



DAWN

Tuesday
August 13, 2024
Salar 7, 1446
KARACHI
Rs 35.00
18 Pages
Vol. LXXXVIII No. 221
Regd. No. 85-022

www.dawn.com

Faiz first ex-spymaster to face court martial

- 'Appropriate' disciplinary action started against retired ISI chief following inquiry in Top City case on SC-referred complaint
- Faiz Hameed in custody, ISPR announces; says multiple instances of Army Act violation after his retirement have been 'established'

By Baqir Sajjad Byed

ISLAMABAD: In an unprecedented step, the army on Monday announced the arrest of retired Lt Gen Faiz Hameed, the previous head of the premier Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency, on allegations of violating the Army Act.

"The process of Field General Court Martial has been initiated and Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd) has been taken into military custody," Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

The move, prompted by allegations of misconduct

against Gen Hameed through relevant channels, including the Ministry of Defence, as the basis for initiating action against the former spymaster.

Muqsoz Khan had approached the Supreme Court over a raid conducted by Pakistan Rangers and ISI officials on his property and residence on May 12, 2017, during which valuables, including gold and diamond ornaments along with money, were allegedly taken away on the pretext of a terrorism investigation.

According to the petitioner, the raid was conducted with the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry, was undertaken by Pakistan Army, to ascertain correctness of complaints in Top City Case made against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd). Consequently, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd), under provisions of Pakistan Army Act."

It further alleged that "multiple instances of violation of Pakistan Army Act post retirement have also been established."

No details of those violations were given leading to speculation about what the charges could be.

According to a source, Gen Hameed was taken into custody a few days back from Rawalpindi when he was summoned for a meeting by a senior military official.



FAIZ HAMEED

trated by Gen Hameed. Muqsoz Khan had further accused two retired ISI brigadiers of coercing him into paying a substantial cash sum and sponsoring a private TV network.

The ISPR said, "Compl-

ing with the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry, was undertaken by Pakistan Army, to ascertain correctness of complaints in Top City Case made against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd). Consequently, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd), under provisions of Pakistan Army Act."

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Experts' views

Military lawyer Owen Farooq Adams, while talking to Dawn, pointed out that the army can take action against retired servicemen for violations of the Army Act within six months of retirement as per Section 52 of the Act.

However, for actions

Top City case proves to be Faiz's 'Waterloo'

Ex-spy chief becomes third general officer to face court martial

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: Former ISI chief Faiz Hameed is the third general officer who will be facing court-martial proceedings. The retired lieutenant general is charged with misusing his position to extort money from a private housing society.

Previously, military courts have convicted a terrorist

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SC reinstates three PML-N lawmakers after lengthy battle

- Overturns LHC ruling that handed victory to PTI-backed candidates in NA-79, NA-81 and NA-154
- Expresses concerns over RC's admission that request for recount was denied due to 'pressure' from political workers

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: In a move that will further affect members in the National Assembly, the Supreme Court on Monday upheld Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) notifications declaring three PML-N candidates successful, overturning separate decisions of the Lahore High Court that had reinstated them following recounts.

The members who will benefit from the majority judgment are Zafar Ahmed of NA-79 (Gujranwala), Arshar Qayyum Nadeem of NA-81 (Gujranwala) and Abdul Rehman Khan Kharo of NA-154 (Lahore).

The judgement set aside the high

court orders, which had held that the ECP notification had erred in law while directing a recount of votes after the conclusion of consolidation proceedings, in violation of Section 75(6) of the Elections Act 2017.

In an order, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Issa authored the majority judgement, whereas Justice Asad Ali Khan dissented by holding that the LHC judgements did not suffer from any factual error or legal infir-

my, therefore do not require the interference of the Supreme Court.

The majority judgement emphasised that ECP was a constitutional body and its chairman and members were entitled to request.

Unfortunately, in places, some LHC judges lost sight of this and passed derisive remarks, the CJP regretted, adding that every constitutional body and constitutional office holder and, in fact, everyone deserves courtesy and respect.

"In our union, gain in stature when they act respectfully," he said.

In the 10th sections, three independent candidates affiliated with the PTI were declared returned.

Continued on Page 5



A DELEGATION led by National Party leader Dr Abdul Malik Baloch meets with PM Shehbaz Sharif, on Monday.—Courtesy PM Office

Authorities mishandled Baloch protests, PM told

National Party chief says province's issues are political, should be resolved through dialogue

By Saleem Sharif

QUETTA: National Party (NP) chief Dr Abdul Malik Baloch met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday as part of efforts to mend ties between the government and the protesting Baloch Youth Congress (BYC), which recently held large demonstration in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan to press for their demands.

Talking to Dawn, NP secretary general Senator Jan Muhammad Baloch said that Dr Baloch counselled authorities for "mismanaging" the protests in Quetta, which created a law and order situation in the province.

In his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Mr Baloch said law enforcement agencies "used force

instead of resolving the issue politically."

The meeting was held at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad, days after law enforcement efforts to curtail the protests virtually paralysed the province.

The issue started after BYC announced that it would hold an event, Baloch Raji Masti (Baloch National Gathering), in Quetta on July 28.

As participants from across the province tried to reach Quetta, they were stopped by security forces, resulting in clashes in various parts of the province.

On July 27, a day before the planned event, BYC claimed that security forces opened fire on its supporters who were on their way to Quetta in Mastung.

At least 14 people were injured in the clashes, which, according to an official claim, started after the protesters attacked a Law Enforcement checkpoint near Mastung.

The next day, on July 28, one person lost their life, and eight were injured.

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Forces exchange fire over 'contested' border post

No casualties, damage to property reported

By Ibrahim Shirmast

KHAYBER: The border forces of Pakistan and Afghanistan exchanged heavy fire on Monday evening after Pakistani side objected to the construction of a controversial check post near the border by the Afghans.

Sources at Turbat told Dawn they initially heard light weapons being fired but later both sides used heavy weapons, including artillery, targeting each other's positions.

The exchange resulted in the closure of the border for all types of movement.

Though there was no official reaction to the incident, local sources said Pakistani forces fired in the air to warn the Afghans against construction of the post only a few metres away from the dividing line.

They said Afghan forces retaliated with light weapons but later both sides resorted to use of heavy weapons. The firing caused evacuation of people from the Bacha Matina resi-

dential compound near the border crossing and closure of marketplaces and government offices.

Saleem Khan, a Bacha Matina resident, told Dawn more families residing in the locality had shifted their women and children to Landi Kot and other localities when the exchange intensified. He, however, said that most residents were safe with no damage was caused to any of the houses.

Trade with Afghanistan via Turbat comes to halt Page 8

The firing started at around 8pm and continued till 11pm of this report with its intensity decreasing after initial two hours of intense exchange.

The incident also compelled the protesting transporters and customs clearing agents to wind up their protest camp.

The transporters, customs clearing agents and labourers had earlier in the day established a protest camp near the border crossing against the imposition of Temporary Admission Documents on transporters of both countries who so far operated without any legal travel documents.

US fears Iran attack on Israel 'this week'

WASHINGTON: Concerns over a wider conflict in the Middle East have prompted international airlines to suspend flights to the region or to avoid the affected airspace, as US officials said they were prepared for what could be significant attacks by Iran or its allies, as soon as this week.

The Pentagon has already dispatched a guided missile submarine to the region, while an aircraft carrier strike group — led by the USS Abraham Lincoln and equipped with F-35 fighters — is making its way there now.

The developments came after Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on Sunday that Iran was making preparations for a large-scale military attack on Israel.

The flurry of activity follows commitments by Iran and Hezbollah to exact revenge for the killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and Hezbollah commander Foad Shaker in Beirut, last month.

On Monday, US President Joe Biden spoke with the leaders of Britain,

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ON OTHER PAGES



Haniya's passing mourned

Pakistani music lost one of its most beloved and talented figures in Haniya Azam, who passed away on Sunday after suffering cardiac arrest. She was one half of the duo Zeb and Haniya, who shot to fame in the 2000s with their breakout album and subsequent performances on Coke Studio. Fans and friends alike look to social media to offer their condolences and share their memories of the prolific artist. Page 3

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	Emergency Rooms	Telemedicine Satellite Centres
Sindh	9	104
Balochistan	1	32
Punjab	2	159
Islamabad	1	-
AJK	-	3
KP	-	3
Gilgit Baltistan	-	1

*Writing of this ad has been sponsored by the authors.

Six secretaries, five DCs transferred in Punjab shake-up

By Imran Gabeel

LAHORE: In a major reshuffle in Punjab bureaucracy, the government on Monday issued transfer and posting orders of six provincial secretaries and five deputy commissioners (DCs).

Explaining reasons behind the major reshuffle, a senior official said Dawn that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz wanted to form her own team instead of relying on the officials appointed by the caretaker setup in the province.

Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department Secretary Ali Jan Khan was granted four months earned leave with immediate effect. He was directed to report to Services & General Administration Department (SGAD) for further orders after expiry of leave. He is also relieved of the additional charge of the post of secretary of Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department.

Planning & Development Board Chief of Section Dr Nasir Iqbal Malik was transferred and directed to report to SGAD for further orders. South Punjab Agriculture Department Secretary Saghi Ali Azeem was transferred and posted as secretary of Livestock & Dairy Development Department, vice Muhammad Mansoor Arwar, who was transferred and posted as chief of section, Planning & Development Board. The post of secretary, L&DD Department, will remain unoccupied from RS-20 to RS-21 as personal as it is held by him.

Ammar Mahmood Khan, awaiting

posting, was posted as secretary Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department against a vacant post.

Social Welfare & Rural Mass Department Secretary Iqbal Hussain was transferred and directed to report to SGAD to attend 12th National Management Course (NMC).

Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Javed Akhtar Mahmood was posted as secretary of Social Welfare & Rural Mass Department.

SGAD (Archives & Libraries Wing) Secretary Zahoor Hussain was transferred and posted as member (Judicial-III), Board of Revenue, Punjab, under Section 9 of PCS Act, 1974, against a vacant post.

OSD Muhammad Khan Rangha was posted as secretary of (Archives & Libraries Wing) of SGAD, awaiting posting. Muhammad Javed was posted as commissioner of Sargodha Division vice Ahmad Bhatti who was directed to report SGAD for further orders.

School Education Department (SED) Special Secretary Khalid Naiz was assigned the additional charge of the post of SED secretary in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

OSD Shoaib Saad was posted as director general, Punjab Enforcement and Regulatory Authority, under Section 9 of PCS Act, 1974, against a newly-created post.

Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI) Commissioner Nadia Sagor was transferred and posted as secretary of Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department, under Section 9 of PCS Act, 1974, vice Ali Jan Khan proceeded on leave.

OSD Muhammad Ali was posted as PESSI commissioner under Section 9 of PCS Act, 1974.

Meanwhile, Sargodha DC retired Capt Anwarul Haider Khan was transferred and posted as Kaner DC against a vacant post, relieving Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Hans Musa Tahir of additional charge of the post.

SGAD Additional Secretary (Welfare) Retired Capt. Muhammad Waseem was transferred and posted as Sargodha DC.

Communication & Works Department Additional Secretary Syed Musa Raza was transferred and posted as Lahore DC vice Rafiq Haider who was transferred and directed to report to SGAD to proceed on 4th mid-career management course (MCMC).

Inspected DC, Akbarullah Nayyar Sheikh was transferred and posted as additional secretary of Communication & Works Department.

SGAD Additional Secretary (Admin.) Retired Capt. Nadeem Naiz was transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Faisalabad.

Rajauri Deputy Commissioner Mansoor Ahmad Khan was transferred and directed to report to SGAD to proceed on 4th MCMC.

Board of Revenue Punjab Secretary (Revenue) Shafiq Ullah Mushtaq was transferred and posted as Rajauri DC, vice Mansoor Ahmad Khan who was transferred.

Khushab DC Zouhail Shabbir Hans was transferred and directed to report to SGAD for further orders. South Punjab SED Additional Secretary Sarosh Fatima Shirazi was transferred and posted as Khushab DC.



LAHORE: Despite a recent ban, the sale of Independence Day plastic items continues unchecked on Garqal Road. —White Star

Amended Election Act challenged in the LHC

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Election (Second Amendment) Act 2024 has been challenged in the Lahore High Court for allegedly being in violation of the Constitution.

Ahbar Siddique, a Supreme Court's lawyer,

filed a petition against the law, pleading that the Supreme Court, through its July 12 judgment, took into account the alleged gross violations of Article 17 and the fundamental constitutional right of the people to participate in the democratic process by voting for political parties/candidates of their choice.

He said the apex court exercised its constitutional jurisdiction to declare the law unconstitutional, not to the people of Pakistan by directing that the PTI-backed independent retained candidates be recognized as the candidates of the party (PTI).

The petitioner argued that the SC correctly held that the constitutional

entitlement of the people to elect their representatives on account of their affiliation to a political party could not have been denied by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for any reason whatsoever.

He further argued that the July 12 judgment passed by the SC cannot be overruled or varied through an amendment to the law, but can only be done through a constitutional amendment.

He alleged that the amendments made through the impugned Act are party-specific and the ruling parties are already enjoying the quota of reserved seats, and they cannot be given a right to take an advan-

tage of the amendments. Advocate Siddique pleaded that the parliament cannot make an amendment or a rule which ultimately benefits certain parties and is detrimental to a specific party.

He asked the court to declare the Elections (second amendment) Act, 2024 ultra vires of the Constitution and restrain the ECP from allocating reserved seats to any other political party in the National Assembly and provincial assembly of Punjab, that are proportionate to the PTI's entitlement.

The petitioner's hearing has been fixed for August 13 before the court of Justice Sahar Tariq Ahmad.

PM asks NDMA to prepare plans to tackle urban flooding

CS reviews projects initiated by CM in Sargodha division

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other departments to take all precautionary measures to ensure the safety of the citizens in Bahawalpur, Lullayan and surrounding areas due to the threat of heavy rain and urban flooding.

He directed that safety measures be taken for the citizens of the areas at risk due to heavy rains while adding evacuation process should be started in extreme situations.

He also directed the NDMA to ensure rescue and aid to the people in the areas at risk of urban flooding.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) recorded 46 mm in Rain at Bahawalpur Airport and 60 mm in Bahawalpur City within two hours. Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Secretary Zaid Akhtar Zaman on Monday directed the deputy commissioners of Sargodha division to prepare emergency plans to deal with floods, urban flooding and hill torrents for their respective districts.

The chief secretary was visiting Sargodha to review the implementation of public welfare initiatives taken by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

He inspected different houses in the city, including Khushab Road and issued

instructions regarding removal of encroachments and improvement in the traffic system.

The CS directed the administrative officers to permanently remove encroachments in cities and control the 'unlawfully encroached' without rendering anyone unemployed.

He said that to resolve the parking and encroachment issues in bazaars, the municipal corporation officials must be assigned regular duties.

He asked the DCs to remain in the field for at least two hours every day to improve the traffic system and supervise removal of encroachments.

Mr Zaman also inspected the Sabzwali Road disposal station, where he was briefed by the municipal corporation chief officer about the sewerage system issue.

Divisional Commissioner Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, DC Anwarul Haider Khan and Superintending Engineer of the Public Health Engineering Syed Solar Raza were also present.

Later, the CS presided over a meeting at the Commissioner's Office, which was attended by the divisional commissioners, DCs and other administrative officials of Sargodha, Khushab, Mirwah and Bhakkar.

The CS reviewed the progress on the public welfare initiatives in the four districts of the division and took briefings from the DCs on Suthra Punjab (Clean Punjab), price control,

anti-polio drives, and revenue matters. He directed them to prioritize cleanliness, price control and anti-polio programmes by mobilising the ACs.

About 50 MPAs submit privilege motion against health secretary

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Around 50 members of the Punjab Assembly have submitted a privilege motion against Health Secretary Ali Jan for not honoring the recommendations given by them to improve health facilities at various hospitals.

The MPAs who signed the motion included Ahsan Iqbal, son of Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Arshad Ali Javed, Mian Saqib Khureshi, Rao Khalid, Zaidullah Shah, Raza Aftab Iqbal among others.

The motion said the Punjab government had tasked the elected members of the provincial house to oversee health facilities and the initiative of the chief minister in the sector in the province.

The MPAs were to visit the hospitals for monitoring their working and in collaboration with the hospital administration, were to prepare a report for the chief minister about the steps taken to remove complaints of patients and provision of facilities to them.

It said Health Secretary Ali Jan, over-

looked to prepare record of these recommendations "to facilitate the process decision, disempower the public representatives and for frightening them from NAB and anti-corruption in the near future".

The motion said that in the presence of Health Minister Khwaja Salman Rafiq during a ceremony, the secretary told the department officers and staff not to act upon any recommendations in the given by the elected representatives, as decided by the chief minister to monitor the hospitals.

Rather, he also directed for recording these recommendations so that they may be used against them if and when needed, it added.

The motion said that this derogatory act of secretary Ali Jan has not only breached the privilege of the MPAs but also all the elected representatives of the house. Therefore, this motion may be permitted to be tabled in the house and referred to the Privileges Committee by declaring it as in accordance with the rules of business, said the document signed by 50 MPAs and submitted to the assembly secretary on Monday.



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- ➏ Applicant three passport size photographs (blue back ground).
- ➐ Synopsis / Research Proposal.
- ➑ Statement of Purpose (One page)
- ➒ Any other supporting document required to substantiate the facts given in the application form.
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<p>02 Candidates are required to follow the requirement of Host University to secure the admission which may include International GRE, TOEFL, etc. Candidates are advised to appear in these tests before the interview/admission.</p>	<p>04 If the applicant is unable to secure visa due to Embassy issues, security issues or due to admission problems by university etc, further scholarship will not be considered.</p>
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Coalition partners hail, PTI keeps mum over court martial

PML-N leaders expect multiple charges will be proven by deeper probe; Kh Asif sees Faiz's hand behind May 9 events

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: While the government has hailed the military's decision to uphold the rule of law by initiating court martial proceedings against former opponent Faiz Hammed for his alleged involvement in victimising the owner of a private housing society, the PTI preferred to stay rather reserved, calling it an internal issue of the army.

PTI chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said the military's actions were internal. He stated that the Pakistan Army is a disciplined and organised institution with its own procedures for dealing with both serving and retired officers.

However, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Senator Irfan Siddiqi, Senator Ahsan, Raza Sarwar and PPP leader Qasim Zaman Kaira were more open to their views on the move, with Mr Tarar calling it a "right decision".

"Serious against Faiz Hammed would have been taken on the basis of investigation," the minister said.

Senator Siddiqi said so far only a brief announcement had been made by the military spokesman regarding an ISI DG. "When investigation will go forward, his (Faiz's) political meddling will also be proved," he said.

He said there was a room in the parliament where a military official used to sit on the directives of the then DG ISI Faiz Hammed to monitor proceedings of the parliament. He quoted a statement of PTI founder Imran Khan that Faiz Hammed had supported the PTI inside the parliament by getting legislation passed and meeting the required number of MNAs in the National Assembly.

He said Faiz Hammed also remained involved in the general elections by backing the PTI.

The senator said the former ISI chief had controlled the media, politicians and tried to control judiciary as well. "He (Faiz) thought that he was above the law," he said.

Senior PML-N leader Raza Sarwar said some allegations must have been proved against Faiz Hammed, which led to his arrest.

He alleged that Faiz Hammed was involved in "political meddling" and on his instruction, the Islamabad sit-in was staged by a religious group, choking the main arteries of the federal capital for weeks.

Mr Sarwar said apparently action against him was taken in the light of the Supreme Court's order in the private housing scheme, Top City, whose owner claimed to have been robbed of huge cash and gold during a raid on the instruction of Faiz Hammed in 2017.

Hailing the military's internal accountability system, PPP leader Qasim Zaman Kaira said an inquiry had confirmed multiple violations by Faiz Hammed that prompted the initiation of disciplinary proceedings under the Pakistan Army Act.

He said if the military had decided to proceed with such measures against a high-ranking officer, it indicated the severity of the offences committed. Mr Kaira also hailed the Supreme Court's role in ensuring that both the government and the military establishment adhere to the rule of law.

In an appearance on Geo News, Defence Minister Khawaja said: "Gen Faiz has definitely had a hand in the events on the political scene since his retirement. Knowing him a little bit, he could not abstain and had to meddle the waters."

"For a person who exercised immense and unlimited power to take a backseat comes down to them."

Mr Aul estimated that Gen Hammed had a more "direct" role in events since his retirement and claimed the former opponent "could have had a role in what happened on May 9", referring to the nationwide riots that broke out last year on PTI founder Imran Khan's arrest.

"I can't say with certainty, but events do point the finger towards him."



KARACHI: Visitors view different items used by Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah at his birthplace, on Monday. The custodian of Wazir Mansion, located in Khan-e-Khanan, Murid Hussain Khayal said that the items used by the Quaid during his childhood have been preserved here. Wazir Mansion was constructed in 1880. Poonja Jinnah rented the building in 1870 and the Quaid was born there on Dec 25, 1870. —APP

Minister slams drive against state institutions

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has made it clear that no one will be allowed to run a nefarious campaign against state institutions.

He expressed these views during separate meetings with MQM chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and JIP Secretary General Qasim Noorani on Monday.

During the meetings, matters of mutual interest, the overall political situation of the country, and matters pertaining to promotion of religious harmony and brotherhood were discussed.

Mr Naqvi and Mr Siddiqui strongly condemned the vicious propaganda against state institutions.

The interior minister said that state institutions were a great asset of the country and the organised propaganda against state institutions was like betraying the country.

Mr Siddiqui said that everyone needs to unite and move forward for the sake of the country.

During a meeting with JIP Secretary General Qasim Noorani, Mr Naqvi said that JIP has always spoken in the best interest of the country.

He reiterated that everyone needs to move forward by joining their hands together. He highlighted that we need to bring the country out of its current challenges through positive thinking and unity. He said the country has been facing numerous challenges and we need to turn those challenges into opportunities. —Hikmah A. Khan

Panjgur DC killed in attack on Quetta-Karachi highway

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The Panjgur deputy commissioner was killed and four others injured in an attack on the Quetta-Karachi National Highway, near Mastung, on Monday, according to officials.

DC Zahir Hussain Baloch was on his way to Quetta along with the Panjgur Municipal Committee chairman when unknown assailants opened fire on his official vehicle near Khadkocha, Mastung.

According to security officials, at least 15 armed men had blocked the road and were checking vehicles passing through the area.

They also tried to stop the deputy commissioner's vehicle and opened fire when it sped away.

Two officials were seriously injured in the attack and shifted to the Shaheed Nawab Ghous Bahkhal Memorial Hospital in Mastung, where Mr Baloch succumbed to his injuries, according to the hospital's chief executive, Dr Naved Ahmed.

The deceased was hit by bullets in the chest and stomach, which caused internal bleeding, resulting in his death, said Dr Ahmed.

The Panjgur Municipal Committee chairman, Abdul Malik Baloch, also received multiple bullet injuries and has been shifted to Quetta for treatment.

He is the younger brother of National Party Balochistan's chapter president Rehman Baloch.

Security forces have launched a search operation in the area to arrest the attackers. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack.

Eight injured in grenade attack

In another attack, eight people, including a woman, were killed when a grenade exploded in Sariala Town, Quetta.

Officials said unknown armed men riding a motorcycle hurled the hand grenade at a police patrol vehicle in the Chalo-Barvi area.

The vehicle remained safe in the attack. The injured have been shifted to the Civil Hospital.

Another hand grenade attack was also reported in the city's Sariala area late on Monday. According to officials, unknown motorcyclists attacked the Government Girls College in Sariala Mills area. The explosion damaged the window panes of the college and nearby buildings.

Imran warns of protests if CJ given extension; PTI embittered by decision on NA seats

PTI founder says Pakistan's situation worse than Bangladesh

By Imran Jureidi

ISLAMABAD: PTI founding chairman Imran Khan on Monday warned of a nationwide protest if the government attempted to extend the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, or failed to implement the CJP-led bench's decision on reserved seats.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference, the PTI leadership criticised the SC decision to restore the membership of three PML-N lawmakers and alleged that efforts were being made to deprive the party of its seats.

While talking to the media in Adiala Jail, the former premier alleged that CJP Isa and the Election Commission of Pakistan were hand in glove, with the military supporting them.

Terming the situation in Pakistan worse than Bangladesh's, where former premier Sheikh Hasina Wajed had suppressed all opposition parties, Mr Khan said: "All these things have been witnessed in Pakistan as well. Before elections, a crackdown was launched against the PTI on the pretext of May 9 violence."

But all their plans failed on Feb 8, he claimed.

As a result, he added, half of his party leadership was sent behind bars and the other half was left with no option but to go underground.

Martyr leaders were forced to quit the party, he said.

He alleged that the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) had the footage of May 9 violence, but it was not shared with the media and courts.

In response to another question, the PTI founder said the ruling coalition was worried over rumours that he (Imran Khan) had approached the military establishment, but it was not correct.

Mohammad Khan Akhbari would hold negotiations with politicians, but the PTI would not negotiate, he said, explaining that if his party held negotiations with them, it would give the impression that he had accepted the PML-N government.

SC decision assailed

PTI chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, flanked by Rana Husnain, Makhdoom Farooq and other leaders, said there was no room for extension of the CJP's service.

He said "those who wanted" extension to learn from Bangladesh.

Mr Gohar said that he would file an appeal against the latest SC decision to restore membership of three MNAs belonging to the ruling PML-N. Makhdoom Farooq said efforts were being made to further reduce the number of PTI seats.

No need for May 9 judicial commission: Punjab govt

Azma says PTI using 'hammer of commission' to gain relief

By Zulqarnain Tahir

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said there is no need to form a judicial commission to investigate the May 9 violence as all the cases are open and that.

"The Punjab High Court has declared that establishing a judicial commission is illegal. The PTI members are trying to use the hammer of a judicial commission to gain relief. The incident of May 9 did not occur suddenly as it was preceded by Imran Khan's 70 rallies,

long marches, and inflammatory speeches," Ms Bokhari told a presser here on Monday.

She criticised Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Aftab Ahmad Khan, stating that his sole job seemed to be pleasing his master Imran Khan. "People in KP are drowning in floods, bridges are collapsing, government employees have stopped working, and doctors are absent from hospitals."

She questioned if Hassan Nisar, Imran Khan's nephew, was not aware of the attacks, and if Dr Yasmin Rashid or Ejaz Chaudhry didn't inform their sons where to strike. Was it just a coincidence that only military installations or courtrooms were targeted and officers not on fire in every city?

"No one will let Imran Khan deny the attacks of May 9 incidents," she said.

Azma Bokhari accused the PTI leaders of inciting people to leave their homes. Those who burned hospitals, toll plazas and military stations were now asking for forgiveness, she said.

She noted that a 'prisoner in Adiala Jail' had threatened that if he was arrested again, there would be similar attacks.

Responding to a question, she said that the Jamaat-e-Islami had not received as many votes as the number of protests they had held. She said that if chief Hafiz Saeed Raza believed that protests were the solution to all problems and suggested that if that was the case, they should continue with their protests.

Musician Haniya Aslam is no more

Starting out in college as part of a musical duo alongside cousin Zeb Bangash, Aslam eventually found the 'intersection of tech and music' to be her calling

Dawn Report



HANIYA ASLAM

KARACHI: One of Pakistan's most beloved and talented musicians, Haniya Aslam, passed away on Sunday after suffering a cardiac arrest.

One half of the duo 'Zeb and Haniya', the news of her passing was confirmed by cousin and bandmate Zeb Bangash.

Born in Kohat, Aslam spent her early years moving across Pakistan as her father was in government service. In interviews, she recalled how coming from a musically inclined family helped foster an interest in music from a very early age.

"In my family, when you get together and wanted to have fun, there were two things you could do: eat or play music," she recalled in a recent interview.

Recalling her experiences playing in the Islamabad under-

ground music scene, Aslam described jamming with bands like Caribou on open mic nights at the Civil Junction club.

She was propelled to the limelight in 2011, when Zeb and Haniya released *Chap* while both were still in college, where Haniya was majoring in computer science. The track's success led to a long-term collaboration between the two.

Together, the duo became a sensation known for their unique sound that blended traditional Eastern music with Western influences. Their performances on various seasons of *Coke Studio*, particularly hits like *Parosona*, *Midi*, *Sunam*, *Jannat*, *Jawa*, *Chor Diga*, *Chal Diga*, *Laili*

Jann, and *Kya Kyaal Hai*, left an indelible mark on the hearts of listeners.

In 2014, Aslam left the band and moved to Canada, where she earned an Audio Engineering Diploma (AED). Despite being abroad, she never lost touch with her Pakistani roots, which was evident in her compositions and guitar playing.

"Throughout my time in Zeb and Haniya... I was far more interested near the [control] board than what was happening on stage or in the recording booth. Took me a while to realise that the intersection of music and technology is where I belong," she said in a Nov 2023 interview.

She eventually returned and resumed her musical career in Pakistan, with tracks such as *Jat Ra*. She also returned to *Coke Studio* with the feminist track *Main Badi*. Together with Rachel Vicoji, she called for women to embrace their strength.

Her work extended beyond albums and the composed songs for films such as *Laili*, *Baggins*, *Shaydeh*, *Rose*, and *Debut*. She, showcasing her versatility and deep understanding of musical composition.

The news of her sudden passing came as a shock to friends and fans alike, with many taking to social media to express condolences to her friends and family, as well as sharing stories to remember her.

In a tribute to Aslam, filmmaker Mehreen Jabbar wrote on Instagram: "I don't know where to begin. I could speak of the music she produced, the songs she sang, and how Zeb and Haniya as a band brought joy and peace to me and so many others. I could share how she was such an incredible collaborator on so many of my projects... But beyond her artistic gifts, she was such a selfless, non-judgmental, kind, endlessly curious, and loving person."

Filmmaker and journalist Haseem Zaidi described her as "the sweetest and most down-to-earth person".

"I had once approached her because I told her I had an idea for a video for one of Zeb and Haniya's songs that had just been released. She was very enthusiastic and asked me to go ahead with it," he recalled.

While that project never materialised, the two got to know each other and kept in touch.

"She was a talented musician and composer no doubt, but what endeared her to me was that she had absolutely no airs whatsoever. She was just a very genuine artist and person and we are all proud for having had her as ours," Mr Zaidi said.

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Landslides, flash flood wreak havoc in Astore

By Jamil Nigri

GLATT) Landslides and flash flood triggered by monsoon rains wreaked havoc in Kashmir, Pskora, Muzaffargarh and other villages of Astore, killing two children of a family and destroying a veterinary hospital, a private school, several shops, cattle sheds, agricultural land, trees and crops.

According to police, landslides and flash flood caused widespread destruction in upper areas of Pskora, Keshwan and Muzaffargarh areas of Astore district.

Two children of a family died when they were hit by the landslide while other people of the affected area fled to Keshwan village to save their lives.

The flood water entered houses of the people of these areas, forcing them to stay under the open sky for the whole night.

The water supply line has also been destroyed by flood water and Astore District road has also been blocked at five places because of landslides. Builders of the district administration and Pakistan army were working on both sides to restore the road.

The flood also left a trail of destruction in Pskora and Muzaffargarh villages.

In Pskora, two private hotels, six matry houses, a private bank and standing crops on several acres were damaged.

The deputy commissioner of Astore visited flood-affected area and assured affected people of all possible help from the government.

'Courts responsible for justice; govt should address public issues'

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA) Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Haris Khan Kakar has said while provision of justice is the court's responsibility, the government and institutions must also fulfil their responsibilities to address public issues.

The chief justice made these remarks on Monday while speaking at a ceremony of the allocation of land for a new Judicial Complex in Pishin.

He said courts were playing their role in providing justice to litigants according to the law.

The chief justice emphasised that providing education, health and other facilities were a primary responsibility of the government, and the general public should also play a role in this regard.

He said no society could progress without justice, which is why efforts are being made to ensure that people in remote areas receive justice at their doorsteps.

CJ Kakar mentioned that the goal of both the bench and the bar is to ensure the provision of justice, and the cooperation of lawyers is crucial for the speedy resolution of cases.

Remedy must be an integral part of the judicial system and will always remain interconnected, the top judge said, adding that justice can only be ensured through cooperation between the legal community and judges.

He pointed out that not the judges but their decisions matter, and efforts are being made to induct competent judges in the judiciary.

He concluded by saying that building hearing courts represents the dignity of the state and that providing justice in these buildings is a fundamental right of the public.

The event was attended by Pishin District and Session Judge Abdul Wahid Badini, Pishin Deputy Commissioner retired Captain Juma Dal Khan Mandakhal, MPAs Asghar Khan Tareen and Syed Zafar Agha, Pishin Mayor Sardar Akbar Khan Tareen, officials of various government departments, members of the Glass Committee and lawyers.

ATC rejects Bushra's pleas for post-arrest bail in 12 cases

ISLAMABAD) An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Rawalpindi on Monday rejected petitions seeking post-arrest bail of Bushra Bibi, wife of former prime minister Imran Khan, in 12 cases registered in connection with violent protests of May 9, 2023.

ATC Judge Malik Ejaz Anif directed police to conclude the investigation in these cases within a week.

Ms Bibi was seeking bail in FIRs registered in various police stations of Rawalpindi.

The judge, however, rejected the bail petitions asking the police to complete the probe within seven days.

Meanwhile, IHC Chief Justice Misgul Hassan Anwarogly referred to the IHC Chief Justice a petition seeking details of the cases against wife of former prime minister Imran Khan.

The court also asked the superintendent of Adiala Jail to decide complaints of Bushra Bibi against the administration strictly in accordance with the jail manual.

In a related development, accountability judge Nasir Javed Rana dismissed the petition of Bushra Bibi seeking report of the National Accountability Bureau's meeting of the executive board.

The petition stated that the board has decided to close the inquiry in Tehrik hanna case.

NAB's prosecution on the other hand stated that the inquiry has been recommenced after the investigation team got hold of fresh evidence.—Malik Anaf

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Top City case proves to be Faiz's 'Waterloo'

Continued from Page 1

of original documents, the land was transferred in the name of Mr. Muneer. Mr. Muneer, on the other hand, contended in his petition that Gen Faiz's brother Sardar Najaf mediated and tried to resolve the issue.

After a Rawalpindi-based ATC acquitted him in the terrorism case, the petition claimed, Gen Hameed contacted him through his cousin—a brigadier in the army—to arrange a meeting.

The petition claimed that during the meeting, Gen Hameed told Mr. Muneer that he would return the items taken away during the raid, except for 400 tola gold and cash.

The petition alleged that retired brigadiers Naqam Fakhar and Ghaffar of the ISI "forced" the petitioner to "pay 4 crores (bribe) in cash" and "sponsor a private TV network for a few months".

The Supreme Court, however, asked the petitioner to approach the relevant forums, including the defence ministry, for redressal of his grievances.

Previous court verdicts
In the recent past, retired Lt Gen Javed Iqbal Arsan was convicted by the Field General Court Martial (FGCM) for sharing "classified information" with foreign spies and awarded 14 years' rigorous imprisonment, but a military court of appeal reduced his sentence and he was released from prison in December last year.

Gen Iqbal was awarded the prison term on May 30, 2019 after being convicted of "espionage/leakage of sensitive information to foreign agencies prejudicial to the national security", but eventually came out of jail after four years.

Earlier, Maj Gen Zahoorul Islam Akbar, Brig Mustansir Bhatti, two colonels and 38 other military officers were arrested on Sept 26, 1995, on charges of plotting to storm a corps commanders' meeting, to be held on Sept 30 at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

They had also allegedly plotted to proclaim 'Khilafat' or Islamic rule, with Maj Gen Akbar as 'Amirul Momineen' after assassinating then prime minister Benazir Bhutto and then army chief Gen Abdul Wahid Kakkar, senior cabinet ministers and senior military officers.

Generals sacked administratively
In a number of cases, instead of court-martialing general officers, the military has removed them after disciplinary proceedings.

Retired Lt Gen Ziauddin Butt, who was made army chief in 1998 by then prime minister Nawaz Sharif, was also taken into custody.

According to former judge advocate general retired Brigadier Muhammad Waqil Khan Niaz, Ziauddin Butt was not put before the FGCM but dismissed from service.

In 2016, the military shared the details of those removed from service during the tenure of then army chief Gen Raheel Sharif, including a three-star general Qasidullah Khattak for corruption.

A two-star general, then FC Ejaz, was also dismissed by Gen Sharif.

In 2015, the general officers involved in a multi-billion National Logistics Cell scam were also punished by GHQ.

Brig Niaz said these officers were sacked after disciplinary proceedings.

SC reinstates three PML-N lawmakers after lengthy battle

Continued from Page 1

candidates from these constituencies: Ghulam Nabi Wani from NA-79 (Gujranwala), Bilal Ejaz from NA-93 (Gujranwala) and Raza Farooq Naveed from NA-154 (Lahore).

But the PML-N candidates approached the ECP seeking a recount of votes. Consequently, the commission declared the PML-N candidates successful after recounting the votes.

Subsequently, the PTI-backed independent candidates challenged the ECP decision before the high court, which rejected the ECP notification and reinstated the independent candidates as members of the house.

The PML-N members then challenged the high court order before the apex court, which resulted in a split decision restoring the ECP ruling, after accepting the candidates' appeals.

The majority judgment cited Section 95(5) of the Elections Act, which stipulates that when the margin of victory between the returned candidate and the runner-up was less than five percent of the total votes polled in the constituency — or eight thousand votes in the case of a National Assembly constituency — and four thousand in the case of a provincial assembly constituency — the returning officer (RO) will recount the ballot papers of one or more polling stations if a request to challenge in writing was made before the commencement of consolidation proceedings.

It is an admitted position, the judgment said, that difference in the margin of victory between the returned candidate and the runner-up was less than the stipulated percentage/number.

It is also admitted in respect of three of the applications to recount ballot papers, which were submitted on Feb 9, 2024. However, the contesting respondents — the petitioners Imtiaz LHC — contended that the consolidation proceedings had already commenced or concluded when the applications seeking recount of ballot papers were submitted. Thus, they challenged the recounting.

The Supreme Court also cited one of the RO's reports from March 2, 2024, which was sought by ECP.

In it, the concerned official acknowledged receipt of an application for recount on Feb 9, 2024, but stated he could not undertake recount because of a huge number of political workers gathered outside his office, who had climbed the walls of the premises.

They also raised slogans and used abusive language and the law and order situation worsened. Therefore, he was unable to ascertain the application and dismissed it.

The Supreme Court held that ROs cannot surrender their powers to wide rule, nor could they evade their statutory duty to hold a recount.

"If this is accepted, it would create a very dangerous precedent and render the law regarding recounting meaningless by those resorting to lawlessness," the majority judgment said, adding this would also deprive the candidate seeking recount of this statutory right/remedy.

The rights and remedies granted by the law cannot be negated, the judgment emphasised.

Moreover, the high court's jurisdiction can only be invoked under Article 199 of the Constitution if a petitioner is an "aggrieved person," the judgment said, adding it was not understandable how anyone can be stated to be aggrieved if the ballot papers were recounted.

Grievances against the administrative/ministerial act of recounting ballot papers is a matter envisaged by Article 199, the verdict said, adding that if the RO does not do an honest recount or does not do the recount in accordance with the law, then the affected party has remedies available to it.

The judgment said the LHC verdict cannot be maintained, therefore these petitions were converted into appeals and allowed by setting aside the high court judgments.

Meanwhile, in his dissenting note, Justice Asad Ali Khan argued that Section 95(5) reflected that the ECP can direct the ROs to recount ballot papers of one or more polling stations, but only before the conclusion of consolidation proceedings and not afterwards, as had been done in these cases.

Therefore, he held, the ECP acted without jurisdiction and lawful authority. He further said that the LHC did not ascertain or decide any election dispute, nor was the apex court hearing appeals under Section 155 of the Elections Act, against any decision of the Election Tribunal.

Faiz first ex-spymaster to face court martial

Continued from Page 1

taken beyond this period, charges must first be framed in a civilian court before court martial proceedings can commence.

Col Inassar Bakht, another expert in military law, argues that offences falling under sections 31 and 40 of the Army Act have been given exception to this six-month rule, allowing for court martial proceedings to be initiated regardless of the timeframe.

Section 31 pertains to "mutiny and insubordination", while Section 40 covers "frustration of force in respect of property". However, it is not certain whether these sections have applied against Gen Hameed or not.

Gen Hameed chose to retire in November 2022 when Gen Asim Munir took the reins as the new army chief.

Gen Hameed's background is equally significant in the political landscape of Pakistan. He served as the director general of the ISI from 2019 to 2021 and was known for his close ties to former prime minister Imran Khan.

His removal from the ISI chief position in 2021 is believed to have resulted in the rift between Mr. Khan and the military establishment, which culminated in the ex-prime minister's ouster in 2022 through a vote of no-confidence.

Gen Hameed's tenure as ISI chief also brought him into the international spotlight, especially following his visible presence in Kabul during the Afghan Taliban's takeover in 2021 — a critical moment after the withdrawal of US and other Western forces.

As the court martial proceedings commence, the focus will be on the implications for military discipline and the broader political repercussions in Pakistan.

PTC
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Pursuant to clause (III) of the Federal Excise General Order No. 3/2007 the recommended retail prices and the applicable sales tax of our various brands with effect from July 23rd, 2024 will be as follows:

Brand Name	Pack Size	Retail Price (Rs.)	Sales Tax (Rs.)	Total Price (Rs.)
Capstan by Pall Mall Original	20HL	188.13	33.87	222.00
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John Player	20HL	188.13	33.87	222.00
Capstan Filter	20HL	188.13	33.87	222.00
Gold Flake by Rothmans	20SC	188.13	33.87	222.00
Gold Flake by Rothmans	20HL	188.13	33.87	222.00

PAKISTAN TOBACCO COMPANY LIMITED

School massacre in Gaza

EARLY on Saturday morning, Israel struck a school sheltering around 2,400 displaced Palestinians in Gaza City. At least 100 people have been reported killed in this atrocity. The accounts given by eyewitnesses are horrifying: many of the bodies were charred and dismembered. When F1P terrorists struck the APS in Peshawar a decade ago, there was worldwide revulsion at the fact that the militants had slaughtered over 140 people, primarily minors. While that tragedy has not been forgotten by Pakistan, Israel has been unleashing similarly monstrous violence upon Gaza's civilians since last October. Throughout this one-sided conflict — perhaps better described as a genocidal campaign — Tel Aviv has hardly baited an eyelid as it hit schools, hospitals and people queuing for food, all in the name of targeting Hamas. Even after the latest tragedy, Israel said it had hit "Hamas terrorists and commanders". Does this justify the burning alive and dismemberment of countless non-combatants, including children, in the process? Clearly, in Israel's twisted worldview, it does.

Can Tel Aviv's assertions that it is ready to discuss a ceasefire really be taken seriously in the aftermath of such bloodbaths? The US, Qatar and Egypt have recently called for resuming truce talks. But it appears that Israel is only playing for time, and is not serious about peace, or else it would not slaughter 100 people after agreeing to attend the talks. The fact is that the longer the slaughter in Gaza continues, the longer Benjamin Netanyahu can cling to power. Perhaps this is a reason why the Israeli prime minister is determined to set the Middle East on fire by provoking Iran and its armed regional allies. If a bigger conflagration ensues, Mr Netanyahu can claim he is defending his country from "evil" Iran, and most of his Western friends may lap it up.

There are considerable chances of the war expanding. Iranian and Israeli and US officials have been exchanging combative rhetoric; it is perhaps only a matter of time before these verbal attacks turn into an actual confrontation. The US has reportedly asked one of its carrier strike groups to speed up its arrival in the Middle East, while its defence secretary has been regularly exchanging notes with the Israeli defence minister. None of this bodes well for the region, or for the larger international community. Clearly, the West is unwilling to rein in Israel. On Monday, the UK, Germany and France called upon Iran not to "escalate". Perhaps they would be better off advising Tel Aviv to stop murdering civilians in Gaza, and end the campaign of assassinations in Iran, Lebanon and Syria. Unless Israel is muted, there will be no peace in the Middle East, and the chances of escalation will gather pace.

Bottomless pit

AT a time when the masses are struggling to put two decent meals on the table, the scale of fiscal malfeasance and mismanagement at state-owned enterprises, and the resultant costs borne by the exchequer, sting like nothing else. Speaking on Sunday at an exhibition in Lahore, Privatisation Minister Abdul Azeem Khan revealed that PIA's losses have now ballooned to Rs830bn, or around \$3bn. Once the pride and glory of Pakistan, the airline has been hemorrhaging so much money lately that it boggles the senses just trying to put its losses in perspective. Recent estimates suggest the national flag carrier has been bleeding about Rs13bn every month. This means that for every second its privatisation is delayed, PIA loses enough money to feed the average Pakistani household for an entire week, and the loss incurred for every minute the airline functions could be used to cover the monthly stipend for 30 families under the Benazir Income Support Programme.

Another SOE that was similarly emblematic of abject mismanagement and malfeasance is now officially considered "a piece of scrap", with officials conceding that its industrial assets are "worthless in the current era". A few weeks ago, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Industries and Production was informed that Pakistan Steel Mills' gas supply was disconnected at the end of June to avoid further losses, and that its real estate assets are being parcelled out to various stakeholders. It seems that after years of failed attempts to turn the PSM around, all that is left is bones for the vultures to pick. The entity has become a tragic example of what happens when the right decisions are not executed at the right time. With that in mind, it is hoped that the PIA privatisation goes through as announced soon, and that its resources, or whatever is left of them, are put to good use by a new, competent management with a vision.

Countering hate in UK

THE anti-racism counter-protests witnessed across the UK last week brought a moment of relief to the country. Standing in defiance of far-right groups, the demonstrators provided a much-needed ray of hope, indicating that the hate-filled rhetoric of a few will not be met by silence but defiance and unity — especially from those who represent the nation's multicultural identity. When far-right factions sought to exploit the tragic murders in Southport recently to sow divisions, thousands of anti-racist protesters responded. These brave individuals, from diverse backgrounds and faiths, stood shoulder to shoulder. From Liverpool to London, the message was clear: there is no place for hate in the country. The scenes of solidarity witnessed during these counter-protests are a powerful reminder that modern-day Britain's strength lies in its diversity. For generations, the country has welcomed migrants who have made tremendous contributions to every aspect of British life, including, but not restricted to the health services, education and the arts. The far right's xenophobic agenda, therefore, is not only morally questionable, it is also a direct threat to the values that have allowed Britain to prosper. The counter-protests are important, because not only do they defy the detestable ideologies of those who aim to bully, threaten and intimidate racial communities, they also serve as a strong reminder that the troublemakers are a minority.

Sadly, even as order appeared to have been restored in the last few days, with mass arrests and no more rioting, reports of a double stabbing in London's busy Leicester Square on Monday afternoon was an alarming message that more than counter-protests are needed to eliminate xenophobia. Action may have been taken by the police and authorities against the rioters, but the new incident has already elicited racist and intolerable responses on social media. The government will have to go beyond bringing rioters to justice if it hopes to effectively counter the hate.

OPINION

BY ARIFA NOOR



Broken politics

The fault is not of the parties alone; the establishment too has broken the link.

BANGLADESHI next door is going through a period of instability in which street protests by students ended in a government being sent home after 15-odd years. The rapid political changes have led to a spate of discussions about possible parallels with Pakistan, apart in different ways to suit the various discussants' leanings and preferences.

Hence, for one side, the events in Bangladesh were about people's power and how it can bring authoritarian governments down, while for others it was about consequences for those who had once stood up against their counterparts in what was then West Pakistan. For still others, it was about democratic leaning authoritarianism.

But the spin aside, between the events in Sri Lanka two years ago (like in the economy) and then Bangladesh, where political inequality and political repression for over a decade had created a pressure cooker-like situation, there is no end to questions about how Pakistan may end up in similar circumstances. After all, the country is experiencing both a fragile economy and an unstable political environment.

However, there are differences, as well. For instance, the economic situation has deteriorated rapidly but not in the manner of Sri Lanka, where default led to massive shortages and a virtual breakdown. Similarly, there are few immediate parallels with Bangladesh where a single party had dominated the scene for nearly 15 years; in Pakistan, the anger of the people is directed every few years by the removal of most individuals — including prime ministers and others. The last time we saw protests was when Gen Pervez Musharraf's eight-year rule led to street agitations, which brought together society as well as political parties, with so-called individual completing five years in power.

So that as it may, Bangladesh does offer some food for thought. While there is perhaps an absence of strong student unions and organisations in Pakistan, it is not simply due to laws on them. The ethnic polarisation the country faces

has spread to how students organise or are allowed to organise around ethnic cultural groups in many institutes.

However, this is not to say they are not politically mobilised. Their mobilisation has led to two of the largest, organic movements in modern Pakistan. Both the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Muqaddamat (PTM) and the Baloch Youth Committee (BYC) are youth-led. But it is Pakistan's misfortune that neither movement shows any interest in politics and parliamentary politics. Neither do they aim to influence politicians or push for their resignations. Their ire and focus is directed elsewhere.

So far, both movements claim to be averse to parliamentary politics. In Balochistan, the Baloch youth is attracted to neither mainstream political parties nor nationalist ones. Perhaps it would be inaccurate to limit this to the youth; the large crowds which have welcomed or greeted BYC gatherings suggest that the indifference is growing and spreading.

This is mainly due to the manner in which elections have been conducted in the province and the results they have thrown up, which has led to a widespread perception that the legislature and governments do not exist to address the people's issues.

With the PTM, the approach is not much different; their mobilisation is also limited to street agitation. Part of the reason for their aversion to mainstream politics is the role of dominant political parties in legitimising military operations in the militancy-afflicted areas. It is noteworthy that Ali Wazir and Mohsin Durrani had to leave the PTM once they decided to contest the elections.

Part of this disaffection with politics can be linked to the post-2008 period, where mainstream parties were willing to accept power and governance in Punjab and Sindh while allowing the establishment to control Balochistan and parts of KP to tackle militancy. Over the years, this, in a way, disarmed politics in these areas,

and the result has been movements that are people-focused but divorced from politics. But the fault is not of the parties alone; the establishment has also aggressively broken the link between the people and the parties by wresting control from the politicians.

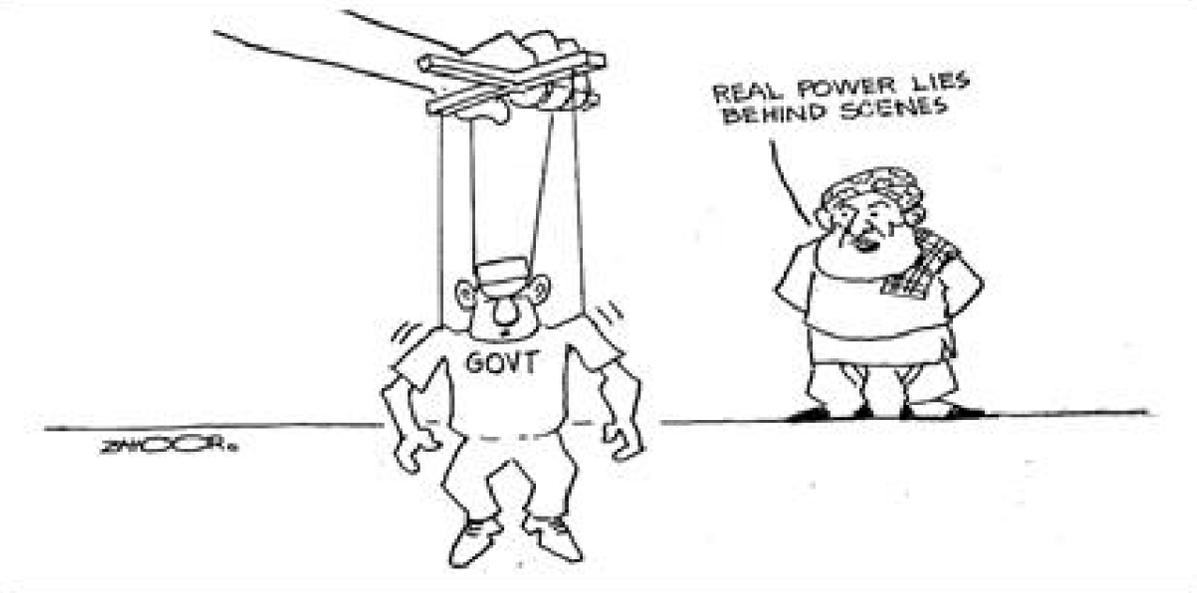
Perhaps this point can be stretched further by pointing out that from 2022 to the summer of 2023, the PTI was able to win elections after election, despite having resigned from the National Assembly and not having a clear strategy with regard to whether it was going to retain the seat it was contesting.

At the other end were the party/ parties which were not just in government but also strove about staying in power, and yet the voters chose a party which had no interest in the then parliamentary system. It was perhaps not an apolitical choice as that made by the PTM and BYC, but it still revealed what the voters thought of parliament.

This attitude on the part of the party and its voters changed only after the May 9 crackdown, which made them realise their own limitations and inability to confront the might of the state. However, whether this 'faith' in the parliamentary system is long lasting or temporary remains to be seen.

This should lead to some soul-searching among those in powerful positions. If the youth, which is the present and future of the country, has no faith in the democratic forums of the country, they will only turn to agitation and eventually violence. Already, their disaffection is a major reason for the instability being witnessed in many parts of Pakistan. Only once this problem is understood and acknowledged, will we be able to move forward. To think that progress will take place in a vacuum where the people feel that their voice can only be heard through agitation and street protest will only lead to more instability. ■

The writer is a journalist.



BY JAWED NAQVI

Is he Dhaka's Manmohan Singh?

WE may find a useful clue on Aug 15 to the direction the multi-ethnic-stricken Bangladesh is heading in. Aug 15 marks India's Independence Day, but it also became the day in 1975 when the founding father of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was assassinated in a military coup. The Awami League government of Sheikh Hasina Wajed subsequently declared it as the National Mourning Day of Bangladesh.

Now that she has been ousted from power and has taken refuge in India, it would be interesting to see if the usual black flag is hoisted and whether the national flag is kept at half-mast to remember the founder president of Bangladesh, who was the deposed prime minister's father.

Mujib's family members present at home on the fateful morning were all killed, but Sheikh Hasina survived by not being in the country. India's Gandhi gave her refuge and assigned her Bengali colleagues, Pranab Mukherjee, to take care of her. Her father's killing and her refuge in India were clearly an extension of the cat and mouse the contending superpowers played in third countries during the Cold War. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are good examples.

The visuals of attacks on Mujib's towering image in Dhaka during the mass protests brought memories of the pulling down of Saddam Hussein's statue in Iraq under the US army's watch. Which makes it tricky for the interim administration to tinker with the importance of the day the founder of the nation was murdered by antibodies among his own people.

Would it be easy to undermine Mujib's towering legacy for the makeshift government? The interim leader named by the students and endorsed by the army is a genial economist who won the Nobel Prize for setting up a village bank in 1976, a year following Mujib's murder. It is said to have helped millions of women, mostly, come out of poverty with the help of tiny, unsecured loans. That the bank would get involved with the Ford Foundation was a curious development, say its critics.

There is already looming suspicion about the involvement of a 'foreign hand' in Sheikh Hasina's ouster, even though she herself was the chief proponent of the theory. Was Hasina

marking her failure to road the railway alienation and her unpopularity by blaming the ubiquitous foreign hand for precipitating the mass violence?

On several occasions as prime minister, she did refer to a 'white man' who met her to convey US interests in Saint Martin, a small coral island off Cox's Bazar peninsula in the Bay of Bengal. Had she heeded the wishes, she would be safely ensconced as the ruler in Dhaka, goes the claim.

According to her story, the US wants to set up a base on the eight-kilometre stretch abutting the strategic Strait of Malacca. And it would be a vital listening post about China in the north. The idea could have carried weight in some parts, but

Would it be easy to undermine Mujib's towering legacy for the makeshift government?

why would the US need a base on Saint Martin's when they have no dearth of real estate in India as their observing post for China, and when the Indian navy could be co-opted to guard the strait? Unless, of course, for obvious reasons, India is no longer deemed the trusted ally the US was looking for?

The flip side to the claim is, would a US base in the neighbourhood suit India, leave alone its close friends in Moscow? However, it was the foreign minister in the Vajpayee government who had reportedly clamoured for the US to use India as its base for the operations in Afghanistan. Pakistan won the trophy though.

On the one hand, it is not uncommon to see those that never had much to do with the creation of their nation, including those that were opposed to its creation, usurp power. The Jamaat-Islami in Pakistan, for example, opposed the creation of Pakistan and remained hostile towards its found-

ing fathers. And yet it did not hesitate to grab power — in indirect and indirect ways — in the country whose very being it had opposed.

Like with the JI of Bangladesh, an offshoot of the Pakistani parent, it fought hard against the independence of Bangladesh, but then sought a share in power by allying with the Awami League before switching sides to the rival BNP of Khaleda Zia. And look who is ruling India? They are the ideologues of a worldview that was opposed to the national movement. And, like the RSS celebrated Gandhi's murder with sweets, according to Sardar Patel, the JI was thrilled with Mujib's death.

So, who are these students who are credited with bringing down Hasina's government? Do they have an ideology? It's difficult to think of students as being only committed to human rights. As Howard Zinn said succinctly, it's a fallacy that one can remain neutral on a moving train. India's Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad is a student's front of the RSS, like the NFI is for India's largest communist party. They have been rivals, mostly, but were strongly backed in bringing down India Gandhi's rule in 1957. The RSS has been quietly courted by the US for being vocally anti-communist. Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi have been beneficiaries of the affection.

Something flipped in 1991. The Cold War ended, and Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated. Someone tapped Narasimha as prime minister. The obscure man was picking to leave politics and was not a member of any assembly or house of parliament. He tapped Manmohan Singh as finance minister, who, like the now Bangladesh leader Mohammed Yunus, was an economist.

The West has seldom courted an Indian finance minister as Manmohan Singh was loved. When he became prime minister, Singh received George W. Bush, the man who was in bad odour everywhere, including his own country, telling him that Indians loved him. Yunes may be a variant of Manmohan Singh, but Bangladesh is not India. ■

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OPINION



BY MOHAMMAD ALI BABAKHEL

Australia's recipe

WITH more than 100 different faiths and over 300 languages, Australia is one of the world's most culturally and linguistically diverse nations. Promoting social cohesion is a big challenge for it, but Australia has enjoyed a peaceful history, relatively free from violent extremism. Still, the threat of VE is not non-existent, and it threatens Australia's core values of respect for human rights, the rule of law, democracy, equal opportunity, and freedom.

In Australia, VE refers to the beliefs and actions of individuals who use violence to support the use of violence to achieve ideological, religious, or political goals. It includes terrorism and other forms of politically motivated and communal violence that seek to bring about change through fear and intimidation.

Radicalisation is a complex process that involves a person's beliefs shifting from relatively conventional to radical, with a desire for a drastic societal change. According to the Australian belief, when a person radicalises, the community and government are responsible for acting and intervening to prevent harm to both the person and wider society.

In Australia, new migrants with low income and high unemployment rates are often vulnerable to extremist narratives. New migrants for whom English is a second language are uncertain about navigating systems in a new country and may feel isolated. Those with low education levels also face low awareness of their rights and may feel voiceless, marginalised, and susceptible to VE. Feelings of helplessness may drive them to amplify their voices online, further exposing them to extremist influences. This is why reducing access to extremist material and empowering communities to combat extremist narratives are among Australia's priorities.

After 9/11, Australia enacted various laws to prevent acts of VE. In the past, the Australian authorities had to wait until a terrorist attack was imminent or underway before they could intervene. The updated Australian legal framework allows them to disrupt acts of VE while they are still being planned.

The Australian approach to CVE (countering violent extremism) comprises robust security, strong law enforcement, effective community engagement, and extensive partnerships. Australia invests considerable resources in community engagement and building social harmony. Key areas of focus include supporting individuals' participation in education, improving social and economic participation, increasing community harmony, preventing crime, and building effective families and com-

munity organisations. Australia's recipe for CVE is based on the belief that unity of effort works, partnerships matter, and teamwork makes everything possible. Australia's approach acknowledges that the threat is persistent and dynamic; hence, it never remains static. Since the world is rapidly changing, threats are also continuously evolving. The causes of VE can be better understood, mitigated, and reduced through collaborative partnerships. Australia also recognises the engagement of the private sector and civil society as essential. That's why, to counter VE, Australia has worked collaboratively and quietly at the global, regional, and bilateral levels.

In the 2002 Bali bombings, 202 people, including 88 Australians, were killed, representing the single most significant loss of Australian life due to terrorism. Afterwards, Australia started a CVE collaboration with Indonesia and other countries. Australia is also part of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, which was formed in 2014.

The Australian strategy includes six principles: lives must be protected; the government and the community must tackle terrorism together; terrorist acts should be prosecuted through the criminal justice system; international partnerships should be built; community and national resilience should be strengthened; and Australia's counterterrorism (CT) arrangements should reflect the changing threat environment. Its approach is based on four complementary streams of activity, which seek to build strength in diversity and social participation, work with vulnerable communities and institutions, address online terrorist propaganda, and support deradicalisation.

Since 2003, the appointment of an ambassador for CT to deal with terrorism-related issues speaks of Australia's commitment to CT. This ambassador coordinates Australia's international CT efforts by building international linkages, leading diplomatic efforts in the domain of CT with partner countries, and facilitating Australia to benefit from global best practices. Pakistan must evaluate the need for such a diplomatic position, which may benefit it and friendly countries equally. ■

The writer is the author of Pakistan: In Between Extremism and Peace. X @MABabakhel



BY NASEEM SALAHUDDIN

Saving lives

SANITATION and immunisation stand as the most effective defences against disease, disability, and death caused by infectious diseases. As our population shifts from public health diseases, neither individuals nor the government observe the basic principles of hygiene and sanitation. Overpopulation exacerbates these issues, straining civic resources and impacting public health.

Babies born to undernourished mothers are destined to die from preventable diseases even before they reach toddler age. Although early childhood vaccinations are offered free through the government's Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI), their acceptance is inconsistent. Adults, too, are vulnerable to viruses or bacteria that can be prevented through vaccination.

Immunisation induces immunity against specific diseases. The selected bacteria or virus is modified, scientifically processed, and injected. It mimics the original disease, albeit mildly, and provokes the host immune system to produce antibodies that counter the infectious agent without causing the disease.

The history of vaccination began with smallpox. Older readers may remember the consequences of smallpox that killed, blinded, or disfigured millions everywhere. Medical history is replete with tales of this highly contagious disease that continued for centuries. In England, Edward Jenner's ground-breaking experiment in 1796 involved using fluid from eruptions on the hands of a milkmaid who milked the udder of a cow that had poxules. He injected the fluid into an infant on the arm of a healthy boy and observed that his subject remained protected. He used his innovation in his native town, meaning the spread of smallpox.

The Latin word for cow is 'vacca', and cowpox is 'vaccinia'; hence, called this procedure vaccination. The process was subsequently refined and became mandatory globally. The last naturally occurring smallpox case was reported in Somalia in 1977. Routine smallpox vaccination ceased worldwide in 1980. Smallpox is the only ID to have been eradicated and is among the most remarkable of public health successes.

Efforts expanded to combat other IDs. Universal immunisation against Hepatitis B has saved millions from liver failure and liver cancer. Life-saving vaccines are available today against viral influenza, bacterial pneumonia, meningitis, tetanus, typhoid, and cholera. Shingles, caused by the herpes zoster virus, is contracted from chickenpox virus acquired in childhood. The reawakened virus of an earlier rubella infection but can be prevented with the shingles vaccine. The

Human papillomavirus (which causes cervical cancer in women) is preventable with shots given during adolescence.

Childhood infections such as measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, diphtheria, and tetanus are vaccine-preventable. Polio, which killed or maimed thousands of children globally, has virtually ended through mass vaccination, with ongoing challenges in a few places including Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Covid-19 pandemic was met with swift vaccine development, illustrating the critical role vaccines play in combating global health crises. Encouraging results from field trials of vaccines against malaria, dengue, and TB are in the development or testing phases. However, not all IDs are vaccine-preventable. While they are playing havoc globally, Hepatitis C and HIV elude attempts at vaccine production.

Modern vaccines are safe and generally effective, although some people may experience side effects, like a slight fever or rash. An intriguing feature of the human immune system is the presence of 'memory cells'. Even years later, a booster shot will awaken resting cells and enhance protection. The evidence of response is the detection of measurable antibodies in the blood, but many such tests are not commercially available. Data on the efficacy of a vaccine is credible only if obtained through well-conducted human trials, validated, and published in reputable journals.

If at least two-thirds of a population is vaccinated during an outbreak, it will create a shield that will protect those who are not. Travellers heading to areas where a disease is endemic are advised to receive vaccinations. Malaria, Dengue, and Typhoid are vulnerable to meningitis, influenza, or pneumonia and must receive those preventive shots.

Almost all vaccines in Pakistan are imported and hence expensive and erratically available, depending on their demand and import policies. Ironically, EPI vaccines for children are supported through international funding agencies, yet they are inadequately used.

Vaccines for specific infections must be prioritised but must not replace water, sanitation and hygiene. This is the responsibility of individuals and our municipalities. ■

The writer is an infectious disease specialist at Jinnah Hospital and Health Network.

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Kabul's plot

RAWALPINDI: Kabul Radio's version of the bomb explosion in Quetta on Aug 2, in which a boy sustained fatal injuries near the Railway Hockey ground where Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was addressing a public meeting, has been described by informed sources here as confirming that the incident was part of a conspiracy, which is being investigated by the police.

These sources said they had been unwilling to comment on the incident because any premature revelation of what they knew might have prejudiced police investigations. [It] has [been] learnt that some days before the incident, police had received information that the authorities in Kabul had sent over three foreign-trained Baluch guerrillas, led by Nawaz Khan, to attack Prime Minister Bhutto during his tour of Baluchistan and disrupt some of his important public meetings in such a manner as to create bad blood between the Baluch and Pathans.

The Prime Minister knew of the plot and of his being stalked during his tour of Baluchistan, but he made no change in his programme. At Quetta, when he heard the bomb explosion, he did not allow it to affect the rhythm of his speech. However, he drew the audience's attention to it. — News agencies

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

Pakistan's strong protest

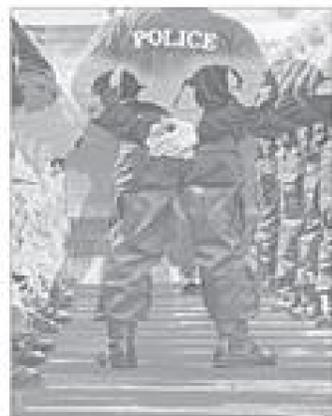
KARACHI: Pakistan is protesting to India against her refusal to honour mutually recognised issues before May 15 to Indian nationals who came on short visits to Pakistan, most of whom are Muslims, it was learnt ... on Friday (Aug 12). The Pakistan Government ... it was understood ... also strongly resent India's unilateral action in cancelling all such permits granted to businessmen by both the Governments, in the event of inter-Dominion trade.

These matters, it was pointed out, were calculated to declare as evasive those Indian Muslims who have come to Pakistan on short visits or have business interests in both the Dominions, and to attach their properties under the new Ordinances. The notifications for the cancellations of these certificates have a proviso for their renewal ... So far ... not a single nationality certificate has been renewed by ... India ... The new permit rules, it is estimated, affect at least about 150,000 persons coming from various provinces of India on short visits or for business. Most of the latter are Muslim businessmen from Bombay. — Staff correspondent

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@dawn.com

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



Imperative to make police accountable

IN recent times, there have been a number of reports and instances highlighting misuse of power, unjust actions as well as corrupt practices by police personnel. These incidents not only tarnish the image and reputation of the police force, but also undermine the rule of law and the foundational principles of justice and fairness in society. Not only do police officials overlook their legal boundaries, their engagement is ethically, morally and professionally reprehensible.

Unsurprisingly, widespread lawlessness and corruption within the police force across the country is a reality that has become more visible with the passage of time. The very institutions entrusted with upholding law and order as well as preventing criminal activities are, regrettably, often the root cause of corruption and disorder. This erodes public trust, undermines the rule of law, and fosters an environment where criminal activities thrive and flourish.

As such, the cumulative effect of growing lawlessness and corruption has led to widespread public discontent and grievances. Citizens feel helpless and frustrated when those meant to protect them become the perpetrators of injustice. The disconnect between the police and the public is detrimental to the social fabric and can lead to increased civil unrest.

There must be a system of stringent accountability in place. Also, an effective policing system must be introduced that is rooted in principles of justice, fairness and accountability. Nothing else will work.

Muhammad A. Siddiqui
Karachi

Sheer highhandedness

IN Pakistan, the police force at large has become a symbol of terror, with citizens almost always hesitant about filing complaints due to reasons that are too well known to need any elaboration further. The root of this problem lies in the unprofessional behaviour of some officers who abuse their authority with impunity, conducting investigations that are at best sloppy, and allowing criminals to escape accountability.

This lack of accountability perpetuates a culture of impunity in which innocent people are framed and subjected to harassment, with no criminal being held to account.

Similarly, the purpose of investigations is to uncover the truth, but, instead, police officers succumb to extraneous pressures, always implicating innocent individuals in serious cases without having even a shred of evidence.

It is imperative to amend the existing laws to prevent the victimisation of innocent people, and to make sure that police personnel receive comprehensive training on good behaviour and professional conduct while carrying out their duties. Only then can we restore the public's trust in our law enforcement agencies.

Riaz Ali Farhan
Hyderabad

Policing in KP

VARIOUS accounts available on mainstream and social media indicate that police personnel in Lakki Marwat and Bannu areas tend to confine themselves to their stations after sunset due to threats of terrorist attacks. It is deplorable that uniformed personnel, who receive salaries for protecting the people and maintaining peace, are so unprofessionally concerned about their own safety. This raises many questions about the public's expected course of action, are they expected to take responsibility for their own safety by arming themselves against unknown assailants at night?

Unfortunately, such dereliction of duty by police personnel only emboldens the terrorists. If the police force fails to conduct night patrols, terrorists will be able to roam freely and carry out attacks with impunity. This is unacceptable, and the general public should not be placed in such a distressing situation.

The state has a responsibility to protect its citizens at all times, day and night. Failure to do so will result in devastating consequences. Police should be proactive, and, more critically, provide adequate protection to the public, restoring the long lost public trust in the security institution.

Ameer Sajjad Khan
Bannu



A clear case of bias

THIS is with reference to the editorial 'A star is born' (Aug 10). The nation is clearly celebrating star athlete Arshad Nadeem's Olympic gold in javelin throw while lamenting the lack of support for those at the helm of affairs. The athlete truly deserves accolades, for he achieved the Olympic feat without any meaningful support from the relevant sports federation and the government.

Arshad's story is a rare exception. If things continue to remain what they are, we will never see any sportman performing such wonders at the Asian level, leave alone the Olympics.

Furthermore, I would like to give the readers a glimpse of something to show why our sportmen are unable to perform at the international level, and how fan-coorination and support are destroying sports like terrorism.

As such, at the recent National Women's Football Club Championship [image courtesy: social media page], there were eight qualifying teams, and each team got a rest of two to three days between its matches. However, a soccer academy based in Karachi's Lyari area that has no influence in the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) was asked to play its matches without proper breaks. Usually, the teams are given four to five days of rest. Influential, and, indeed, wealthy teams managed by groups belonging to the privileged class were given a four-day gap simply due to their influence in the PFF.

This bias by the PFF appeared to be an attempt to give the academy a tough time, and to allow the influential teams more time as four of their 'premier' players were injured. When a protest was lodged, the PFF administration behaved rudely with the coach, who was a self-respecting former Pakistan player. This was done seemingly to please the influential. The tournament drive was changed due to an official's adamant attitude during the process. Was such an interference fair?

To many, this may appear to be a petty issue, but it certainly shows how national football affairs are being run and why

the nation lags far behind in its sports, and struggles to optimise the talent that we surely have in abundance in the country.

Naseem A. Shokhumi
Mianwali, USA

Endangered leopards

THIS is with reference to the report 'Pakistan's critically endangered leopards in fight for survival' (July 18). The report brought back memories when I, as a teenager, accompanied my elders on a visit to Veshal in Lushkai district. On a small hillside, there was a hand-made shrine but owned by an old man. In subsequent years, I visited the place several times to climb the peaks of the Par-Mountain Range that starts from the Arabian Sea and runs all the way to Wazir. My last visit to the area was two years ago as an old man gripped by nostalgia to go down the memory lane.

During my early years, while spending cold nights in the stone hut, sounds of leopards could be heard echoing through the night. I heard my elders claiming they had seen black bears on the mountains. I always thought it was some kind of joke, but now I realise that they were actually Baluchistan's black bears that are now extinct. Unfortunately, they were poached by humans just like the killing of the leopards that have now become a critically endangered species across the province.

Abid S. Muzaffar
Karachi

Empowering men

IN today's world, where feminism is growing at a brisk pace, there is little discussion about men's rights and their emotions. In many communities, men are considered feeble if they express their emotions. Boys are expected to grow up to become 'providers' to their families. Men are trained to repress their emotions. Crying, for instance, is considered a taboo for them as it is supposedly a sign of weakness. Boys are often mocked for being delicate and hyper-sensitive if they express their inner feelings and sentiments.

Men should be allowed to exhibit their true, deep, and bona fide emotions. They should be told that crying is not a sign of weakness. They should learn to express their emotions. They should be encouraged to seek help and accept support when it is available. Men should be encouraged to give voice to their feelings.

Men should be acknowledged as well as celebrated. Their emotions should be celebrated. But, more than anything else, they should be made to really feel empowered to manifest their emotions.

Deer Saif
Islamabad

WRONG INFORMATION: Pakistani star athlete Arshad Nadeem's profile on the Olympics official website is surprising. Under the 'languages spoken' section, Arshad apparently speaks English and Hindi, yes, Hindi, not Urdu. The Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) is clearly too indifferent to detect as well as point out the error. Maybe those running POA affairs need to be taught Pakistan Studies to get their basic facts right. I found it extremely annoying that Urdu was replaced with Hindi in the official profile of a Pakistani star athlete, and that, too, at the level of Olympic Games. **Dr. Khattak**
Rawalpindi

E-GOVERNANCE: Just to get official permission to perform Umrah from my department, I had to go through a frustrating process that entailed acquiring a no-objection certificate (NOC) from three different offices. It involved a lot of paperwork, and consumed a good eight days. Using an e-governance system, the entire process could have been completed within a couple of days. Many countries around the world use e-governance, like e-filing, e-registration and e-compliance, to speed up the process and save time. The government should implement e-governance systems in its all departments as much as possible to streamline the entire process, and to make it really efficient. **Muhammad Usman**
Rawalpindi

TRAFFIC CHALLENGES: Flagrant violation of traffic rules on the roads of Islamabad leads to increased risk of accidents, fatalities, congestion and traffic jams. To resolve the issue, the relevant authorities should implement a traffic challan system. It would involve traffic cameras powered by artificial intelligence (AI) and automatic number plate recognition technology to identify violators and issue electronic challans to offenders. **Kamran Akram**
Koh, AJK

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

Girl killed, four injured in Haripur roof collapse

By Our Correspondent

HARIPUR: A mirror girl was killed and her three cousins were injured when the roof of a room collapsed in a remote village, police and rescue sources said here on Monday.

The roof collapsed due to its dilapidated condition that was further weakened during the recent rain spell.

The police quoted family sources as saying that four girls, who all were cousins, were playing in a room of the mud house in Ghumanan village when at around 12 noon, the roof of the room caved in burying all the girls under the debris.

The residents rushed there and launched a rescue operation.

They recovered four girls and shifted them to the trauma centre, where one of the girls, later identified as Noor Fatima, 9, daughter of Mohammad Akbar, was pronounced as brought dead.

The injured were sisters and the cousins of the deceased girl.

They were identified as Hayat Bibi, 13, Mariyam Bibi, 15, and Nadia Bibi, 20, daughters of Mohammad Aslam.

The injured were later discharged from the hospital after first aid as they suffered minor injuries, police and hospital sources said.

KP excise dept plans to bring non-custom paid vehicles into tax net

Collects details of such automobiles in Malakand, tribal districts

By Manzoor Ali

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa excise and taxation department has compiled the data on over 100,000 non-custom paid (NCP) vehicles in Malakand Division and merged tribal districts to bring them into tax net.

The profiling exercise carried out with the help of the Malakand Levies and police was meant to determine custom duty on such automobiles, according to an official.

He told Dawn that the excise department had fed details of vehicle owners and chassis and registration numbers into its

database for use by the Federal Bureau of Revenue to decide about duty based on engine capacity.

The official said the department had already proposed custom duty on such vehicles, but the final decision would be taken by the FBR.

"Duty is just a proposal. It'll be the FBR's call to determine duty rates," he said.

The official said it was likely to be the last chance for NCP vehicle owners to register after the payment of custom duty.

"There won't be any further waivers as authorities want to eliminate the concept of NCP altogether," he said.

He said the failure to pay duty would lead to the confiscation of vehicles.

The documents available with Dawn show that the excise department included the subject on the matter last month. They revealed a rise in the

number of NCP vehicles in Malakand Division and tribal districts and said these unregistered automobiles posed a significant challenge to law-enforcement and revenue authorities and evaded taxes, causing revenue losses for the government and distorting the market for legitimate vehicles.

"Additionally, NCP vehicles contribute to road safety concerns and undermine fair competition in the automotive industry," a document read.

The document also detailed the past attempts to gather data on NCP vehicles in the province and said in 2017-18, a joint profiling campaign by the excise, police and other law-enforcement agencies showed the presence of 99,334 vehicles in Malakand Division.

In Dec 2023, the department profiled 202,078 vehicles in the division and tribal areas on the orders of the provincial Apex

Committee, according to the document.

In the proposals submitted to the cabinet for regularising profiled vehicles, it said that one vehicle per CNIC should be regularised, while all bargain dealers registered under the KP Motor Vehicles Control and Real Estate Agents (Regulation of Business) Ordinance, 1983, should have the facility to register vehicles on basis on payment of 10 per cent additional duty.

The department also said owners availing themselves of the scheme should not be allowed to sell vehicles for the next five years.

For vehicles with up to 800cc engine, it proposed the custom duty of Rs100,000 each for income tax filers along with Rs15,000 registration fee. Similarly, Rs200,000 custom duty was proposed for vehicles up to 1000cc capacity along with registration fee of 20,000,

and the custom duty of Rs350,000 along with Rs60,000 registration fee on vehicles up to 1500cc capacity.

Besides on vehicles up to 2000cc, the excise department also suggested Rs450,000 in custom duty and Rs80,000 registration fee, on vehicles up to the proposed custom duty was Rs550,000 and registration fee of Rs100,000 and those above 2500cc, Rs700,000 in custom duty and Rs200,000 in registration fee.

Meanwhile, Dawn has learned that the excise and taxation department profiled 111,509 vehicles in Malakand Division and merged tribal districts until August 11.

Of them, around 74,723 are from Malakand division, 21,527 in Khyber, Kurram, Mohmand and Drakasi districts, and 14,834 in North Waziristan and Upper and Lower South Waziristan districts.

ISLAMABAD ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY (IESCO)

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

This invitation for bids follows the Procurement Notice IESCO/PMU/Good/PPM No.02/2024-25 for the following Procurement which will be conducted in National Language.

Tender Identification	Item Description	Unit	Qty	Aggregate bid worth in Million PKR	Amount of Bid Security in Million PKR	Average Annual Turnover in Million PKR	Financial Resources in Million PKR
PMU/Good/ NCB -196	14KV, 80KA Circuit Breaker including Sync Relay or switch for 12KV Capacitor Bank as per P-192/94 and P-192/2019	Set	1	14	0.8	88	16
PMU/Good/ NCB -197	11kV Indoor Termination Kits for 1000 MCM as per P-184/88	No	244	4	0.2	28	5
	11 kV Outdoor Termination Kits for 1000 MCM as per P-184/88	No	232				
	Indoor Termination Kits for 500 MCM as per P-184/88	No	11				
	Outdoor Termination Kits for 500 MCM as per P-184/88	No	11				

IESCO Project Management Unit (PMU) has received the bids for the procurement planned during financial year 2024-25. It is requested that part of the proceeds of the funds will be used to cover eligible payments under the contracts for the above procurements.

The unregistered bidders sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of above material.

Qualification & Experience

- Bidders/ JV must demonstrate less (20) No. of contracts that have been successfully completed within last five (05) years similar to the proposed work. The value of each Contract Agreements / Work Orders shall be equal to amount as mentioned in Para-1. For the purpose, the bidder/ JV shall provide relevant Work Orders/Contract Agreements & Completion certificates etc. Bidder/ JV must also demonstrate satisfactory performance of the completed work.
- The bidder/ JV shall demonstrate financial soundness as mentioned above, however detailed terms and conditions are mentioned in Appendix A of IFB.
- Manufacturers will demonstrate at least five-year experience of designing and manufacturing of similar material / equipment and three-year satisfactory operational performance from date of submission of bid.

The bidding shall be conducted in line with the Single Stage Single Envelope procedure of the Public Procurement Rules - 2004 (amended to date), Regulations, Regulatory Codes, Procurement Guidelines and Instructions issued by the Authority from time to time, and is open to all potential bidders.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in favor of Chief Engineer (Development) in an acceptable form mentioned in IFB to the amount fixed in PKR valid for 28 days beyond bid validity period and validity of bid is at least 75 days from date of submission of bid.

The original bid along with one copy, properly filed in, and enclosed in sealed envelopes must be delivered through courier or physically to the Office of Chief Engineer (Development), IESCO Headquarters, Street # 40, Sector 5-1/4, Islamabad or to before 29th August, 2024 at 11:00 hours and same will be opened at 11:30 hours in the office of Chief Engineer (Development), IESCO Headquarters Street No. 40, G-7/4, Islamabad on the same date in the presence of participants or their authorized representatives who choose to attend (Bidding Authority letters).

Interested bidder(s) / firm (s) may visit IESCO website for scrutiny of bidding documents, however bidder will submit their bid/so after purchase of bidding document from office of the undersigned on request after payment of non-refundable fee of Rs.5,000/- for participation on any working day during office hours or may be sent through Courier if requested by the bidder with an additional fee of Rs. 1,500/- per document.

The pre-bid meeting will be held on 20.08.2024 at PMU conference room. Please send your queries for clarification if any.

Late submission of bid will not be entertained.

IESCO reserves the right to reject the bids as per Rule 32 (1) of PPPA Rules-2004 (amended to date).

Electronic bids are not acceptable.

Chief Engineer (Development),
IESCO Head Quarter, Street No. 40, Sector 5-1/4, Islamabad
Phone No. +92-51-5378045 Fax No. +92-51-5052345
Email Address: iescopmu@iesco.com.pk

ANP threatens protests over long power outages

By Our Correspondent

CHARSADDA: Awami National Party central president Anwar Wali Khan and the party's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa president Mian Iftikhar Hussain have set a month-long deadline to the federal government to end excessive electric load-shedding in the province or the ANP would stage a sit-in in Islamabad.

They announced this while talking to mediapersons and addressing a public gathering at the residence of party leader Qasim Ali Khan Mohmand after laying floral wreaths at the memorial of the martyrs of Balara here on Monday.

Anwar and Iftikhar also announced to be part of any grand alliance in future, which could keep the defence establishment in its constitutional limits.

They alleged that the establishment had earned billions of rupees by engineering the last general elections. They said that the ANP would continue struggle until the right and authority of the decision-making was returned to the civilian set-up.

ANP provincial general secretary Shah Hussain, district president and former MPA Muzakir Rasheed Khan Umarani, general secretary Mubashiruddin and other leaders were also present on the occasion.

The ANP leaders paid rich homage to

the martyrs of Balara, saying their sacrifices would always be remembered.

They demanded reopening of the Balara case as these martyred were peaceful and non-violent pioneers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and were fighting for their rights.

They said about 600 innocent workers were martyred in the Balara tragedy, which would be remembered as the second Karbala in the history.

Mr Anwar and Mr Iftikhar said military operation was no solution to the issue of terrorism in KP.

They said that they were the followers of the philosophy of non-violence championed by Rasoolullah. They said the nation knew as to who had nurtured the terrorists, alleging that this time too the security agencies had received millions of dollars from the United States to launch the new operation against militancy. They said that more than half of the Pakhtun-inhabited areas had been affected during the so-called operations.

The ANP leaders said that the National Action Plan required that action should also be taken across the board without discriminating between 'good and bad' Taliban.

They said that the ANP's mandate was stolen in the previous elections. "We know how to take our rights. Time will prove that ANP truly represents the people," they said.

PAKISTAN RAILWAYS HEADQUARTERS OFFICE LAHORE

CORRIGENDUM

Adv: Tender No. 07/0002/22-0/1-2024, 07/0002/24-0/1-2024, 07/0002/25-0/1-2024, 07/0002/26-0/1-2024 & 07/0002/28-0/1-2024
Ref: Pak Rail/PPRA Adv No. TS 54-4304-E & News Paper Advertisement No. PID (L) 293.

It is notified for information of interested parties that opening of Advertisement books are hereby extended to be read as below:

Sl. #	Tender No.	FOR		READ AS	
		Existing	EPADS No.	Opening date	EPADS No.
1	07/0002/22-0/1-2024 for Pakistan Railway etc. - 02 items	14-08-2024	F-24070092	04-09-2024	F-24080040
2	07/0002/24-0/1-2024 for Penger Shade etc. - 02 items	14-08-2024	F-24070099	04-09-2024	F-24080050
3	07/0002/25-0/1-2024 Ball Bearing etc. - 02 items	14-08-2024	F-24070106	04-09-2024	F-24080064
4	07/0002/26-0/1-2024 for Magnetic Cassette etc. - 02 items	14-08-2024	F-24070105	04-09-2024	F-24080065
5	07/0002/28-0/1-2024 for Universal Indicator Switch Relay etc. - 02 items	14-08-2024	F-24070108	04-09-2024	F-24080079

All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.
(Engr. Muhammad Abbas Salam) for Chief Controller of Purchase
Phone #04299281784, Fax No. 04299283822

Trade with Afghanistan via Torkham comes to halt

By Iqbalim Shirwari

KHAYBER: Trade with Afghanistan via Torkham came to a complete halt on Monday when agitated truckers and customs clearing agents closed the road leading to the border 'Zero Point' against imposition of the condition of Temporary Admission Document for transporters of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Protesters placed constraints on the main road and burnt tyres to prevent movement of trade goods vehicles from either side of the border before staging a sit-in.

Hundreds of transporters, custom clearing agents, local traders and daily wagers gathered at the venue of protest and chanted slogans to demand abolishing of the TAD condition for transporters and consent in visa policy between the two neighbouring countries.

Pakistan and Afghanistan had agreed in March to introduce TAD for transporters of both the countries without passport and valid visa while making it mandatory for them to acquire the new temporary document for their cross-border movement.

Transporters, however, argued that they could neither afford the \$100 registration fee of TAD, which was valid only for six months, nor they were furnished any detailed information about the procedure of availing the temporary document.

Qasr Nawaz, a local trader and a leader of the protesters, told Dawn that their protest would continue till abolition of TAD condition and facilitation in the speedy clearance of trade goods at the customs terminal.

He said that unless the federal government reviewed its visa policy for traders and transporters, they would continue to boycott clearance of goods for Afghanistan and would not allow any trade convey to enter Pakistan from Afghanistan.

Mirajuddin, chairman of Torkham Custom Clearing Agents Association, told Dawn that the imposition of TAD adversely affected bilateral trade with Afghanistan as local traders and industrialists had become reluctant to invest in trade with neighbouring countries.

He alleged that the arbitrators and anti-business policies of Islamabad had left the aggrieved both the local and Afghan traders and transporters. Pakistan was fast losing its Afghan market for its export goods, he added.

The sit-in and forced suspension of custom clearance of trade goods from Pakistan side forced hundreds of truckers to park their vehicles along the road with many drivers complaining about rotting of edibles comprising fresh fruit, vegetables and poultry products.

The border crossing, however, remained opened for pedestrians. Only a limited number of nationals of both the countries crossed the border owing to non-availability of transport facility for their onward journey.

Islamabad has long been insisting that no leniency would be shown in its strict document border policy with the immigration authorities insisting that only those with valid travel documents would be allowed to cross the border or enter Pakistan.

Customs and immigration authorities at Torkham had announced on August 1 that only transporters with TAD would be allowed to travel between the two countries while those without the document would be barred from crossing the border or coming to Pakistan.

The August 1 notification resulted in standing hundreds of both loaded and empty vehicles on both sides of the border with many a transporters complaining about facing monetary hardship owing to a prolonged suspension of their movement.

Foreign fast-food restaurant attacked in Peshawar

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Unknown assailants opened fire at an outlet of a foreign fast-food restaurant on the Ring Road in the jurisdiction of the Sargodha police station on the outskirts of the provincial capital on Sunday night, the police said.

They said that the attackers walked away after opening fire on the restaurant.

"There were two persons. They opened fire at the restaurant and then walked away," KP Commissioner Aftab Arif told Dawn. He added that the firing incident was being investigated.

Other police officials, however, said that the restaurant's other branches also came under mob attack a few months ago during a protest against Israel in Tehkal area of the provincial capital.

"This does not seem to be an organized group since there were only two attackers. We cannot say at this moment whether or not it was a militant attack," an official said, adding in their assessment, this too seemed to be its protest against Israel.

A statement issued by the city police said that senior police officials visited the spot and collected the evidence. It said that the incident was being investigated from different angles after a case was lodged by the restaurant's manager.

Public Notice

Avoid Blocking of SIMs

Issued Against Cancelled, Expired and Deceased Individuals' CNICs

On the decision of Government of Pakistan, all SIMs issued against Cancelled, Expired and Deceased Individuals' CNICs will be blocked in a phased manner. However, to avoid blocking or to restore blocked numbers, subscribers may proceed in following manner:

<p>SIMs issued against cancelled/take CNICs will be blocked by 16th August 2024</p> <p>Subscribers can restore their SIMs after obtaining a new CNIC from NADRA and completing biometric verification at sales channels/ centers.</p>	<p>SIMs issued against CNICs (expired before 2017) will be blocked by 2nd September 2024</p> <p>Subscribers can restore their SIMs by renewing their CNIC from NADRA and completing biometric verification at sales channels/ centers.</p>	<p>SIMs issued against CNICs of deceased individuals will be blocked by 15th October 2024</p> <p>Family members can transfer SIM ownership by presenting following at sales channels/ centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proof of relationship - Original Death Certificate - Original SIM or Police Report (if lost) - Proof of Usage (Last Recharge/Call History)
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Note: Alert SMS regarding blocking against each category has already been disseminated to concerned SIMs.

PTA Pakistan Telecommunication Authority
PTA HQs, F-5/1, Islamabad-Pakistan

PTAOfficial@pka

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FBR chief sceptical about Rs40bn tax collection target from traders

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: The new chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has expressed his reservations over an ambitious target of collecting Rs40 billion from traders during the current fiscal year.

Rashid Mahmood Langrial expressed his views about the estimate at a high-level meeting chaired by Finance Minister Muhammad Awarangzeb at the FBR headquarters on Monday.

Ab Pervais, the Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, also attended the meeting.

A source told Dawn that Mr Langrial asked the representative of Inland Revenue Service to explain how Rs40bn could be collected from traders under the Tajir Dast Scheme this year, even though the head yielded only Rs6bn during the previous financial year (FY24).

Officials at the FBR usually base their revenue collection targets for a certain sector or product on consumption or import value.

Muhammad Awarangzeb is the first finance minister in the country's history to visit the FBR headquarters every week. Previous finance ministers used to visit FBR offices only once or twice a year.

According to the source, Mr Awarangzeb explained his frequent visits to the FBR by stating that he used to hold weekly managerial meetings in the banking sector. The minister avoided taking the conventional tea at FBR office, instead opting for a special brand of coffee with snacks.

The second topic of discussion was the removal of the 100bn-Rupee tax on the collection of taxes on commodities entering the country from China via the Khosrovabad Pass. The Customs representative briefed the finance minister on the latest developments.

The meeting also reviewed the progress in digitalisation of the tax procedure. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has already constituted a task force on digitalisation led by State Minister Ali Pervais.

An official statement issued after the meeting said Finance Minister Awarangzeb acknowledged the services rendered by

the former FBR chairman, Malik Amjad Zafar, especially in the budgeting process and negotiations with IMF.

Mr Rashid Khan Wani, Member Inland Revenue (Operations), and Member Customs (Operations), Aftab Javed also gave presentations about their domains.

The finance minister appreciated the FBR team's efforts for maximising revenue and broadening the tax base, adding the announcement.

FPCCI slams tax notices

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has condemned the issuance of tax notices of Rs100,000 to small traders and industrial units.

"The business community hopes that the Tajir Dast Scheme (TDS) will help small traders to get registered in the taxation system and get benefits associated with it, and not the other way round," Aftab Sakhi, the FPCCI vice president, said in a statement.

All associations of small traders, small industrial units and shopping centers gathered under the aegis of FPCCI at

Federation House, Karachi, on Monday to discuss the "brutal tax notices and unbearable electricity bills" received by the, according to a press release.

Aftab Sakhi said tax notices were causing stress and harassment to small traders and small industrial units.

"They should be withdrawn in the national interest. Small traders want to be part of the system, but they cannot pay unfair taxes."

The FPCCI vice president called upon the government to renegotiate all agreements with independent power producers (IPPs) and procure electricity for the national grid from cheaper sources without the "string of capacity charges".

Since over 50 per cent of the IPPs are owned by the government, their power purchase agreements can be restructured easily, Mr Sakhi added.

"Prohibitive electricity charges have led to widespread industrial closures and massive job losses. There is an installed generation capacity of over 40,000MW while the peak demand and transmission capacity is merely 25,000MW," Aftab Sakhi observed.

Food, agri expo concludes with \$1.2bn deals

Over 800 buyers from 75 countries participated in FoodAg; 330 exporters exhibited 500 products

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The second International Food and Agriculture Exhibition concluded at the Karachi Expo Centre with more than \$1.2 billion worth of deals.

The three-day FoodAg event was participated by more than 800 buyers from 75 countries while 330 exporters exhibited around 500 quality products at the event.

International chain stores, buyers and multinational companies visited the exhibition. The largest participation was from China comprising 150-plus buyers.

An amount of 7,000 business-to-business meetings, deals worth \$1.2bn were finalised, besides signing of more than 10 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) mainly in rice, processed food, seafood, kitchen, poultry, livestock, mangoes, cotton, honey, meat, food and beverages, spices, cereals and oil seeds by China, Malaysia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and France.

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Chief Executive Zahir Moinwala said the estimated export orders of \$1.2bn will complement the export target set by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in his inaugural speech at FoodAg event.

Furthermore, FoodAg Manufacturing planned in December in Lahore will provide assistance in value addition and mechanised farming, he said, adding that the event growth and development in the agriculture sector will bring about next green revolution in the country.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Commerce, \$35 million worth of export contracts were signed between Pakistani and Chinese companies in the seafood sector. Additionally, several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and investment interests were expressed by various companies, including HVA (shrimp investment), Bahiya (potato seeds from the Netherlands), Haryuan Beverages and Food Group (China), and MEETAR (Qatar).

A delegation from Malaysia visited the Fish Harbour and Pakistan Sugar Mills Association's Sindh office, while Egyptian, Tajikistan and Malaysian delegates visited Tata Foods, Malaysian departments of BERNAS, DG MAQIS, and Department of Veterinary Services for finalising the export orders.

Japanese and Malaysian delegates visited Rehmat Organic Meat, and delegates from Argentina, Peru and Uruguay visited KK Rice Mill for the same purpose.

A Global Cuisine show was also organised by the TDAP, where culinary artists from around the world prepared exceptional dishes using Pakistani ingredients, further enhancing the essence of the event.

Car sales plunge 36pc in July

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sales of cars, sports utility vehicles (SUVs), pickups and vans stood at 8,593 units in July, reflecting a 36pc year-on-year increase and a 34pc month-on-month decline.

The decline in car sales in July can be primarily attributed to the increase in withholding tax rates introduced in the FY25 budget. This increased withholding tax rates triggered pre-buying in the last month of FY24, taking sales to an 18-month high in June.

According to data released by the Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA), Toyota Corolla, Yaris, and Corolla Cross sales soared to 1,106 units in July 2024 from 1,067 units in July 2023. Toyota Fortuner and Rav4 sales surged to 558 from 401 units in the above period. However, Indus Motor Company's total sales were 44 per cent lower month-on-month in July.

Honda Civic and City sales declined to 790 from 208 in July 2023, while Honda HRV and HRV sales plunged to 141 in July 2024 from 286 in July 2023. Honda Atila's total July sales were down by 15pc month-on-month.

Suzuki Swift sales grew to 502 units in July 2024 from 247 in July 2023 while Suzuki Cultus and Wagon R sales showed to 56 and 139 units from 377 and 245 units in July 2023. Suzuki Alto, Bolan and Rav4 sales increased to 2,869, 288 and 576 from 1,440, 146 and 187 units in July 2023.

Hyundai Elantra, Sonata and Tucson sales dropped to 31, 34 and 118 units in July 2024 from 80, 90 and 328 units in July 2023 while Hyundai Porter sales increased to 349 from 21 units in the above period. Ssang Inval sales remained robust, with 824 units as compared to 122 in July 2023.

Myeche Sohail of Topline Securities attributed the year-on-year rise in car, SUV, pickups and van sales in July to the low base effect of the industry, which resulted from plant closures and a shortage of inventory.

She said Millat Tractors Ltd (MTL) saw sales of 405 units, down 61pc year-on-year and 78pc month-on-month, while Al-Ghani Tractors Ltd (AGTL) recorded sales of 855 units, down 34pc year-on-year and 40pc month-on-month in July.

She cited a drop in tractor sales in July compared to pre-buying in June, as the government had imposed a 10pc general sales tax (GST) on tractor sales.

The sales of two- and three-wheelers fell by 5pc month-on-month but increased by 15pc year-on-year, totaling 84,993 units in July.

Truck and bus sales were up 2pc month-on-month and 57pc year-on-year, reaching 307 units in July.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Awarangzeb presides over a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises, on Monday. The committee approved proposals of the finance and power divisions for the appointment of candidates as independent director/chairman on the boards of Zafar Taranapp Bank Ltd and National Transmission and Despatch Company.—PIB

Petrol, diesel may see Rs9 decline for next fortnight

By Khaleeq Kiari

ISLAMABAD: For the second fortnight in a row, the prices of major petroleum products — petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) — are estimated to drop by up to Rs9.20 per litre for the next fortnight of August, mainly because of the lower international prices.

Informed sources said the prices of petrol and HSD had decreased in the international market by more than \$3 per barrel in the last fortnight. Depending on the final exchange rate calculation and existing tax rates, the petrol price is projected to come down by Rs8.50-9.30 and HSD by Rs8-9 per litre.

Officials said the average international petrol price had dropped to \$84 per barrel. HSD also declined to about \$91 in the last fortnight. During the current fortnight, the import premium on both petrol and HSD generally remained unchanged at about \$9 and \$5 per barrel, respectively.

On the other hand, the local currency lost slightly to the US dollar during the fortnight.

The end-ofpetrol price currently stands at Rs205.43 per litre, and that of HSD at Rs272.77 per litre. On the last fortnight review on July 31, the government cut the petrol and HSD prices by about Rs17 and Rs70.86 per litre after an increase of Rs12.44 and Rs5.74 per litre, respectively, in July. Earlier, between May 8 and June 15, the prices of both petrol and HSD had reduced by about Rs35 and Rs22 per litre, respectively.

Kerosene and light diesel oil are also estimated to become cheaper by Rs10 and Rs5 per litre over the next fortnight.

Petrol is primarily used in private transport, small vehicles, rickshaws, and two-wheelers, and it directly affects the budget of the middle and lower middle classes. On the other hand, most of the transport sector runs on HSD. Its price is considered inflationary as it is mainly used in heavy transport vehicles, trains and agricultural engines like tractors, buses, tractors, tubo wells and sheethers and particularly impacts the prices of vegetables and other staples.

The drop in petroleum prices is seldom reflected in fares and prices of essential commodities.

The government has jacked up the maximum limit of petroleum levy to Rs70 per litre in the finance bill to collect Rs1.28 trillion in the next fiscal year against Rs1,019 crore collection during the last fiscal year, about Rs150bn higher than the Rs869bn budget target.

Currently, the government is charging about Rs78 per litre tax on petrol and HSD. Although the general sales tax (GST) is zero on all petroleum products, the government charges Rs50 per litre petroleum development levy (PDL) on both products that normally impact the masses. The government is also charging about Rs18 per litre customs duty on petrol and HSD, irrespective of their local production or imports. In addition, about Rs17 per litre distribution and sale margins are going to oil companies and their dealers.

Saving rates slashed by up to 150bps

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The government has reduced the profit on National Savings Certificates (NSC) by up to 150 basis points (bps) after reducing the interest rate by 2.5 per cent during the last two months.

Due to the fall of inflation to 11.1pc in July, the State Bank was compelled to reduce the interest rate to meet market demand and bring some cushion for the private sector to borrow from banks.

The State Bank slashed the interest rate by 1.5pc on June 10 to 20.5pc from 22pc and again reduced the rate by 100bps to 19.5pc on July 29. The cuts in the interest rate served as an indicator of the drop in the inflation on NSC.

According to official data, the rates of saving accounts decreased by 150bps to 19pc from 20.5pc, a decline of 1.5pc. The Short Term Saving Certificate currently offers a return of 17.5pc, as compared to 19.25pc earlier, showing a decrease of 1.75pc. The Sarsa Islamic Savings Account also saw a drop of 150bps to 19pc.

For the last four years the National Saving Scheme showed a negative picture which means that withdrawal from NSC was Rs112.1 billion in FY21, Rs358.7bn in FY22, Rs381.8bn in FY23 and Rs111.7bn in FY24.

The NSC caters up to four million customers, mostly retired persons keep their money to earn risk free profit. The interest rate trend shows that the State Bank would further reduce the rate in coming months and could bring it to 14-15pc provided the consumer price index remains within the estimated target.

This fall in the interest rate would further reduce the profits on NSC.

—Staff Reporter

OGDCL begins tight gas production

ISLAMABAD: The state-owned Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Monday announced the successful commencement of early commercial production of tight gas from Pakistan's first-ever Tight Gas project, Nar West Well-1 in Sujawal district of Sindh.

The Nar West Well-1, a part of the Nar Development & Production Lease, is currently producing 1.5 million standard cubic feet per day (mmscf) of gas with a well-head flowing pressure of 1050 PSI, the company said.

The gas is sourced from the Lower Gachs Formation (LGF) and has been seamlessly integrated into the Sul Southern Gas Company Ltd (SSGCL) network. This integration will strengthen the national gas supply infrastructure and contribute to the stability of Pakistan's energy supply, the announcement said.

During drilling, initial conventional testing methods did not provide favourable results, consequently, the hydraulic fracturing technique was employed to achieve production in viability. This innovative approach underscores OGDCL's commitment to exploring and developing advanced technologies to maximize resource potential, it said.

OGDCL has formulated a comprehensive tight gas exploration and development roadmap, which is currently under implementation. This roadmap reaffirms the company's commitment to expanding energy resources, securing national energy requirements, and promoting sustainable development across Pakistan.

—Staff Reporter

Sindh renews support to boost HEVs production

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murali Ali Shah reaffirmed the Sindh government's commitment to supporting the automotive industry through favorable policies and promoting small and medium scale industries to increase localisation and reduce import dependency.

During his visit to Indus Motor Company's (IMC) manufacturing facility at Port Qasim Authority, he said the provincial government was making all-out efforts to foster the large-scale production of hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs). "These efforts will generate more direct and indirect employment opportunities within the province," he hoped.

The chief minister toured the IMC's state-of-the-art facility and received a comprehensive briefing on the latest production processes, including the globally renowned Toyota Production System.

Mr Shah was also briefed on IMC's recent export achievements, including the successful export of raw materials to Egypt, marking the company's integration into Toyota's Global Supply Chain.

Additionally, IMC has commenced exporting vehicles, including the Toyota Fortuner, Hilux, and Corolla Cross models, to Ghanaian territories. These milestones highlight IMC's commitment to advancing Pakistan's automotive industry on the global stage.

IMC Chief Executive Ali Asghar Jamali emphasized the imperative of stable policies for sustaining growth in the automotive sector. "It's an honour to have Chief Minister Murali Ali Shah visit our plant, which is a morale boost for the entire team,"—Staff Reporter

Stocks lose 589 points on uncertainty

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: The stock market came under renewed selling pressure on Monday, partially reversing the overnight gains amid growing political and economic uncertainty.

Ahsan Mubashir of Aftab Habib Corporation said stocks tumbled on a weak economic outlook.

He said rising instability, political uncertainty, delays in privatizing state-owned enterprises, and concerns about the unmet debt of Chinese IPPs were the key depressants.

Topline Securities Ltd said MSCI Pakistan was the steepest performer of the day. It continued its upward momentum after two consecutive upper caps in the previous sessions following the company's announcement of an 80pc bonus. In terms of value traded, the company led the market with

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

THE TOP FIVERS			
GAINERS		LOSERS	
Marl Petroleum	122.10	Rafhan Maize	125.50
Service Industries	48.95	Nashia Pakistan	98.00
PAK Holding Ltd	45.21	Hoshdar Pak	91.28
Hubmark Company	40.47	Saagar Eng	70.58
Khyber Textile	34.75	Exide Pakistan	67.53

INDICATORS			
	Month	Previous	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points)	77,980.29	78,569.59	▼ 589.30
KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Points)	25,002.27	25,176.40	▼ 174.03
MARKET CAPITAL (PKR billion)	10,389,648	10,491,308	▼ 101,263
TRADING VALUE (PKR billion)	22.242	20.729	▲ 1.522

nearly Rs4.3bn.

Throughout the session, Marl Petroleum, Hub Power, Service Industries, Pakistan Oilfield and MCB Bank collectively contributed 259 points to the index. Conversely, profit-taking in Meezan Bank, Systems Ltd and Lucky Cement lost 176 points.

As a result, the benchmark index hit an intraday high of 78,886.45 points and a low of 77,540.51. However, it settled at 77,980.29 after losing 589.30 points or 0.75pc on a day-on-day basis.

The overall trading vol-

ACTIVITY	
Total listed	532
Active	444
Gainers	122
Losers	278
PARTICIPANTS	
Foreign	▲ \$0.85m
Companies	▼ \$0.82m
Banks	▼ \$0.52m
Mutual Funds	▼ \$0.45m
Individuals	▲ \$5.07m

The shares registering the most significant increases in absolute terms were: Marl Petroleum (Rs122.10), Service Industries (Rs48.95), PTA Holding Ltd (Rs45.21), Hubmark Company (Rs40.47) and Khyber Textile (Rs34.75).

The companies registering significant decreases in their share prices in absolute terms were Rafhan Maize (Rs125.50), Nashia Pakistan (Rs98.00), Hoshdar Pak (Rs91.28), Saagar Eng (Rs70.58) and Exide Pakistan (Rs67.53).

Foreign investors remained net buyers as they purchased shares worth \$0.85m.

Stocks contributing sig-

Muslim guard rescues girl from knife attacker in London

LONDON: A 29-year-old guard at a nearby store, who gave his name as Abdullah, saved an 11-year-old girl from a knife attack in the British capital on Monday.

Abdullah said he heard a scream and then saw someone "stabbing a girl". "I jumped on him, held the hand in which he was carrying a knife, and just put him down on the floor and just held him and took the knife away from him," he said.

"Then a couple of more people joined as well, and we just held him until the police came", he added.

London's Metropolitan Police said that the attacker, a 32-year-old man had been arrested after an 11-year-old girl was "seriously injured" in a stabbing in Leicester Square in the city centre.

The young victim will require further treatment in hospital but her condition is "not life threatening", while her 34-year-old mother also suffered minor injuries, police added.

The police said in a statement the 32-year-old man was arrested at the scene and that officers were not looking for anyone else in connection with the attack.

"An urgent investigation is now ongoing and detectives are working to establish the details around exactly what happened," Detective Chief Superintendent Christina Jenayah said.

"At this stage we don't believe the suspect and the victims were known to each other." "While we continue to work to establish the suspect's motive, at this stage there is nothing to indicate the attack was terror-related." It comes exactly two weeks after the knife attack in Southport, northwest England, in which three girls were killed and eight other children injured, as well as two adults.

Monday's stabbing took place in the heart of the British capital, in an area heavily frequented by tourists and shoppers. A security guard told the Press Association (PA) news agency that he intervened and took a knife from a man attacking the 11-year-old child on the west side of Leicester Square.—AFP



A HIGH school building and its gym are in flames as a wildfire burns in Nea Perleia, near the Greek capital, on Monday.—Reuters

Athens suburbs on fire as Greece seeks EU help

Several towns on the path of blaze, including Marathon, evacuated

PENTELI: A massive wildfire blazed into Athens' northeastern suburbs on Monday as hundreds of firefighters battled to contain it, forcing thousands of residents to flee their homes and sparking a Greek government appeal for international help.

In scenes never before seen in the Greek capital, residents wearing masks against the choking smoke were desperately clearing their homes with water hoses in the leafy suburbs of Nea Perleia and Vrilissia in an effort to render them less vulnerable to fire.

"It's the first time ever the fire has come here," said Melina Kritseli, 40, a civil servant living in a two-storey white house in Perissos Halandriou, another Athens suburb that was evacuated.

"I took my children to a friend's house to be safe," she said as her husband hosed the ground and grass outside their house. Television footage showed several cars gutted by fire and the roofs of stately houses burning as water-bombing helicopters roared overhead.

"The situation is dramatic," Perleia mayor Natasia Kosmopoulou said.

"A school and homes are on fire, and I can see the fire coming towards the town hall," she said. The National Observatory, Greece's foremost institute monitoring natural hazards, narrowly escaped Greece on Monday for help, calling for EU assistance, a spokesman said.

"The EU civil protection mechanism was activated upon request of the Greek authorities," EU spokesman Balkas Ujvari said in a statement, adding that Italy, France, the Czech Republic and Romania were sending units to help.

"We stand with Greece as it battles this devastating fire," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen wrote on X. French Interior Minister Gerard Barmatini said Paris was sending 180 firefighters, 55 trucks and a helicopter to assist their hard-pressed Greek colleagues.

Help from Spain and Turkey is also being "finalised", the Greek civil protection ministry said.

Strong winds

The wildfire started on Sunday afternoon in the town of Varnava, some 35 kilometres northeast of

Athens. Aided by strong winds, it grew to a 30-kilometre long front-line of flames, more than 25 metres (80 feet) high in places, according to state TV ERT.

"I heard my animals bleating and dying," Dimitris Megalitis, a goat herder near Perleia, told Mega TV station. Over 700 firefighters with nearly 200 fire engines and over 30 aircraft were trying to contain the fire.

Authorities opened the Olympic stadium in northern Athens and other stadiums to house thousands of people evacuated from the path of the blaze. Three major hospitals have been placed on standby.

One firefighter suffered serious burns, another was hospitalised with breathing trouble and 13 other people were treated for milder respiratory problems, fire brigade spokesman Vasilios Vathakoglou said.

Several smaller communities and towns, including Marathon, which gave the Olympic long distance race its name, started to evacuate on Sunday. Smoke drifted through central Athens as thick grey clouds engulfed Moore Perleia, which is known for producing the marble used in the Acropolis and other ancient buildings.—AFP

Russia struggles to contain Ukraine push

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin ordered his army on Monday to "dig deep" to contain Ukraine's push into Russian territory.

Ukrainian troops who have entered Russian territory an authorities said over 120,000 people had been evacuated away from the fighting.

Kyiv launched a surprise offensive into Russia's western Kursk region last Tuesday, capturing over two dozen settlements in the most significant cross-border attack on Russian soil since World War II.

Ukraine's military chief Oleksandr Syrskyi told President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a video posted on Monday that his troops now control about 1,000 square kilometres of Russian territory and are continuing "offensive operations".

"One of the obvious goals of the enemy is to sow discord, strife, intimidate people, destroy the unity and cohesion of Russian society," Putin told a televised meeting with government officials. "The main

700 migrants reach Britain on 11 boats

LONDON: Over 700 migrants in small boats crossed the Channel to Britain on Sunday, the highest number on a single day since Prime Minister Keir Starmer took power vowing to tackle people-smugglers.

Two migrants who attempted the crossing died, French authorities said earlier, taking the number of people to lose their life on the dangerous sea journey to 25 since the start of the year. Some 701 people arrived on Sunday on 11 boats, according to provincial interior ministry figures released on Monday.

Stopping the small boat arrivals was a key issue in Britain's general election in July. Within days of taking power, Starmer scrapped a controversial scheme to deport migrants to Rwanda. The plan was a flagship policy of the last Conservative government.

Starmer has instead pledged to dismantle the people-smuggling gangs who organise the crossings and are paid thousands of euros by each migrant. The latest figures come after the UK has been rocked by anti-migrant unrest, following a knife attack on July 29 that killed three children and was falsely linked on social media to a Muslim immigrant.

Thousands of anti-racism demonstrators rallied across Britain on Saturday against riots that targeted mosques and hotels linked to immigration. Starmer and France's President Emmanuel Macron have pledged to strengthen "cooperation" in handling the surge in undocumented migrant numbers.—AFP

Catalonia swears in new govt, ending separatist rule

BARCELONA: Spain's ruling Socialists regained control of Catalonia's regional government as a new cabinet was sworn in on Monday, ending over a decade of separatist rule in the region.

The 16-member cabinet is led by Salvador Illa, who was Prime Minister Pablo Sanchez's health minister during the Covid-19 pandemic. "I want to assure you that the government will govern for all, this is a real obsession," Illa said during the swearing-in ceremony.

It is the first time since 2010 that the wealthy northeastern region has a government that does not come from the pro-independence camp. The Socialists won the most

seats in a regional election in May, but fell short of a majority.

Illa secured the support of the tiny far-left Comuns party — part of the Spanish alliance that backs Sanchez at national level — and moderate separatist ERC party to become regional leader in a vote on Thursday in Catalonia's regional assembly.

Forming a government in Catalonia will be seen as a vindication of Sanchez's strategy of trying to tamp down support for separatism in the region by offering concessions, including a controversial amnesty for those involved in an illegal independence referendum in 2017 that triggered Spain's worst political crisis in decades.—AFP

US Sikhs fear Modi govt is threatening, surveilling and doxxing them

WASHINGTON: As a physician specialising in addiction, Dr James Bains, the first Sikh American elected to the California assembly, was used to risky situations.

Even so, Bains said she was shocked when four men came to her office in August last year, shortly after California adopted her resolution declaring the killing of thousands of Sikhs in India in 1984 a genocide. The men, who appeared to be of Indian origin, warned they would "do whatever it takes to go after you," Bains said.

Since last summer, Bains said, she

has received more than 100 threatening text messages. She spotted someone taking photos of her Bakersfield home from a parked truck, and the lock on her mailbox was broken — repeatedly. Bains reported the incident at her office to the local police, and the surveillance of her home in the state assembly Sergeant-at-Arms.

The FBI contacted her about the threats in her office in October, Bains said. Bains also added she began screening phone calls and avoiding traveling alone. She occasionally requests a security detail while attending official events. "My

life has changed," she said. "I don't go anywhere alone anymore. I make sure my staff is with me at all times, which is hard for someone as independent as me."

"US and Canada investigate"

Meanwhile, four Indian nationals are facing charges of murder and conspiracy in Canada for the June 2023 fatal shooting of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar outside his girlfriend's, a Sikh place of worship, in Surrey, British Columbia. Separately, the US Justice Department has charged Indian national Nikhil Gupta with trying to

arrange the murder of separatist leader Gurbaj Singh Parmar at the behest of an Indian intelligence official. Gupta pleaded not guilty and is awaiting trial in New York. India has denied involvement in Nijjar's killing and the attempted assassination of Parmar. It has pledged to investigate the plot against Parmar, but not Nijjar.

At least six activists said they suspect that India's government or its supporters could be behind the harassment, though they acknowledged it can be hard to prove — especially when the threats come from anonymous parties. Karvasepal Singh,

political secretary of the Punjab-based Dal Khalsa group, which lobbies for a separate state, has accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government of trying to defame and isolate Sikh separatists. He did not specify whether he was referring to separatists in India or abroad.

Two FBI officials did not comment directly on India's possible role in transnational repression. One said they "look across a really broad range of aggressive countries." The FBI officials said it can be difficult to determine whether threats are originating from a foreign government or criminal elements using similar tactics to try to co-opt victims. Like Nijjar, Parmar is a proponent of a fringe demand to secede from India and carry out an independent state called Khalistan.

"A kind of worldwide scenario"

Nate Schenkkan, senior director of research at the Washington, DC nonprofit Freedom House, which monitors global civil liberties, said the campaign represents "a kind of worst-case scenario for transnational repression where a major state acts completely outside the law using all the tools at its disposal to silence dissent in another country."—Reuters



WIBOKO (Boroko): Helm Zuko and his daughter Emma stand in a park transformed into a replica of Vincent Van Gogh's famous painting, Starry Night, featuring fields of lavender, shrubs, and lakes connected by an array of paths. The project mirrors the celebrated artwork in a natural setting.—Reuters



WIGRY: This long exposure picture shows the northern lights (aurora borealis) illuminating the sky above a field in a village in Poland's Bieszczady region. The spectacle occurred during an annual Perseids meteor shower, on Monday.—AFP

NEWSMAKERS



INDONESIAN President Joko Widodo leads a cabinet meeting at Garuda Palace in Nusantara, the country's future capital, on Monday.—Reuters

Indonesian president holds first cabinet meeting in future capital

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Monday held his first cabinet meeting in the country's future capital, despite much of the city remaining under construction as it races behind schedule.

The \$32-billion megaproject Nusantara was widely expected to be inaugurated on August 17, Indonesia's Independence Day, but building delays and funding woes have cast doubt on the schedule.

Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, still hailed the city-in-progress, which is expected to be fully ready in 2045. "Not all countries have the opportunity, have the ability to build their capital starting from zero," he said.

According to Jokowi, the city is "being built with the concept of a forest city, a

jungle city, a city full of green" in contrast to Jakarta island. But environmentalists have warned the rapid development of the new capital will harm deforestation in one of the world's largest stretches of tropical rainforest.

Jokowi — who started to work from the future capital several weeks ago — brought several officials to Nusantara for the cabinet meeting, including his successor Prabowo Subianto.

Prabowo pledged to continue the capital-to-be once he takes office in October, removing any doubt over his willingness to carry out Jokowi's legacy project.

Jokowi reiterated the long-delayed plan to relocate the capital soon after taking office in 2019 after experts warned Jakarta — the megacity of 12 million people — was sinking.—AFP



HYDERABAD (India): Junior doctors protest the rape and murder of a young medic from Kolkata, during a candle light demonstration at the Gandhi Hospital, on Monday. Doctors in government hospitals across several Indian states halted services "indefinitely" to protest the young medic's murder.—AFP



MEDELLIN (Colombia): Farmers carry flower arrangements, known as 'alfaltes', during a traditional parade held as part of a flower festival.—AFP

Two Hezbollah fighters killed in Israeli strike

BEIRUT Lebanon's Hezbollah movement said an Israeli air strike on Sunday killed two fighters from the Iran-backed group, with the health ministry reporting another death from an attack days ago.

Hezbollah has traded near-daily fire with Israel in support of its ally Hamas since the group's October 7 raid on Israel triggered conflict in Gaza. A strike on Beirut's southern suburbs late last month killed Hezbollah's top military commander, Foad Shaker, just hours before the assassination, blamed on Israel, of Hamas's political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

The Lebanese health ministry said an "Israeli strike that targeted the village of Taybeh today left two dead." Hezbollah confirmed they were group fighters, killed in Taybeh near the border with Israel.

The Israeli military said it had "struck throughout the day several Hezbollah military structures in the area of Aynineh", which is next to Taybeh. According to the health ministry, at least one Lebanese and 11 Syrians were wounded, two seriously, in an Israeli strike on Maassab, near Dardghaiya.

Separately, the health ministry specified that a Lebanese man who had succumbed to injuries sustained in an Israeli strike "several days ago" on the southern village of Ban Lij was a Hezbollah fighter, not a civilian as earlier reported.

Hezbollah said overnight on Monday it launched salvoes of rockets "in response" to the Israeli fire, targeting troops stationed in northern Israel.

"Approximately 30 projectiles were identified crossing from Lebanon toward the area of Kabel," the Israeli military said, reporting no casualties and announcing retaliatory strikes. The military said its forces had "struck a Hezbollah terrorist cell in the area of Taybeh" as well as "a military structure in the area of Dardghaiya".

Following the strike, secondary explosions were identified, indicating the presence of weapons inside the structure "in Dardghaiya," it added.

Hezbollah claimed several attacks against military positions in northern Israel on Sunday, including at least two using drones. The cross-border violence since early October has killed at least 545 people in Lebanon, most of them fighters but also including at least 116 civilians.

On the Israeli side, including in the annexed Golan Heights, 22 soldiers and 26 civilians have been killed. Thousands have been displaced from both sides of the border due to the fighting.

There is a real risk of escalation in the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, and Canadians should leave Lebanon while possible because Ottawa may not be able to evacuate everyone if the situation worsens, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Monday.

"We see that the risk of escalation is real, the challenges in the region are significant," Trudeau told reporters in Ontario. "We are making certain preparations to be able to support in the event that everything gets much, much worse, but the situation is so difficult that we may not be able to get all Canadians out."

International pressure mounts for Gaza truce

• Hamas wants Biden plan implemented; US hopes peace talks will continue • UN chief urges Israel, Hamas to reach ceasefire deal • UK, France, Germany seek immediate end to conflict, release of prisoners

GAZA STRIP International pressure mounted on Monday for a ceasefire in Gaza as the United States, Britain, France, Germany and the United Nations pressed for an end to fighting between Israel and Hamas without further delay.

The calls came a day after Hamas urged mediators to implement a truce plan presented by US President Joe Biden instead of holding more talks.

The fighting must end now, and all prisoners must be released, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in a joint statement.

"The people of Gaza need urgent and unfettered delivery and distribution of aid," it said. "There can be no further delay."

The Biden administration on Monday said it expects Gaza peace talks to move forward as planned, adding that it believes that a ceasefire agreement is still possible.

State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel, speaking to reporters at a briefing, said the department fully expects talks to continue and that it would



MEMBERS of the Marfar family look for salvagable items in the rubble of the house of Javad Marfar, deputy chief of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The house was targeted in Israeli air strikes on Nuseirat, in central Gaza Strip, on Sunday.—AFP

continue to work with the parties involved, adding that agreement was still possible.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday condemned the continued loss of life from the war in the Gaza Strip and urged Israel and Hamas to begin and conclude a ceasefire and prisoner release deal, deputy UN spokesperson Farhan Haq said. "He also again underscored the

need to ensure the protection of civilians and for unimpeded and safe humanitarian access into and across Gaza," said Haq.

International mediators have invited Israel and Hamas to resume talks towards a long-sought truce and prisoner-release deal, after deadly Gaza strikes and the killings of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders sparked fears of a wider conflict.

Israel has accepted the invitation from the United States, Qatar and Egypt to send negotiators for talks planned for Thursday.

"The reason we're doing that is to finalize the details of the implementation of the framework agreement," Israeli government spokesman David Mercaz told a news conference. "The government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was slow to pub-

licly embrace the proposal after Biden laid it out on May 31, and some far-right Israeli ministers still oppose it."

Hamas said on Sunday it wanted the implementation of the plan, which Biden described as Israeli and was later endorsed by the UN Security Council, "rather than going through more negotiation rounds or new proposals".

Unveiling the plan, Biden had said the first phase of the proposed roadmap would include a "full and complete ceasefire" lasting six weeks, with Israeli forces withdrawing from "all populated areas of Gaza" and some prisoners freed in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

The second phase would see the remaining living prisoners released as the warring sides negotiate "a permanent end to hostilities", followed by "a major reconstruction plan for Gaza" and the return of dead prisoners' remains.

Hamas last week named its Gaza chief Yahya Sinwar to succeed slain political leader and truce negotiator Ismail Haniyeh, killed July 31 in Tehran in an attack blamed on Israel, which has

not claimed responsibility. Haniyeh's killing, just hours after Israel assassinated the military chief of Lebanese group Hezbollah in a strike on Beirut, spurred intense diplomacy to avert a wider war in the Middle East.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told a parliamentary commission on Monday that the country had strengthened its defenses and organized "offensive options" as "threats from Tehran and Beirut may materialize".

Pressure for a ceasefire in Gaza grew after civil defence rescuers in the territory said an Israeli air strike on Sunday killed 93 people at a school housing displaced Palestinians.

Gaza officials told AFP on Monday that they had identified the bodies of 25 of those killed, while others were charred and torn apart.

Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah and other regional allies have vowed retaliation against Israel for Haniyeh's killing and that of Hezbollah's military chief Foad Shaker. US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered an aircraft carrier group to hasten its arrival in the Middle East, the Pentagon said on Sunday.—Agencies

US lifts restrictions on Saudi weapons, with eye on resolving Gaza crisis

Washington hopes for support from Arab partners as Iran threatens another reprisal against Israel

WASHINGTON The United States confirmed on Monday it would resume sales of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia, as concerns over human rights in the kingdom's Yemen war give way to US hopes for it to play a role in resolving the conflict in Gaza.

More than three years after imposing limits on human rights groups over Saudi strikes in Yemen, the State Department said it would return to weapons sales "in regular order, with appropriate congressional notification and consultation." "Saudi

Arabia has remained a close strategic partner of the United States, and we look forward to enhancing that partnership," State Department spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters.

US President Joe Biden took office in 2021 pledging a new approach to Saudi Arabia that emphasized human rights, and immediately announced that the administration would only send "defensive" weaponry to the longtime US arms customer. The United States is again hoping for support from Arab partners as Iran threatens another reprisal against Israel over the killing in Tehran of Hamas's political leader, Ismail Haniyeh.

The step came after thousands of civilians — including children — were estimated to be killed in Saudi-led airstrikes against Houthis rebels, who have

taken over much of Yemen. Geopolitical considerations have, however, changed markedly since then. The United States, with UN support, brokered a truce in Yemen in early 2022 that has largely held.

Since the truce, "there has not been a single Saudi air strike into Yemen and cross-border fire from Yemen into Saudi Arabia has largely stopped," Patel said.

"The Saudis since that time have met their end of the deal, and we are prepared to meet ours," Patel said.

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licly embrace the proposal after Biden laid it out on May 31, and some far-right Israeli ministers still oppose it."

US fears Iran attack on Israel 'this week'

Continued from Page 1

France, Germany and Italy to discuss tensions in the Middle East, including Iran's threats to attack Israel, the White House said.

The call was "largely for all the leaders to repeat what they have said before in terms of reaffirming Israel's defense" and to "send a strong message that we don't want to see any rise in violence, any attacks by Iran or its proxies."

"We have to be prepared for what could be a significant set of attacks," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters, adding that the US had increased its regional force posture in recent days as Washington shared Israeli assess-

ments that any attack "could be this week".

Israel too is said to be monitoring developments in Iran regarding its threatened strike, but the military has not changed its precautionary guidelines to the public, an Israeli military spokesperson said on Monday.

Meanwhile, at least 17 different airlines — including Lufthansa, EasyJet, Ryanair, United, Delta, Air France-KLM, Air India and Singapore Airlines — have temporarily suspended flights to the region.

Air France extended the suspension of flights between Paris and Beirut until Aug. 14, according to a statement on its website.

Its Dutch arm KLM cancelled all its flights to and from Tel Aviv from early in August until Oct. 26.

The German airline Lufthansa has extended its avoidance of Iranian and Iraqi airspace and said it would suspend flights to and from Tel Aviv, Tehran, Beirut, Amman and the Iraqi city of Erbil through Aug. 21.

Separately, Iran showcased its long-range Mohajer-10 drones at a defence exhibit in Russia, the state news agency reported.

US officials have accused Iran of sending drones to Russia — including Mohajer-10's predecessor, the Mohajer-6 — which Moscow had used in its invasion of Ukraine, a claim that Tehran denies.

IRNA said on Monday that the more advanced system was on display at the Army 2024 International Military Technical Forum, an event which runs from Monday to Wednesday in Patriot Park outside Russia's capital.

Iran released details of the Mohajer-10 system in August last year, saying it had an enhanced flight range, duration and could carry a greater payload.

A video accompanying that report showed the drone alongside other military hardware, with text saying "prepare your shelves" in both Hebrew and Persian.

According to Iranian media, the drone has an operational range of 2,000 km and can fly for up to 24 hours. Its payload can reach 300kg, double the capacity of the Mohajer-6.—Agencies

Authorities mishandled Baloch protests, PM told

Continued from Page 1

includes that erupted after authorities used teargas in an attempt to disperse people gathered on Marine Drive, Gwadar.

Since then, the security officials, provincial government and protesters blamed each other for the outbreak of violence as protest spread across the province, including one in Gwadar, which was led by BYC leader Dr Mahvaz Baloch.

In a press conference last week, BSPP MC Lt Gen Ahmed Sheeraz Chaudhry denounced the BYC, claiming they were "proxies" for terrorists and criminal mafias.

"Their strategy involves assembling crowds with foreign funding, sowing chaos among the populace, challenging government authority through stone pelting, vandalism, and making unreasonable demands, but when the state takes action, they portray themselves as innocent victims," he claimed.

in Gwadar and other areas of Balochistan, following a marathon round of talks with government officials last week.

"Undemocratic and wrong" According to Senator Jan Muhammad Baloch, the National Party head, the historical Balochistan were "political", but "no one made efforts to politically resolve them" and instead used force, which complicated the issues.

Mr Baloch told PM Shehbaz that the provincial government's decision to block roads to stop the BYC event in Gwadar and use force were "undemocratic" and "wrong", the National Party secretary general who was also present in the meeting told Dawn.

While quoting Dr Baloch, Senator Baloch said Balochistan's issues could only be resolved through meaningful dialogues between the state and other stakeholders.

work to protest against the government's actions. This caused a shortage of food and other daily used items in Makran and other areas, Dr Baloch said during the meeting.

"The National Party will continue its efforts to resolve Balochistan's issues through political means," Mr Baloch told Dawn while quoting his party's leader.

Dr Baloch suggested that the state should avoid the use of force while dealing with political parties who want to exercise their constitutional rights to hold protests.

"Political parties and people should be allowed to use their democratic rights of speech and express their views."

According to Mr Baloch, the prime minister said the government wanted to resolve all political issues through negotiations as it believes in democracy and upholding the Constitution.

The National Party delegation, which met the PM, included MNA Phoolan Baloch, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Law Minister Anam Maseer Tarar and Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Samanullah were also present on the occasion.



Higher Education Development in Pakistan

Higher Education Commission



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Seeking a 360-degree Impactful Marketing Agency

Country: Pakistan	Project: Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP)
Name of Project:	Selection of Consulting Firm for Marketing and Communication Support Services
Assignment Title:	6436-PK
Loan No./Credit No.:	PK-HEC-384873-CS-C05
Reference No.:	

1. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for procuring services of a credible Consulting Firm ("Consultant") for Marketing and Communication Support Services.
2. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) now invites eligible Consulting Firms ("Consultants"), to express their interest in providing the said services.

Interested Firms should provide information demonstrating that they have/ meet the required qualification and experience to perform this assignment. In this regard, there are prescribed standards, which have been mentioned in the Terms of Reference, which may be downloaded from the website <https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/news/Pages/TendersRFPs.aspx>.

Prospective Firms are encouraged to provide materials/information that would be specific to the proposed services. The key parameters for evaluating EOI responses are given below:

- a. The firm should have at least 05 years of experience in media and communications with documented evidence of projects with national and international organisations.
- b. The firm should demonstrate that it has completed 03 similar assignments including running mass media, digital and social media campaigns, along with documented evidence of active registration/ listing with relevant media bodies.

3. The attention of interested Consulting Firms is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IFP Borrowers" July 2016 (revised November, 2017 and August, 2018) ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
4. The Consulting Firm will be selected in accordance with the Consultant's Qualifications Selection (CQS) method as set out in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IFP Borrowers" July 2016, revised November 2017, and August, 2018.
5. Firms may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications in the form of a joint venture (JV)/ Association. All the partners in the JV shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire Contract, if selected. In the case of a joint venture/ consortium, the details of such projects will be provided separately for each member as lead or associated Consultant. Payments will only be made into the designated account of JV.
6. A virtual information session shall be held on August 21, 2024, at 10:30 AM (Pakistan Standard Time) to familiarize the potential applicants with the Terms of Reference (available at the HEC website) and ensuing procurement process. Interested Consulting Firms may obtain the respective meeting link/ invite via writing an email addressed to the undersigned (procurement.hec@hec.gov.pk) between August 16, 2024, and August 20, 2024 (during business hours).
7. The EOI must be delivered to the address below (in person or by surface mail) not later than 1500 hours (Pakistan Standard Time) on August 20, 2024. For expressions sent electronically, Project Coordination Unit will acknowledge receipt of the same via return email. In the absence of such confirmation/ receipt, please contact the address given below.
8. The address(es) referred to above is/ are:

Procurement Specialist (HEDP)
 Project Coordination Unit (PCU)
 Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP)
 Project Higher Education Commission
 Sector H-9/4, Islamabad, Pakistan, 051-50400120
procurement.hec@hec.gov.pk



Police take control of Dhaka streets

India blocks people fleeing chaotic regime change in Bangladesh

INDIA: Bangladesh police resumed patrols of the capital Dhaka on Monday, ending a week-long strike that left a law and order vacuum following the abrupt ouster of autocratic ex-premier Sheikh Hasina.

Officers vanished from the streets of the sprawling metropolis of 20 million people last week after Hasina's resignation and flight abroad ended her 15-year rule.

Police were loath to spearhead a lethal crackdown on the weeks of protests that forced her departure, with 42 officers among the more than 450 people killed.

They had vowed not to resume work until their safety on duty was guaranteed but agreed to return

after two-night talks with the new interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

"It's good to be back," assistant commissioner Sheikh Das told AFP while standing at a busy intersection directing traffic. "As we feel secure now, we are back on duty."

Students led protests against Hasina's government that had been largely peaceful until police attempted to violently disperse them. Bangladesh was experiencing a "revolution" after Hasina's ouster, Yunus told reporters, after "the business of the whole government collapsed".

He had been instructed by the protesters' student leaders to take office, he said, adding he told them "Because you ordered me to do this, I take your order".

Several top allies of Hasina, among them the chief justice and the central bank governor, stepped down after students issued them ultimatums to quit their offices.

However, Yunus said

their resignations had been conducted legally.

"I'm sure they will find the legal way to justify all of this, because legally... all the steps were followed," he said at a late-night briefing on Sunday.

Around 450 of the country's 600 police stations were targeted in arson and vandalism attacks over the past month, according to the national police union.

In the police's absence, the students who led the protests that toppled Hasina volunteered to restore law and order after looting and reprisal attacks in the hours following her departure.

They acted as traffic wardens, formed overnight neighbourhood watch patrols and guarded Hindu temples and other places of worship, quickly settling the unrest.

Arrests in India

India has arrested nearly a dozen Bangladeshis attempting to cross the border to escape violence and political turmoil following deadly protests that led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina, border officials said on Monday.

Hundreds more are waiting along the frontier pleading for permission to cross, India's Border Security Force (BSF) said.

BSF said 11 Bangladeshis had been arrested since Sunday trying to "smuggle" across the frontier into West Bengal state. "Several hundred Bangladeshis are still waiting in no-man's land to cross over the border," BSF deputy inspector general Amit Kumar Tyagi said.—AFP



STUDENTS chant slogans as they protest to demand accountability for and the trial of Bangladesh's ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, on Monday.—AFP

Empowered youth can change Pakistan's destiny, says PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pledged to allocate ample resources to the nation's youth to help transform the country into a thriving, developed nation.

Speaking at an event marking the International Day of Youth, organised by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme on Monday, PM Shehbaz recalled his time as the chief minister of Punjab.

He said this year, the federal government would provide one million smartphones, tablets, and laptops to top-performing students across the country, including those from Aard Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and remote areas of Balochistan.

Additionally, each province had its separate programmes to support students, he said.

At the beginning of the event,



PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif interacts with a student at a Youth Day event, on Monday.—AFP

the PM officially launched several key initiatives, including the

Commonwealth Youth Alliance Secretariat in Islamabad, the Digital Learning Portal, the PM Green Youth Movement, and the AI for Youth Programme, which offers Intel-certified skills to young people.

Other initiatives included Smart Youth, Smart Pakistan, and the distribution of one million tablets and mobile phones to high-achieving intermediate students. He also announced the registration of the National Volunteer Corps.

Light plan on Aug 14

PM Shehbaz announced that he would unveil a comprehensive development plan for the country on August 14. He said that nothing was impossible in this world and emphasised the need to progress by learning from past mistakes.—Staff Reporter

PTA to block SIMs on cancelled or expired CNICs

Dawn Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) will block SIM cards that have been registered against CNICs that have been cancelled, expired or belong to deceased persons.

The PTA has begun obtaining data of those whose ID cards have been cancelled or expired, as well as people who are deceased.

According to reports, the regulator has already started sending messages to users whose SIMs are at risk of being blocked under any of these criteria.

SIMs belonging to those whose ID cards have been cancelled will be blocked from Aug 15.

In addition, SIM cards issued against CNICs that have expired since 2017 and not been renewed will be blocked, and such users have been given until Sept 2 to get their ID cards renewed from Nadra.

People who are using numbers registered in the name of deceased persons will have until Sept 15 to get the SIM cards transferred to their own name. In order to have the number transferred, users will be required to present the original death certificate of the deceased person.

The authority has initiated a public information campaign in this regard as well.

Murad Sadpara's body recovered, transported to Skardu

Climber died of injuries sustained after being 'hit by a rock' while descending Broad Peak

By Jamil Nigri

GILGIT: The body of climber Murad Sadpara, who died after being injured in an accident on Broad Peak, was transported to Skardu by a Pakistan Army helicopter on Monday.

Mr Sadpara was working as a guide for a Portuguese female climber during her ascent of Broad Peak — the world's 12th highest mountain at 8,051 metres.

On Sunday, Mr Sadpara was hit by a rock near Camp I on the mountain when his team was returning after

abandoning their summit due to bad weather conditions, according to mountaineer Nadia Kiani, who posted on Facebook seeking the army's help to rescue the injured climber.

After Ms Kiani's post, a Pakistan Army helicopter dropped two climbers from Skardu for the rescue mission. His body was found at base on Monday, Ms Kiani told Dawn.

According to the Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) secretary, Karim Haider, the rescue efforts were delayed by poor weather conditions on the mountain.

Condolences

After the news of his death, messages of condolences poured in from fellow mountaineers and political leaders.

In a post on Facebook, Ms Kiani said she was "heartbroken". "The climber who rescued many others and brought Hassan Shiger's

body from K2 basecamp is lost too soon," wrote Ms Kiani, who led the team which retrieved the dead porter's body earlier this month.

She also claimed that rescue efforts were affected due to "administrative delays". Ms Kiani called for the revision of SOPs for handling such accidents to avoid delays in future.

President Asif Ali Zardari, in a statement, expressed his grief over Mr Sadpara's demise and conveyed his sympathies to the bereaving family. He lauded the climber's efforts in the field of mountaineering.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also extended his condolences to the deceased's family.

GR Chief Minister Gulzar Khan called Mr Sadpara a "brave adventurer" and said his services for mountaineering would always be remembered.

14th AUGUST

کشمیر کی آزادی مبارک

Let's Come Together and Wave the Green Crescent Flag Again

Let's Make the Dream of a Developed Pakistan into Reality!



May My People Remain Safe, and My Homeland Prosper!

[Maryam Nawaz Sharif]
Chief Minister Punjab

77 years of independence, 240 million people
There are Countless Dreams.

The Government of Punjab is Ready

Let's Celebrate, Let's Fulfill Our Promises
Let's build the joyful Pakistan envisioned by Quaid



Long Live Pakistan

GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB

SPL-842

SPORT

Alcaraz sets sights on year-end top spot

MADRID After capturing back-to-back Grand Slam titles and a silver medal at the Paris Olympics, world number three Carlos Alcaraz said one of his key goals for the rest of the season is to finish as the top-ranked player in the world.

The 21-year-old French Open and Wimbledon champion, who lost a thrilling Olympic final to Novak Djokovic, returns to action at this week's Cincinnati Open, where he can gain ground on the Serb and Italian Jannik Sinner.

Alcaraz is 450 points behind world number one Sinner in the ATP live race to the season finale in Turin, the separate year-to-date standings that serve as a measuring stick for the year-end number one battle.

"Obviously being number one is a goal every time that I'm [behind] and the race is an important ranking for me. At the end of the year if you and the race number one, in the rankings it's quite similar, so you're going to end number one," Alcaraz said.

"So I'm really focused on that, I'm focused on going to every tournament, thinking about playing great tennis, doing a good result just to get better in the race. This year, ending the year as number one is one of my main goals right now."

Last year's Cincinnati runner-up, Alcaraz will begin his campaign against Gael Monfils or Alexis Popyrin as he returns to hardcourt tennis for the first time since reaching the Miami quarter-finals in March.

The Cincinnati Open is an important tune-up event for the Aug. 26-Sept. 8 U.S. Open.

"I'm excited to play here again. Obviously great memories from last year, reaching the final, losing a really tight and epic match to Djokovic," Alcaraz said.

Djokovic withdrew from Cincinnati after his Olympic triumph — Sinner.



WEST Indies batsman Alik Athanaze attempts a sweep shot during the first Test against South Africa at the Queen's Park Oval.—AFP

Athanaze heroics guide WI to draw against South Africa

PORT OF SPAIN Alik Athanaze missed out on a maiden Test century but played the key role in ensuring the safety of a draw for the West Indies against South Africa on the final day of the rain-affected first Test of a two-match series at Queen's Park Oval on Sunday.

Set the unlikely victory target of 278 after the Proteas declared their second innings at 173 for three just before lunch, Athanaze's determined 72 and a fifth-wicket partnership of 65 with Jason Holder (31 not out) guided the hosts from the discomfort of 127 for four just after tea to 201 for five at the end of play.

As in the first innings, Keshav Mahara presented the greatest threat to the hosts, the left-arm orthodox spinner claiming four for 88 to finish with match figures of eight for 164.

Coming to the crease with the West Indies in trouble at 18 for two just after lunch due to early strikes by Mahara and Kagiso Rabada, Athanaze displayed admirable restraint in an innings spanning over three hours during which he faced 116 balls and stroked nine fours.

However, that discipline

Scoreboard	
SOUTH AFRICA (1st innings) 278 & 173	WEST INDIES (1st innings) 218 & 201
W. P. du Plessis 100, J. van der Merwe 48, J. van der Merwe 14 (5)	J. Holder 30, J. Holder 31 not out, K. Athanaze 72, Kagiso Rabada 2-54
SOUTH AFRICA (2nd innings) 173	WEST INDIES (2nd innings) 127 & 201
T. de Zorj 40, D. Elgar 38, M. Erasmus 25, A. Morkel 16, M. Erasmus 16	J. Holder 31, J. Holder 31 not out, K. Athanaze 72, Kagiso Rabada 2-54
WEST INDIES (1st innings) 218	SOUTH AFRICA (2nd innings) 173
J. Holder 30, J. Holder 31 not out, K. Athanaze 72, Kagiso Rabada 2-54	T. de Zorj 40, D. Elgar 38, M. Erasmus 25, A. Morkel 16, M. Erasmus 16
WEST INDIES (2nd innings) 127	SOUTH AFRICA (1st innings) 278
J. Holder 31, J. Holder 31 not out, K. Athanaze 72, Kagiso Rabada 2-54	W. P. du Plessis 100, J. van der Merwe 48, J. van der Merwe 14 (5)
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J. Holder 30, J. Holder 31 not out, K. Athanaze 72, Kagiso Rabada 2-54	T. de Zorj 40, D. Elgar 38, M. Erasmus 25, A. Morkel 16, M. Erasmus 16

wavered with the end of play in sight as the 25-year-old left-hander from Dominica, clearly keen to get to the landmark, topped a sweep off Mahara to give Ryan Rickelton a comfortable catch at backward square-leg.

"It was just about dragging the length back and trying to exploit the rough outside his off-stump," said player of the match Mahara in explaining his plan to claim Athanaze's wicket. "Full credit must go to him though for the way he played. I just tried to stick to my plan and utilize different angles from the crease."

Earlier, Tristan Stubbs' aggressive 58 off 50 balls (six fours, two sixes) led the Proteas' pursuit of quick runs in a bright, sweltering morning.

His maiden Test half-century was supported by openers Tony de Zorj (45) and Aiden Markram (38) in scoring at almost a run-a-ball before captain Temba Bavuma declared when Stubbs was bowled by veteran seamer Kemar Roach.

"We expected the wicket to break up a little more than it did," Bavuma said. "In the end we just didn't have enough time, plus the elements got in the way of what could have been a really good competitive game of cricket."

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite, who fell in the first over of the innings, citing an ambitious led drive to cover off Mahara, was not thinking about a draw when he walked out to bat with opening partner Mikyle Louis.

"We believed we could have gotten the runs," he stated. "We knew it wasn't going to be easy, but my message to the boys was to back themselves and fully commit to their plans at the crease."

Given the significant interruptions by rain - more than two days' playing time was lost - there is already concern the second and final Test, scheduled for the Guyana National Stadium on Thursday, will also suffer a similar fate.

It again raises questions about the wisdom of scheduling international cricket - especially Test matches - in the southern Caribbean at the heart of the rainy season.—AFP

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Western media hail Paris while Russia scorns 'shameful' Games

PARIS The Paris Olympics were mostly rave reviews from western media after they closed on Sunday, while media in Russia, whose teams were excluded because of its war in Ukraine, scoffed at France's success.

Los Angeles Times sports columnist Bill Plaschke wondered whether Times columnist was up to the task of reviewing Paris when it hosts the next Summer Olympics in 2028.

"We have to somehow take greatness and make it even greater," he wrote, calling the Games in France "a blockbuster Parisian party that was two weeks of pure Hollywood."

"How on earth can the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics surpass what the world just witnessed in a two-week burst of picturesque rejoicing from the Champ de Mars to the Palace of Versailles?"

The New York Times was generous in its praise of the sporting extravaganza, saying it lifted France from its gloom brought on by political crisis.

"Many are reluctant to let go of its magic, of the adrenaline-fueled excitement, of the party free of political debate, of the sense of time deliciously

suspended, like the glowing Olympic cauldron that has hovered wistfully over the city every night."

The Guardian of Britain hailed the Games "a magnificent success."

"In sporting terms too, Paris was a success, even if it didn't double or create a world war capable of rivaling the likes of Stalin, Hitler or Michael Phelps."

But others including Frank Renna, writing for Dutch daily newspaper Het Parool, warned that the magic would not last.

"Soon everything will return to normal, which in the case of the French means dark and confrontational," he wrote. "If happiness were an Olympic sport, France would never have won a medal."

"ENDLESS SCANDALS"

In Russia, however, some newspapers found fault.

"The Paris Games weren't flawless," said Miroslav Komarov, a pro-Kremlin mass circulation newspaper, stressing it remained unclear who sabotaged France's high-speed rail network before the opening ceremony.

The newspaper argued that spectators

will remember "an endless series of scandals" and not the athletes' sporting feats or records.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, a pro-Kremlin tabloid, said the competitors in Paris were "the most shameful Olympic Games in history."

"The Paris 2024 organizers managed to offend hundreds of millions of people with an opening ceremony and a parody of the Last Supper. And then the Olympics became increasingly overlaid in problems, scandals and even crimes."

One of its subheads read: "Kositing athletes, champions with male chromosomes in women's boxing and worms in food."

In Algeria, an editorial in government daily El Moudjahid praised Algerian boxing champion Imane Khelif, who was at the centre of a gender eligibility row at the Paris Games.

"Imane's victory is also a victory for the oppressed and the excluded, but above all it is a victory for the less, which for too long has been trampled by the logic of the powerful, who are greedy for domination and adept at double-standards and politics."—AFP

Zverev out, Rublev advances on rainy day in Montreal

MONTREAL Former Olympic champion Alexander Zverev missed a chance to collect his 50th victory of the season as the second seed lost an ATP Montreal Masters quarter-final on Sunday to American Sebastian Korda.

Korda, who won the Washington title last weekend, posted a 2-6 (7/5), 1-6, 6-4 victory over the German and claimed his career-high eighth consecutive match triumph.

With the tournament behind schedule due to rain, two quarter-finals and the semi-finals were being contested to reach the final at the pre-US Open hardcourt center.

Early evening rain did not help matters, delaying play by two hours.

When the first of the two sets got underway in late afternoon,

Andrey Rublev defeated Italian Matteo Arnaldi 6-4, 6-2 in a contest paused for two hours due to wet weather after the first set.

The fifth seed will be playing his sixth final at the Masters level. He came out after the interruption and produced a double break after less than 30 minutes to reach the final.

Two rain-delayed quarter-finals from Saturday were finally staged in the afternoon, with the winners — Korda and Alexei Popyrin of Australia — facing off in a later semi-final.

Korda and Popyrin slugged through long, energy-sapping wins, with Korda accounting for Zverev, the 2017 champion in Canada.

Popyrin accounted for a second consecutive seed with his 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 fightback win against one of the games' biggest servers,

Hubert Hurkacz.

PEGULA MAKES TORONTO FINAL

Defending champion Jessica Pegula advanced to the WTA Toronto Masters final on Sunday by defeating Diana Shnaider 6-4, 6-3, giving her a chance to be the first back-to-back winner of the tournament since 2000.

Sixth-ranked Pegula eliminated the 24th-ranked Russian in 83 minutes to book an all-American final on Monday against Amanda Anisimova, who ousted US eighth seed Emma Navarro 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

Shnaider, a 20-year-old left-hander, had a break point in the eighth game but netted a forehand and Pegula held for a 5-3 lead then broke on the longest rally of the match, 21 shots, when Shnaider net-

ted a backhand to end matters.

Pegula moved into her 13th career WTA final, seeking her sixth title and second of the year after Berlin in June.

Shnaider, who ousted US top seed and reigning US Open champion Coco Gauff, was coming off a silver-medal effort in Paris Olympic doubles.

Anisimova reached her fourth career WTA final by dispatching her fourth top-20 foe of the week, a career first. She also ousted third-ranked Aryna Sabalenka in a quarter-final.

Navarro netted a forehand to surrender a break and a 5-2 lead in the final set to Anisimova, who closed with an ace to eliminate her competitor in one hour, 55 minutes. Anisimova fired 28 winners to 19 for Navarro in windy conditions.—AFP



GERMANY'S Alexander Zverev returns to Sebastian Korda of the US in the Montreal Masters quarter-final at the IGA Stadium.—Reuters

Medals rush for Pakistan at Asian indoor rowing

By Our Sports Reporter

LAHORE The Pakistan rowing team delivered a decent performance at the Asian Indoor Rowing Championships held in Penang, Malaysia, from August 9 to 11, securing a total of five gold, five silver, and four bronze medals, as reported by the Pakistan Rowing Federation on Monday.

The championship saw participation from hundreds of athletes across more than 15 Asian nations. Notably, Pakistan's impressive haul of medals this year marks a significant improvement from the previous Asian Indoor Rowing Championships in 2019, where the country secured only one gold. The Pakistan contingent included 10 male and four female athletes.

In the open men's 4x500 meter relay race, the team of M. Imran Dogar, Ahmad Aziz, Imran Aslam, and Zark Khan won the gold medal.

Pakistan also secured another gold in the lightweight men's 4x500 meter relay race, with Ahsan Rehman, Muzamil Shahzad, Gobar Ayubi, and M. Ahsan Rehman making up the victorious squad.

Zark clinched the gold in the under-23 open men's single (2000m), while M. Ahsan Rehman achieved another gold in the under-23 lightweight men's single (2000m).

Muzamil Shahzad also added a gold to Pakistan's tally in the lightweight men's single (500m).

Naila Bano earned a silver medal in the lightweight women's single (500m). The mixed lightweight 4x500 meter relay race team, comprising Naila, Maria Hanif, Muzamil Shahzad, and Gobar Ayubi, secured a silver medal.

Additionally, M. Ahsan Rehman earned a silver medal in the under-19 men's single (500m).

Muhammad Adil Virk claimed the silver in the openweight men's single (2000m).

In the open women's 4x500 meter relay race, the team of Naila, Razia, Rabia Anjum, and Iqra also won a silver medal.

Rabia won a bronze in the women's single (500m). Imran and Ahmad both secured bronze medals in the men's single (500m). The open mixed 500 meter team, featuring Ahmad, Imran Aslam, Rabia, and Iqra, rounded out the bronze medalists.

Alvarez leaves City to join Atletico

MADRID Atletico Madrid have signed Argentine forward Julian Alvarez from Premier League side Manchester City on a six-year contract, the La Liga club said on Monday.

Financial details about the transfer were not disclosed by either club, but British media reported that the deal was worth around 75 million euros (\$82 million) plus 20 million euros in potential add-ons.

"Today I say goodbye to this wonderful club with many emotions. They were two very special years. During this time, I grew and learned a lot as a player and as a person," Alvarez said on Instagram.

"I will always be very proud to have been part of this family. Manchester City will always have a special place in my heart. I wish you every success in the future and will continue to support the club from wherever I am."

The 24-year-old Argentine international's exit marks a record sale price for City, eclipsing the 50 million pounds Chelsea paid for winger Raheem Sterling in 2022.

Alvarez joined City from Argentine club River Plate in 2022 for 14 million pounds and has scored 36 goals in 103 appearances for manager Pep Guardiola's side.

He has won the Premier League twice and the Champions League, EA Cup, Super Cup and Club World Cup all once. He also won the 2022 World Cup with Argentina and the Copa America earlier this year.

Atletico manager Diego Simeone had been on the lookout for a centre forward since Alvarez Morata's move to AC Milan last month.—Reuters

Tahira wins Jashn-e-Azadi Cup

By Aftab Gilani

LAHORE Four-year-old girl Tahira recorded her maiden success on Sunday in the Jashn-e-Azadi Cup by winning the Independence Day celebration held at the Racecourse.

Ridden by Muhammad Hanif and trained by Rashid Latif, Tahira overpowered front-running boy mare Nazma Qasim at the finish line to win the day's feature event over one 1,000 metres.

Boy colt Doolanar and bay Apple Of My Eye completed the frame in this race, the third of the day.

Earlier rank outsider boy mare Generosity, ridden by Saifur Ali and trained by Marhar Abbas Kalyan, won the 1,000-metre Independence Day Cup. Generosity defeated favourite colt Luckvie by a short margin.

KARACHI

Times: 07:09 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow): 06:04 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum: 28°C
Maximum: 32°C
Humidity: 81%
Outlook: Cloudy



Saud looks forward to captaincy as Shaheens face Bangladesh 'A' Pg.18 SPORT

Court acquits ex-PM Abbasi, others after NAB withdraws reference

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: An accountability court on Monday acquitted former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and others in a reference pertaining to alleged illegal appointment of directors in the Pakistan State Oil (PSO) after the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) withdrew the case against them.

The NAB in 2020 had filed the reference and alleged that Mr Abbasi, when he was minister for petroleum and natural resources, in connivance with co-accused Arshad Mirza, the then petroleum secretary, had misused their authority while appointing Shauq Islamul Haq and Yaqoob Sattar as the managing director and deputy managing director (finance) of the PSO, causing loss to the national exchequer.

When the case came up for hearing on Monday, the NAB had already filed an application seeking the withdrawal of its reference.

The NAB prosecutor pleaded before the accountability court II judge that the Bureau had decided to withdraw the case as no evidence of "personal gain" was found against the accused persons.

The NAB pleaded to withdraw the reference on the grounds that "the material available on record against the accused persons has been examined comprehensively. A scrutiny of the same transcripts that there is no evidence of deriving the personal gain, as such the charge may not substantially prove against the accused persons and there is no probability of the accused being convicted for an offence under the provision of the National Accountability Ordinance."

After hearing the NAB prosecutor and noting that the defence counsel had informed the court they had no objections, the court accepted the NAB's application to withdraw the reference and acquitted all the accused.

'Day of happiness'

"Today is the day of happiness for us as, after four years, the NAB has stated that they are withdrawing the reference and the judge has acquitted the four of us," Mr Abbasi told the media.

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CHILDREN take a dip in rainwater accumulated in an under-construction drain in North Nazimabad.—Fahim Siddiq / White Star

MQM-P ups the ante to prevent removal of Governor Tessori

Muttahida to leave coalition govt if Sindh governor is removed, says Sattar; PPP believes something is cooking

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: Amid reports that the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz is considering removal of Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori from the office to appease the Pakistan Peoples Party, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan on Monday reacted strongly and warned that such a decision would force the party to quit the Sheikh Sharif-led coalition government.

The reaction came from MQM-P's senior leader Dr Yaqoob Sattar, who said in a statement that the party would have no reason to be part of the federal government if any "unilateral decision" is made regarding the office of the Sindh governor.

"When the PML-N government came into being [after Feb 8 poll], it was decided that Kamran Tessori would remain in the governorship. There were speculations about his removal. We want to make it clear to the PML-N that if any unilateral decision is made regarding Governor Tessori, the

MQM-P would have no reason left to stay with the government [as a coalition partner]," said Dr Sattar.

The statement was released in the two hours of Monday morning and it appeared that many in the MQM-P were not aware of it until TV channels flashed it in their headlines.

MQM-P sources said that Dr Sattar's statement didn't sit well with the party leadership that reportedly asked him to explain reasons behind issuing such a "strong statement" on his own and without following proper party channels.

Dr Sattar was not available for comments and no senior MQM-P leader was willing to come on record to talk about the matter.

No plan to miss MQM-P

While it is not clear whether the PML-N was seriously considering the removal of Mr Tessori, sources in the ruling party in the Centre believed that any such step, if taken, would not "miss" the MQM-P from the process of constitution for the new names for the governor's office.

They said it was quite possible that the next governor would also belong to the MQM-P or one whose name it approved.

They claimed that the recent speculations about the possible removal of Mr Tessori were linked to the "intra-party issue" of the MQM-P as one group wanted

him to stay and the other sought his removal.

A senior PML-N leader told Dawn that there was no one in his party's Sindh chapter who could be made governor. "So ultimately, if it is decided to remove Mr Tessori, the top leadership would go for any notable candidate that could be any businessman, retired bureaucrat, judge or from armed forces. In either case, the MQM-P would be part of the consultation. And there should be no surprise if Mr Tessori is replaced with some other nominee of the MQM-P."

Last week, when PM Shehbaz visited the city, the grapevine was rife with speculation that a change was afoot in the Governor House, reminding the similar situation that had developed a few months ago against Mr Tessori but he, against all odds, managed to survive and stay.

It was the PPP which had in April publicly demanded Mr Tessori's removal from the office. The ruling party in Sindh had accused the governor of "creating a political divide and further widening the gap between urban and rural areas of Sindh" and asked the PML-N-led government in the Centre to remove him from the post.

'Something is happening'

The PPP still sticks to its demand and

Continued on Page 15

O-, A-level students await results today with bated breath

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: More than 100,000 students of O- and A-level are waiting anxiously for their results as the Cambridge International Education (CIE) is set to release the results of its June exam series on Tuesday (today).

Globally, there were over 1.6 million entries for the Cambridge International exams in June.

In Pakistan, over 100,000 students at 680 schools sat either Cambridge O-level, IGCSEs, or International AS & A-level. There were over 226,000 entries for Cambridge O-level and IGCSEs and more than 125,000 entries for Cambridge International AS & A Levels from students across the country.

This year, the CIE had ordered a probe into reports of the AS-level Mathematics paper leak. It took the organisation to conclude that the paper was indeed leaked. "We have reviewed evidence from multiple sources and concluded that this specific paper was seen by a significant number of students in Pakistan before the start of the exam," a CIE letter had said and added that the CIE will give "assessed marks" to students in this particular paper.

At Cambridge O-level and IGCSE, Pakistan Studies, Islamiyat, Mathematics, English Language and Urdu as a Second Language were the most popular subjects.

At Cambridge International AS & A level, Physics, Mathematics, Business, Chemistry and Computer Science were the most popular subjects. Business overview Chemistry this year, and Computer Science rose up the ranks to enter the top five, replacing Economics.

Operation against riverine area gangs to be intensified

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Police and Rangers on Monday decided to intensify ongoing joint operations against bandits in the province's riverine areas.

The decision was taken in a meeting held at the Central Police Office, which was attended by Inspector General of Sindh Police Ghulam Nabi Memon and Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) Director General Maj Gen Ahsan Wajid.

"We have to further strengthen actions for the elimination of criminal gangs while reviewing the joint strategy," said IG Memon, according to a police statement issued after the meeting.

He said that the joint strategy and action were a key factor for taking the criminals to task.

"Police are ready and alert for the elimination of dacoits and criminal gangs in the katcha areas," he said.

Operations in the riverine areas should be intensified," the Rangers DG said, adding that highway robberies had reduced significantly because of joint actions by the police and paramilitary force in the katcha areas.

Earlier, DGs of Sukkur and Larkana gave a detailed briefing to the participants about joint operations against the bandits.

Additional IG-operations, DGs, Counter-Terrorism Department and sector commander of Shaheed Rangers, wing commander B2-Wing and other officers attended the meeting.

SHC appoints court official to inspect amenities for pedestrians in DHA

Judges deplore footpaths are either not available, or in dilapidated condition even in posh areas of the city

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Monday appointed a court official to inspect facilities provided for pedestrians including footpaths and service roads in the Defence Housing Authority (DHA).

A one-judge bench comprising Justice Sabiruddin Parwez and Justice Anjad Ali Sabir said that the inspection report

should include photographs and details about availability or non-availability of pedestrian facilities and other amenities.

The bench was hearing a set of petitions seeking implementation of the Supreme Court's order to restrict entry of heavy traffic in the city during daytime.

At the outset of the hearing, the bench deplored that footpaths were not available or in dilapidated condition even in the upscale neighbourhoods of the city like DHA and Clifton.

However, one of the lawyers for DHA submitted that the footpaths/previsions were available for pedestrians in DHA.

The bench in its order said that these petitions were mainly related to heavy traffic and about measures for evacuation in emergency situations.

"The State of this court shall inspect DHA, with notice to respective authorities and even civilian pedestrian/civilian can join the inspection, regarding the facilities provided for pedestrians (such as footpaths on every street) and the service roads along with the main roads. The report should include photographs and details on the availability or non-availability of pedestrian facilities, service roads and other amenities, accompanied by a sketch," the court order said.

The bench also said that the DHA was required to be cooperative with the court and submit a map of the housing scheme, showing all phases and indicating the spaces allocated for amenities.

Adjourning the hearing till Sept 18, the bench also directed the DC-South to appoint an MC for similar inspection and

file a report.

The Supreme Court had issued an order in August 2007, banning heavy traffic during the day. Several petitions were filed in SHC between 2019 and 2021 about heavy vehicles and implementation of the Supreme Court order.

Some of the petitioners also moved the court against relevant authorities over worsening situation of traffic in Karachi and seeking re-zoning of heavy vehicles through non-residential areas as well as improvement in public transports.

The petitioners further asked the court to issue directives for the authorities to implement the open court order about heavy traffic and improve public transport and introduce other alternatives to help commuters and reduce the burden on the existing transport.

98pc infants in Sindh undernourished, says Unicef official

- Sindh govt taking steps to address malnutrition, starting in province, says Murad
US provides 486 tonnes of lifesaving nutrition for 29,000 malnourished children in Pakistan

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Infant and young child feeding practices in Sindh are suboptimal as around 98 per cent of children under two years of age in the province are not adequately nourished, shared Unicef representative Abdullah A. Firdi on Monday.

He said that the rates of early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding were only 48pc and

51pc, respectively.

"Minimum dietary diversity and minimum acceptable diet for children aged 6-23 months are a mere 12pc and 3.2pc, indicating that around 98pc of children in this age group in Sindh are not adequately nourished," he shared.

He was speaking at a programme held at a Port Qasim warehouse, where the US ambassador handed over 486 metric tons of life-saving nutrition aid to Unicef in the presence of Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah.

According to officials, the Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) — a nutrient-rich paste made from peanuts, sugar, milk powder, oil, vitamins, and minerals — will benefit over 29,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in the flood-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan.

Speaking at the ceremony, US Ambassador Donald Blome said the donation underscored the US government's dedication to alleviating malnutrition and its long-term impacts.

"Today's handover is a powerful testament to the United States' enduring commitment to the Pakistani people, to Pakistani women and

children, and to vulnerable communities," he said, emphasising the need for acting fast to tackle the health crisis and saving "the lives of an entire generation of Pakistani children".

The ambassador commended front-line health care workers, women's and maternal health care providers, social service providers and volunteers, and expressed appreciation to the provincial health minister, health department, Unicef and other partners for their work.

Speaking on the occasion, the Sindh CM reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to address malnutrition and starting in the province, while acknowledging the role of international partners in combating the challenges exacerbated by the devastating floods of 2022.

"Unicef has been instrumental in supporting the review and approval of the breastfeeding act, enhancing humanitarian and nutritional coordination and providing vital nutrition services in hard-to-reach areas," he said.

The agency along with other partners had

Continued on Page 14



US AMBASSADOR Donald Blome, along with Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah, hands over a consignment of lifesaving nutrition to a Unicef representative at a Port Qasim warehouse, on Monday.—Dawn

Woman, three men killed in clash over land dispute

By Our Correspondent

DADU: A 20-hour-long armed clash between two rival groups belonging to the Shikhar community left four people, including a woman, and 30 animals dead in Moundar village of Dadu taluka, reports from the area said on Monday.

The two sides have been at odds over control of a piece of state-owned land in the riveline area of the taluka for some time. In an earlier clash between them a few weeks back, two persons were gunned down.

Those who lost their lives in almost 20 hours of fresh gun battle were identified as 60-year-old Mazhar (a retired policeman), 50-year-old Me Izzat, Sabir Hussain and Shehbaz. Ten cattle heads were also killed in the indiscriminate firing by the two sides.

The deceased were transported to the Dadu District Headquarters Hospital for a post-mortem examination.

Led by two DSPs and several officers, a strong contingent of personnel drawn from different police stations was deployed around the village but could not succeed in entering the battlefield during night hours and early Monday morning due to intense firing and intermittent flare-ups.

Karoonjhar Hills set to be declared protected heritage, SHC told

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: The provincial culture secretary on Monday informed the Sindh High Court, Mirpurkhas bench, that Karoonjhar Hills would be declared 'protected heritage'.

Petitioner Advocate Shankar Meghwar had originally filed an application in the high court's Hyderabad circuit on the matter last year and a bench comprising Justice Mohammad Saifi Siddiqui and Justice Anshad Hussain had passed a comprehensive order in October 2023. Later, the matter was transferred to SHC's Mirpurkhas bench when it was established. Finding that the comprehensive order was not complied with, Advocate Meghwar filed a miscellaneous application in the Karoonjhar bench in the wake of a recent Sindh cabinet decision about excavation in a part of Karoonjhar Hills. The bench plea was taken up for hearing and was fixed for hearing. Notices were issued to the respondents for Aug 12, directing them to show compliance of the

May 7 order in the matter.

According to the petitioner, the Sindh secretary culture (respondent No-1) on Monday filed a statement before the court. He stated that it was in compliance of this court's order dated May 7. He submitted that 32 sites in the vicinity of Karoonjhar mountains, Tharparkar district, had already been declared 'protected heritage'. Out of the 32 sites, seven monuments/sites were declared protected heritage by the federal government and 25 others by the Sindh government.

The secretary submitted that the matter was placed before the technical committee on the Sindh cultural heritage which took it up in its meeting held on Dec 20, 2023. The committee decided to constitute a subcommittee, comprising Dr. Kabeerullah Lakhari, Dr. Arifa Naqvi, Sohail Khatun, Dr. Ahsan Anwar, Nabeem Ahmed Khan and Dr. Mohammad Ali Manjhi.

The secretary further stated that recommendations of the subcommittee had been placed before the technical committee for consideration and further re-

commendations to the advisory committee, and the matter for decision would be placed before the Sindh cabinet as per Section 4 of the Sindh Cultural Heritage (Preservation) Act 1994. The secretary prayed the court to acknowledge that the process with the technical committee had already commenced and that Karoonjhar Hills would be declared protected heritage site upon completion of all relevant legal and procedural requirements in accordance with law.

The bench, comprising Justice Anshad Hussain and Justice Arif Ali Bhatti, took up the matter and gave some important observations. The bench made the secretary's statement part of court's record and observed that it would pass order during course of the day (Monday).

In his brief miscellaneous plea, the petitioner had questioned the excavation on Karoonjhar mountains under July 11 decision of the executive committee of the SHC (Special Investment Facilitation Council) on Nagarparak Granite Excavation Project.

He said the decision was in disregard of the judgement dated Oct 30, 2023 which was announced on October 19 by the SHC Hyderabad circuit bench in his petition wherein court, in para-28 (c) of order, declared the "entire Karoonjhar hills are one monument" under law and could not be divided into pieces and portions for any excavation.

He said Karoonjhar Karoonjhar was not separate from Karoonjhar and was connected with the latter for being located near the Karoonjhar village.

The Karoonjhar Karoonjhar site, located just 25km from Nagarparak near the village of Kharsar, stands at a height of over 400ft. He said Karoonjhar Karoonjhar was declared protected heritage being part of Karoonjhar as per the judgement of that court.

However, the Sindh government in its cabinet agenda (decision of 5th executive committee of SHC on Nagarparak Granite Excavation Project) has illegally permitted mining and excavation activities subject to clearance from the forest and wildlife department.

Progress of WB-funded projects reviewed

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: An estimated 3.5 million rural residents will benefit from 273 water supply and 124 drainage schemes that are in progress in Jamshoro, Nasirabad and Qambar-Shikhar districts.

This was stated by the project director of the Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP), Ghulam Asghar Karaman, in a briefing to the media while inspecting the roadworks and public facilities rehabilitated with World Bank funds in the floodhit areas of Sukkur, Shikarpur and Khairpur districts.

The SFERP team also inspected the completed building of Rescue 1122 centres in Sukkur and ongoing construction work in Shikarpur and Khairpur.

Khairpur.

In Sukkur, the SFERP team examined the upgraded infrastructure, including the road from Chinnu Pindi to Thikrihar via Ronghar and the Dadal Chashor road.

In Shikarpur, it inspected the rehabilitated roads such as those from Maseji and Dakhan to Khairpur, including the connectivity via old Lalpur, New Lalpur, Marandialah, Jarakhi Road and Sarsar Kot.

In Khairpur, the team evaluated the rehabilitated roads, including the stretch from Makhboom Chokri to United Jamunahin Kalhoro, Mirra to Hussainabad Narodhoro, and National Highway Bugh Sehra Mohraipur to Bahu Jo Khuro. Mr Karaman told reporters that of the 143 roads affected by floods spanning 830 kilometres and 45 roads of 226 kilometres had been completed.

Additional 30 roads, covering 191 kilometres, were expected to be finished within the next 15 days, with the remaining 68 roads slated for completion by the year end, he said.

He highlighted that the rehabilitated roads had been constructed with resilient embankments designed to withstand future climate shocks and to allow for cost-effective future expansions. He noted that the improvements would benefit approximately five million people.

The project director stated that 114 water supply and 25 drainage schemes affected by the floods in the districts of Umerkot, Mirzapur, Sanghar, Badin, and Shekhupur were on track to be completed by January 2025. Regarding emergency response infrastructure, he confirmed that construction of 10 disaster headquarters for rescue was about 75pc complete.

FAPUASA strongly reacts to issuance of notices to faculty

LARKANA: The Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Association (FAPUASA) Sindh chapter on Monday demanded withdrawal of the show-cause notices issued to the representatives of the teachers association of the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU) and a member of syndicate by the university management.

Vehemently condemning the action, it called upon the SMBBMU administration to engage in a constructive dialogue with the faculty to resolve their concerns.

In a statement, FAPUASA Sindh chapter general secretary Abdul Helman Nagrai said that in case of failure, the situation would compel the association to highlight the matter and stand united in defending the rights of our colleagues.

The SMBBMU administration on August 7 issued notices to President Dr Hafiza Ahsan and General Secretary Dr Imtiaz Ali Dombi of the faculty's teachers association, and Associate Professor Arshad Shah, an elected member of the syndicate from Ghulam Muhammad Mahar Medical College, Sukkur.

The faculty members were peacefully protesting for their legitimate rights and demanding their increased salaries as announced by the government, he said.

The act of intimidation and harassment by the university administration, the general secretary of FAPUASA said, is utterly unacceptable. "We issue a stern warning to all vice chancellors and university administrations across Sindh that the FAPUASA Sindh chapter will not tolerate any arrogant or repressive behavior towards faculty members," he said, adding that the dignity and rights of academic staff must be upheld at all times.

Talking to Dawn, Dr Imtiaz Ali Dombi said that replies to the show-cause notices were submitted in the office of the registrar of the SMBBMU Larkana campus. And Dr Arshad Shah would send it through mail to the university management on Tuesday, he added. —Correspondent

Over 40 activists quit 'nationalist' politics

LARKANA: Over 40 activists of different nationalist groups on Monday announced their decision to quit their respective separatist outfits to go for the mainstream politics.

The activists, some of them holding Pakistani flags in their hands, walked into the local press club to make the announcement before the media.

Prominent among them were Sarwar Umar, until now a local leader of the Jey Sindh Muttahida Mahaz (JSMH), Suhno Umar and Aziz Kalhoro. Speaking to journalists, they said that they and their fellow activists had now fully realised that Sindh nationalist groups had been using people, particularly youth, for their ulterior motives in the name of Sindh's rights.

They said that they had decided to never indulge in any subversive activities against the country, adding that nationalist groups were actually acting upon the agenda of Pakistan's enemies. — Correspondent

MQM-P ups the ante to prevent removal

Continued from Page 13

believes that the recent development suggests "something is happening".

"We will believe that [Tessori] has failed to bring an end to political Larkana urban-rural divide," Senator

Waqar Mehd, the PPP-Sindh's general secretary, told Dawn.

"We haven't been consulted yet," said Senator Mehd about any contact from the PSD-N for the appointment of the new Sindh governor after so much speculation about the fate of Mr Tessori.

"But we have heard that they [PSL-N government in the Centre] have started thinking about it. We have also been informed that our party leadership would also be taken into confidence before reaching any final decision to make in this regard," he added.

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TENDER NOTICE

Director PIR Abdul Qadir Shah JeeLANI Institute of Medical Sciences Gambat invites sealed bids from registered / manufacturer / authorized distributors for the supply of following items. A complete set of tender enquiry may be obtained from the office of the undersigned from 07-08-2024 to 21-08-2024 during working hours and will be submitted upto 31-08-2024 before 12:00 Noon, which will be opened publicly on same date i.e., 31-08-2024 at 12:00 pm in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend.

The Procuring Agency may reject all or any bids subject to the relevant provisions of SPPRA Rules.

S.No.	Description of Items	Date of opening	Bid Security	Reserve Price
1	Purchase of Drugs, Medicines, Lab Items, X-Ray films, Specialty Consumables, Special Consumables, Other Miscellaneous Items, Uniforms and Protective Cloth, Linen, Bedding, Medical Supplies, Others, Auto-Cleaning Supplies, Other Misc. Stocks and Laboratory Items ETC.	07-08-2024	2% of the value	Rs. 2000
2	Call for tenders of QMS Inspector Medical Material			Rs. 2000

NOTE:

- The tender document can be downloaded from SPPRA website (www.sppra.gov.pk)
- Bids must be in Pak Rupees.
- In case of public holidays, the tenders will be submitted and opened on the next working day as per given schedule.
- Bids shall include Government Taxes including GST, registration with Credit Reference Board (CRB), if applicable.

DIRECTOR
 PIR Abdul Qadir Shah JeeLANI
 Institute of Medical Sciences Gambat

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submissions, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of SPPRA GOB. The Executive Director, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Hospital, Quetta invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of following items. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- for each work.

S.No.	Tender Name	Bid Security
1	Local Purchase of Drugs & Medicines (Total Items Count: 50) TSE- 242588514801	2%
2	Local Purchase of Disposable Items/Central Lab Items (Total Items) Count: 167) TSE- 242588514801	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Bidding Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. Bidding Procedure: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure (TSE- 242588514801). TSE- 242588514801) Tender Documents: The Bidding document can be downloaded from www.sppra.gov.pk (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of prescribed tender fee. Last Date and Time of Bid Submission: 26 August, 2024 at 11:00 AM and will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM. Address: Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Hospital, Mainling Road Quetta. Phone no: 091-2000180 Fax no: 091-2001181 Email: sp@sprra.gov.pk

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
 SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED HOSPITAL, QUETTA

PRG No. 228-13-06-2024

TODAY IS THE 8TH BARSII OF OUR BELOVED

KHADIJA RAUF
 23/09/1921 - 13/08/2016

MUCH LOVED WIFE OF THE (LATE) C.A RAUF

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE MISSED

SHUMA HAMSHEH AZ DAST-E-RAFTE KHWAHAD BOUD

VOUS NOUS MANQUEREZ TOUJOURS

KHALID NASREEN KAUSAR
 AMBER JAMIR MARIAM OMER

IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL JUDGE ANTI-TERRORISM SHIKARPUR

Special Case No. 61 of 2024

State Versus

Irfan & others.....Accused

Crime No 2020/04 Police Station Khairpur
 Crime: Shikarpur
 Latta 205 A, 204, 205, 189, 189 PPC & 67 A/76

WHEREAS, 1. Haroon @ Qadir Muhammad S/o Ghulam Qadir S/o Badari Jatoi, 02. Dado, 03. Abdul Jabbar, 04. Shaffer all three S/o Leo S/o Badari Jatoi, 05. Papat, 06. Badique both S/o Bullo S/o Badari Jatoi, 07. Barhoom S/o Wajeeh Uddin S/o Badari Jatoi, 08. Manoor S/o Barhoom S/o Wajeeh Uddin S/o Badari Jatoi, 09. Javed S/o Dealer @ Deela S/o Jatoi, 10. Abdul Khaliq S/o Ali Bux S/o Jatoi and 11. Riaz S/o Ali Nawaz, S/o Jatoi, r/o Katho Taluka Khairpur are shown as abdoconders in the above cited case.

AND WHEREAS non-bailable warrants were issued by this court for the arrest of above named accused, which returned unexecuted with report of police that the accused have absconded and are not traceable.

NOW, THEREFORE, Proclamation U/S 87 Cr.P.C read with section 136(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 is issued with direction to the above named accused persons to appear before the Court at Judicial Complex District & Sessions Court Shikarpur within seven days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded in their absence.

Given under my hand & seal of the Court this 06th day of August, 2024.

SPECIAL JUDGE ANTI-TERRORISM COURT SHIKARPUR

IN THE ANTI-TERRORISM COURT LARKANA

Special Case No. 28 of 2024

RE: STATE V/S

SALEEM JEHO AND OTHERS

Crime No. 11 of 2024
 Police Station Rasheed Waggon
 U/S 224, 225, 226, 228, 148, 149 PPC & 7 A/1807

WHEREAS, the accused 1- Gulab S/o Ghano 2- Dildad @ Sajid S/o Mohar @ Haroon Bux 3- Suhail S/o Waryam 4- Javed S/o Waryam all by caste Jeho R/o Village Mehboob Jeho Taluka Larkana, 5- Muhammad Uris and 6- Nazeeb Ahmed both S/o Nazeer Muhammad Khakhrani R/o Near Village Qadir Taluka Larkana have shown as abdoconders in the Chalan Sheet submitted by SHO-S/O P/S Rasheed Waggon, District Larkana in the above cited case.

AND WHEREAS, non-bailable warrants of arrest were issued by this Court for the arrest of above named accused, which have returned unexecuted with report of police that the accused have absconded or concealed themselves to avoid their arrest.

NOW, THEREFORE, Proclamation U/S 87 Cr.P.C read with section 136(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 is issued requiring the appearance of above named accused to appear before this Court at Old Sessions Court Larkana within 07 days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded against them in their absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 06th day of the month of August 2024.

JUDGE ANTI-TERRORISM COURT LARKANA

SOYEM

Our beloved

Mrs. Zohra Bashir

wife of M. Bashir Janmohammad passed away peacefully yesterday Monday 12th August, 2024.

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Her SOYEM will be held Today i.e., Tuesday 13th August, 2024

For Gents: Between Namaz-e-Asr & Maghrib at Masjid-e-Saheem Khayabane Rahat DHA Phase 6, Karachi.

For Ladies: Between Namaz-e-Asr & Maghrib at residence House # 7 Main Khayabane Shehbaz DHA Phase 6, Karachi.

Mourners:

M. Bashir Janmohammad	Mr. & Mrs. Rasheed Janmohammad
Shakila Cochinalwa	Dr. Nasim Razzak
Shakira Naeem	Ms. Farhat Rasheed
Shenila Cochinalwa	Mr. & Mrs. Jahangir Rasheed
Ayisha Motiani	For Contact: 021-35170914

METRO

North



Saud looks forward to captaincy as Shaheens face Bangladesh 'A'
Pg.18 SPORT

ISLAMABAD
Sunset 06:58pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:25am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 27°C
Maximum 34°C
Outlook Showers

Another wet spell from tomorrow: Met Office

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: More monsoon rains are expected in various parts of the country including Rawalpindi and Islamabad from August 14 evening that will continue till August 18. The Pakistan Meteorological Department has warned civic bodies to remain on alert. The Met Office said a low pressure was currently causing rain over northwestern parts of India and was likely to move towards the central parts of Pakistan in the next a couple of days carrying strong moisture from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. "A westerly wave is likely to approach upper parts on August 14 evening. Under the influence of these weather systems, rain-wind/thunderstorm (with few heavy falls) are expected in Kashmir (Noshahr valley, Muzaffargarh, Rawalakot, Poonch, Harian, Bagh, Harwal, Southwest, Kotli, Bhambur, Mirpur) from August 14 (evening/night) to August 18 with occasional gaps." Rain-wind/thunderstorm (with scattered heavy falls) are expected in Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Murree, Gallian, Attock, Chakwal, Talagang, Jhelum, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Hafiznagar, Wazirabad, Nariwal, Sheoran, Toba Tek Singh, Narkeena Sahib, Chiniot, Faisalabad, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Sahiwal, Narowal, Okara, Pakpattan, Kasur, Chishti and Sangotia. Rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected in Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Khuzdar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Bhakkar, Mianwali, Khanewal, Lodhran, Muzaffargarh, Keo Adha, Rajapur, Bahiyyar Khan and Layyah from August 15 to 18. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, rain-wind/thunderstorm (with scattered heavy falls) are expected in Chitral, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Malakand, Shangha, Baragram, Buner, Khat, Bagair, Mohmand, Khyber, Mardan, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Swabi, Nowshera, Marikali, Charsadda, Hangu, Kurram, Paktia, Waziristan,

Bannu, Lakki Marwat and Dera Ismail Khan. In Balochistan, rain-wind/thunderstorm (with isolated heavy falls) are expected in Khuzdar, Lasbela, Awaran, Kalat, Zohab, Barkhan, Musa Khel, Mastung, Sibi, Sherani, Kohlu, Bolan, Harrak, Nasirabad, Jaffarabad and Makran coast. Rain-wind/thunderstorm is also expected at isolated places in Mithi, Sanghar, Miryari, Umarkot, Tharparkar, Mirpur Khas, Khairpur, Sukkur, Larkana, Jacobabad and Dera of Sindh from August 15 (evening/night) to August 18 with occasional gaps. Light rain with cloudy conditions is expected along the Sindh coast. Partly cloudy to cloudy weather conditions are expected in Gilgit-Baltistan. However, rain is expected in Diamir, Astore, Skardu, Gilgit, Ghazibar, Shigar from August 15 to August 18. The PMD stated that torrential rains may generate flash flooding in mountains of Murree, Gallian, Mansehra, Kohistan, Chitral, Gilgit-Baltistan, Dir, Swat, Shangha, Nowshera, Swabi, Islamabad/Hawalpindi, northern Punjab and hill torrents in DG Khan, Kalat, Khuzdar, Barkhan, Lasbela and Kohistan from August 14 (night) to 18. Heavy downpour may cause urban flooding in Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Sahiwal, Sangotia, Nowshera and Peshawar from August 14 (night) to 18. Landslides may cause road closures at the vulnerable hilly areas of KP, Murree, Gallian, Kohistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. Heavy downpour/windstorm and lightning may affect daily routines and may damage weak structures like roof/wall of katcha houses, electric poles, billboards, vehicles and solar panels. Farmers are advised to manage their activities keeping in view the weather forecast. Travelers and tourists should remain extra-cautious and manage their travel plans according to weather conditions.



WOMEN teams from Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in action during the Independence Cup Inter-Provincial Basketball Championship at the Sports Complex in Islamabad on Monday. — Online

Traffic plan in place ahead of Independence Day

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The City Traffic Police (CTP) have chalked out a comprehensive traffic plan for the night of August 13 and August 14, the Independence Day, deploying over 750 traffic police personnel to enhance traffic management and prevent one-wheeling. According to a CTP spokesman, more than 750 officers and officials will perform traffic duties in Rawalpindi and Murree as seven special squads have been formed on various highways of Rawalpindi to prevent one-wheeling and car skidding in the city. Legal action will be taken against drivers who are found violating traffic rules. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi, Beena Fatma said that the public should observe road safety and take special care on this auspicious occasion. She urged parents to avoid giving cars or motorcycles to young children and keep a close watch on those who tamper with cars and motorcycles. While addressing the young generation, the CTO emphasised that speed is fatal and should be avoided. She also advised against shouting or playing loud music as an effort to curb noise pollution and ensure uninterrupted flow of traffic. Remember to give way to emergency vehicles, ambulances, taxis and police vehicles to show proof of civility, CTO Fatma said. She further said that the CTP have made special traffic arrangements to provide the best travel facilities to tourists in Murree. As many as 253 officers and employees have been posted and special pickets have been established. In Murree, traffic and district police officials will be on 24-hour duty while five DSP/circle in-charges, eight sector in-charges will be deployed to ensure traffic flowing. In view of security, action will be taken against black glasses, unregistered, non-specimen number plates and vehicles with no number plates. CTO Fatma said that the traffic police had been directed to take full and indiscriminate action against one-wheelers and underage drivers. She appealed to the parents to avoid giving their children bikes or cars at a young age.

Blue Area parking plaza still far from completion

Launched in March 2022, project was supposed to be ready in a year and has missed two deadlines

By Kashif Abbas

ISLAMABAD: After missing two deadlines, the under-construction parking plaza in Blue Area is still incomplete and at least two more months will require for its completion provided work continues at full pace. Currently, concrete work on the last floor is in progress and after finishing it, the project's grey structure will be completed. The Rs. 1-billion project was started in March 2022 and it was supposed to be completed in March 2023, but subsequently its deadline was extended to September 30, which also lapsed without

much progress. Then, the deadline was extended to June this year. CDA officials said that the contractor had been directed to complete the project by September 15; however, tenders say apparently two more months were required to complete the project as after the grey structure, finishing work would also require time. An official said that on the ground floor, there are around 20 shops, which are being retained to get good links in markets. "We are making all out efforts to get this project completed by September 15 which is our new deadline," said a senior officer of CDA, adding that over 90pc grey structure work had already been completed. It is relevant to note here the plaza is one of the six parking lots, planned by the CDA some years ago. However, the construction of the first ever plaza has been facing an inordinate delay due to several reasons. The other proposed plazas are one each in I-8 Markaz and F-8, two in F-55, and one in G-9 Markaz.

CDA Chairman Mohammad Ali RazaBhatti in May this year had visited the under-construction plaza and directed the contractor to complete it by June 30. After his first visit, work was expedited. The chairman in May had also directed to increase the workforce, adding there should be no compromise on quality with a special focus on the finishing work, including tiles and marble. The plaza will have a basement plus ground floor and six stores. It will accommodate 900 cars and 150 motorcycles. The CDA officials claimed that the plaza missed deadlines mainly because of the crossing of a big rafter through the project site forcing the contractor to fix the issue of skids and raising water which took months before starting the foundation work. Parking has become one of the major issues in Islamabad over the years as available spaces are shrinking due to an increase in the city's population. The CDA officials told Dawn that besides a massive increase in the number of vehicles during

the last two decades, poor implementation of by-laws and ill-planning also contributed to this mess. They said parking spaces had been designed in the city's markets and plazas in accordance with the number of shops, but with the passage of time the shop owners violated the layout and increased the number of shops. Similarly, the commercial buildings in markets should have adequate parking space in basements, but no focus was paid to this aspect, that resulted in traffic mess in all markets particularly in I-8 Markaz. Like markets, parking has also become an issue even in neighbourhood markets (also three shopping centres also known as small markets) due to poor monitoring system of CDA and weak enforcement of laws. In these classes of shops, the number of shops have also increased manifold. Initially, these centres had two shops (units), but the business community increased the number by converting one unit into many mini shops, putting extra burden on services and parking lots.

Performance evaluation report on NCSW suggested

The Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights on Monday suggested preparation of a performance evaluation report on the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW). The meeting of the committee was presided over by Senator Samina Murtaza Zehri and attended by Senators Mohammad Humayun Mohmand, Poojo Bhaal, Jam Salimullah Khan, the secretary Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) and senior officials from NCSW and the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHHR).

— Detailed story on Page 13



LAW enforcement agencies hold a flag march in connection with security preparations for Independence Day on Monday. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

Pilot licence issue was not only reason behind PIA flights' ban to EU: Senate committee told

By Mohammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: Restriction on PIA flights to Europe was not imposed because of the pilot licence issue only, but also due to the warning issued to Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) about safety concerns a year ago. This emerged during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Aviation chaired by Senator Abdul Qadir Baloch in Parliament House on Monday. Senator Nadeem Mansoorwala informed the meeting that the restriction on the PIA flights to Europe was not only the result of the pilot licence issue, but a year before that the PCAA had received a warning about safety concerns. The secretary aviation confirmed that a warning had been received before the pilot licence issue. The meeting was informed that the PCAA was equipped with a state of the art system for air traffic management and navigation systems. The committee meeting was convened to discuss ongoing issues plaguing the aviation industry.

Senator Sherry Rehman sought immediate attention to the "licence-gate" challenge and the ban on PIA from flying to the European Union (EU) for the last four years. She stressed the need for accountability and transparency in addressing both the issues which were independent of each other, but remained shockingly unaddressed and opaque. She questioned why the civil aviation was allowed to conduct the search for licences and put out a list of accredited take-overers at the same time. She then minister for aviation, she added, made a speech that derailed PIA and its trained pilots from a slump that they have never been able to recover from. Senator Rehman also expressed concern over the lack of accountability and transparency in such a matter of grave national importance. Despite four years of inquiry, she added, no one who was actually responsible had been held accountable for the grounding of the air fleet from flying to the EU, not for the pilot's issue. Senator Rehman said accountability was crucial, adding if only

many citizens were involved they would have been jailed by now. She emphasised that parliament holds itself accountable, and the civil service must do the same but must understand that budgetary presentations are no longer acceptable in the upper house of parliament, because most of us have a better acquaintance with the data and the hidden issues that have been pushed under the rug. She said the report prepared regarding the European Union's safety protocols be shared with the committee. She also asked the inquiry report regarding the ban on pilots be presented in the committee. The committee chair also agreed to a special session on the two issues. The committee expressed dissatisfaction with the working of the CAA and the prolonged unresolved issues affecting the airlines. Members criticised the director general of the CAA for failing to provide relief to pilots and described this period as a 'dark era' for Pakistan's aviation industry. The secretary aviation assured the committee that the pilot's issue will

Continued on Page 15

Pakistan committed to achieving SDGs, says NA speaker

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday said that exchanging ideas, best practices, and forging collaborative strategies were essential for achieving gender empowerment and sustainable development.

"Parliamentarians must recognise that gender equality and environmental sustainability are deeply intertwined goals; the success of one depends on the other. Pakistan is steadfast in its commitment to achieving SDGs," he said.

He expressed these views while delivering a keynote address to the participants of the Regional Meeting on Gender Empowerment and Green Economy, in the Context of ICEDG, organised by Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Climate Change MNA Samina Khurshid Alam.

He also noted: "The Parliament has played a crucial role in advancing gender equality, reproductive health, and sustainable development. Through progressive laws and dedicated parliamentary forums, such as the Women's Parliamentary Caucus and the Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs, implementing sustainable development agenda has become national priority."

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan also played an active role in international climate negotiations and in advocating for the rights and needs of vulnerable communities.

He also emphasised that a green economy was not just an environmental imperative; it was a pathway to social justice and economic resilience.



NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addresses participants of the regional meeting on 'Gender Empowerment and Green Economy' in Islamabad on Monday. — BNP

Police intensify security protocols in Islamabad

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The capital police remains committed to preserving law and order within the federal capital and ensuring foolproof security arrangements in the Diplomatic Enclave.

According to the PRD for the police, following directives from Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Naazir Rizvi, officers stationed in the Diplomatic Enclave are diligently executing their responsibilities and verifying the particulars of individuals accessing the high security zone and meticulously documenting vehicle information to fortify the security of the high security zone.

The Diplomatic Enclave encompasses private government and private establishments, diplomats' residences, and other vital assets, necessitating unwavering focus on security. Government personnel entering the Diplomatic Enclave are now mandated to display their departmental identification cards.

Additionally, individuals with private business within the high security zone are urged to carry their requisite documentation and cooperate with the on-duty personnel.

SSP Security Division has directed the officers on duty to uphold the highest standards of diligence and professionalism, cultivating a positive rapport with citizens. Citizens are also urged to promptly report any perceived suspicious activity or individuals to the police helpline.

Meanwhile, Islamabad police have made comprehensive security arrangements for Independence Day. In this regard, a flag march is being conducted in various areas of the city to enhance security. Strict vigilance would be maintained to ensure law and order in the city.

The purpose of the flag march held by the Islamabad police and other law enforcement departments, beginning and concluding at the Pakistan Sports Complex after passing through various areas of the capital, is to maintain peace and tranquillity.

IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Naazir emphasized that the Islamabad police were taking all possible steps to maintain peace in the city, adding that all forces were ready to tackle any unforeseen incident. Security has been tightened at all entry and exit points while the Dolphin Squad is patrolling different areas of the city. All senior police officers have been directed to remain in their relevant areas and oversee security operations.

Pilot licence issue

Continued from Page 13

be resolved in two weeks.

The committee was informed that PLA still remains hinged from flying to Europe due to international regulatory air safety concerns. However, the PLA chief executive officer informed the meeting that majority of the air safety concerns had already been addressed.

The director general Airport Security Force informed the committee that a new hi-tech 70kg weighing camera had been installed at Jinnah International Airport which had the ability to see an individual at a distance of 15km and can move on 360-degree. Moreover, 28 hi-tech baggage scanning machines had been installed at airports while 39 more were in the pipeline.

The ASP chief also informed the meeting that baggage of all travellers were scanned, however, some VIPs were exempted from body search. He said 24 ASP officials had been martyred so far, including 11 in Karachi in the line of duty.

The meeting was also informed that Nawabshah airport that was affected and its light system damaged due to flooding was an alternative airport of Karachi. The CAA representative said Nawabshah Airport had been made functional and can be used for landing of A320 aircraft.

Senate body suggests performance evaluation report on NCSW

Chairperson expresses concerns about alarming increase in abduction, rape cases in recent years

By Iram Jureidi

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights on Monday suggested preparation of a performance evaluation report on the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW).

The meeting of the committee was presided over by Senator Samina Muneer Zehri and attended by Senators Muhammad Humayun Mohmand, Poonoo Bheel, Jam Saifullah Khan, the secretary Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR)

and senior officials from NCSW and the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHRI).

The chairperson emphasised that the general public was often unaware of where to go when faced with violations of their rights or in case of an unfortunate incident. She stated that no committee should have unchecked independence and that authority should rest with the ministry. She noted that issues such as the denial of rights, abduction and forced marriages had been discussed previously, but without any meaningful progress.

Furthermore, the chairperson highlighted the alarming increase in abduction and rape cases in recent years and expressed deep concerns over it. She also voiced her displeasure over the lack of action against forced marriages, calling it a disgrace to the entire country. She suggested that the ministry should obtain action

reports on cases of rape, domestic violence, murder and killing of citizens in Islamabad rather than merely providing numerical data.

MoHR officials stated that from 2021 to 2023, a total of 13,904 cases were recorded across Pakistan with 90 of them occurring in Islamabad. Additionally, 179 complaints, petitions and suo motu notices were reported across the country.

The secretary MoHR informed the committee about the appointment process for the chairperson of the NCSW.

He explained that the position required a minimum of 15 years of experience in women's rights and appropriate qualifications.

The scrutiny process focused on whether candidates have 15 years of experience, worked on women's empowerment or have engaged in human rights work. He added that this year 15 applications were

received, of which seven candidates had relevant work experience.

"The prime minister will shortlist three candidates from these seven, and if the committee reaches a consensus on a single candidate that individual will be approved. The appointment process involves a parliamentary committee, particularly concerning its members," he said.

Senator Muhammad Humayun Mohmand highlighted the importance of intellectual capacity in recruitment. The committee members discussed laws, rules and regulations, focusing on the details of amendments proposed by the commission and the government's progress in implementing them.

The NCSW officials mentioned that there was a complaint cell within the organisation and relevant organisations received complaints for follow-up.

Special Technology Zone status awarded to Nust

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: National University of Sciences and Technology (Nust) has been awarded the Special Technology Zone (STZ) status, further reinforcing its role as one of the key drivers of Pakistan's knowledge economy, says a press release.

The National Science & Technology Park (NSTP), a flagship project of Nust, will be the primary beneficiary of this status, marking a significant milestone in the university's mission to advance innovation and technological advancement, it said.

The press release said that NSTP not only epitomises the university's core strengths and competencies but also avails robust support from the government.

"Since its inception in 2019, NSTP has achieved remarkable milestones, including generating over Rs20 billion in revenue, creating more than 6,000 high-tech jobs, and securing over Rs10 billion in funds raised by its resident firms. This success highlights NSTP's pivotal role in promoting a dynamic ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in Pakistan," it said.

According to press release, the STZ status has been conferred on two distinct land parcels within the NUST campus.

The first parcel, covering approximately eight acres, will house the NSTP core, which will accommodate startups, SMEs, and mature firms focused on AI, Chip Design, and other emerging verticals. This strategic development is set to create a thriving ecosystem for AI innovation, enabling Pakistan to make significant strides especially in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

The second parcel of land, also within the STZ, will be home to Nextive Health Technologies (NHTPL), which spans approximately five acres. NHTPL is already at the forefront of manufacturing cutting-edge medical devices and implants, including Bare Metal Stents (BMS), Drug-Eluting Stents (DES), and Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) balloon catheters. With the STZ status, this health cluster will expand to host enterprises focused on health tech, medical devices, biomedicine, and pharmaceuticals, positioning itself as the largest health technology cluster in the country.

According to the press release, the conferment of STZ status over 13 acres (STZ, Zone-B) of Nust land, combined with the existing Special Economic Zone (SEZ, Zone-A) status (28.3 acres), represents the most focused infrastructure expansion in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in Pakistan.

This development will not only transform Nust into a hub for cutting-edge research and industry collaboration but will also significantly boost the national knowledge economy, driving Pakistan towards a future of sustained technological growth and innovation, it added.

University of
Engineering &
Technology, Peshawar

ADMISSION NOTICE

BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE

PESHAWAR & ABBOTTABAD CAMPUSES

Online applications are invited from candidates having Higher Secondary or equivalent FATA Certificate for admission to the Bachelor of Architecture (5-years) and Bachelor of Interior Design (4-years) Non-engineering programs offered at UET Peshawar and Abbottabad Campuses for the academic session 2024-25.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ARCHITECTURE

- Candidates who have appeared in the SET-6 Entrance conducted by the Educational Testing & Evaluation Agency (ETEA), Higher Secondary in 19th July 2024 and 19th August, 2024 are eligible to apply.
- Candidates who have passed Intermediate examination from a recognized Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) in Pakistan, or an equivalent examination overseas, and have obtained at least 60% un-adjusted marks, with combination of subjects listed below:
 - 1. Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry
 - 2. Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science
 - 3. Physics, Chemistry and Biology
 - 4. Three Years Post-Matric Diploma in Architecture or Civil Technology
- Result qualified candidates who are expected to obtain at least 60% marks are eligible to apply.
- Provisionally qualified/Pre-medical candidates are required to study the course of 'Mathematics for Architects' offered during 03rd year.

BACHELOR OF INTERIOR DESIGN

PESHAWAR CAMPUS

Online applications are invited from candidates having Higher Secondary or equivalent FATA Certificate for admission to the Bachelor of Architecture (5-years) and Bachelor of Interior Design (4-years) Non-engineering programs offered at UET Peshawar and Abbottabad Campuses for the academic session 2024-25.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INTERIOR DESIGN

Intermediate / Diploma of Associate Engineer (DAE) or equivalent examination with 50% un-adjusted marks.

Scholarships are available

NO ENTRY-FEE FOR INTERIOR DESIGN

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Eligible candidates are required to deposit application processing fee Rs. 1200/- in any branch of United Bank Ltd. (UBL) in UET Admissions account No. 5486-265445522 and should fill in admission form available online at www.EnggEntranceTest.pk as per below schedule.

1. Availability of online application form	19 th Aug - 29 th Aug, 2024
2. Candidates date for correction / rectification of errors	26 th Aug - 27 th Aug, 2024
3. Make-it-Quick Test	27 th Aug, 2024
4. Skill Test and Interview (Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Interior Design)	29 th Aug, 2024
5. Display of 1 st Merit List	31 st Aug, 2024
6. Admission/Interview 1 st Merit List	13 th Sept - 19 th Sept, 2024

COMMENCEMENT OF CLASSES: 14th Oct, 2024

Note: Merit for admission will be determined on the basis of First Year (Intermediate) / equivalent examination marks.

Last date to apply

23rd August, 2024

APPLY NOW

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DIRECTOR ADMISSIONS, UET PESHAWAR

Directorate of Admissions: 021-0216794, UET Exchange: 091-0210796-98 (Ext. 3101)
Website: www.enggportal.net, E-mail: admission@uetpeshawar.edu.pk

CDA resumes work on road project after 17-year hiatus

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) expects to complete a portion of Margalla Road within a month. The project, extending from the edge of the Constitution Avenue, will be linked to Bari Imam Road near the mass transit.

The basic work for this road was completed during President Pervez Musharraf's era but the project was halted in 2007.

Last week, CDA resumed work, and the 1.5km stretch is now being executed by CDA's own Machinery Pool Organisation (MPO).

A CDA official stated that upon completion, the existing Bari Imam Road should also be expanded, or a new 3km road constructed to link Margalla Avenue with Maroo Road.

"By being linked with Maroo Road, the new bypass will provide great relief to residents of Islamabad-Maroo and Kohistan to reach Maroo Road near Quaid's

Asian University within a few minutes. Currently, during the weekend people face traffic congestion near the Lakeside Chowk. The new bypass will ensure smooth traffic flow," the official said.

However, an officer of the civic body involved in the project said the civic agency was currently focusing only on the 1.5km road, which remained unattended for the last 17 years.

"After its completion we will look at how it can be linked with Maroo Road," he added.

The project was originally halted in 2007 due to "security issues". However, former Minister Mohsin Naqvi resumed this issue and the CDA resumed work as per his directives.

CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali RazaBhatti, accompanied by relevant officers, visited the project site on Monday and reviewed the ongoing work.

According to a press release, the CDA chairman was briefed that at present the relocation of power lines at the site was under way. He was further informed that

the ongoing heavy spells of monsoon rains have affected the pace of work. Despite this, about 70pc of the basic work on the southern carriageway of the project has been completed, while 1km of base work on the northern carriageway has also been completed.

The CDA chief said construction of this portion of Margalla Avenue would significantly improve traffic flow in the city.

"The current work on the construction and widening of Margalla Road, which had been stalled since 2008, has been restarted which would be completed promptly on the instructions of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi," the press release said.

Mr RazaBhatti also visited the Jinnah Convention Centre where he was briefed about the ongoing renovation and refurbishment work.

He emphasised that the pace of the renovation work at the Convention Centre should be accelerated and that international standards should be maintained, the press release added.

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LAHORE
Sunset 06:50 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:25 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 28.0°C
Maximum 35.0°C
Outlook Partly Cloudy
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 160

METRO Central



Saud looks forward to captaincy as Shaheens face Bangladesh 'A' Pg.18 SPORT



DESPITE a recent ban, the sale of Independence Day plastic horns continues unchecked on Garapat Road. — White Star

Six secretaries, five DCs transferred in Punjab shake-up

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: In a major reshuffle in Punjab bureaucracy, the government on Monday issued transfer and posting orders of six provincial secretaries and five deputy commissioners (DCs).

Education Department. Planning & Development Board Chief of Section Dr Nasir Iqbal Malik was transferred and directed to report to S&CAD for further orders. South Punjab Agriculture Department Secretary Saqib Ali Azeel was transferred and posted as secretary of Livestock & Dairy Development Department, vice Muhammad Masood Azeem, who was transferred and posted as chief of section, Planning & Development Board. The post of secretary, L&DD Department, will remain spreaded from 08-20 to 08-21 as personal to Mr. Saqib Ali Azeel and as long as it is held by him.

to S&CAD to attend 121st National Management Course (NMC). Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Javed Akhtar Mahmood was posted as secretary of Social Welfare & Rural Mass Department. S&CAD (Archives & Libraries Wing) Secretary Zahoor Hussain was transferred and posted as member (Judicial-III), Board of Revenue, Punjab, under Section 9 of PCS Act, 1974, against a vacant post. OSD Muhammad Khan Harjha was posted as secretary of Archives & Libraries Wing of S&CAD, awaiting posting. Muhammad Jahanzub was posted as commissioner of Sargodha Division vice Ajeem Shauq who was directed to report S&CAD for further orders. School Education Department (SED) Special Secretary Khalid Naqvi was assigned the additional charge of the post of SED secretary in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

OSD Shouab Saad was posted as director general, Punjab Enforcement and Regulatory Authority, under Section 9 of PCS Act, 1974, against a newly created post. Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PSESSI) Commissioner Nadia Raqib was transferred and posted as secretary of Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department, under Section 9 of PCS Act, 1974, vice Ali Jan Khan proceeded on leave. OSD Muhammad Ali was posted as PSESSI commissioner under Section 9 of PCS Act, 1974. Meanwhile, Sargodha DC retired Capt Anwarullah Haider Khan was transferred and posted as Kasur DC against a vacant post, relieving Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Raza Masood. Continued on Page 14

Forensic tests confirmed Sania's murder: Hina Butt

LAHORE: Forensic tests have confirmed Sania Zehra's murder and no influence of pressure has been considered in the case, says Punjab Women Protection Authority Chairperson Hina Parvez Butt. "The era where murders could be disguised as suicides to avoid detection is over. We cannot allow our girls to be murdered," she told a presser at the Directorate General of Public Relations here on Monday. Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari was also present there. Twenty-year-old Sania, a mother of two, was found hanging from a ceiling fan in her bedroom in Multan on July 9. Her father alleged her death was not a suicide and that she was murdered by her husband and in-laws. Hina Butt said societal intolerance caused women to become victims of domestic violence and added that Zehra was hanged after being killed was evident. The exhumation of the body and the forensic report revealed that Zehra's husband and mother-in-law's DNA matched. "Despite being in police custody, the victim's husband, Ali Faqir, was not willing to provide his DNA. The suspect and his mother's polygraph tests have been conducted and the results are positive," Hina Butt said. She stressed that it was a test case and requested the courts to punish the accused. — Staff Reporter

Blasphemy case against two women

KASUR: Multanabad police on Monday lodged a criminal case under blasphemy sections against two women, including the owner of a private school and her maid, for allegedly desecrating and damaging pages of the Holy Quran in Rai Kaban village. The video of the incident that occurred on Friday went viral on social media on Saturday. Hundreds of people from adjoining villages including Badarpur, Rai Kaban and Havelian gathered outside the school building after announcements were made through loudspeakers of mosques. A heavy contingent of police also reached the village to control the situation. The first information report was lodged on the complaint of prayer leader Keshif Ali of the village mosque under section 295-B of Pakistan Penal Code against two women. The complainant stated in the FIR that driver of the school van along with gardener of school made a video of the burnt pages and showed him (the complainant). It was further disclosed that maid burnt the pages over the direction school owner. District Police Officer Ensa Khan Sukhaina said the situation was under control and the accused would be arrested soon. — Correspondent

About 50 MPAs submit privilege motion against health secy

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Around 50 members of the Punjab Assembly have submitted a privilege motion against Health Secretary Ali Jan for not honoring the recommendations given by them to improve health facilities at various hospitals. The MPAs who signed the motion included Ahmed Iqbal, son of Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Anjum Ali Javed, Mian Saqib Khattak, Raza Khalid, Zaidullah Shah, Raza Arif Iqbal among others. The motion said the Punjab government had tasked the elected members of the provincial house to oversee health facilities and the initiatives of the chief minister in the sector in the province. The MPAs were to visit the hos-

pitals for monitoring their working and in collaboration with the hospital administration, were to prepare a report for the chief minister about the steps taken to remove complaints of patients and provisions of facilities to them. It said Health Secretary Ali Jan, overwhelmed by his authority and powers, ordered to prepare record of these recommendations "to humiliate the provincial representatives and for brightening them from NAB and anti-corruption in the near future". The motion said that in the presence of Health Minister Khwaja Salman Rafiq during a ceremony, the secretary told the department officers and staff not

Amended Election Act challenged in the LHC

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Election (Second Amendment) Act 2024 has been challenged in the Lahore High Court for allegedly being in violation of the Constitution. Ahsan Siddique, a Supreme Court's lawyer, filed a petition against the law, pleading that the Supreme Court, through its July 12 judgment, took into account the alleged gross violations of Article 17 and the fundamental constitutional right of the people to participate in the democratic process by voting for political parties/candidates of their choice. He said the apex court exercised its constitutional jurisdiction to do justice to the people of Pakistan by directing

that the PTT-backed independent returned candidates be recognized as the candidates of the party (PTI). The petitioner argued that the SC correctly held that the constitutional entitlement of the people to elect their representatives on account of their affiliation to a political party could not have been denied by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for any reason whatsoever. He further argued that the July 12 judgment passed by the SC cannot be overruled or violated through an amendment in the law, but can only be done through a constitutional amendment. He alleged that the amendments made through the impugned Act are party-specific and the ruling parties are

already enjoying the quota of reserved seats, and they cannot be given a right to take an advantage of the amendments. Advocate Siddique pleaded that the parliament cannot make an amendment or a rule which ultimately benefits certain parties and is detrimental to a specific party. He asked the court to declare the Elections (second amendment) Act, 2024 ultra vires of the Constitution and restrain the ECP from allocating reserved seats to any of the political parties in the National Assembly and provincial assembly of Punjab, that are proportionate to the PTI's entitlement. The petition's hearing has been fixed for Aug 15 before the court of Justice Sultan Tahir Ahmad.

Farmer murdered during robbery

BAHAWALNAGAR: A farmer was allegedly murdered during a robbery in Meekod Garg, while the armed robbers managed to escape with a solar inverter. As per the first information report (FIR) registered with Meekod Garg police on Monday, Haji Muhammad, a farmer of Bahrampur village was guarding the solar panels and inverter installed at the farmland owned by Ramzan. It said that at dawn, five unidentified armed men arrived there, overpowered Haji Muhammad, tied him to the cot with a rope and wrapped a cloth on his mouth. The farmer got suffocated and died on the spot, while the armed men took away the inverter worth Rs50,000. The FIR said. — Correspondent

61 more get notices for illegal construction under high-voltage lines

By Khalid Haqrain

LAHORE: The Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) has issued notices to 61 more people for illegally constructing houses and structures under high-voltage transmission lines. This action is part of the company's plan to clear spaces from all types of encroachments under various transmission lines originating from grid stations for power distribution to consumers. "The construction of structures in spaces under these lines is a very dangerous trend that is developing rapidly in Lahore. It must be discouraged by all means, as it puts

human lives at risk," an official source in the company said while speaking to Dawn on Monday. "That is why notices are being served in a bid to clear such spaces from encroachments," he added. The drive to make spaces free of encroachments under transmission lines was launched in 2022. In March, notices were issued to 450 people. Subsequently, 842 more notices were issued. Last year, the company issued notices to nearly 1,500 people. These notices are directed at heads of families living under transmission lines by constructing houses in various parts of Lahore, Kasur, Sheikhpura, Nankana and Okara, in light of vari-

ous fatal and non-fatal incidents of electrocution being reported frequently. "Quarrels have also occurred when Lesco teams reached the sites and began operations in collaboration with the relevant authorities. Such steps were taken when people ignored the notices," the official added. According to him, some people have also approached the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) to direct Lesco to remove high-voltage power transmission lines from their existing right of way and relocate them. However, Lesco, after receiving a letter from Nepra, refused to do so.

"It is absolutely impossible for the company to remove the lines passing through their own right of way unlawfully occupied by people at grade (on the ground). How can we do this since it is our right of way and not the people occupying it unlawfully? We also informed the regulator that we could do this if the complainants agreed to bear the expenses, which they definitely cannot afford." The notices being issued by the company are not limited to the construction of houses or buildings under the lines but also apply to those who have encroached upon the land by extending their building shades close to the wires or by

raising the height of their structures to a level near the wires. NTRC: The National Transmission and Dispatch Company Limited (NTRC) has successfully installed a 250 MVA autotransformer at the 500 kV Grid Station Sheikhpura, boosting its power transmission capacity. The new 250 MVA, 220/132 kV autotransformer replaces the existing 160 MVA unit. Energised on Monday, the project was completed two days ahead of the August 14 deadline. This upgrade will improve the grid station's loading capacity and provide relief to areas served by the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESACO), ensuring a

more reliable power supply for domestic, commercial, and industrial consumers. SNGPL: The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) disconnected 51 gas connections due to pilferage and other illegal activities. In Bahawalpur, one connection was cut for gas pilferage, and 13 were disconnected for illegal compressor use. Faisalabad saw one illegal connection disconnected with a fine of Rs 40,000 imposed. The crackdown in Multan was extensive, with 11 illegal connections removed. In Sheikhpura, one connection was severed, and a fine of Rs 210,000 was imposed for gas theft.

PRAYER

Fajr 3.57
Zuhar 1.00
Asr 4.53
Maghrib 6.50
Isha 8.17

Starting time in Lahore

REFLECTIONS

IF YOUR KINDNESS IS GOING TO BRING FORTH CRUEL RESULTS, THEN SEVERITY OF STRICTNESS IS THE REAL KINDNESS. — HAZRAT ALI (A.S.) (TRABIA)

Azadi float receives warm welcome in Gujrat

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: The Azadi Float, which started its journey from Rawalpindi, arrived at GTS Chowk Gujrat on Monday to a warm reception from local administration officials. The float, launched under the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day, is scheduled to arrive in Lahore on Tuesday.

Despite invitations extended by the district administration, no former lawmakers or riding PM-N party officials attended the reception. Punjab Minister for Industries and PML-Q Secretary General Chaudhary Sharif Hussain, who was expected to address the event, was also absent.

Gujrat Deputy Commissioner Sadiq Virk and other administrative officials welcomed the float at GTS Chowk, located along the old GT Road. The venue was adorned with Pakistani flags and banners, and the float

itself featured cultural displays representing all four provinces of Pakistan, along with models of provincial monuments.

Local singers and students performed national songs and anthems during the event. The Deputy Commissioner addressed the participants, emphasising the importance of celebrating Independence Day with enthusiasm.

The float's journey included a previous reception at Jhelum River inside Sara I Alang, led by Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Akmal, before passing through Kharian and Lalansha in the Gujrat district.

Large security arrangements had been made around the venue as entry of vehicles towards the GTS Chowk had been restricted through barricading the roads from a distance of almost 500 metres, causing a great deal of inconvenience to motorists through out the day. Only pedestrians were allowed to pass through the area.



— Dawn

Balochistan fails to meet cotton sowing target

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Sowing of cotton in Balochistan province failed to achieve its target, reveals the data of the provincial crop reporting service.

The report says Balochistan could only reach only 15 per cent of its target this year as the crop was planted on 119,000 acres against the target of 808,000 acres for the year.

An official of the Balochistan agriculture department says, rising cost of production and a fall in the rates of cotton in the local markets pushed the growers away from the crop notwithstanding the efforts made by the department to mobilise them to sow the crop.

The cotton produced in Balochistan districts like Quetta, Khuzdar and Kharan is of superior quality because of dry and mild weather and substantial sunshine. The virgin land has lower pest pressure and has suited for value-added cotton, especially organic cotton and better cotton.

The shrinking of acreage in Balochistan coinciding with a dramatic fall in cotton production in Sindh province this season has sent a wave of concern among the local textile industry, which is looking towards foreign markets for the purchase of yarn to meet its requirements.

In July 2024 Sindh had produced 47pc less cotton than its last year's output for the corresponding period. The main reason behind this fall in the crop yield are being stated as reduced acreage and use of domestic seeds by most of the growers.

PU rusticates Baloch student, keeps it secret to stop her from sitting exam

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: An LLB Suleman Baloch student was rusticated by the Punjab University for taking part in a demonstration held for release of her fellow students two months back but she was kept in the dark allegedly to stop her from sitting exams.

The Punjab University (PU) administration had rusticated Suleman Baloch for allegedly making objectionable remarks against public institutions during the protest held on June 19 on PU New Campus.

According to an official rustication, the protest rally,

organised by Baloch students, took place without permission from the university. During the rally, the university alleged, Ms Baloch, a student of the University Law College, used inflammatory language in her speeches, which was intended to incite other students against the government institutions. The student denies the charges levelled against her.

The university's security officer stated that Baloch's actions were a violation of discipline and were detrimental to integrity and reputation of the institution. It recommended immediate suspension of the girl and referred her case to the disciplinary committee for further proceedings.

On the recommendation, the PU VC ordered the suspension of Suleman Baloch on June 14, under the University of the Punjab Act 1973.

Ms Baloch told Dawn the students had organised the protest rally after getting permission from the university and she did not make any comment against anyone. She said the students had raised voice by holding a rally as some of their fellow Baloch students were abducted by the law enforcement agencies and they demanded release of their fellows.

Ms Baloch further said she did not receive the suspension letter from the security officer and the Law College, issued

two months ago. She said that she herself went to the college on Saturday after hearing about her suspension but no one provided her with the notification while she was told that they did not receive any notification about her suspension.

Suleman Baloch said she personally checked the documents placed on the table of a clerk in the college and found the notification on her own. She said the university administration was not giving her notification to stop her from appearing in the examination, starting next week.

She said she would approach the court for cancellation of her rustication to appear in the exam.

PU spokesperson Khuram Shehad said the suspension letter was received by the law college the next day of issuance and it might have been sent to the student. He also claimed that the action was taken against the student for a provocative speech against the state institutions during the rally.

He said Ms Baloch could approach the disciplinary committee of the university to challenge her suspension while adding the student had not approached the university yet to appeal against her suspension and to get permission to appear in the examination.

Two women murdered in as many incidents

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Two women were allegedly murdered in separate incidents in Cantonment area here on Monday.

In the first incident, according to police, a woman, Anwar, was allegedly strangled at her in-laws' house in the jurisdiction of Defence C Police Station.

On being informed of the incident, the police arrived at the spot and shifted the woman's body to the city morgue for autopsy.

The deceased woman's brother, Mohsin, suspected that she might have been murdered over some family dispute with her in-laws.

The Defence C police registered a case on the complaint of Mohsin and started investigations.

In the other incident, a woman, Nabila, was found dead at her home under mysterious circumstances in the jurisdiction of Factory Area police.

The father of the deceased woman alleged that she was killed by unknown persons and the police registered a case, after sending her body to the city morgue for autopsy.

PM asks NDMA to prepare plans to tackle urban flooding

CS reviews projects initiated by CM in Sargodha division

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other departments to take all precautionary measures to ensure the safety of the citizens in Bahawalpur, Lodhran and surrounding areas due to the threat of heavy rain and urban flooding.

He directed that safety measures be taken for the citizens of the areas at risk due to heavy rains while adding evacuation process should be started in extreme situations.

He also directed the NDMA to ensure rescue and aid to the people in the areas at risk of urban flooding.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) recorded 46 mm in Rain at Bahawalpur Airport and 60 mm in

Bahawalpur City within two hours. Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman on Monday directed the deputy commissioners of Sargodha division to prepare emergency plans to deal with floods, urban flooding and all concerns for their respective districts.

The chief secretary was visiting Sargodha to review the implementation of public welfare initiatives taken by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

He inspected different bazaars in the city, including Khushk Road and issued instructions regarding removal of encroachments and improvement in the traffic system.

The CS directed the administrative officers to permanently remove encroachments in cities and control the 'unlawful enclosures' without rendering anyone unemployed.

He said that to resolve the parking and encroachment issues in bazaars, the municipal corporation officials must be assigned regular duties.

He asked the DCs to remain in the field for at least two hours

every day to improve the traffic system and supervise removal of encroachments.

Mr Zaman also inspected the Bahawalpur Road disposal station, where he was briefed by the municipal corporation chief officer about the coverage system on issue.

Divisional Commissioner Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, DC Aurangzeb Haider Khan and Superintending Engineer of the Public Health Engineering Syed Suleman Khan were also present.

Later, the CS presided over a meeting at the Commissioner's Office, which was attended by the divisional commissioner, DCs and other administrative officials of Sargodha, Khushk, Mirwah and Bhakkar.

The CS reviewed the progress on the public welfare initiatives in the four districts of the division and took briefings from the DCs on Suthra Punjab (Clean Punjab), price control, anti-polio drives, and revenue matters. He directed them to prioritise cleanliness, price control and anti-polio programmes by mobilising the MCs.

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Six secretaries, five DCs...

Continued from Page 13

Table of additional change of the post.

SGAD Additional Secretary (Welfare) Retired Capt. Muhammad Wassan was transferred and posted as Sargodha DC.

Communication & Works Department Additional Secretary Syed Mans Raza was transferred and posted as Lahore DC, vice Rafia Haider who was transferred and directed to report to SGAD to proceed an 4th mid-career management course (MCMC).

Faisalabad DC Abdullah Noyyar Sheikh was transferred and posted as additional secretary of Communication & Works Department.

SGAD Additional Secretary (Admin.) Retired Capt. Nadeem Nasir was transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Faisalabad.

Rajapur Deputy Commissioner Munoor Ahmad Khan was transferred and directed to report to SGAD to proceed an 4th MCMC.

Board of Secretary (Revenue) Shujaat-Ullah Mushtaq was transferred and posted as Rajapur DC, vice Munawar Ahmad Khan who was transferred. Khushk DC Zouhar Shabbir Rana was transferred and directed to report to SGAD for further orders. South Punjab RCD Additional Secretary Sarosh Farina Shirazi was transferred and posted as Khushk DC.

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COURT NOTICE

SHALWOT

In the Court of Mr. Justice M. Farooq Azhar, Sindh High Court, Hyderabad Bench, Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Mr. Muhammad Tariq Bin Nadeem, District Judge, Hyderabad Bench, Sindh High Court, Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan, has appointed Mr. Muhammad Tariq Bin Nadeem, District Judge, Hyderabad Bench, Sindh High Court, Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan, as an Additional District Judge, Hyderabad Bench, Sindh High Court, Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan, to hold office from the date of the appointment.

Mr. Muhammad Tariq Bin Nadeem, District Judge, Hyderabad Bench, Sindh High Court, Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan, is hereby appointed as an Additional District Judge, Hyderabad Bench, Sindh High Court, Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan, to hold office from the date of the appointment.

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FIR against dogs' owner after girl mauled

By Our Correspondent

NAROWAL: The Shakargarh city police registered a first information report (FIR) on Monday against Dr Shaukat Saleem and his employees after his dogs injured 15-year-old Arij Fatima on Sunday.

The FIR, lodged at the request of Muhammad Waqas, the uncle of the injured girl, includes charges under sections 117, 117A, 117B, 117C, 117D, 117E, 117F, 117G, 117H, 117I, 117J, 117K, 117L, 117M, 117N, 117O, 117P, 117Q, 117R, 117S, 117T, 117U, 117V, 117W, 117X, 117Y, 117Z, 117AA, 117AB, 117AC, 117AD, 117AE, 117AF, 117AG, 117AH, 117AI, 117AJ, 117AK, 117AL, 117AM, 117AN, 117AO, 117AP, 117AQ, 117AR, 117AS, 117AT, 117AU, 117AV, 117AW, 117AX, 117AY, 117AZ, 117BA, 117BB, 117BC, 117BD, 117BE, 117BF, 117BG, 117BH, 117BI, 117BJ, 117BK, 117BL, 117BM, 117BN, 117BO, 117BP, 117BQ, 117BR, 117BS, 117BT, 117BU, 117BV, 117BW, 117BX, 117BY, 117BZ, 117CA, 117CB, 117CC, 117CD, 117CE, 117CF, 117CG, 117CH, 117CI, 117CJ, 117CK, 117CL, 117CM, 117CN, 117CO, 117CP, 117CQ, 117CR, 117CS, 117CT, 117CU, 117CV, 117CW, 117CX, 117CY, 117CZ, 117DA, 117DB, 117DC, 117DD, 117DE, 117DF, 117DG, 117DH, 117DI, 117DJ, 117DK, 117DL, 117DM, 117DN, 117DO, 117DP, 117DQ, 117DR, 117DS, 117DT, 117DU, 117DV, 117DW, 117DX, 117DY, 117DZ, 117EA, 117EB, 117EC, 117ED, 117EE, 117EF, 117EG, 117EH, 117EI, 117EJ, 117EK, 117EL, 117EM, 117EN, 117EO, 117EP, 117EQ, 117ER, 117ES, 117ET, 117EU, 117EV, 117EW, 117EX, 117EY, 117EZ, 117FA, 117FB, 117FC, 117FD, 117FE, 117FF, 117FG, 117FH, 117FI, 117FJ, 117FK, 117FL, 117FM, 117FN, 117FO, 117FP, 117FQ, 117FR, 117FS, 117FT, 117FU, 117FV, 117FW, 117FX, 117FY, 117FZ, 117GA, 117GB, 117GC, 117GD, 117GE, 117GF, 117GG, 117GH, 117GI, 117GJ, 117GK, 117GL, 117GM, 117GN, 117GO, 117GP, 117GQ, 117GR, 117GS, 117GT, 117GU, 117GV, 117GW, 117GX, 117GY, 117GZ, 117HA, 117HB, 117HC, 117HD, 117HE, 117HF, 117HG, 117HH, 117HI, 117HJ, 117HK, 117HL, 117HM, 117HN, 117HO, 117HP, 117HQ, 117HR, 117HS, 117HT, 117HU, 117HV, 117HW, 117HX, 117HY, 117HZ, 117IA, 117IB, 117IC, 117ID, 117IE, 117IF, 117IG, 117IH, 117II, 117IJ, 117IK, 117IL, 117IM, 117IN, 117IO, 117IP, 117IQ, 117IR, 117IS, 117IT, 117IU, 117IV, 117IW, 117IX, 117IY, 117IZ, 117JA, 117JB, 117JC, 117JD, 117JE, 117JF, 117JG, 117JH, 117JI, 117JJ, 117JK, 117JL, 117JM, 117JN, 117JO, 117JP, 117JQ, 117JR, 117JS, 117JT, 117JU, 117JV, 117JW, 117JX, 117JY, 117JZ, 117KA, 117KB, 117KC, 117KD, 117KE, 117KF, 117KG, 117KH, 117KI, 117KJ, 117KK, 117KL, 117KM, 117KN, 117KO, 117KP, 117KQ, 117KR, 117KS, 117KT, 117KU, 117KV, 117KW, 117KX, 117KY, 117KZ, 117LA, 117LB, 117LC, 117LD, 117LE, 117LF, 117LG, 117LH, 117LI, 117LJ, 117LK, 117LL, 117LM, 117LN, 117LO, 117LP, 117LQ, 117LR, 117LS, 117LT, 117LU, 117LV, 117LW, 117LX, 117LY, 117LZ, 117MA, 117MB, 117MC, 117MD, 117ME, 117MF, 117MG, 117MH, 117MI, 117MJ, 117MK, 117ML, 117MN, 117MO, 117MP, 117MQ, 117MR, 117MS, 117MT, 117MU, 117MV, 117MW, 117MX, 117MY, 117MZ, 117NA, 117NB, 117NC, 117ND, 117NE, 117NF, 117NG, 117NH, 117NI, 117NJ, 117NK, 117NL, 117NM, 117NO, 117NP, 117NQ, 117NR, 117NS, 117NT, 117NU, 117NV, 117NW, 117NX, 117NY, 117NZ, 117OA, 117OB, 117OC, 117OD, 117OE, 117OF, 117OG, 117OH, 117OI, 117OJ, 117OK, 117OL, 117OM, 117ON, 117OO, 117OP, 117OQ, 117OR, 117OS, 117OT, 117OU, 117OV, 117OW, 117OX, 117OY, 117OZ, 117PA, 117PB, 117PC, 117PD, 117PE, 117PF, 117PG, 117PH, 117PI, 117PJ, 117PK, 117PL, 117PM, 117PN, 117PO, 117PP, 117PQ, 117PR, 117PS, 117PT, 117PU, 117PV, 117PW, 117PX, 117PY, 117PZ, 117QA, 117QB, 117QC, 117QD, 117QE, 117QF, 117QG, 117QH, 117QI, 117QJ, 117QK, 117QL, 117QM, 117QN, 117QO, 117QP, 117QQ, 117QR, 117QS, 117QT, 117QU, 117QV, 117QW, 117QX, 117QY, 117QZ, 117RA, 117RB, 117RC, 117RD, 117RE, 117RF, 117RG, 117RH, 117RI, 117RJ, 117RK, 117RL, 117RM, 117RN, 117RO, 117RP, 117RQ, 117RR, 117RS, 117RT, 117RU, 117RV, 117RW, 117RX, 117RY, 117RZ, 117SA, 117SB, 117SC, 117SD, 117SE, 117SF, 117SG, 117SH, 117SI, 117SJ, 117SK, 117SL, 117SM, 117SN, 117SO, 117SP, 117SQ, 117SR, 117SS, 117ST, 117SU, 117SV, 117SW, 117SX, 117SY, 117SZ, 117TA, 117TB, 117TC, 117TD, 117TE, 117TF, 117TG, 117TH, 117TI, 117TJ, 117TK, 117TL, 117TM, 117TN, 117TO, 117TP, 117TQ, 117TR, 117TS, 117TT, 117TU, 117TV, 117TW, 117TX, 117TY, 117TZ, 117UA, 117UB, 117UC, 117UD, 117UE, 117UF, 117UG, 117UH, 117UI, 117UJ, 117UK, 117UL, 117UM, 117UN, 117UO, 117UP, 117UQ, 117UR, 117US, 117UT, 117UU, 117UV, 117UW, 117UX, 117UY, 117UZ, 117VA, 117VB, 117VC, 117VD, 117VE, 117VF, 117VG, 117VH, 117VI, 117VJ, 117VK, 117VL, 117VM, 117VN, 117VO, 117VP, 117VQ, 117VR, 117VS, 117VT, 117VU, 117VV, 117VW, 117VX, 117VY, 117VZ, 117WA, 117WB, 117WC, 117WD, 117WE, 117WF, 117WG, 117WH, 117WI, 117WJ, 117WK, 117WL, 117WM, 117WN, 117WO, 117WP, 117WQ, 117WR, 117WS, 117WT, 117WU, 117WV, 117WW, 117WX, 117WY, 117WZ, 117XA, 117XB, 117XC, 117XD, 117XE, 117XF, 117XG, 117XH, 117XI, 117XJ, 117XK, 117XL, 117XM, 117XN, 117XO, 117XP, 117XQ, 117XR, 117XS, 117XT, 117XU, 117XV, 117XW, 117XX, 117XY, 117XZ, 117YA, 117YB, 117YC, 117YD, 117YE, 117YF, 117YG, 117YH, 117YI, 117YJ, 117YK, 117YL, 117YM, 117YN, 117YO, 117YP, 117YQ, 117YR, 117YS, 117YT, 117YU, 117YV, 117YW, 117YX, 117YY, 117YZ, 117ZA, 117ZB, 117ZC, 117ZD, 117ZE, 117ZF, 117ZG, 117ZH, 117ZI, 117ZJ, 117ZK, 117ZL, 117ZM, 117ZN, 117ZO, 117ZP, 117ZQ, 117ZR, 117ZS, 117ZT, 117ZU, 117ZV, 117ZW, 117ZX, 117ZY, 117ZZ.

Arij is receiving treatment at the Shakargarh Tehsil Headquarters Hospital.

Journalist Irfan Khan from Shakargarh said that Dr Saleem had retired from the position of chief executive officer of the Health Department a few years ago. He added that although the girl is

still traumatised by the incident, her condition has improved.

Local residents Muhammad Waris and Saad Ali have voiced concerns about the large number of stray dogs in the city and surrounding villages. They said that they have repeatedly requested the municipal committee and the district administration to take action against the stray dogs, but no action has been taken.

On Sunday, while Arij was on her way to a water filtration plant to fetch drinking water, she was attacked and injured by four or five pet dogs of Dr Saleem.

Residents have urged Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to take immediate notice of the situation and address the growing concern regarding stray dogs in the area.



FAISALABAD: Labourers pack fresh maize harvest into sacks for transporting to factories and market in the city — APP

PDMA warns of flash floods in DG Khan, urges residents to evacuate

By Tariq Saeed Birmiani

DERA GHAAZI KHAN: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued a warning of a medium-level flood risk in the hills around Dera Ghazi Khan.

The PDMA has instructed the Irrigation Department, Health Department, Revenue Department, Livestock Department and other relevant agencies to complete advance preparations.

PDMA Punjab Director General Irfan Ali Kathia has urged the administrations of the districts to remain on high alert. He said in view of flood warning, timely safety measures, rescue operations and relief efforts must be planned. Communities located near rivers and mountains are advised

to relocate to safer areas.

A message from the chief minister was also conveyed to the public, advising them not to endanger their lives during the flood situation. The Punjab government has assured that it will protect the lives and property of the citizens. People are urged to evacuate their homes if necessary and cooperate with the authorities. Public awareness will be raised through print, electronic and social media, as well as announcements in mosques and local media. In case of emergencies, citizens are encouraged to call the PDMA helpline at 1125.

The district administration has issued an urgent warning, as a flood wave of 12,000 cusecs of water is expected to pass through the Sakhi Sarwar mountain drain within a few

hours. With a total capacity of 12,643 cusecs, the local population has been instructed to evacuate and move to safer locations.

Deputy Commissioner Mubtashid Zaman Lak said that rescue operations are already underway to evacuate residents and livestock from the affected areas. The process of relocating the population to secure areas has begun, and all relevant institutions, including the district administration, Border Military Police, and other agencies, are on high alert.

"We are fully prepared for any situation and are in constant contact with the local people," said Deputy Commissioner Lak. "Our priority is to ensure timely relief operations and provide necessary aid to those affected by this flood wave." Authorities continue to monitor

the situation closely and are ready to respond to any developments as the flood wave approaches.

The Irrigation Department has released its latest hill torrent discharge report, indicating that the current flow of water across the major hill torrents in the region remains within normal parameters, except for the Sakhi Sarwar hill torrent, which is flowing at its peak level, creating an alarming situation for the public in adjoining areas.

According to the report, the key details of the hill torrents are as follows: In Kasra, present flow is 2,124 cubic feet per second (CFS), with a peak flow recorded at 340,000 CFS. In Yabara, there is no current discharge, with a peak flow recorded at 154,362 CFS. In

Banghor, present flow is 10,194 CFS, with a peak flow of 268,149 CFS. In Bari Lared, there is no current discharge, with a peak flow recorded at 152,487 CFS. In Yabara, the present flow is 13,541 CFS, with a peak of 174,760 CFS. In Sakhi Sarwar, present flow is 1,494 CFS against a peak of 12,643 CFS, while in Mithwan, which is currently dry, had a peak flow noted at 61,905 CFS.

The Irrigation Department has assured the public that the present flow in these torrents are normal and do not pose any immediate threat.

Routine monitoring is ongoing to manage and safeguard water resources in the area.

The department remains vigilant and ready to respond to any significant changes in discharge levels.

Boy booked for molesting minor girl

By Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Mansi Sadia Ghani police registered a case against a 10-year-old boy for allegedly molesting a minor girl on Monday.

As per the first information report (FIR), registered on the complaint of the girl's father, the boy, son of a grocery shop owner at Sadia Wala, allegedly molested a six-year-old girl of the same area on August 8, when she visited the shop to buy something.

As the girl raised an alarm, some passersby

intervened and rescued her, while the suspect managed to escape.

Source says that some locally influential persons tried to hush up the matter by pressurizing the girl's family, asking them to reconcile with the suspect's parents.

However, the girl's father finally reported the matter to the police, which registered a case against the boy under sections 376, 511, and 577 B of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Police sources told Dawn that the suspect has secured bail from a court.

UET admission date extended

By Our Correspondent

LAHORE: University of Engineering and Technology (UET) on Monday extended its admission date for fall 2024 semester.

This extension is designed to accommodate candidates who were unable to register during the initial admission phase. Starting from Aug 26, students will have the opportunity to apply for admission to a variety of programmes

offered by the UET.

This extended window aims to provide additional flexibility for those seeking to join one of the leading institutions in engineering and technology.

Students may visit the UET Lahore admission portal for detailed information on available programmes, application procedures and deadlines at admissions@uet.ac.pk. — Staff Reporter

Four sentenced for smuggling drugs

By Our Correspondent

SARGODHA: The additional district and sessions judge (ADSSJ) awarded life term to two drug peddlers and four other smugglers proven sentence for smuggling drugs to an ambulance.

Urban Area police checked an ambulance in Chakri Chowk and found 5.5kg hashish and 10kg opium from its secret compartments. The police pro-

secuted the challan of six persons in the court. Additional Sessions Judge Naveed Khan sentenced two criminals to life imprisonment with Rizwan Iqbal and Azeem Raza, Zahoor and Faqir to 14 years each in jail. They were fined Rs1m each. Another smuggler, Raif Khan, was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and fined Rs200,000. — Correspondent

'Death by torture in custody' Protesters blocking N-5 teargassed, baton charged

Four nominated police officials suspended, arrested

By Irfan-Ul-Haq

RAHIM YAR KHAN: After death of a man because of torture by Kotahwal police, scores of protesters kept the N-5 highway blocked for traffic for eight hours by burning tyres and setting up a protest camp, forcing the police to resort to teargas and baton charge to disperse them on Monday.

The protesters, including father of the victim, Mohar Din, alleged that Shah Nawaz Chishti (SN), a resident of Goth Aakri area, was picked by four policemen of Kotahwal police station. Earlier, the members of Chishti tribe, along with scores of locals, gathered on N-5 national highway

and blocked it for traffic by burning tyres.

The protesters set up a camp on the highway and demanded the police to hand over the "body" of the alleged torture victim and register a murder case against the four police officials.

Sources say that as the police tried to disperse the protesters, they attacked the police vehicles and personnel with clubs, injuring three policemen.

Later, to pacify the protesters, the police registered a FIR No-556/24 under section 305 of the Pakistan Penal Code, but did not mention the allegation of death by torture. They say that the police had to use teargas and baton charge to approve the protest camp and restore traffic on the N-5 highway after the eight-hour-long blockade.

A police spokesman told Dawn that the Kotahwal police were denying that they picked Chishti and tortured him to death.

In a late night development, the four police officials nominated in the case were suspended from service and were arrested after being booked in the murder case.

After the post-mortem examination, the police handed over the victim's body to his family.

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A police spokesman told Dawn that the Kotahwal police were denying that they picked

US consul general visits Faisalabad

By Our Correspondent

TORA TEK SENCHEUR: Consul General in Lahore, Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins visited Faisalabad on Monday and met Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh discuss developmental projects.

The DC briefed her on steps taken by the administration for the resettlement of Christian families whose houses were ransacked in Jerusalem riots

last year after alleged desecration of the holy Quran.

The DC said all affected Christians had been handed over their houses after reconstruction of regular while all burnt churches had also been restored.

He said financial assistance was also provided to affected families and their children were admitted to schools after the administration paid their fees, gave them books, stationery and bags.

Woman killed, four injured in rain-related incidents

By Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: A woman was killed in Hasilpur tehal while four persons suffered injuries in the rain-related incidents as heavy rain lashed the district on Monday.

According to Section 1122, the woman, identified as Khadija Bibi (85), was killed while two other motorcycle riders suffered injuries in Hasilpur tehal while four persons suffered injuries in the rain-related incidents as heavy rain lashed the district on Monday.

After the heavy rain, the roads and streets were flooded with rainwater that entered the houses and shops in many areas, including the Circular Road. This was coupled with overflowing manholes of sewerage and tripping of the several Meqco feeders, disrupting the supply of electricity to a number of localities.

The low-lying areas and hot chi abadis were most affected. Several feet deep rainwater submerged Fowara Chowk, blocking the vehicular traffic. Long lines of the trapped vehicles could be seen in the rainwater.

Deputy Commissioner Zahoor Arwar Jajja along with municipal corporation staff visited the affected areas and directed the staff to drain out the rainwater.

UNCOINCIDENTS: An alleged car thief was killed while a motorcycle rider was injured in separate encounters with police.

Shan was killed while Wahed alias Raja, an alleged robber and motorcycle-rider involved in 13 cases, was seriously injured in separate encounters in Kote Lal Shah in the limits of the City Police Lodhran.

According to Bahawalpur police spokesperson Rao Kamal, Shan, a resident of Aitpur of Muzaffargarh district, was involved in 13 cases in districts of Muzaffargarh, Bahawalpur and Lodhran. When he was being taken for recovery by the Samanwatta police, his right accomplices, including Anil,

Rashid, Javed, Wajid, attempted to free him from police custody near Zanghora.

They attacked police by opening fire on them. The police also retaliated and during the crossfire, Shan was killed by the firing of his own accomplices. A case against his being accomplices was registered.

In the second encounter, the Lodhran police PRO claimed Wahed Raja was being taken for recovery when they reached near Kote Lal Shah, four accomplices of Raja, including Nawaz and Waqas, allegedly opened fire on the policemen.

This led to an exchange of fire between the attackers and police. During the crossfire, Wahed Raja suffered injuries while the attackers managed to flee. The injured Wahed was admitted to the DRQ Hospital, Lodhran, where his condition was stated to be serious. A case against Nawaz, Waqas and their two unidentified suspects was registered by the City Police Lodhran.

ARRESTED: Two suspects allegedly involved in power pilferage and tampering with

motors were arrested during a raid by Fort Abbas police on complaint of the Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO).

The suspects, identified by Muhammad Khalid and Nasir Javed, had tampered with 23 domestic motors for pilfering thousands of units in Katchhi Mandi, Fort Abbas, in Bahawalpur district.

The Meqco team, under the supervision of SHO Shabbaz Ahmad, raided the house of a consumer, Muhammad Akhtar, whose tampered motor was being used by one Ghani Akhtar.

The consumer disclosed the name of Muhammad Khalid, an electrician, and his associate Nasir Javed for helping them steal electricity. It came to be known that the electricians had tampered with 23 motors with the help of their two more accomplices in his gang who could not be identified.

The raiding party arrested both the suspects and registered a case against the motor owners and electricians. The Meqco team confiscated all 21 motors that were tampered with.

PUNJAB HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE
سڑکیں بحال، پنجاب خوشحال

The tender for the following schemes, are invited from engineering firms / contractors on item rate / percentage basis, in per PPPA E-Tendering system, in line with PPPRA Rules (attached upto date). According to these Rules of the relevant item / contractors can participate in tendering process with the following terms and conditions:

- The interested contractors / firms who are registered with Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant category / codes valid for FY 2024-25 can participate in E-Tendering through Punjab PPPRA website.
- The interested contractors / firms have to be registered on Punjab PPPRA website (www.punjabprocure.gov.pk). Any information / procedure regarding registration can be seen / obtained from website (www.punjabprocure.gov.pk).
- All intending contractors / firms have to upload earnest money in the form of CDR in favour of Executive Engineer Highway Division Multan 90% of the estimated / bid cost and fill the rates against items of work on the same website upto half hour before the opening date and time of opening of tender. 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 firm / contractor will be disqualified in presence of Tender Opening Committee.
- After filing the bids on website, the contractors may attend the office of Superintending Engineer, Highways Circle, Gujrat on 20-08-2024 at 02:30 PM where all bids will be retrieved and quoted rates will be announced in presence of Tender Opening Committee / contractors.
- In case of submission of any false information / document such as CDR / receipt, the contractor / firm will be disqualified from the tendering procedure and will be blacklisted to participate in any tendering process of G&W Department. Further, recommendation to PPPRA and MEC will also be made against such firm / contractor for appropriate action / blacklisting.
- As per decision of the Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan, 5% Performance Guarantee will be required in shape of Pay Order, Bank Draft / Cash or Bank Guarantee (valid 03 months beyond the completion date). Performance Guarantee issued by Insurance Companies will not be accepted.
- The Procuring Agency may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal under PPPRA Rule-25 (Rejection of bids).
- Fixed pavement shall only be laid by using concrete batching plant and concrete piling machine.
- T&T / D&T / Surfacing shall be executed by mechanized system.
- Recovery against credit of old material will be adjusted manually and accordingly the bids will be evaluated.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	T.R. No. & Date	Comp. Period	Estimated Cost/Amount Money	Opening Date & Time
1.	Rehabilitation of Hasilpur (Muzaffargarh Road Section) (Muzaffargarh to Katchhi Mandi) Length 14.87 Kms (Actual Length 18.91 Km) in District Bahawalpur (Muzaffargarh)	T.R. vide C-18/19 Heavy Dept. Lahore letter No. 2025-24/2024 Dated 05.08.2024	Upto 30.4.2025	317,325,437	09-8-2024 at 2:30 PM

Note: Any application received through e-mail / post or e-mail will not be considered / accepted.

Executive Engineer
Highway Division Bahawalpur

Superintending Engineer
Highway Circle Gujrat

21/08/24



Saud looks forward to captaincy as Shaheens face Bangladesh 'A' Pg.18 SPORT

PESHAWAR
Sunset 07:08pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:23am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 28°C
Maximum 38°C
Outlook Partly Cloudy

Trade with Afghanistan via Torkham comes to halt

By Ibrahim Shiwari

KHAYBER: Trade with Afghanistan via Torkham came to a complete halt on Monday when militant truckers and customs clearing agents closed the road leading to the border 'Zero Point' against imposition of the condition of Temporary Admission Document for transporters of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Protesters placed containers on the main road and burnt tyres to prevent movement of trade goods vehicles from either side of the border before staging a sit-in.

Hundreds of transporters, customs clearing agents, local traders and daily wageers gathered at the venue of protest and

chanted slogans to demand abolishing of the TAD condition for transporters and amendment in visa policy between the two neighbouring countries.

Pakistan and Afghanistan had agreed in March to introduce TAD for transporters of both the countries without passport and valid visa while making it mandatory for them to acquire the new temporary document for their cross-border movement.

Transporters, however, argued that they could neither afford the \$100 registration fee of TAD, which was valid only for six months, nor they were furnished any detailed information about the procedure of availing the temporary document.

Qari Nawazogil, a local trader and a leader of the protesters, told Dawn that

their protest would continue till abolition of TAD condition and facilitation in the speedy clearance of trade goods at the customs terminal.

He said that unless the federal government revised its visa policy for traders and transporters, they would continue to boycott clearance of goods for Afghanistan and would not allow any trade convoy to enter Pakistan from Afghanistan.

Mirajuddin, chairman of Torkham Customs Clearing Agents Association, told Dawn that the imposition of TAD adversely affected bilateral trade with Afghanistan as local traders and industrialists had become reluctant to invest in trade with neighbouring country.

He alleged that the anti-traders and anti-

business policies of Islamabad had off late antagonised both the local and Afghan traders and transporters. Pakistan was fast losing its Afghan market for its export goods, he added.

The sit-in and forced suspension of customs clearance of trade goods from Pakistan side forced hundreds of truckers to park their vehicles along the road with many drivers complaining about rotting of edibles comprising fresh fruit, vegetables and poultry products.

The border crossing, however, remained opened for pedestrians. Only a limited number of nationals of both the countries crossed the border owing to non-availability of transport facility for their onward journey.

Islamabad has long been insisting that its

territory would be shown in its own document border policy with the immigration authorities insisting that only those with valid travel document would be allowed to cross the border or enter Pakistan.

Customs and immigration authorities at Torkham had announced on August 1 that only transporters with TAD would be allowed to travel between the two countries while those without the document would be barred from crossing the border or coming to Pakistan.

The August 1 notification resulted in stranding hundreds of both loaded and empty vehicles on both sides of the border with many a transporters complaining about facing monetary hardship owing to a prolonged suspension of their movement.



A POLICE official checks the boot of a car at Khyber Bazaar Chowk, Peshawar, on Monday as the government has enhanced security ahead of Independence Day. — White Star

Excise dept plans to bring non-custom paid vehicles into tax net

Collects details of such automobiles in Malakand, tribal districts

By Manzoor Ali

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa excise and taxation department has compiled the data on over 150,000 non-custom paid (NCP) vehicles in Malakand Division and merged tribal districts to bring them into tax net.

The profiling exercise carried out with the help of the Malakand Levies and police was meant to determine custom duty on such automobiles, according to an official.

He told Dawn that the excise department had fed details of vehicle owners and chassis and

registration numbers into its database for use by the Federal Bureau of Revenue to decide about duty based on engine capacity.

The official said the department had already proposed custom duty on such vehicles, but the final decision would be taken by the FBR.

"There is just a proposal. It'll be the FBR's call to determine duty rates," he said. The official said it was likely to be the last chance for NCP vehicle owners to register after the payment of custom duty.

"There won't be any further waivers as authorities want to eliminate the concept of NCP altogether," he said.

He said the failure to pay duty would lead to the confiscation of vehicles.

The documents available with Dawn show that the excise department briefed the cabinet on the matter last month.

They revealed a rise in the number of NCP vehicles in Malakand Division and tribal districts and said those smuggled automobiles posed a significant challenge to law-enforcement and revenue authorities and evaded taxes, causing revenue losses for the government and distorting the market for legitimate vehicles.

"Additionally, NCP vehicles contribute to road safety concerns and undermine fair competition in the automotive industry," a document read.

The document also detailed the past attempts to gather data on NCP vehicles in the province and said in 2017-18, a joint profiling campaign by the excise, police and other law-enforcement agencies showed the presence of 99,334 vehicles in Malakand Division.

In Dec 2023, the department profiled 102,678 vehicles in the division and tribal areas on the

orders of the provincial Apex Committee, according to the document.

In the proposals submitted to the cabinet for regularising profiled vehicles, it said that one vehicle per CNIC should be regularised, while all bargain dealers registered under the KP Motor Vehicles Centres and Road Estate Agents (Regulation of Business) Ordinance, 1983, should have the facility to register vehicles in bulk on payment of 10 per cent additional duty.

The department also said owners availing themselves of the scheme should not be allowed to sell vehicles for the next five years.

For vehicles with up to 800cc engines, it proposed the custom duty of Rs150,000 each for income tax filers along with Rs15,000 registration fee. Similarly, Rs200,000 custom duty was proposed for vehicles up to 1000cc capacity along with

registration fee of 20,000, and the custom duty of Rs250,000 along with Rs50,000 registration fee on vehicles up to 1500cc capacity.

Besides, on vehicles up to 2000cc, the excise department also suggested Rs450,000 in custom duty and Rs80,000 registration fee, on vehicles up to the proposed custom duty was Rs550,000 and registration fee of Rs100,000 and those above 2500cc, Rs700,000 in custom duty and Rs200,000 in registration fee.

Meanwhile, Dawn has learned that the excise and taxation department profiled 111,509 vehicles in Malakand Division and merged tribal districts until August 11.

Of them, around 74,323 are from Malakand division, 21,527 in Khyber, Kurram, Mohmand and Orakzai districts, and 14,814 in North Waziristan and Upper and Lower South Waziristan districts.

Girl killed, four injured in Haripur roof collapse

By Our Correspondent

HARIPUR: A minor girl was killed and her three cousins were injured when the roof of a room collapsed in a remote village, police and rescue sources said here on Monday.

The roof collapsed due to its dilapidated condition that was further weakened during the recent rain spell.

The police quoted family sources as saying that four girls, who all were cousins, were playing in a room of the mud house in Ghuzarwan village when at around 12 noon, the roof of the room caved in burying all the girls under the debris.

The residents rushed there and launched a rescue operation. They recovered four girls and shifted them to the trauma centre, where one of the girls, later identified as Noor Fatema, 9, daughter of Mohammad Akbar, was pronounced as brought dead.

The injured were sisters and the cousins of the deceased girl. They were identified as Hajira Bibi, 13, Meryam Bibi, 15, and Nadia Bibi, 20, daughters of Mohammad Aslam.

The injured were later discharged from the hospital after first aid as they suffered minor injuries, police and hospital sources said.

Foreign fast-food restaurant attacked in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: Unknown assailants opened fire at an outlet of a foreign fast-food restaurant on the Ring Road in the jurisdiction of the Sargodha police station on the outskirts of the provincial capital on Sunday night, the police said.

They said that the attackers walked away after opening fire at the restaurant.

"There were two persons. They opened fire at the restaurant and then walked away," SP Cantonment Aftab Anif told Dawn. He added that the firing incident was being investigated.

Other police officials, however, said that the restaurant's other branches also came under mob attack a few months ago during a protest against bread in Tehsil area of the provincial capital.

"This does not seem to be an organised group since there were only two attackers. We cannot say at this moment whether or not it was a militant attack," an official said, adding in their assessment, this too seemed to be in protest against bread.

A statement issued by the city police said that senior police officials visited the spot and collected the evidence. It said that the incident was being investigated from different angles after a case was lodged by the restaurant's manager. — Bureau Report

MPAs flay 1948 Babara massacre, declare it bid to derail democracy

Complain about lack of public awareness about incident

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: Members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Monday condemned the massacre of over 600 peaceful protesters in Babara area of Charsadda district on August 12, 1948, and said the brutal killing of women, children and the elderly was a national tragedy and an attempt to derail democracy in the nascent country.

During a session chaired by Speaker Babar Saloon Swati here, lawmakers of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Mohammad Sajjad complained about a lack of public awareness about the incident.

"Pro-democracy people, including women and children, were shot in the chest during a rights protest in Babara, but over 90 per cent of the country's population doesn't know about their sacrifice despite its mention in several books," he said.

Mr Sajjad said had the incident occurred before August 14, 1947, it would have been attributed to outsiders.

He complained that the activists of Khudai Khidmatgar Tehreek, who were shot at, were asked to pay the cost of the bullets fired at them.

The lawmaker also highlighted the "imposition of religion as a pre-empt in KP unlike Punjab."

He said Pakistanis were accused of transporting military from KP into Punjab but nobody talked about water, natural gas, power, and petroleum products supplied from KP to Punjab.

"Punjab supplies only wheat to

us," he said.

Ahmad Karim Kinnal of the opposition Pakistan Peoples Party said not only Pakistanis but members of other communities also were martyred in Babara.

He criticised the government for suppressing freedom of speech and accused all major political parties, including PML-N, PTI and PPP of such practices after coming to power.

The MPA recalled that Khawaja Saad Rafiq from Punjab and Anif Ali Kardari from Kinnal would attend the National Assembly sessions after the issuance of their production orders, but former NA speaker Anwar Qasim from the PTI didn't allow lawmakers to talk about production orders for their colleagues, Ali Waiz and Mohsin Dawar.

"A society can only progress if people don't fear asking questions," he said, proposing a resolution on

the matter.

Mohammad Nisar of the opposition ANP said Khudai Khidmatgar Tehreek leader Khan Abdul Ghafler Khan and his son, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, were behind bars during the Babara protest.

He said the August 1948 massacre of some 600 people, including women and children, in broad day light on the orders of Qayyum Khan Khatami was a black day, and likened it to the Karbala tragedy.

The lawmaker claimed that a minority government was installed after the ouster of a minority one.

Treasury member Shafiqullah said the incidents like Babara killings happened every year.

"The same incident was repeated on May 9 when 18 of our workers were killed. Different are circumstances," he said.

JUI-F's Adnan Khan drew parallels between the August 12, 1948, incident and earlier massacres, such

as the one in 1930, and flayed the recent firing on a peace march in Barera that led to two deaths.

"May 9 was the continuation of the Babara incident," he said.

The lawmaker alleged that military officers were violating their oath.

He said the security establishment should have nothing to do with the government's affairs and should focus its attention on defending the country's borders.

The lawmaker urged the chief minister to order withdrawal of all FIRs registered against PTI workers over the May 9 protests.

Earlier, during the question hour, member of the opposition PML-N Nadeem Shahid reported the rising incidence of gender-based violence and complained that only a few of the cases were decided.

He said 267 cases of violence against transgender persons were registered between 2019 and 2023

but only one accused was convicted.

The MPA also said the same period reported 8,299 cases of violence against women but only 140 accused were punished.

She said only 83 convictions were made against 1,598 cases of violence against children.

Law minister Aftab Alam Afridi claimed that the people wouldn't report such cases in the past but due to better public awareness, the reporting had improved.

He said the police investigated these cases and took them to the courts for decision but mostly, the accused were released due to reconciliation between the relevant people.

The house unanimously approved an adjournment motion by MPA Kinnal for a detailed discussion on government priorities for the preservation of Gaudhara Heritage.

The chair later adjourned the sitting until 2pm on Friday.

New strategies help immunise children against polio

Govt has not reported any case of the crippling disease so far

By Asimq Yasulzai

PESHAWAR: Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) has adopted innovative approaches to ensure vaccination of those children, who often miss polio drops due to misconceptions or live in inaccessible areas, especially in southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Abdul Basit, head of EOC (polio) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, told Dawn that the new strategies were designed in light of the experiences where many children remained unvaccinated due to one reason or another.

"One of these new policies is ring strategy under which we set up permanent and temporary transit points around the areas where children live but these vaccination is not possible. The workers immunise children from these areas when they come out with parents," he said.

Mr Basit said that EOC was mandated to ensure immunisation of children against polio. He added that all the children under five years were required to receive anti-polio drops in every campaign to stay safe from being infected with the crippling disease.

He said that reaching the unvaccinated was another scheme aiming to approach the children, who remained unvaccinated owing to security reasons.

"This year, we have successfully implemented this plan in 69 union councils in these rounds. There is a huge impact of these plans as no case has been reported so far," said Mr Basit. He said that before strategy was pursued in the areas with weak routine immunisation. "Our staffs cover the children using motorcycles, especially in hard pockets in Peshawar and southern districts," he added.

He said that another programme was holding integrated health services delivery where camps for vaccination were established during which their staff provided nutritional supplements to scale up immunity of children in addition to repair of their sewerage system and putting in place latrine facilities.

"All these strategies have been tailored for different areas. For instance, ring strategy is mostly used in South Waziristan (Upper), before strategy is adopted for vaccination of nomadic population and reaching the unvaccinated in practice in Bara and Dera Ismail Khan districts where routine immunisation was low in the past," he said.

He said that they were well on their way to ensure immunisation of children in these areas, which remained epicentres of poliovirus. He said that Pakistan reported nine cases so far but Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was free of poliovirus. "We aim to make it polio-free through new approaches," he added.

Mr Basit, who is also special secretary health (polio), said that despite success in many areas, they were still grappling with the challenges posed by vaccine hesitancy in southern districts of the province and Peshawar.

"Drooping trends of misconceptions about polio vaccine especially in southern and central KP including Peshawar are proving to be a major stumbling block in ensuring the vaccination of all eligible children in during drives," he said.

He said that Emergency Operation Centre was in fact a shift of the original programme of Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative (1994) to a more comprehensive approach to handle the great challenge of polio eradication. EOC has an increased focus on communication to address vaccine hesitancy.

Pakistan Paediatrics Association, an important stakeholder in polio eradication, has pledged support to refer children with acute paralysis to EOC for their stool analysis for poliovirus.

PTA president Faisal Mohammad Hussain said that in Peshawar based teaching hospitals and district head quarters hospitals, their members were sending suspected children for testing.

"We are collaborating with EOC to ensure that all children receive anti-polio drops. PTA also monitors the environmental virus circulation and routinely collecting samples from more than 60 strategic sites," he said.

Cop's son killed in Shangla attack

SHANGLA: A teenage son of a policeman was killed when unknown assailants attacked his house in Dab Sar Kamach area of Marting tehsil here on Sunday night.

The police said that the miscreants attacked the house of constable Hakeem Shah at midnight, leaving his 17-year-old son, Aamir Ali Shah, martyred. The constable returned the fire, forcing the attackers to flee.

A police official told Dawn that Hakeem Shah was currently performing police intelligence duty in his home town, and it seemed he was targeted for that.

Soon after the attack, district police officer Irfan Khan along with personnel of the Counter-Terrorism Department visited the cop's house, and offered condolences to the bereaved family.

IPD Irfan said that an investigation had started into the attack by the police and CID teams. He also led a search operation in the area following the attack. Meanwhile, a court sentenced a man to life imprisonment with a fine of Rs600,000 here the other day for stabbing a man to death in 2022.

Irfan Khan, a resident of Marting tehsil, was convicted by the district additional sessions judge.

A statement issued by the Shangla police's investigation department on Monday said that the verdict was announced after over two years of trial.

The statement said that the FIR of the incident was lodged at the Marting police station on June 12, 2022 under sections 302 and 32-AA of Pakistan Penal Code. — Correspondent

PTB urged to increase compensation for gutted tobacco curing furnaces

By Our Correspondent

SWABI: Growers have demanded of the Pakistan Tobacco Board to increase the compensation amount significantly in case a curing furnace is gutted to help them rebuild the one and avoid unnecessary financial losses.

Talking to Dawn here on Monday, Liaqat Yousofzai, central general secretary of Kadirpur Coordination Council, said that PTB paid from Rs25,000 to Rs30,000 for a single burnt furnace, which was very nominal as a furnace required about Rs1 million to be built.

It is pertinent to mention here that a total of 60 Virginia tobacco curing furnaces have caught fire from June till date, inflicting about

Rs144 million financial loss on growers, farmers and Reserve 1122 officials claimed.

The growers said the common cause of fire was falling of leaves on the central pipe of the furnaces. They said once a furnace caught fire then controlling the blaze was almost impossible because it engulfed the structure within no time.

The growers said construction of a furnace cost Rs1 million.

Haq Nawaz, whose tobacco curing furnace was turned into ash here recently, said losing furnace during the critical period of crop curing was a huge loss to him. "Once you lose your furnace you cannot build another immediately, so your harvested crop gets spoiled.

The only option is to buy another

farmer to free his for you."

VISIT: Swabi additional assistant commissioner-II Zameer Najeeb paid a surprise visit to a rural health centre and inspected the availability of medicines and facilities at the laboratory and the OPD there, according to a statement issued on Monday.

The visit was conducted as part of the provincial government's agenda to provide adequate health facilities to the people at the grassroots level.

He also listened to the complaints of the patients and reported them to the district health officer for redressal.

Mr Najeeb said that the district administration was ensuring the provision of quality health facilities in government hospitals of Swabi.



VEHICLES cross the newly-built steel bridge on MNU Road in Mansehra, after its inauguration on Monday. — Dawn

Mansehra bridge's installation restores traffic between KP, GB

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: Traffic between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan resumed on Monday after the Frontier Works Organisation opened a steel bridge on the Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad Road in Mahandi area.

"Our government in the centre took the suspension of traffic between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan seriously and moved heavy machinery here for the early installation of a steel bridge," Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz MNA Sardar Mohammad Yusuf told the bridge inauguration ceremony.

Retired captain Mohammad

Siddiq, secretary of PML-N supreme NWFP branch, was also in attendance.

The MNA said locals and tourists got stranded in Mansehra and Khan valleys after the July 30 flash floods and faced hard ships.

He said flood victims, who suffered losses in the calamity, awaited compensation.

Mr Yusuf demanded that the district administration immediately complete damage assessment and compensate families and traders.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would visit the area soon.

"I have also taken up the bad condition of the Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad Road with the prime minister, who promised

more funds for its repairs," he said.

Mr Siddiq said the federal government was working sincerely to address the people's issues.

"The reopening of this artery will ease the misery of tourists, who were stranded in the Mansehra and Khan valleys," he said.

Meanwhile, the artificial lake, which was created in the Kumbhar River in the Mahandi area due to the July 30 flash floods, continued to recede.

FINED: Drug inspector Mohammad Ashfaq Monday fined many medical stores for selling spurious and expired medicines and sealed diagnostic labs for illegal operation in Lower Kohistan district on

Monday.

The action came from him during a surprise visit to Kambla, Dera and adjoining towns.

The official also warned the stores would be sealed if they were found involved in illegal practices again.

He told reporters that the crackdown on expired and spurious drugs and illegal labs would continue across the district.

Mr Ashfaq said that he had warned chemists to ensure the sale of quality medicines without expiry otherwise they would face strict legal action. "I would also appeal to people to inform us in case chemists have been selling spurious drugs anywhere in the district," he said.

Minister pledges to resolve issues of veterinary varsity

By Our Correspondent

SWAB: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives Fazal Hakeem Khan Yousofzai said here on Monday that establishment of University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences was a pressing need as it would provide quality education and research facilities to students.

He said this during his visit to the under-construction University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in Swat. He was given a briefing on progress in work on the university. He said that the issues concerning construction of the university would be addressed.

Livestock Secretary Mohammad Fakhr-Allah, Director General Dr Asif Khan, Livestock and Research Secretary Jia, Fisheries Secretary Mohammad Shahi Marwat and other relevant officials were present on the occasion.

The minister said that the university was a crucial development as it would offer both quality education and research opportunities to students interested in veterinary and animal sciences. He said that all problems related to the university would be resolved by informing Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur.

He said that the primary goal of the university was to provide modern education and research opportunities to students that were essential for advancement of teaching and research activities.

"This project will also be a significant milestone for the development of livestock and related sectors," said the minister.

He directed the officials concerned to accelerate work on construction of the university's permanent building and said that government would ensure provision of necessary resources for the purpose.

During the briefing, the minister was told that Rs1 billion was needed to commence construction work rapidly. It was mentioned that no funds were released so far, except for those allocated for the design of the university building. It was that the flood of 2022 had severely impacted a large portion of the university site and details for Section 4 were provided to the deputy commissioner of Swat.

Dir residents get mosquito nets

By Our Correspondent

LOWER DIR: Distribution of one million insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs) to prevent mosquito bites began in parts of the Lower Dir district here on Monday.

Talking to Dawn, Malaria Control Programme District Coordinator Dravesh Pasha said that the Indus Hospital and Network, a private healthcare facility, with the financial assistance from the Global Fund, was executing the project across all villages of the district, especially in the most populous localities.

He said the distribution of one million ITNs would be completed by Aug 18.

He said the beneficiaries had been given coupons and specific dates from Aug 14 to Aug 18 so that the process could be completed smoothly.

He said that a total of 167 distribution points, mostly at government schools and hospitals, had been selected where families would get the nets after producing the coupons.

Talking about the beneficiaries, he said that over 1,078 volunteers from the health department and civil society, under the supervision of 228 supervisors, collected the household data through a mobile app across the district.

Mr Pasha said the project was being implemented in the Lower Dir and Bazar districts in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to the high risk of malaria disease in these areas.

Mortar shell destroys shops in Tirah

By Our Correspondent

KHAYBER: More than a dozen shops and kiosks were burnt when a mortar shell landed in Lar Bugh Markar in Tirah valley on Sunday night.

Local sources said that the mortar shell fired from an unspecified direction landed in the middle of the market at midnight and caused a huge fire.

The fire immediately engulfed more than a dozen shops and kiosks and burned merchandise worth millions of rupees into ashes.

Tirah traders and shopkeepers demanded an inquiry into the incident along with compensation for the affected shopkeepers.

Meanwhile, police seized five kilograms of charas and nine kilograms of hazardous chemicals used in manufacturing of ice and ecstasy pills in two different areas on Monday.

Officials said that police raided an ice and ecstasy pills making factory deep in the mountains of a remote locality in Ali Masjid area of Jambul tehsil.

They recovered nine kilograms of hazardous chemicals used in the manufacturing of ice and ecstasy pills but failed to apprehend any suspect involved in the making of drugs.

In Bata, police arrested a pedestrian at Miri Chook Khowar checkpost and recovered from his possession five kilograms of charas.

University of
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Technology, Peshawar

ADMISSION NOTICE

BACHELOR OF
ARCHITECTURE

PESHAWAR & ABBOTTABAD CAMPUSES

Online applications are invited from candidates having Khyber Pakhtunkhwa or equivalent FATA Boards for admission to the Bachelor of Architecture (5-years) and Bachelor of Interior Design (4-years) Non-engineering programs offered at UET Peshawar and Abbottabad Campuses for the academic session 2024-25.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ARCHITECTURE

- Candidates who have appeared in the ETED Entrance conducted by the Educational Testing & Evaluation Agency (ETEA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 7th July 2024 and 17th August, 2024 are eligible to apply.
- Candidates who have passed Intermediate examination from a recognized Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) in Pakistan, or an equivalent examination overseas, and have obtained at least 60% in relevant marks, with combination of subjects listed below:
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 - 2. Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science
 - 3. Physics, Chemistry and Biology
 - 4. Three years Post Matric Diploma in Architecture or Civil Technology
- Result awarded candidates who are expected to obtain at least 60% marks are eligible to apply.
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2. Candidates date for correction / rectification of errors	26 th Aug - 27 th Aug, 2024
3. Make E-Quize Test	27 th Aug, 2024
4. Skill Test and Interview (Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Interior Design)	29 th Aug, 2024
5. Display of 1 st Merit List	31 st Aug, 2024
6. Admission/Interview 1 st Merit List	1 st Sept - 10 th Sept, 2024

COMMENCEMENT OF CLASSES

1st Oct, 2024

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