The Procuring Agency may reject all bids / proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal under PPFRA Rule-25 (Disposal of Bids).
- Flag pavement shall be laid by using concrete batching plant and concrete paving machine.
- TST / DST / surfacing shall be executed by mechanized system.
- Necessary against credit of old material will be adjusted manually and accordingly the bids will be evaluated.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	T & B Date	Contract Period	Estimated Cost / Estimated Bid	Opening Date & Time
1	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	124,871 (RS) 2,495	26-08-2024 at 10:30 PM
2	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	140,480 (RS) 2,950	26-08-2024 at 10:30 PM
3	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	214,727 (RS) 4,295	26-08-2024 at 10:30 PM
4	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	170,280 (RS) 3,420	26-08-2024 at 10:30 PM
5	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	191,840 (RS) 3,837	26-08-2024 at 10:30 PM
6	RESTORATION / IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM SATARA ROAD TO 258 + PB DUKT MANSI, LENGTH=1.025 KM DISTRICT RAJLAHORE	04-08-2024	04-08-2024	98,100 (RS) 1,962	26-08-2024 at 10:30 PM

Superintending Engineer
Highways Circle No.1
Faisalabad

Executive Engineer
Road Construction Division
Faisalabad

IFL 7481

PESHAWAR
Sunset 07:11pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:28am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 27°C
Maximum 39°C
Outlook Showers



Naseem wants Pakistan to focus on future

Pg.17 SPORT



RESCUE workers bring a family to safety in a boat after heavy rain in Yar Hussain area of Swabi on Thursday. — Dawn

Lawmakers complain of compensation denial to victims of landmine, toy bomb blasts

They also highlight supply of adulterated milk

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: Members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Thursday expressed concern about the lack of compensation for victims of landmine, toy bomb blasts and house destruction in the merged tribal districts. On a calling attention notice during a session chaired by Speaker Bahar Baloch Swati, treasury MPA Asif Khan said several people lost limbs and eyes in 57 incidents of landmine and toy bomb explosions but they'd yet to be compensated. He also said the people in the South Waziristan tribal district who vacated their houses due to a military operation in 2007 awaited compensation for their destroyed properties. The lawmaker said the houses were destroyed by bombing and shelling at militant hideouts. He complained that the operation ended eight years ago but compensation for destroyed properties had yet to be paid to tribal residents. "We (residents of tribal districts) should also be treated as citizens of Pakistan like others. They'll own you (authorities) only if you own them," he said. Mr Khan requested the chair to constitute a special committee of the house to call the additional chief secretary (home) and provincial police chief on the matter. The speaker declared a long delay in the disposal of 57 compensation cases

unpaid and said people displaced in 2007 had yet to be paid for their damaged properties. Law and parliamentary affairs minister Aftab Alam Afridi told the house that the current government couldn't respond to the issues from the time prior to the 14th KP merger. He said it was the responsibility of the relief department to pay compensation. Mr Afridi said compensation delays were not only the issue of the South Waziristan tribal district but of the entire merged districts as well. He said complaints of the residents of North and South Waziristan district on the matter were genuine. Housing minister Dr Anjum Ali supported the call for a house committee's formation for examining the compensation issue. The speaker said he would refer the matter to the relevant standing committee. Treasury member Tufail Anjum wondered who received billions of rupees reportedly distributed as compensation for losses in militant attacks and military operations. JUI-F MPA Adnan Khan said he survived a militant attack in 2013 but one of his guards lost his life whose family was driven from pillar to post for compensation. The chair, however, referred the issue to the relevant assembly committee for discussion and recommendations. During the sitting, both treasury and opposition members expressed concern about a recent Halal Food Authority exercise, which recorded adulteration in over 90 per cent of animal milk samples collected from across the province. In an adjournment motion, PML-N

member Sabia Shahid said 587 samples of animal milk supplied to people were obtained from different parts of the province and 95 per cent of them were found to be "antibiotic, unhealthy and hazardous for consumption." She added that 211 out of 224 milk samples taken from the provincial capital were declared hazardous. Mr Shahid claimed that chemicals meant for protecting bodies from decay were used in milk. Asma Alam, who was also among the motion movers like Ms Shahid and JUI-F's Rubana Ismail, said adulterated milk caused several health issues among women, the elderly, and children, especially infants. The house adopted the motion for a detailed discussion on the matter. PPP lawmaker Ahmad Karim Kundi said the Halal Food Authority was established with the promise that its annual reports would be shared with the house but that never happened. JUI-F member Jaz Muhammad called for a ban on the animal milk transported to the province from Punjab, insisting that milk was collected from several Punjab villages and chemicals were added to it to prevent spoiling before transportation to KP in containers. Livestock minister Fazal Hakeem Khan acknowledged milk adulteration saying it is causing harm to the health of the people, especially children. "We (government) will make no compromise on such issues," he said. The speaker said a detailed discussion was required on the matter, as the house would continue looking into it for the sake of people's health. He later put off the sitting until 2pm today (Friday).

Six children injured in DI Khan roof collapse

Dawn Report

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Six children were injured as heavy rain caused the roof of their house's veranda to collapse in Katti Khattour area of the Dera Ismail Khan district on Thursday. The children, aged 5-10, were rescued from the debris and shifted to a local health centre but doctors referred two of them to the civil hospital due to critical conditions. They had taken shelter under the roof due to heavy rain. Also, flash floods swept away houses and shops in Chota Lohar tehsil in Swabi district in the two hours of the day. No loss of life was reported as residents evacuated to safer places prior to flooding. Coupled with strong winds, the rain began falling at 1am and lasted until 3am without interval, according to people. They said the Jalali village was badly hit by floodwaters water entered houses and shops, destroying goods. The residents attributed the destruction to encroachments and construction in the areas where rainwater normally flows. Jan Muhammad, a local government representative, told Dawn both railbeds in the area were in high floods after heavy rainfall. "The mud houses, built by poor people, were badly damaged by floodwaters," he said. The IG member said the people had started relief and rescue activities after they're called for help. A widow, whose house collapsed due to the torrential rain, said she made earthen ovens to earn a livelihood for

Continued on Page 15

30-member body to resolve land disputes in Kurram

By Our Correspondent

KURRAM: A delegation of parliamentarians and religious leaders visited Kurram district on Thursday to oversee efforts for restoring lasting peace in the district. The delegation comprised MNA Shauqyar Afridi, MNA Mastana Nasim Ali Shah, MPA Yousaf Khan, parliamentary leader of Majo Waqdat Muslimeen Engineer Hameed Hussain, chief of Sunni Supreme Council Sahibzada Hamid Raza and chief of Majo Waqdat Muslimeen Adama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafari, general secretary MWM Nasir Abbas Sherazi, Commissioner Kohat Mubasim Dilshah Shah and Deputy Commissioner Kurram Jawadullah Mahsud. The delegation held meetings with the elders of Ton Bangash tribe and Boshohra tribe and reviewed efforts for restoring lasting peace in the district. It was decided on the occasion that a 30-member committee would be formed for resolution of land disputes in the area.

Nursing college official suspended for harassing students

By Our Correspondent

LAKKI MARIWAT: A senior clerk of the Government College of Nursing in Bannu was suspended from service following a protest by students against him here on Thursday. The college students held a demonstration against the senior clerk at Allahwala Chowk on Bannu-Nourang Road and closed it for all kinds of vehicular traffic. Student leaders said that the clerk was involved in blackmail and torturing female students. Ulfat Noor and others alleged the senior clerk was also involved in harassment of female students. "Despite repeated complaints the authorities concerned are reluctant to take any action against him," they claimed, adding that the students of the college will not tolerate harassment and blackmailing tactics by the clerk or any other official of the college anymore. They demanded when legal and departmental action against the official and said that they would continue their protest until the clerk and other responsible officials were terminated. Knowing about the agitation of female students, additional deputy commissioner Hina Khan along with assistant commissioner Khayal Nasir and SP Ishaquddin reached the venue of protest and convinced the protesters to open the road after negotiations. Later, the provincial health services academy director general suspended the senior clerk in the public interest. "Consequent upon the written complaint received from students of Government College of Nursing Bannu, the services of Mr Arif Nawaz senior clerk (BPS-14) are hereby suspended with immediate effect in the best interest of public," said an office order.

Girls outsmart boys as KP boards declare results of SCC exam

19 of 51 position holders are students of government schools

Dawn Report

PESHAWAR: Girls outperformed boys in both science and arts groups in secondary school certificate (SSC) examinations as results were declared by boards of intermediate and secondary education (BISE) on Thursday. Chief Minister An Amin Gandapur distributed prizes among the students, who achieved distinction, at ceremony held in Chief Minister's House. Postwar Model School for Girls-II Dalazak Road students Syeda Samara Johar, Sameya Faisal and Marwa Alam clinched first position in science group by securing 1,176 marks each. Ayana Ayaz, a student of the same school, stood second by securing 1,175 marks. Jafar Shah, a student of Coker College-Mohmand, stood third by getting 1,174 marks.

Girls clinched all three top positions of humanities group in BISE Peshawar results. Manahil, a student of Peshawar Girls High School Peshawar, secured first position in humanities group by securing 1,070 marks. Sindul, a student of Lady Griffin Girls High School, stood second by getting 1,068 marks and Rafia Mohsin, a student of Hayatabad Model School, and Anam Asif, a private candidate, stood third by securing 1,064 marks each. A total of 86,789 students appeared in BISE Peshawar SSC examination and 76,090 of them passed it. More than 22,000 students managed to secure A1 grade while 10,488 others failed to pass the examinations. Girls clinched all the three each top positions in both the categories of SSC annual examinations, according to results of Abbottabad board. Students of Tamara-Wattan Girls School and College Abbottabad clinched the first and third position in science group. Adiba Saad secured first position by obtaining 1,155 marks while Maha Mishabgot 1,144 marks to grab third position. Overall



KP Chief Minister An Amin Gandapur awards a souvenir to a position holder in SSC exam at a ceremony in Peshawar on Thursday. — Dawn

second position was captured by Aqasha Tariq of Garden Public School Dal No.1 Mardan by securing 1,149 marks. In arts group, Rida Inayat of GCHSS Birwa Abbottabad got top position by obtaining 1,020 marks and Bilal Sajid of GCHSS Marwat Peshawar got second position

by securing 1012 marks while Sara Kanwar of GCHSS Karai Nisat Khan Barigar got third position by obtaining 1,006 marks. A total of 72,105 students appeared in the examinations and 57,981 of them were declared pass with. Passing percentage remained 80.55.

In BISE Swat, Zarak Muhammad of International Public School Katal secured first position by getting 1,154 marks. Hafsa Inayat of Saragota Public School followed closely with 1,153 marks while Muhammad Saqlain of Al Arhar Education Institute secured 1,152 marks and stood third. In BISE Malakand all the top three positions went to girls. Soham Gul of Bira High School Almas Dherai Dera got first position by securing 1,162 marks. Aisha Inayat of Malakand Public School Dargai stood second with 1,156 marks and Aisha Iqbal of Swan Public School Barkhela campus got third position by bagging 1,155 marks. A total of 50,883 students appeared in science group out and 40,583 of them were declared successful. Passing percentage remained 95. A total of 6,058 students appeared in humanities group out and 3,251 of them were declared successful. Passing percentage remained 86.68. Saqlat Noor of Jamia Muhammadiyah Sangota Lower Dera bagged 1,075 marks and stood first in humanities group. A private candidate Shaukat Khan stood second

in humanities group by securing 1,071 marks while Hina Shahzad of Jamia Muhammadiyah Sangota Lower Dera stood third with 1,068 marks. A total of 23,022 students appeared in the examinations conducted by BISE Dera Ismail Khan and 19,649 of them were declared successful. Passing percentage remained 85.35. In science group, Muhammad Usman of Lira School and College stood first by securing 1,163 marks. Sakina Muzana of Leeds School and College bagged second position by securing 1,160 marks and Muhammad Usman of Lira Public School got third position by securing 1,158 marks. In arts group, Zahra Bibi, a student of Working Gulka Grammar High School No.1, got first position by securing 1,098 marks, followed by Arooba Saha, a student of Government Girls High School No.3 Samundar Khan, who grabbed second position by obtaining 1,067 marks while Sabina Bibi, a student of Government Girls High School Thanthak, secured third position by

Continued on Page 14

Mansehra bar's section demolished for 'serving liquor'

Association leader says practice from British era against Islamic principles

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: A section of the district bar's premises was demolished here on Thursday for serving and selling liquor.

The action was taken in the presence of bar association president Muhammad Naseem and other cabinet members.

"After my election in March, I restricted the sale and serving of liquor at the bar club and smashed over 150 bottles, and have now taken further action by the demolition of the area where liquor was kept, stored and sold," Mr Naseem told reporters.

Accompanied by a group of lawyers, he said serving liquor, a practice started in 1939 during the British era, was against Islamic principles, so it would no longer be tolerated.

The association president said police didn't act on the matter due to the bar's sanctity and therefore, he and his team took the matter into their own hands.

He said a committee headed by former bar council member Shahjahan Khan Swati annexed the bar's constitution to devolve powers of the club's secretary, who would be nominated by the president instead of being elected like other office-bearers.

Mr Naseem said the bar club would operate from separate to sunset under his and other cabinet members' watch.

Meanwhile, the district administration on Thursday asked groups of traders to settle a row over the election of their body in Mansehra.

"We want you to amicably settle your issues, especially about election, instead of resorting to confrontation," district police officer Shafiqullah Khan Gandapur told a joint meeting of both trader groups.

Deputy commissioner Adnan Khan Buttani had called both groups, one led by Haroonur Raheem and the other by Muhammad Shukail Awan, to a meeting on the orders of Speaker of the provincial assembly Babar Baloch Swati.

Leaders of the two groups met Mr Swati in Peshawar earlier this week and sought his intervention for the resolution of the election issue.

"You should bury the hatchet for peace in the area," Mr Gandapur said.

Self-proclaimed president of a trader group, Haroonur Raheem, said traders wanted their elections to be held in a friendly environment.

"The business community wants effective resolution of its issues and that can happen only after peaceful elections of its leaders," he said.

Mr Raheem said parallel trader bodies couldn't address the community's issues.

President of the other group Muhammad Shukail Awan said his panel was registered with the labour department.

"I'll consult with other group members on the matter and respond next week," he said.

The deputy commissioner called both groups again to office on July 13.

Independence Day items flood Peshawar's bazaars

Freedom spirit reaches its peak in second week of August

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A variety of items for celebrating 77th Independence Day of the country has flooded local markets and streets with stalls drawing enthusiasts ahead of August 14.

The day's spirit reaches its height during second week of August every year. Wholesalers and general enthusiasts were seen busy in purchasing over hundreds of different items for their local outlets as schools in most hilly areas are open and making preparations to celebrate Independence Day with national spirit.

As the Independence Day gets nearer, buyers and exhibitors throng the shops, markets and stalls, selling celebratory items and the wholesalers

From the province get engaged in transporting these items to the desired selling points. Peshawar city becomes hub of wholesalers and buyers right from the beginning of the month of August.

Outlets and vendors in and around Peshawar city display numerous shirazi items for the national Freedom day, more than 200 shops and stalls in Qissa Khwani Bazaar are filled with colourful bannings, shoes, clothes and items favourite with both young boys and girls.

Kabir Jan Wazir, a wholesaler from South Waziristan told Dawn that he, like previous years, had come to Peshawar city to buy celebratory items including bannings and flags, children clothes in green colour, earrings, badges, shoes and several things.

He said he distributed these items to more than dozen shops and vendors and earned a lot of money every year. "Schools also celebrate Independence Day just like the Eid Festival,



he added. Sajid Shamin, a vendor in Peshawar Kacha Bazaar said this year he introduced a new item every year, adding, it

could be anything but should reflect love for the country. Mr Khan stated that increase in demand of celebratory items was witnessed at its peak in the

second week of August, and especially people from targeted tribal districts loved to pick up items, expressive of their love for the country.

PHC seeks govt response to plea against fresh VCs appointment exercise

Move was challenged by five senior academicians

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court on Thursday directed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to respond to a petition against its move to re-initiate the process for the appointment of vice chancellors to 19 public sector universities in the province.

A bench consisting of Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Mohammad Ijaz Khan sought the government's comments on the petition by Aug 15 to decide the request of petitioners for interim relief.

It was hearing a petition, jointly filed by Dr Anwarullah Khan, a professor at the University of Science and Technology, Bannu, and four other senior academicians, who claimed that the caretaker provincial government had approved their names for appointment as VCs of five public sector universities on the recommendation of the academic search committee (ASC).

They, however, said the present government, instead of forwarding their names to the KP governor - the caretaker - for appointment, re-advertised those posts on July 27 in an arbitrary manner.

The petitioners requested the court to declare that decision taken in the cabinet's meeting on July 12, 2024, illegal and unconstitutional.

They also requested the court to declare as illegal the impugned advertisement of July 27 for appointment of VCs to the extent of 19 public sector universities.

The petitioners sought orders for the secretary of the higher education department to forward the approved VC appointments to the governor for notification in line with Section 12 of the KP Universities Act, 2012.

They also sought interim relief requesting the court to suspend action on the cabinet's July 12 decision, whose minutes were released on July 22, as well as the July 27 advertisement, and to order status quo on the matter until the disposal of the petition.

Advocate Asim Javed and

Mohammad Mansoor appeared for the petitioners and said the previous elected government initiated a process for the appointment of VCs and constituted the ASC through a notification on Feb 2, 2022.

They said the government issued an advertisement on Sept 3, 2022, for the appointment of VCs to 12 public sector universities.

The lawyers said after the dissolution of the provincial assembly, the caretaker government came into force on Jan 21, 2023, which approached the Election Commission of Pakistan for approval to the continuation of the selection process of VCs, initiated by the elected government.

They added that the ECP, through a letter on Feb 12, 2023, allowed the government to proceed with the appointment process.

The lawyers said the ECP also acceded to the request of the government on July 21, 2023, for appointing VCs to seven other universities.

They added that three members of the ASC later resigned and the caretaker government, in light of the urgency of the matter, filled the vacant positions on Dec 22 through a notification for a period until Feb 1, 2024, for continuing with the appointment process.

The lawyers argued that on the completion of interviews of shortlisted candidates, the ASC recommended a panel of three candidates.

They added that the provincial cabinet ordered approval for

the appointment of VCs, including the petitioners on Jan 25, 2024.

The counsel pointed out that the secretary of the higher education department, instead of implementing the decision, placed the matter before the current provincial cabinet on July 12 for further review.

They added that the impugned minutes of the meeting dated on July 22 showed that the cabinet "reinstated" the appointment process, insisting that the academic search committee was reconstituted by the caretaker government without obtaining the mandatory objection certificate from the ECP.

The lawyers said the cabinet instructed the higher education minister to immediately reconstitute the ASC to expedite the VCs appointment process.

They argued that the ASC was constituted by the previous elected government for a period of two years and its term was completed on Feb 1, 2024.

The counsel added that all decisions taken by that committee for VCs selection had attained finality and were protected under the law.

They added that the decision of scrapping the earlier cabinet decision was without any "plausible reason and valid legal grounds."

Six children injured

Continued from Page 13

her children but was too poor to rebuild the premises.

She complained the didn't receive cash hand-outs from the government's Benazir Income Support Programme.

The widow demanded compensation for her damaged house.

Meanwhile, the flooding of canals played havoc in Yar Hussain and Dhanra areas, according to rescue officials.

They said a house was submerged, marooning four family members, including a minor child.

"We evacuated the family members to safety," Lagman Khan, a rescue worker, told Dawn.

The ruling PTI's local leaders said that the irrigation department should immediately remove encroachments to prevent further flooding of canals. They said that the government was committed to helping out the victims of natural calamities.

The floodwaters destroyed standing maize crops, with growers fearing poor yields in the current year.

Also in the day, the people in flood-hit areas demanded that the government provide relief goods to them after the destruction of their houses and fields.

Meanwhile, repairs to the flood-hit Inayat Khaty Barkhshara Road began in Bajaur tribal district on Thursday.

The roads and highway department began the work on the key artery, which links scores of areas in Muzaffargarh with other parts of the tribal district. The road was badly damaged by heavy rain lately.

In a statement, local PTI MPA Dr Haroon Raheem said that the roads and highway department had initiated work on the damaged portions of the road at its request. He said that the road, closed for more than a week, would be restored to traffic soon.

"All-out efforts and means are being used for the early rehabilitation of the major road," he said.

People urged to take part in plantation drive

By Our Correspondent

KOHLAT: Deputy Commissioner Abdul Akram has appealed to the people to participate in the tree plantation drive on a war footing basis for a green environment for coming generations.

Addressing a meeting here the other day, he directed the officials concerned to use all resources to effectively combat the issue of global warming and climate control under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Green Growth strategy, and Billion Tree Plus Plantation Campaign.

He termed the main reasons behind catastrophic floods, and the mercury rise due to the cutting of the jungles ruthlessly for commercial use.

CHOKED SEWER LINES: Repair work commenced on choked sewer and water supply lines in the post KDA Township and Kohat city.

The Asian Development Bank provided \$41 billion funds for the project under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa city improvement and local government rural development programmes.

Kohat Development Authority (KDA) Chief Engineer Mubeen Khan said that the sewerage lines of Phase-I and Phase-II of KDA Township had been choked since long.

Three injured in Dera armed clash

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Three people, including a boy, sustained lacerate injuries during an armed clash in the lanes of Dera Town police station here on Thursday.

According to details, 28-year-old Shaukat Ullah Bettani and his brother Rehmat Ullah Bettani had a dispute with their brother-in-law Habib ur Rehman Marwan of Hanna Town which led to firing, injuring Shaukat Ullah, Rehmat Ullah and a passer-by boy Javed Bettani.

The injured were rushed to the local hospital by the Rescue teams for medical assistance.

TWO BILLS: The district police claimed to have arrested two men (including an absconder) and recovered two stolen cows and Rs 300,000 cash from the possession of one of them in the limits of Shaboon Nareeth Khan police station.

According to a police spokesman, a team of Shaboon Nareeth Khan police station arrested an absconder, searched in murder and attempted murder cases. He was identified as Muhammad Humayun, resident of Rehmat Khan.

— Correspondent

FACULTY REQUIRED FOR THE GOMAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY MTI DIKHAN VACANT POSITION

Applications are invited for the posts of Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors (Operative Dentistry, Prosthodontics, Periodontology, Orthodontics, Oral Medicine, Oral Biology & Tooth Morphology, Science of Dental Materials, Community Dentistry, Oral Pathology, Paediatric Dentistry and Dental Education & Research Department)

Senior Registrars/ Registrars (Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Operative Dentistry, Prosthodontics, Periodontology, Orthodontics, Oral Medicine), Demonstrators (Dental Graduate) for all the above-mentioned Departments.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Qualification and Experience: As per PMDC criteria.
2. MTI Act 2015 (Amended) till date & MTI Regulations 2019 will be applicable.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The applications accompanied by a bank draft of Rs. 1000/- in A/C No. 0004-3007942411 Bank of Khyber Circular Road Dikhan along with detail CV and attested copies of relevant documents, Experience certificates, original research publications and addresses of two referees should reach to the office of undersigned within 15 days of the publication of this advertisement.
2. Civil Servants shall apply through proper channel, however, they can send their application in advance.
3. Attractive salary package and benefits will be offered to selected candidates.
4. Number of vacancy can be increased/ decreased by competent authorities without notice.
5. Original documents shall be produced at the time of interview/test.
6. In complete & late received applications will not be entertained.
7. Those candidates who already applied for the above posts previously will need a fresh apply.
8. The services of selectors will be governed by the MTI (Amended) Act and Regulations.
9. The posts, which are sub-judice will be filled after the decision of Hon'ble Court/ MTI Appellate Tribunal.
10. No TA/DA will be admissible.

PROJECT DIRECTOR
BDS PROGRAM, GOMAL MEDICAL COLLEGE MTI DIKHAN
EXCHANGE: 0966-747052
INF / P / 1953 / 2024

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR INSTITUTE OF KIDNEY DISEASES HAYATABAD PESHAWAR MTI-HMC # 091-9217261-63

SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited for the following posts under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Teaching Institution (MTI) Rehman Act, 2015 (commenced from time to time) of Institute of Kidney Diseases (IKD), MTI-HMC Hayatabad Peshawar from qualified candidates belonging to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa newly merged Districts of FATA as prescribed forms available on TN Dockets i.e. www.kidneydiseasespk.com.

Sl	Name of Post	BPS	Age Limit	Recruitment Rules & Qualification, experience etc)
1	Assistant Professor Transplant Urology	18	26-45 Years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/ specialty like FCPM (SM) OR other equivalent level III qualifications in the specialty (Urology/ Nephrology) approved by SRC and recognized/ Registered by the PMDC.
2	Assistant Professor Uro-Oncology	18	26-45 years	a) Ten year Fellowship in the relevant specialty OR Three year's clinical experience in relevant specialty from recognized institute after level-II qualification. Publications: Two Publications in the relevant subject will be preferred.
3	Assistant Professor Urology	18	26-45 years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/ specialty like FCPM (SM) OR other equivalent level III qualifications in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/ Registered by the PMDC.
4	Assistant Professor Anesthesia	18	26-45 years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/ specialty like FCPM (SM) OR other equivalent level III qualifications in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/ Registered by the PMDC. Experience: Two years clinical experience in the relevant specialty from recognized institute after level-II qualification will be preferred. Publications: Two Publications in the relevant subject will be preferred.
5	Assistant Professor Pediatric Nephrology	18	26-45 years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/ specialty like FCPM (SM) OR other equivalent level III qualifications in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/ Registered by the PMDC. OR Two years clinical experience in the relevant specialty from recognized institute after level-II qualification. Publications: Two Publications in the relevant subject will be preferred.
6	Specialist Registrar Urology & Transplant	Contract	26-45 years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/ specialty (Urology/ Nephrology) like FCPM (SM) OR other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by the SRC & Recognized/ Registered by the PMDC.
7	Specialist Registrar Nephrology	Contract	26-45 years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/ specialty like FCPM (SM) OR other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by the SRC & Recognized/ Registered by the PMDC. OR Two years clinical experience in the relevant specialty from recognized institute after level-II qualification. Publications: Two Publications in the relevant subject will be preferred.
8	Specialist Registrar ICU	Contract	26-45 years	Qualification: a) MBBS or equivalent medical qualifications recognized/ registered by the PMDC. b) PMDC level III qualification in respective subject/ specialty like FCPM (SM) OR other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by the SRC & Recognized/ Registered by the PMDC. OR Two years clinical experience in the relevant specialty from recognized institute after level-II qualification. Publications: Two Publications in the relevant subject will be preferred.

Terms & Conditions: - 1. The service of selected candidates for the posts from serial 07 to 09 (contractual positions) will be for a period of 01 year further extendable upon three approval of the BOG, MTI HMC for a maximum 03 years since in career. 2. Processing fee (non-refundable) amounting to Rs.500 should be deposited in online Account titled "DIRECTOR INSTITUTE OF KIDNEY DISEASES PRACTICAL TRAINING ACCOUNT HAYATABAD PESHAWAR" Account # "PLS 300194029" Bank of Khyber HMC Branch Hayatabad Peshawar Branch Code 255. Fee can be deposited at any Bank of Khyber Branch. 3. Application accompanied with Original Bank receipt, complete bio data, WhatsApp no (mandatory), cell #, two recent attested passport size pictures and attested photocopies of academic/experience documents must reach to the office of the undersigned during working hours within 15 days (15 days will count from the date of first advertisement in press). 4. An application received after the closing date and time will not be accepted and shall be automatically stand rejected. 5. If closing date for the receipt of applications falls on an official holiday the next working day shall be considered as the closing date for hard copy of the application only. 6. Interview calls will be issued to short listed candidates only. Short listing will be done either by written test or by their pre-interview marks. The result of the written test will be for screening/ short listing purpose only and shall in no way affect the pre-interview or interview marks. 7. The Scrutiny Committee shall be competent to reject applications which are incomplete. However, the approved candidates can appeal to the competent forum for review. The decision of the competent forum three of shall be final. 8. Only attend-only photocopies of the documents will be acceptable on the condition that the candidates would bring the original documents when they are called for interview. 9. Candidates will be cancelled if any candidate found ineligible at any stage for any reason and in that further application will not be processed further. 10. In service candidates should apply through proper channel. 11. The competent authority has the right to increase/decrease the number of vacancies or can cancel/withdraw all or some of the vacancies at any time without giving/issuing any reason. 12. Experience/higher qualification marks will be given to those candidates who have relevant experience/qualification and only post qualification relevant experience will be considered. 13. Candidates may be disqualified/eliminated from interview if he/she is: a) Convicted by court of law, b) Dismissed from public service commission, c) Furnishes any false information, d) Submits forged certificates, e) Tampered with the entries in his/her candidature by improper means, f) Misbehaves in the interview. 14. The candidates claiming age relaxation shall be bound to provide age relaxation certificate from competent authority or government rules/regulations regarding age relaxation with the application form otherwise they shall be considered as disqualified. 15. Date of birth shall invariably be the date of birth entered on the multiplicatively equalized certificate. 16. Errors, omissions, if any, are liable to rectification by the Institute. No TA/DA is admissible for test/interview.

DIRECTOR INSTITUTE OF KIDNEY DISEASES HAYATABAD PESHAWAR INF(P) 1971/24