



Imran fears Faiz will be forced to turn against him

- PTI leader claims ex-ISI chief under pressure to turn approver against him over May 9 violence
- IHC stops accountability court from announcing verdict in ₹190m corruption case

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Imran Khan on Monday claimed that enabler Faiz Hamood, who was detained earlier this month in connection with a housing scheme scam, was being forced to turn approver against him to pave the way for his (Imran's) trial in a military court in May 9 cases.

In a separate development, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) restrained an accountability court in the capital from announcing the judgement in the ₹190 million corruption case against PTI leader Imran Khan and his spouse which revolves around the Al-Qadir Trust.

Speaking to media persons in Adiala jail after he was sent on judicial remand in a new Toshkhana reference, the PTI chief said there was no substance in the cases against him in civil courts, claiming that the ex-ISI chief was arrested allegedly in order to implicate him. He claimed that Gen Faiz was being forced to become

approver against him and hinted that the enabler might be asked to implicate him in the May 9 incidents.

According to Mr Khan, even if Gen Faiz testified against him, as the culprits involved in the May 9 violence, can be traced through CCTV footage. He said he had repeatedly sought a judicial probe into the violence, adding that had he been involved in those riots he wouldn't have made such a demand.

The PTI leader said the incumbent regime was scared that its "theft of the public mandate" would be exposed after the retirement of Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa. The ex-PM also dismissed claims attributed to Gen Faiz that he had been taking instructions from his wife Bushra Bibi.

Imran Khan reiterated his allegations against former army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa, accusing the latter of betraying him. He added that Gen Faiz was transferred from the ISI under an alleged deal

between the then army chief and PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif.

₹190m corruption case

Separately, an IHC division comprising Justice Mansoor Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Babar Sattar stopped an accountability court from announcing the verdict in the ₹190 million corruption case, but allowed it to continue day-to-day proceedings.

The bench, after a preliminary hearing of the petition of Imran Khan seeking the record related to the case, issued the restraining order and asked the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to submit a reply.

As the high court allowed the accountability court to continue the proceedings, it warned the petitioner's counsel that the bench would recall the restraining order if they attempted to delay the outcome of the case.

Mr Khan's counsel Barrister Salim Saeed and advocate Khalid Younas Chaudhry appeared

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FLASH floods washed away a portion of the Quetta-Ziarat road, blocking all traffic for hours.—Dawn

Heavy rain, flooding claim five lives across country

- Two schools, BHU swept away in D.I. Khan; crops, roads damaged in several areas
- Situation in Dudu worsens due to continuous rain
- NDMA anticipates more rain, thunderstorm from Aug 20-24

By Safwan Shahid

QUETTA: As heavy rains lashed parts of the country on Monday claiming at least five lives in three provinces and causing considerable damage to infrastructure, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said it anticipated more rains and thunderstorms with isolated heavy falls from August 20-24 in several regions.

While buildings of two schools and a basic health unit were swept away in Dera Ismail Khan and shops destroyed in South Waziristan, widespread damage was reported in Balochistan. Also, the situation in Dudu worsened following continued downpour.

According to the NDMA's

National Emergency Operations Centre, the rainfall is likely to be heavy in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir and at scattered places in

Tarbela filled to full conservation capacity:
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Monsoon havoc:
Editorial on Page 6

Balochistan, and advised the relevant authorities to make preparations to avoid flood-like situations.

Lightning, thunderstorms

Three people lost their lives in Balochistan as downpour with thunderstorm and lightning continued in many areas

for the last three days.

The situation paralysed normal life in the affected areas, suspending vehicular traffic and damaging human settlements rendering hundreds of people without shelter.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority said 19 people were killed and 11 others injured in rain-related incidents from July 1 to Aug 19.

On Monday, a 16-year-old girl and an infant girl were drowned in a dam in Pishin.

As a result of heavy rains in the mountainous areas, flash flood damaged the road network as it washed away link roads cutting off link of many districts with Quetta.

Traffic remained suspended

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Another traveller from Gulf hospitalised for mpox test

Health ministry official says confirmed case not linked to dangerous new strain of virus

By Iqram Junaid

ISLAMABAD: Amid a heightened state of alert on all entry points in the country, Border Health Services (BHS) at Islamabad Airport on Monday spotted another suspected case of mpox.

The 47-year-old suspect who arrived from a Gulf country was shifted to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and admitted to the isolation ward. His sample has been sent to the National Institute of Health (NIH) for the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. PIMS focal person for mpox Dr Nazam Akhtar told Dawn.

The infectious diseases expert said the suspected patient, who belonged to

Azad Jammu and Kashmir, works as a labourer in a Gulf country. She said the condition of the patient is not serious and he will recover soon. "We will start contact tracing once the sample is declared positive by NIH," she said.

No mpox symptoms detected as 15,000 screened at Peshawar airport, Toshkhana: Page 8

Health Ministry spokesperson Sajid Shah said it was a good sign that the suspected passenger has been identified and isolated at the airport. "It shows that the country has been strictly following international health regulations and the practice will reduce the chances of re-breach of local transmission of the disease," he said.

He said that Prime Minister's Coordinator for Health Dr Malik Mukhtar on Monday visited the Islamabad International Airport and inspected

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SC bars IHC from proceeding with audio leaks case

High court orders hindering even lawful counter terror ops by spy agencies, law officer argues

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: After accepting the federal government's appeal challenging an Islamabad High Court order, the Supreme Court on Monday barred the high

court from proceeding with the audio leaks case, initiated on petition filed by former first lady Bushra Bibi and Najam-ul-Haq, son of former chief justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar.

A two-judge SC bench consisting of Justice Amiruddin Khan and Justice Nazam Akhtar Afghan issued notices to the respondents in the case, while the date of hearing will be fixed later.

In its June 25 order, the IHC had also issued a show-cause notice under the contempt of court

law, accusing the chairman and members of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) of misrepresentation.

The high court had also ruled that if the management of telecom intercepts allowed any entry or person to access citizens' data in violation of constitutional guarantees under Articles 9, 14, and 19 of the Constitution, as well as provisions of the Fair Trial Act, Telecom Act, Telegraph Act, PWA, and PTC, they would render themselves liable for criminal liabilities.

During the hearing in

the apex court, Additional Attorney General (AAG) Chaudhry Asim Rehman argued that unauthorised tapping is already unlawful, but the IHC's earlier order on May 25, which prohibited authority from phone tapping or processing call data records, was hindering even lawful counterterrorism operations by intelligence agencies like the ISI and IB, thereby impeding their ability to apprehend terrorists.

In its May 29 order, the apex court, Additional

Continued on Page 5

Four security men martyred in Afghan border clashes

By Muhammad Irfan Mughal and Arwarul Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN / BAJAJUR: Three security personnel were martyred and five militants were killed in an exchange of fire along the Pak-Afghan border in Bajaur district on Monday night while a Frontier Corps man was martyred in a clash with Afghan forces at the Gumbal border check post near the Noshki area of Balochistan.

Four grips parts of Tirah as armed militants start patrols: Page 8

A statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of Pakistan military, said that the security forces engaged a group of militants who was trying to infiltrate Pakistan-Afghan border in the Bajaur area.

The troops effectively engaged and thwarted the militants' attempt to infiltrate and an exchange of fire took place, the statement said.

The statement further

Continued on Page 11

ON OTHER PAGES



YouTuber 'reunites' with family

Aun Ali Khosa, a YouTuber known for his satirical videos, returned home on Monday, his legal team confirmed. The social media creator had been picked up by unidentified persons a few days ago, and the high court was supposed to take up a petition on his abduction today (Tuesday). Advocate Khadija Siddiqui claimed that the purpose of the abduction had been achieved as his song has been deleted from YouTube. Page 2

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Opp leader warns of another May 9 over blocked rallies

By Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: "If the government keeps blocking the country's largest party from holding public rallies and meetings, some 'xevnt' may happen," says Opposition Leader in the Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan Bhachar.

Speaking at a news conference at Lahore Press Club on Monday, Mr Bhachar said the PM, N government was propagating that allowing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to protest might lead to another May 9. Stating that some 50,000 people went to Sialkot for a PTI public meeting and not a single flower pot was broken in all Punjab districts, the opposition leader alleged "any uncalled-for event would be a mischievous act by the incumbent government".

He said a large number of parliamentarians, party leaders, and workers would go to Islamabad on August 22 to participate in the party's public meeting. Afterwards, he said, the party would hold its already announced public meeting in Lahore next week.

Mr Bhachar said the party had taken a stance and reiterated that a judicial commission be established to investigate the May 9 events. He also asserted that a large number of party leaders and workers were arrested, and the government had failed to establish any charge against those incarcerated for over 16 months. "The government destroyed youth and their families without presenting any concrete evidence against them. Let those be free who have eventually been released after contesting all cases and getting bail from courts," he stated.

The opposition leader said the incumbent rulers should look towards the plight of the general public, who were dying due to high inflation and inflated power and gas bills. He said the government slowed down the internet, which led to joblessness for those entering through freelancing on the internet.



LAHORE: Bikers take shelter at a bus stop near Sharda Faisal during Monday's downpour. —Wafa Star

84 dead, 224 injured in ongoing monsoon

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) flood alert fact sheet on Monday revealed that 84 people were killed, 224 others injured in rain-related building collapse and lightning incidents during the ongoing monsoon season in Punjab.

The PDMA issued a flood alert fact sheet, including data on monsoon rainfall status, water levels in rivers, barrages and dams of Punjab.

The report revealed that 84 people were killed, 224 injured and 245 houses were affected due to monsoon rains during the current year. The deaths occurred due to lightning, electrocution of damaged houses and the collapse of dilapidated buildings. Up to 44 cattle also died due to monsoon rains and 100 houses were completely affected while 145 houses were partially affected.

The monsoon rains were expected in most districts of Punjab in the next 24 hours and flash flooding was expected in Dera Ghazi Khan Multan and Bahawalpur divisions.

In the Indus River, there is a low level at Turbat, Kalabagh and Chashma, while there is a moderate level of flood at Tarsana, Rivers Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej and Jhelum have normal water flow. The water flow is normal in Dera Ghazi Khan rivers too. Normal Nala Reservoir has a low level flood situation.

PDMA Director General Irfan Ali Chaudhri said that financial support is being given to the affected families as per the government policy. Providing the best medical care to the injured is being ensured.

He said that all the departments were alerted to take precautionary measures during the rainy season.

Meanwhile, the weather in Lahore turned pleasant after intermittent rain in different areas of the city on Monday.

The maximum rainfall recorded was 55mm at Lakshmi Chowk, with other key locations like Bahawal Tada (51mm), Gulshan-e-Ravi (51mm), Qurtaba Chowk and Upper Mall (50mm), Gulberg (49mm), and several other areas recording significant precipitation.

The heavy rain brought the bustling city to a standstill, with traffic snarls and waterlogged streets becoming a common sight. The worst-hit areas included Shah Jamat, Lakshmi Chowk, Karim Park, Sabot Mandi in Allama Iqbal Town, Tatta Chowk, and Johar Town.

Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) Managing Director Ghaffar Ahmed monitored the drainage operations after visiting different areas of the city. The field teams continued with swift and effective cleaning operations in the affected areas.

Major roads and inter-sections like Murtaza Puri, Qurtaba Chowk, Lytton Road, Chamberi, and Wazir Road were cleared of standing water.

Mr Ahmed directed all Waza directors to ensure that not only the main roads but also the secondary and tertiary roads were cleared promptly.

He emphasized the need to address even the smallest potholes in every neighborhood, knowing that even minor blockages could wreak havoc in low-lying areas.

Record-breaking water levels in mountain drains in Dera, Rajanpur

By Tariq Saeed Birmani

DERA GHAZI KHAN: The Kala mountain drain in Rajanpur experienced a massive flood with a flow of 75,000 cusecs, while the Vidour drain in Dera Ghazi Khan recorded a flow of 75,000 cusecs on Monday. The Kala Range Khora in Rajanpur surpassed its previous record, leading to a flood that exceeded its capacity and caused significant crop devastation. All drains in Rajanpur were inundated, with levels nearing the record floods of 2022, though the record was not broken.

In Dera Ghazi Khan, the Sakhi Sarwar mountain drain also flooded, while the Chahadhar mountain drain in Rajanpur surged to 53,000 cusecs before showing signs of receding.

Currently, the situation remains dire, particularly in the tribal areas of Rajanpur, known as Pachhal or the arid zone. The Vidour drain in Dera Ghazi Khan has overflowed, inundating drains and sewers in Jampur and causing destruction to the settlements of Dera Ghazi Khan district. The floodwaters have also spread into standing rice crops,

worsening the damage.

The district administration is providing assistance to the victims of the hill torrent floods in Dera Ghazi Khan district. All necessary items are being supplied to the affected residents in the flood-hit villages of Shahari, Jevras Jindani and Garowala. Political Assistant Muhammad Anul Chaudhri and Assistant Commissioner Tahir Usman reported that due to the 75,000 cusecs of water flowing into the Vidour mountain drain on Sunday, water has accumulated in other nearby areas. In an effort to reduce the water flow, the district administration, in collaboration with the Irrigation Department, has installed two cuts on Marika.

They added that, in addition to dinner, morning breakfast has also been provided to the flood victims, and relief camps have been established in Loharwala, Gadpur, and Bari Khahani to accommodate those affected by the floodwaters.

URBAN FLOODING: After heavy rainfall that led to urban flooding in Dera Ghazi Khan, Commissioner Dr Nasir Mahmood Baidar and Deputy Commissioner Shafiq Zaman Lak inspected various areas in

the city late Sunday night to oversee the water drainage process. The commissioner inspected Mustafar Chowk, Ladies Park, Committee Circle, Traffic Chowk, Model Town, and Bhatta Colony, monitoring ongoing efforts to drain rainwater and issuing instructions to expedite the process.

He said that 90% of the water drainage had been completed across the city and assured the public that the remaining roads and streets will be insulated with water being actively drained. Municipal Corporation staff and machinery are working tirelessly around the clock to clear all roads and streets within the next few hours.

PLANS: Provincial Irrigation Minister Punjab Kazim Peerzada outlined the government's plans to mitigate the damage caused by hill torrents and ensure the protection of vulnerable areas. Mr Peerzada announced that a permanent solution is being pursued to prevent future flooding in Rajanpur. An 18-kilometre strong protective embankment will be constructed to safeguard the area.

He said that the Punjab government is fully committed to addressing the suffering of flood

victims and will compensate for the financial losses incurred after a thorough survey. Following instructions from Chief Minister, Peerzada personally inspected the flood-affected regions in Rajanpur district. He credited the district administration and the Irrigation Department's proactive measures for significantly reducing the impact of the floods.

"The PML-N government stands by the victims as always," Peerzada said. "We will continue our efforts until the complete rehabilitation of the affected communities." He assured that all essential facilities are being provided at the relief camps for those displaced by the floods.

He said that Wapda is designing a dam to harness the water from hill torrents. This infrastructure will not only serve the Pachhal area but will also be utilized for irrigation purposes, aiming to benefit local communities in the long term.

The announcement was made in the presence of Rajanpur Deputy Commissioner Shafiqullah Minsah, MPA, Akhbar Aziz Khan Durrani, IJEN of Irrigation Umar Akhbar and media representatives.

Panic as three brothers die of 'mysterious disease'

By Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Panic has gripped village Kooria Kullar near Chandi Goth where three minor brothers died of a 'mysterious' disease one after the other.

The boys were identified as Altafullah (13), Samiullah (8) and Saifullah (5), sons of Malik Mehboob Kullar.

According to reports, the boys developed rashes on their bodies and they were shifted to the Bahawal Victoria Hospital (BVH) where they died one by one. After the deaths, the health department teams were reportedly dispatched by the authorities to the village to stop the disease from becoming an epidemic.

However, an official handout issued by the director public relations here on Monday quoted the health chief executive officer (CEO) as saying that the three boys' death was not caused by any mysterious disease but measles and their parents treated them at home.

Of the three boys, two died on Aug 3 and Aug 5, respectively while the third child was admitted to the BVH on Aug 9 where he also succumbed to measles on Aug 17.

According to the handout, Deputy Commissioner Zahoor Anwar Jappa took notice of the deaths and instructed the health department to medically examine all the children in the area. The health teams examined 150 children who were administered vitamin drops and injected vaccine and there was no danger of any epidemic outbreak, claimed the statement.

It further said that three deceased children had also been administered the measles vaccine and their parents also admitted that.

Meanwhile, chairing a meeting, the DC directed the health officials to launch an immunisation campaign for the children across the district.

New labour code draws workers ire

They say the code abolishes right to protest, formation of unions

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: The Punjab Labour Code 2024 has sparked widespread opposition from almost all major labour organisations in the province, which think that the new regulations would violate workers' rights.

The labour groups term the code a move that undermines job security, legalises exploitative labour practices and imposes restrictions on unions. They say it is a step towards a regressive movement if the government tries to implement the code unilaterally.

The Punjab Labour Code 2024 was introduced as an attempt to consolidate various labour laws enacted between 1923 and 2023. However, labour organisations argue that the new code goes beyond consolidation as it effectively dismantles workers' rights and protections.

The most significant points of contention include the legalisation of the contract labour system, restriction on trade unions, the abolition of the right to strike and provisions that could legit-

imize child labour. Rana Hameed, the coordinator of the Labour Alliance, has expressed deep concerns over the new code.

"The Punjab Labour Code 2024 is not about protecting workers but it's about stripping them of their fundamental rights. It not only legalises the contract system, which will lead to the elimination of job security, but also provides legal cover to the advance payment (Peshgi) system in the kiln industry, a practice that has historically led to bonded labour."

One of the most alarming aspects of the new labour code, according to Hameed, is the restriction on the formation of trade unions. The code limits workers' ability to organise at the sector level and imposes severe limitations on their right to strike.

"Trade unions are essential for protecting workers' interests but the new code is designed to weaken them. If this code is implemented in its current form, it will turn industrial and commercial establishments into bonded labour camps," says Hameed.

Speaking to Dawn, he highlighted the code's failure to guarantee the unconditional right of workers to form unions and elect their collective bargaining agents. He urged the government to reconsider the code and con-

sider a tripartite meeting, including representatives from both employers and employees, to ensure that the rights of workers were not compromised.

The labour organisations are particularly concerned at the code's complexity. With 467 sections spread over 315 pages, the code is seen as overly convoluted, making it difficult for workers to understand their rights. Various sections of the code are interdependent, requiring readers to constantly cross-reference different parts of the document, further complicating the interpretation of the law.

One of the most controversial provisions is the code's definition of "worker," which encompasses employees, contractors, subcontractors, self-employed individuals and those in temporary roles. This broad definition has led to confusion about who qualifies as a worker and what rights they are entitled to under the new code. Similarly, the definition of "employer" raises concerns about whether the workers provided by third parties or employment agencies will have any direct employment relationship with the principal employer, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

The labour organisations are also critical of the provisions related to child labour. The code raises the minimum age for

employment to 16 years, which, according to the labour groups, will double the volume of child labour in the province as it fails to provide adequate educational and training facilities for children below that age. Additionally, the code introduces presumptions about child labour, particularly in informal sector like brick kilns and home-based work, which, the labour groups believe, will only worsen the situation.

In a formal letter addressed to the secretary of the Punjab Labour & Human Resource Department, the leaders of the Labour Alliance expressed their outright rejection of the draft code and demanded its immediate withdrawal. The alliance has also hinted at escalating their protest if their concerns are not addressed.

The Labour Alliance, representing various unions and workers across the province, has emphasized its commitment to social dialogue within a tripartite framework that includes the government, employers and workers' representatives.

They believe that any legislation, including the Punjab Labour Code 2024, must be developed with sector-by-sector consultation with workers' representative organisations as required under the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions.

Gujranwala police set up enclave to resolve women issues

Centre has only female staff to deal with women complaints

By Aail Chaudhry

LAHORE: The Gujranwala police have set up the Women's Enclave, the first-ever general reporting centre, for the women reporting help in lodging complaints with the other state-run institutions, including the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), in addition to the police-related matters.

A salient feature of the centre, situated in Sandline Tower, is that it is manned by the women police personnel and no male staff or visitor is

allowed to enter it or interact with the victims.

The Gujranwala police department has given a login facility to the three main relevant departments, namely FIA, Social Welfare Department and the Women Ombudsman Punjab, through a specially designed app to initiate complaints of the victim women and deal with them on a priority basis. Most importantly, the victim women would also be able to avail legal and other help in getting their dowry articles and the inherited properties back from their in-laws as the Women's Enclave has engaged leading women lawyers to provide them with legal assistance.

Speaking to Dawn, an official says the facility has been established in response to the rise in the number of



cases of violence against women while a majority of them avoid going to the male-dominated police stations where they are uncomfortable

to share sensitive issues like sexual assault and domestic violence, which they can share with women officers. According to some reports, every month 400 to 500 women visit police stations to file complaints, mostly pertaining to the domestic violence, sexual assault, workplace harassment and property and dowry disputes.

The official said Gujranwala City Police Officer (CPO) Rama Ayyaz Baksoom held meetings with the relevant departments, including FIA, the Social Welfare Department, Punjab Women Ombudsman and the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce, to address all the issues of women 'out of the police station'.

The centre is likely to be replicated in other districts of the province as the inspector general of police has declared it one of the best

facilities for women.

Quoting a report of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRC), the official said around 91% of women in the domestic work sector faced harassment while social media also contributed in multiplying the harassment cases where a large number of women were trapped by men through recording videos, misuse of pictures and blackmail.

The official said that the Women's Enclave has been equipped with trained female officers who would fight for the victims to provide them with legal protection. For this purpose, Gujranwala police collaborated with the cyber crime wing of the FIA and the enclave would process complaints to the authority and follow up the cases.

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Court summons Adiala boss in case of 'missing' jailer

Jail administration unaware of 'disappearance', Punjab govt official informs LHC

By Malik Asad

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi bench of the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday summoned the superintendent of Adiala jail, and directed the district police officer to file an affidavit in connection with a petition seeking the recovery of deputy superintendent of jail Muhammad Akram, who was missing from Adiala Jail Officers' Colony.

The petition alleged that Deputy Superintendent Muhammad Akram was picked up by the intelligence agency from his residence in the Officers' Colony. According to media reports, Akram was allegedly taken into custody by law enforcement agencies on charges of "facilitating PFI leader as a messenger".

While the officer was posted out from Adiala in June, he was still residing along with his family in Adiala Jail Officers' Colony.

Justice Muhammad Raza Qureshi of LHC's Rawalpindi bench last week took up the petition filed by Akram's wife Mumtaz Raza through her counsel Iqbal Masani.

The court after preliminary hearing issued notices to the relevant respondents. On behalf of the jail authority, Additional Advocate General Malik Anjad Ali Khan submitted the report claiming that the jail administration was unaware of DS Akram's disappearance since the Officers' Colony was not situated on the Adiala jail premises.

The report mentioned that Akram had

already been transferred from Adiala in June and the petitioner did not report the incident to the jail authorities.

Sachar Baroni Police SRO informed the court that the spouse of the 'missing' deputy superintendent did not lodge a 'Forma' complaint against the alleged abduction of her husband.

Advocate Masani adopted before the court that the petitioner's husband was forcibly taken away by personnel claiming to be from law enforcement agencies from Adiala Jail Officers' Colony on Aug 14, at 5am.

The petition stated unidentified masked personnel, who had arrived in a Wagon, informed the petitioner that they were "with the Department/Mahakma" and that she should send her husband outside.

The officer, Muhammad Akram, then approached the main gate to inform the officials that he would come with them after changing his clothes. But the armed men continued to ring the bell until he returned to the gate along with his two sons, one daughter and wife.

The children then witnessed the enforced disappearance, the court was informed.

The masked personnel dragged the officer in front of his family, despite his request that he be allowed to approach the jail superintendent first, the petition stated, adding that his elder son also recorded part of the abduction using his cellphone, but upon their intimidation he threw the phone which broke.

According to the petition, unidentified persons snatched Muhammad Akram's house again on the night of Aug 15 without showing a any warrants and confiscated the electronic devices. His whereabouts were unknown since his abduction, the petition pointed out while requesting the court to direct the authorities concerned to trace and produce him before the court.



RESCUERS carry bodies and the injured up a steep slope after a van carrying workers fell into a ravine off the Karakoram Highway at Ftor in Diamer, on Monday.—Courtesy Reuters 1122

Seven Bhasha Dam workers killed in road accident

By Our Correspondent

GHILGIT: Seven labourers working at the Diamer Bhasha Dam site were killed and another was seriously injured when their vehicle fell into a ravine near the Karakoram Highway in Diamer on Monday morning, according to local police.

The labourers were travelling to the construction site on a Mazda vehicle when it lost control and fell into the ravine near the Thor area of Gilgit-Baltistan's Diamer district.

Five workers died on the spot, while two of the three injured later succumbed to their injuries, the police said.

As soon as the accident was reported, GB Tourist Police, local police and GB Scouts started a joint rescue operation and retrieved the bodies and injured and shifted them to a government hospital in Chilas.

The condition of the one injured person was also said to be critical.

The deceased have been identified as Yasir, Ehtesham, Mehdiullah, Mujeebullah, and Najjar, who was an employee of the army's Frontier Works Organisation (FWO). Meanwhile, the injured has been identified as Shahid.

Five of them belong to Diamer, while two hail from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

On the orders of Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Gulzar Khan, the district administration imposed an emergency at the Chilas Hospital. The injured were given medical aid, and their bodies were sent to their native villages in government ambulances.

CM Khan has expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident and offered his condolences to the bereaved families.

Thousands of labourers, mostly locals, are working at the site of the Diamer Bhasha Dam, scheduled for completion in 2028. It will have an electricity generation capacity of 4,500 MW clean and store 5.1 MAF water.

Tarbela filled to full conservation capacity

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Tarbela Dam — the country's second largest reservoir — attained its full conservation capacity on Monday as total live storage crossed 11 million acre feet (MAF), just 15pc below 13.35MAF maximum capacity.

"Tarbela Dam reached its maximum conservation level of 1,550 feet above mean sea level today, resulting in 5,766 million acre feet useable water in the reservoir," Water and Power Development Authority announced.

Wapda said the filling of dam was a good sign for irrigated agriculture and generation of green, clean and affordable hydro electricity in the country.

On the other hand, Margla Dam, the largest water reservoir in the

country, stood about 30 feet short of its maximum storage.

Wapda reported its conservation level at about 1,214 feet. As of Monday, Margla Dam was filled to a maximum elevation of 1,342 feet.

As such, useable water at Tarbela stood at about 5.8MAF on Monday against its maximum storage of about 7.3MAF.

Since April 1, about 6.5MAF water has flowed into the Arabian Sea — more than total storage of Tarbela dam. Under the 1991 water apportionment accord, the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) — the water regulator and Wapda are required to ensure at least 8MAF flows downstream Kotri Barrage for environmental reasons.

The IRSA on Monday reported total river flows of 487,000 cusecs at rim

Rescuers race against time to save Russian climbers stuck on Gasherbrum IV

Five-man team was on mission to retrieve body of countryman, who perished during an expedition last year

By Jamil Nargi

GHILGIT: Army Aviation helicopters on Monday launched a mission to rescue two stranded Russian climbers on Gasherbrum IV (7,925m) who were on a mission to retrieve the body of their countryman, who had perished on the mountain a year ago.

Stige Deputy Commissioner Wafiqullah Pathan told Dawn that the helicopters dropped four local high-altitude mountaineers and one Russian climber at an altitude of 6,000 metres.

The team will attempt to bring down the climbers stranded at a height of 6,400m as helicopters can't land above 6,000m.

The two stranded climbers — Mikhail Mironov and Sergei Mironov — were part of a five-member team attempting to ascend the mountain when they were hit by a snow avalanche at 6,400m altitude on Saturday.

The two climbers got stranded after being injured. One of their partners, Sergei Nilon, went missing, while two others, Akhoy Bentini and Eugene Lashkov, remained unhurt and were later rescued by the army and airlifted to Skardu on Sunday.

So far, there is no information about Mr Nilon's location, according to Karar Haidari, the Alpine Club of Pakistan secretary. He added that the condition of the two injured climbers was "critical", with "little hope that they will survive beyond the next day".

The rescue team is expected to reach the stranded Russian climbers today (Tuesday) and bring them down to Camp 1, from where the Army Aviation helicopters will airlift them to Skardu.

Mr Bentini, one of the climbers

rescued on Sunday, told Dawn that four local climbers and one of their team members, Mr Lashkov, had been dropped at the mountain to save the stranded climbers.

He said he was in contact with his stranded colleagues through satellite communication, and their conditions were stable.

Mr Lashkov will guide the rescue team to locate their stranded colleagues, Mr Bentini added.

"The rescue team members are currently at 6,100m and will start climbing to reach the stranded climbers on Tuesday (today) morning."

The Army helicopters that tried to drop food items for the stranded climbers through a sling on Monday couldn't reach them and had to drop them at a distance.

The mission

Ghulam Muhammad, the team operator for the five climbers, said helicopters couldn't operate on Sunday after the first sortie —

during which two climbers were rescued — due to poor weather conditions at the mountain.

In a press release, Mr Haidari of the Alpine Club of Pakistan said the team of five Russian climbers set out on a mission to retrieve the body of their fellow climber, Dmitry Golovchenko, who went missing on the mountain in 2021.

Their expedition, "marked by determination and camaraderie", was meant to bring closure to a tragic loss.

The army helicopters would launch another rescue effort to locate the three missing climbers, including Mr Nilon, he said.

"The situation on Gasherbrum IV remains dire, with the outlook for the remaining team members growing increasingly bleak."

"This tragedy underscores the harsh and unpredictable dangers of high-altitude mountaineering, where even the best-prepared expeditions can face life-threatening challenges," Mr Haidari said in the press release.



TARBELA Dam is the country's second largest reservoir with a gross storage capacity of 13.35MAF.—F to photo

Imran applies for the post of Oxford chancellor from prison

If elected, the ex-PM will become first person of Asian descent to hold this position

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has applied to become the next chancellor of Britain's prestigious University of Oxford, his party said.

Khan, the prime minister from 2018 to 2022, has just marked one year in prison on various charges, from corruption to inciting violence, that he said are politically motivated and designed to keep him from power.

"Imran Khan had given instructions that

he would like to inform his application and now the application writing will take place," Sayed Zafar Khan, the London-based spokesman for PML, told AFP.

"It's a ceremonial post but one with utmost prestige and importance and Imran Khan, being one of the larger or more popular names coming out of Oxford, it would be brilliant to see him as chancellor," he said.

Conservative peer Chris Paton, the last British governor of Hong Kong, announced in February he was stepping down as Oxford chancellor.

The list of candidates for the 10-year term will not be made public until October, according to the university's website, with voting taking place at the end of the month.

Khan graduated from Oxford in 1995 after studying philosophy, politics, and economics. Khan was elected in 2021 and then launched a comeback campaign in which he criticised Pakistan's powerful military, whose leading generals had once backed him, and drew massive crowds onto the nation's streets.

"If he does become the chancellor, he would be the first of Asian descent. It wouldn't be something only for Pakistan, but it would be a great achievement for all of Asia and the rest of the world," Bakhtari said.

Other prominent applicants and Oxford alumni include former foreign secretary William Hague and former EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson, according to British media reports.—AFP

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Senate devolution body agrees to abolish industry, energy ministries

Senators recommend devolution of responsibility to provinces • Raise concerns over hiring of over 2,000 employees at 'closed' PSM, creation of 70 new companies by petroleum division • Power division official wants in-camera meeting to discuss implications of devolving ministry

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Functional Committee on Devolution at its meeting on Monday unanimously agreed to abolish the ministries of Industry and Production and Energy (petroleum division) and recommended to devolve their responsibilities to provinces.

The committee meeting, chaired by Senator Zarega Subarwally, says further recommendations on the distribution of responsibilities to provinces or the Council of Common Interests will be made subsequently.

During the briefing on the performance of the Ministry of Industry and Production over the last two financial years, the committee noted that the ministry had become a provincial subject. However, the additional secretary of the

ministry of industry and production suggested that the ministry of law and justice could provide a more informed opinion on this matter.

The chairperson questioned the rationale behind investing in Pakistan Steel Mills. She inquired why PSM was closed while private steel mills were operational and selling their products successfully and earning profits.

She also asked why 2,000 employees were hired if the PSM was closed, to which the ministry responded that laying off 50 per cent of the workforce required the approval of the labour court.

The issue of privatising the Pakistan Steel Mills was also discussed and it was noted that a Chinese company had withdrawn its interest in acquiring the Pakistan Steel Mills.

The chairperson expressed concern over the PSM's gas bill, which is Rs440 million.

She highlighted the disparity between the general public's gas shortages and the provision of gas to non-operational PSM. On this the officials concerned responded that the gas supply to the PSM had been discontinued.

Secretary of industry and production clarified that subsidies are provided to farmers and not to factories and industries.

The committee requested a report on the fertilizer factory's sales and exports, specifically the quantity of urea sold and exported by 10 major fertilizer companies.

The committee was informed that the non-development budget for the ministry of industry and production stands at Rs22 billion. Senator Zarega Taimur questioned the benefits to Pakistan and the allocation of Rs25 billion in urea subsidies.

The secretary explained that the subsidy is intended to address gas shortages, despite domestic consumers facing gas

shortages. The committee requested detailed information on the companies and individuals receiving subsidies.

The committee also reviewed the performance of petroleum division over the past two financial years. Senator Zarega Hussain Ghumro expressed concern about the creation of 70 new companies, stating this was beyond the government authority. The committee requested details of the boards of these companies.

Senator Ghumro said that if issues persist, the prime minister may be called to address them. He noted that the petroleum division is managed by the Council of Common Interests and that all institutions listed in Federal Legislative List 2 fall under its administration.

Concerns were also raised about the board of SNGPL. The chairperson asked about SNGPL's operations and earnings. Petroleum division officials

reported that a joint venture contract, which had expired, was renewed in 2021. They also mentioned that over \$550 million had been received by Pakistan, with over \$250 million paid to Chinese partners. The committee resolved to devolve the Ministry of Energy (petroleum division).

A representative from the power division requested an in-camera meeting to discuss details and implications of devolving the ministry.

Additionally, the committee observed that the secretary of inter-provincial coordination should brief on achievements in sports.

The chairperson criticised the lack of promotion and support for sports since Arshad Nadeem's victory, noting that only silver and financial rewards had been provided. The committee has requested a detailed report on measures taken to improve sports in the country.

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Other prominent applicants and Oxford alumni include former foreign secretary William Hague and former EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson, according to British media reports.—AFP

Committee formed to probe PTI's protest in Murree

By Mohammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: A three-member fact-finding committee has been formed after the chief minister Punjab expressed displeasure at a protest held against the government in Murree on Independence Day.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Hafiz Kamran Asghar, who is heading the committee, has called the first meeting on Tuesday (today) to ascertain whether it was a lapse on part of the local administration or the district police.

Headed by SSP Asghar and comprising Chief Traffic Officer Boenish Fatma and the DSP security, the committee will submit its report to the city police officer (CPO) Rawalpindi.

A departmental inquiry has been initiated and a show-cause notice issued to SHO Murree Ijaz Abbas Shah, who has been suspended by the CPO.

An FIR was registered against more than 50 people who took part in the protest. The protesters carrying PTI flags gathered at CPO Chowk in Murree at night on the Independence Day, shouting anti-government slogans. The police registered an FIR against them on the charges of damaging public property, attacking and preventing police from discharging their duty and pelting stones on police that left two police officials and the complainant injured.

Muhammad Sohail, a resident of Murree and an employee of the Civil Defence Department, lodged the FIR saying he was on duty at CPO Chowk when the protesters, including 11 identified, carrying PTI flags and batons appeared on the scene at about midnight.

He said the protesters were shouting slogans against the government and started pelting stones on a hotel. He said efforts were made to stop the violent mob but they also attacked the police, pelted them with stones and used batons.

The FIR said Zainal Abideen, who was inciting the protesters, attacked the complainant with a baton that left him injured. Another protester, Adoeb Abbasi, attacked police official Iftikhar with a baton. Moreover, another policeman Ahsan Masood was also injured by the protesters.

The complainant said his uniform was also torn by the protesters. Damage was also caused to the hotel building. Reinforcement of police forced the protesters to escape. However, no arrests have been made by the police so far.



MEMBERS of Human Rights Council of Pakistan light candles outside the National Press Club in Islamabad on Monday in memory of those women who lost their lives to abuse on the eve of World Humanitarian Day. — Photo by Mohammad Asghar

Senate body orders inquiry into 'Rs1.4bn fraud' by Nespak in FGEHA project

By Iqram Junaid

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas on Monday took up the issue of alleged malpractices worth of Rs1.4 billion by a Nespak consultant in the Park Road Housing Scheme of Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) and sought a report.

The meeting was chaired by Senator Shahzad Durrani and attended by Senators Saifullah Ales, Muhammad Aalam Ales, Hamid Khan, Aimal Wali Khan, Special Secretary for Power Division Anshad Majid Mulkani, Managing Director (MD) Nespak Mohammad Zargham Ehsaq Khan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sukkur Electric Supply Company (Nespak Suesco) Ahmed, CEO Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (Hesco) Raham Ali Otho and

other senior officials of relevant departments.

MD Nespak informed the meeting his organization had constituted a Fact-Finding Committee to probe the allegations, and as the next step, show-cause notices have been issued to three officers while four officers have been suspended until the inquiry is completed.

Senator Shahzad Durrani questioned whether the housing ministry had conducted any inquiry into the matter. DG FGEHA apprised the ministry had conducted an inquiry, and the Project Director was found guilty and subsequently terminated from service and his case was sent to Federal Investigating Agency (FIA).

The committee chairmansaid that one person could not orchestrate a plan involving a fraud of Rs1.4 billion on his own.

The committee directed the housing ministry to submit the report of the in-

house inquiry conducted by the ministry.

Nespak MD informed the meeting that Nespak was providing construction supervision services to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Civil and Works Department for 83 roads across 11 districts of KP, including seven districts of the erstwhile Fata. The length of these roads is around 872.65 km, with estimated cost of Rs25.7 billion.

The committee directed Nespak to provide complete details of the projects undertaken by it for reconstruction projects aimed at rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

They discussed the implementation of recommendations made in its previous meeting regarding details of actions taken against "corrupt" Quetta Electric Supply Company (Qesco) officials contributing in power theft in Balochistan over the past five years.

Senator Agha Shahzad Durrani highlighted that details provided by Qesco

indicated that officers had terminated the services of individuals on absurd grounds of personal bias. Surprisingly, in one case, an SDO had terminated the service of an individual for not showing interest in drive against power theft but in another case only minor penalty was imposed on an employee for misconduct and corruption.

Despite the removal of the so-called corrupt officers, power theft did not decrease at Qesco, he added. The chairman directed the power division to thoroughly examine the disciplinary actions taken by Qesco and submit a report within 30 days.

Moreover, the committee expressed displeasure over the provision of an unsatisfactory briefing from Nespak.

The committee directed Nespak and Hesco to provide a detailed briefing on the unannounced bookshooting and theft in the area, along with a plan to control theft, during next meeting.

Former husband held in journalist murder case

By Hamid Asghar

GUJAR KHAN: Solvers police have finally tracked down the alleged killer of a woman journalist from Pak Pattan, whose mutilated body was found lying in the hilly terrain of Tarrako on March 11.

On April 17, with the help of her fingerprints the body was identified as that of Tahira Nosheen, a journalist associated with a local Urdu newspaper.

According to the police investigators, the woman's former second husband had allegedly killed her with stones, gasolene and threw acid on her face to destroy her identity.

Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Babar Sarfraz Alga told Dawn that the Punjab police had traced it among the most urgent cases.

Sajid Gondal, Subdivisional Police Officer (SDPO) Sohawa, said Tawakkal Hussain, the ex-husband of the journalist, was summoned to cooperate in investigations but he evaded and later was declared a proclaimed offender. Mr Gondal said the suspect was tracked down while travelling near Tarrako area of Jhalam from Lahore.

According to the SDPO, during the interrogation, the suspect confessed to killing Nosheen while driving her in a car from Rawalpindi to Lahore.

The suspect told the police that while crossing the Cajar Khan city, he got his own and her mobile phones switched off and travelled on the GT Road up to the hilly terrain where he allegedly shot her dead with a pistol and threw acid on her face.

According to the police, the fingerprints of the deceased were taken before her burial. This led to her identity from the Nusra record.

SDPO Mohammad Imran of Sohawa told Dawn that during the investigations it also transpired that Nosheen had developed differences with her second husband as he was spying at her house and agricultural land in Pak Pattan that she had inherited from her deceased father.

He had been asking her to let him buy a house in Lahore after selling the property. She had also filed a case in the family court to get divorce from him.

The woman had lodged a complaint with the FIA cybercrime wing against the suspect for sharing her objectionable pictures with her acquaintances.

The suspect later convinced her that he would delete the pictures if she accompanied him to Lahore. However, on way to Lahore, he allegedly murdered her on the night of March 9, the SDPO said.

The SDPO said police had also recovered the weapon used in the murder.

The suspect was sent on judicial remand by a court on Monday.

Nutrition, immunisation programme launched in Pakistan

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) has announced the launch of a new \$7.2 million nutrition and immunisation programme in Pakistan.

This initiative aims to support one million mothers and children in the most marginalised areas across the four provinces.

The programme is being implemented in partnership with federal and provincial governments, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Power of Nutrition (TPoN).

According to a statement, Pakistan faces significant challenges in child health, including the third highest child mortality rate and ranking third globally for the most under-vaccinated children.

Nearly 1.2 million children have not received essential immunisations.

The hardest-to-reach populations, with the highest concentrations of undernourished, stunted, and wasted children, also have the largest numbers of "zero-dose" children—those who have not received any vaccine-

Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) services. The \$7.2 million programme aims to support seven districts where the need is particularly high including Diamer, Astor, Gilgit, Skardu, Balochistan, Uta, Mohmand, Thatta, and Nagwal.

The programme adopts an integrated approach to strengthen health systems to address existing gaps in routine immunisation and nutrition services and use social behaviour change communication to generate demand for immunisation and support districts and national governments in monitoring and reviewing data for evidence-based decision making and learning.

Chief Executive Officer, Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan, Akhtar Iqbal, said: "The strategic and innovative partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Power of Nutrition provides us a unique opportunity to contribute to SDGs by extending an integrated package of immunisation, health and nutrition interventions for children living in some of the most marginalised districts in Pakistan."

"Through a close partnership with the Federal and Provincial

Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) Directorate, and technical support of the Aga Khan Health Services and Aga Khan University, the programme will generate data, evidence and learning to fill gaps and discover what works in this under-resourced area."

Director, High Impact Countries, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Dr. Takanabe Oshii said: "With funding from the Aga Khan Foundation, The Power of Nutrition, and the PCDO Matching Fund, and in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, Gavi is pleased to be able to support this innovative programme, which responds to preferences expressed by parents to be reached with a package of interventions."

Director of Programmes and Investments, TPoN, Dr. Alik Ranjan said: "We're delighted to bring together partners Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and Aga Khan Foundation for this vital project in Pakistan."

The programme, funded by all partners and centrally managed by TPoN, will commence later in 2024 and run through 2027.

BEFORE SPECIAL JUDGE ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

Special Case No. 26/2024

THE STATE
Versus
BABU @ NIAZ ALI MALIK & OTHERS

Crime No. 01/2024
LH 263, 241, 235, 147, 148 PPC & 6/7 ATA
Police Station: Ghulam Sarwar Sarai

WHEREAS, the accused namely, **Muhammad Raheem S/o Dost Ali Malik, CNIC No. 43103-3014544-5, s/o Village Geo Malik, Taluka Tangwani** has shown as absconder in the above cited case.

AND WHEREAS non-bailable warrants were issued by this court for the arrest of above named accused, which were returned unexecuted with the report of police that the accused has absconded and is not traceable.

NOW, THEREFORE, Proclamation u/s 87 Cr.P.C read with Section 10(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 is issued with direction to the above named accused person to appear before this court at Subordinate Courts Building Kashmire at Kandhkot within seven days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded in his absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this 15th day of August, 2024.

SPECIAL JUDGE
Anti-Terrorism Court Kashmire
at Kandhkot

08P-KTY No. 263/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED (SEE SECTION 87 CR.PC)

ATC CASE NO. 16/2024

STATE
VS.
ABDUL RAHEEM & OTHERS)

Crime No. 26/2024
P.S. Ghulam Sarwar Sarai
LH 263, 241, 147, 148 PPC, 6/7 ATA

WHEREAS, a complaint has been made before me that the accused:

1. Iqbal Ali Sanjani S/o Arbab Ali Sanjani R/o Sheedi Goth Al-Mohaa Colony Gasmabad Hyderabad;
2. Talib Laghari S/o Aziz Muhammad Laghari R/o Bhatti Colony District Jamshoro;
3. Mst. Rubaisana Khanum @ Rubaisana Halophoto W/o Fateh Muhammad R/o Third Floor A-1 Complex Phase-I Sector-12 MTR Cantt, Karachi

have committed the offence under section 123-A, 147, 149 PPC & 6/7 ATA, in Crime No. 26/2024 of P.S. Cantt/mand. It has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that accused named above cannot be found; and whereas, it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused have absconded (or concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant.)

PROCLAMATION is hereby made that the above said accused residing of Districts Hyderabad, Jamshoro and MTR Cantt are required to appear before this Court at A-4, G.O.R. Colony Hyderabad to answer the said complaint within seven days from the date of publication.

Dated this day of 16th of August, 2024.

Judge
Anti-Terrorism Court-I
Hyderabad

08P-KTY No. 26/2024

High court revokes CDA's power to turn greenbelts into plots

Orders demolition of houses built on such land since 2021

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday set aside the regulations that empowered the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to create plots on the greenbelts.

IHC Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan while deciding the petition of a few residents of Sector G-21 held that the CDA's regulations were illegal and ordered the demolition of houses built on such plots since 2021.

The petitioners' counsel, Barrister Umar Gillani, contended before the court that in 2021, the CDA officials showed up in the idyllic neighbourhood and informed them that new plots would be carved out in the open space which lay adjacent to a stretch at the end of their street. He claimed that the creation of such plots was tantamount to "chispa-cutting".

The petitioners challenged this on the grounds that the layout plan of their area had already attained

finality back in the 1990s. They contended the plots destroyed the calm and visual relief and also deprived their children of space to play.

The counsel requested the court to cancel the plots for violation of the petitioners' right to life under Article 9 of the Constitution.

He contended such plots posed a life hazard to residents by exposing the area to flooding and referred to an incident in 2021. Similar allotment and construction close to nullah resulted in flooding in Sector G-11 in 2021, in which a woman and her child lost their lives.

In its defence, the CDA had placed reliance upon "Regulation of Amendment in Layout Plan 2019".

The regulations purport to give the CDA very wide powers to amend the layout plans of sectors in Islamabad.

The CDA contended that the new plots had been carved out in pursuance of the amendment of these regulations. Justice Khan, however, admonished the CDA for the illegal creation of plots after the layout plan was finalised.

The court held that if the CDA was allowed to carve out plots in developed areas, "there would remain no certainty for any owner of a plot in Islamabad with abating land to know for certain what new monstrosity may stand erected in front of his house after he has expended his time, money and energy in building a house with the layout then existent and on the basis of which he decided to purchase that specific plot".

The judgment noted, that "instead of developing the huge areas of land available to CDA as new sectors, [the] CDA is going around scraping the bottom of the barrel and scrambling for tiny spaces to create new plots in already developed sectors...".

Even though such carving out of plots did not change the residential character of the area, it did change the "character of the residence" of the petitioners, which could not be done after a layout plan was approved.

Going further, the court ordered a freeze under construction on the site to be raised and the debris to be cleared from the open space within 30 days of the judgement.

The abolition of the illegal plots, the judgement said, retained the right to seek any compensation they might be entitled to from the CDA through separate proceedings, including those of "act of breach of public duty", it added.

Balochistan DCs discuss efforts to curb polio

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: After almost a dozen cases of poliovirus in Balochistan since January, an emergency meeting was held in Quetta on Sunday, attended by the deputy commissioners of all 25 districts of the province.

The meeting was held to prepare a strategy for the fight against the polio virus, which has crippled 14 children in the country so far.

Balochistan remained an epicentre of the disease, with 11 cases reported from seven districts — Quetta, Turbat, Gwadar, Gwadar, Quetta, Quetta, Jhal Magsi, Zhob and Qila Saifullah.

The one-day workshop, held for the deputy commissioners, focused on the ongoing poliovirus challenges in the province.

The event was attended by the chief secretary, health secretary, Quetta Division commissioner, Expanded Programme on Immunisation coordinator, director general health, Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) national and provincial coordinators and representatives of partner organisations and donors.

Issues such as the quality of the vaccination campaigns, low immunisation coverage, and difficulties in reaching children due to other reasons were discussed at the event.

The participants were briefed on the seriousness of the polio threat, the current surveillance system, and the district-specific challenges faced during vaccination campaigns. The event provided insights into the polio programme and gave the officials essential knowledge about the challenges.

The EOC representatives assured full support to the deputy commissioners in conducting thorough vaccination campaigns, emphasising that such efforts were crucial for the eradication of polio.

The officials also highlighted that the success of the polio programme hinged on the quality of campaigns and the need to reach every child for vaccination.

They also stressed the importance of strong routine immunisation to build immunity in children.

The chief secretary urged the deputy commissioners to take charge of the campaigns and ensure their quality, emphasising the critical need to protect children and move closer to making the country polio-free.

He reminded the participants of the urgency of polio eradication efforts in light of the emergency situation in Balochistan, where polio cases and environmental samples indicate widespread virus presence.



KARACHI: A Super Blue Moon is visible in the sky over the metropolis, on Monday —Shakil Azeem / White Star

Customs assure Balochistan traders of facilitation

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: Collector of Customs Appraisement Yasin Murrass has said the government will not impose any restrictions on importers and exporters using legal channels for trade activities as it wants to boost the business in Balochistan.

Mr Murrass said this during a meeting with office-bearers and members of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) here on Monday.

He said the federal government wants to ensure smooth import and export of goods through legal trade channels and the government is committed to ensuring that legal

trade activities face no hindrance and are facilitated.

Earlier, the QCCI president, Hajj Abdullah Achakzai, Senior Vice President Haji Agha Gul Khilji, and others welcomed the Customs Appraisement collector and requested him to expedite the clearance process for light aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent vehicles.

They also requested him to take measures to prevent such vehicles from being stopped again in other provinces.

The Customs official said the Ministry of Petroleum has stopped the vehicles using light aliphatic hydrocarbon solvents due to absence of licenses and it has imposed fines of Rs100,000 on these vehicles.

He said that vehicles with our GD (goods declaration) will not be allowed and importers must pay GD taxes to take possession of their vehicles," he said.

The Customs official said the issue with solvent vehicles is related to licensing, while the issue with other vehicles pertains to payment of taxes.

"We aim to further enhance trade with Iran to achieve the trade targets set by authorities of both countries, which is \$10 billion," Mr Murrass said.

The QCCI representatives also demanded that taxes paid on the import and export of goods through land routes be reduced to boost up-trade activities and create more employment opportunities for the people in the province.

Langove urges youth to reject politics of violence

QUETTA: Balochistan Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs Mir Zaidullah Langove on Monday said the youth should reject the politics of violence, anarchy and hatred and lead in the development of the province in a democratic manner.

Mr Langove, who is also the central vice president of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), said talented youth were a valuable asset of the nation.

He was of the opinion that Balochistan's was lagging behind in the progress because of those few self-interested people who provoked the youth to pick up guns instead of encouraging them towards education, health and employment.

He said the top priority of the present government was to settle education, health and sports fields in the wider interest of the province.

The minister said that revolutionary steps taken in the education sector under the leadership of Balochistan CM Sarfaraz Buzdar were yielding positive results.

"Balochistan is a bouquet of different nations, we must embrace peace, love and brotherhood among ourselves," he emphasised, adding that it was just a matter of time when the youth would be running the country.

He said that enemies wanted to exploit the Pakistani youth for their selfish interests, which would be foiled by security forces with the support of the masses. —Staff Correspondent

PIA cuts fares to Madina, Jeddah

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines has reduced the fares of its flights from Karachi to Jeddah and Madina by 30 per cent, the national carrier announced on Monday.

A PIA spokesman said that after the discount, the one-way ticket from Karachi to Jeddah and Madina would cost Rs 55,000, including taxes, and the return ticket Rs 88,000.

The discounted tickets will be available till August 31, the spokesman said, adding that passengers would be able to travel to Madina and Jeddah on these tickets until Sept 30.

The discounted fares will be effective immediately. —Mohammad Asghar

SC bars IHC

Continued from Page 1

the IHC held that, prima facie, no state official was authorised to conduct surveillance on citizens, and anyone doing so or aiding such an endeavour would be liable for offences, causing irreparable harm to the liberty, dignity, and privacy of citizens. However, the high court observed that since it did not extend those directions in later hearings, there was no need to annul the May 25 directives.

During the hearing, Justice Amirul-Hussain Khan wondered whether the high court had ever determined the identity of those responsible for the audio leaks.

The AAC explained that the investigation was ongoing, but no conclusive decision had been reached yet. However, he argued that the high court had extended its jurisdiction by exercising suo motu powers, which it did not possess under Article 199 of the Constitution. Besides, the directions issued by the high court in its June 25 order were never requested by the petitioners in their original petitions.

Justice Nasim Akhtar Afghan wondered how the truth would ever come to light if neither parliament nor the courts were allowed to function, regretting that in this country no one seems to want to uncover the truth.

He recalled that an inquiry commission was established by the government to investigate the audio leaks, but the Supreme Court stopped it. Since then, the audio leaks case has never been revisited, and when parliament attempted to seek the truth, it was also halted, Justice Afghan lamented.

Justice Khan pondered whether the audio leak might have been orchestrated by the individuals involved in the leaks themselves, and questioned whether the investigation had ever explored this angle since most mobile phones are equipped with recording devices — a factor that should also be taken into consideration in the inquiry, the judge observed.

In its appeal, the federal government challenged the legality and justification of the IHC single bench's June 25 order, questioning whether the bench had exceeded its authority. The government argued that the single bench had erred by exercising suo motu powers beyond the pleadings of the parties, going beyond the scope of the original petitions.

Traveller hospitalised

Continued from Page 1

screening arrangements to ensure no suspected patient of mpox enters the country without being identified.

"Dr Makhtar also took briefing from the HHS staff and inspected arrangements made for screening of passengers at all entry points so that international health regulations are ensured," he said.

The first person who was found positive for mpox, came from a Gulf country and reached Karachi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Later, he went to a hospital for some other condition, but was diagnosed with mpox.

Sajid Shah said that mpox virus strain, in the first case of country from Madina, has been classified as Clade III. "Mpox virus is categorised into two primary clades Clade I and Clade II. The previous global outbreak from 2022 to 2023 was predominantly linked to Clade II, which is known to cause milder symptoms compared to Clade I. Currently, the ongoing outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is primarily associated with Clade II. As of now, there have been no reported cases of Clade I in the country," he said.

The WHO last week declared the recent outbreak of the disease a public health emergency of international concern after a new variant was identified.

The WHO last week issued the highest level of alert over the outbreak of the disease in Africa after cases in the DRC spread to nearby countries. There have been 27,000 cases and more than 1,500 deaths, mainly among children, in DRC since the current outbreak of the disease in January 2023.

Global health officials last week confirmed an infection with the new strain of mpox in Sweden and linked it to a growing number of cases in Africa, the first sign of its spread outside the continent.

Imran fears Faiz

Continued from Page 1

before the division bench. According to the petition, NAB in April 2020 in its 343rd meeting of the executive board recommended closing the inquiry into this case and the investigation officer during the cross-examination admitted certain facts with regard to the executive board meeting (EBM).

The petition stated that the former prime minister filed an application before the accountability court seeking the record, which was dismissed by the judge. It may be mentioned that the investigation officer of the said reference was the last prosecution witness.

The petition stated that "the investigation officer of the case appeared before the accountability court as PW [prosecution witness] 35 and during the cross-examination, he categorically admitted the holding of 343rd EBM, [and] closure of this case by the above EBM".

It said that NAB had the minutes of the said meeting which required to be produced before the trial court as vital evidence of defence. The petition requested the court to issue directions to NAB to produce the relevant record before the trial court and issue a stay order against

the proceedings.

After the hearing, former president Arif Aliev — who was present at the courtroom — told reporters that he would remain in Pakistan even if the government decided to charge him under Article 5 (high treason) for the dissolution of the National Assembly in April 2022.

Meanwhile, PML leader Hamza Azhar has urged the establishment to stop interfering in politics and instead accept the public decision and mandate. In a tweet on Monday, Mr Azhar stated the party founder was the most-liked leader in Pakistan and that any misadventure with Mr Khan would lead to a direct clash.

Faiz harmed PML-Marwat

Shah Ahsan Khan Marwat said that Faiz Hamza's "malpractice" had been blamed on the PML, adding the party did not benefit from him, rather he had caused more harm to the party than any good.

While talking on Geo News' TV show 'Aaj Shaheeh' Khawaja Kay Soob, Mr Marwat said, "Being a lawyer, I cannot approve of Gen Faiz's acts as spy chief such as victimising political opponents, harassing them, lodging cases against them."

Minister Malik in Lahore also contributed to this report.

Heavy rain, flooding claim five lives across country

Continued from Page 1

between Quetta and Ziarat for hours as sea swell drains flow in high floods. Hundreds of people travelling between the two cities were stranded at various places.

Rainfall coupled with strong winds and thunderstorms continued in Khasab, Awaran, Loralai, Pargana, Keoh, Gwadar, Kalat, Barkhan, Loralai, Kohlu, Sibi, Quetta, and other towns.

Continuing rain in Balochistan the Sindh streams to overflow and floodwaters entered Goth Noman and destroyed the cotton crop. A man, whose name could not be ascertained, was washed away by floodwaters.

The floodwaters also entered Goth Gader, submerging the girls' school and several homes.

An overflowing Kidi stream flooded various areas damaging agricultural lands and crops. The district administration

and levies officials distributed tents and other relief items to the affected people. In Manghijpur, the second monsoon spillover caused further devastation before the recovery from the previous spillover was even completed.

Two days of rains have led to breaches in the Gch branch at two locations and in the Manghijpur branch at one location, affecting hundreds of people.

In Qila Allahabad, a vehicle trapped in a flood surge in the Kola River was retained. A driver risked his life to rescue seven people from the vehicle.

Floodwaters from Afghanistan and northern Balochistan are moving towards Nudki and Chagai. With increasing flow of water, land connectivity has been severed.

Rivers in several areas have overflowed, creating breaches in branch canals and submerging several

villages and crops.

Landslide, damage in KP

In the karachi area of Dera Ismail Khan, water flow in the Indus River increased following rains with two primary schools and a RRU being swept away.

Assistant Commissioner Feroze Ishaq Akbar said that staff and machinery were deployed at the site for relief activities.

He said there was no more risk of flood as rainwater had passed through the Loralai area of Kullachi and water level in Indus had also started to decrease.

Five shops were destroyed and 25 others suffered damage when floodwater entered Jandaba Bazar in Loralai South Waziristan district.

Meanwhile, the Gomal Zam Road opened for traffic after remaining shut for two days. It was blocked as a slide had accumulated after a downpour triggered landslides on Saturday.

According to reports, two vehicles were damaged due to the landslide. A 16-year-old boy, identified as Haqir Khan Mehsud, died when wall of his mud house collapsed. Agricultural lands along the banks of seasonal drains were damaged due to which the local Bittari tribesmen suffered heavy losses.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department stated that the weather system is a result of monsoon currents from Arabian Sea penetrating the southern and eastern parts of the country.

In Punjab, rains caused severe flooding in Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajapur mountainous districts, leading to widespread devastation. The situation remains critical, particularly in the tribal areas.

Main in other parts of Punjab caused urban and rural flooding. A child was killed and three family members were seriously injured in the Gul Kahan area of Narowal due to roof collapse.

Sluice situation worsens

The situation in the riverine areas of Dado and Karachi both worsened following continuous rains. The low flood surge at Dado Meeo Bridge severed land connectivity with 50 villages in the Karachi area along the Indus River.

As the villages of Jhaloo, Muzdar and Amirpur were flooded, irrigation officials started parcelling along the US Larkana Suleman road and established watching points to monitor the water level.

Higher Education Commission
Pre-Qualification of Firms for Designing, Printing, Video Production & Travel Management

Proposals are invited from interested/eligible bidders based on established fees, registered with the Income Tax and Sales Tax Department, for Designing, Printing, Video Production & Travel Management tasks of Higher Education Commission (HEC) projects being executed by the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

Pre-qualification Document, containing detailed requirements, terms and conditions is available at HEC website (www.hec.gov.pk) and PPIRA website (www.ppiira.org.pk). Interested firms may download pre-qualification document from these websites and deposit Rs. 1000/- (non-refundable) as pre-qualification document fee in HEC Account No. (1127900133001) at Habib Bank Limited, SBC Branch, Sector H-II, Islamabad.

The proposals, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the pre-qualification document, must reach the office of the undersigned by 1330 hrs on September 16, 2024. Proposals will be opened on the same day at 1400 hrs. HEC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals under PPIRA rules.

Salim Hussain
Public Manager (PPIRA)
HEC Building, Sector H-II, Islamabad
Sector H-II, Islamabad, Ph: 41-4440205, Email: salimhussain@hec.gov.pk

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS PAKISTAN

TENDER NOTICE

FOR THE REQUIREMENT OF COPIER MACHINES AT CPSP RC LAHORE

Quotations are invited from reputable companies for the requirement of Photocopier Machines for CPSP RC Lahore. Interested parties may please obtain Tender documents at a cost of Rs. 1000/- (non-refundable) from Purchase Department CPSP Karachi, Phone No. 021-99266400-10 (Ext 237-238) and Operations Department, CPSP Lahore, Phone No. 042-99231220-8.

Two separate sealed quotations (Technical & Financial) should reach the Secretary CPSP, 7th Central Street Phase-II, D.H.A. Karachi, and Operations Department CPSP Regional Centre, Next to INMOS Hospital, Block-D, New Muslim Town by 09th September, 2024 (at 10:30 AM). Tender will be opened on the same day at 11:00 AM in the presence of bidders.

The management of CPSP reserves the right to accept or reject any/all bids prior to its acceptance as per Law.

TENDER NOTICE

Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) invites bids through PPIRA e-Pat Acquisition & Disposal System (EPADS) to hire the services of an experienced and well-regarded firm registered with taxation and other relevant authorities for managing writing/stubs tests of approximately 34300 applicants across Pakistan for recruitment against various posts.

2. The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP), which would be the integral part of this Tender may be obtained from the undersigned during office hours or can be downloaded from www.savings.gov.pk or www.ppiira.org.pk.

3. The Tender shall be opened under Rule-26(b) of Public Procurement Rules, 2004. Bidders are required to submit their bids through PPIRA EPADS (www.epiira.org.pk). However, the bid security in original amounting to Rs. 300,000/- in shape of Pay Order / Demand Draft / CDR / Cashier Cheque only, issued from any bank operating in Pakistan in favour of Director General, CDNS, Islamabad must be delivered on below mentioned address before bid submission date & time. Bid must be submitted on or before **04.09.2024 upto 11:00 a.m.** Bids will be opened on the same day at **11:30 a.m.** at Conference Room of Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS), 23-N, Savings House, Civic Centre, G-5 Market, Islamabad in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who wish to attend the proceedings.

4. The CDNS reserves the right to reject any/all or part of bids prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal, for which reason (s) may be conveyed if desired in writing as per PPIRA Rule-2004.

5. For any query related to this tender notice, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

PD 05 No.1196/24

Islah Ali
National Savings Officer (P&L)
Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS),
23-N, Savings House, G-5 Market, Islamabad.
051-9215744

TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited for the following:

Tender No.	Description	Closing Date/Time
PCOCMM/PT/28705/24	Spares for nitrogen generation package, stop pump and air compressor	05 Sep, 2024 15:00 hrs.
PCOCMM/PT/28705/24	Supply of module membrane for nitrogen generation package	05 Sep, 2024 15:00 hrs.
PCOCMM/PT/28704/24	Spares for tanks, PATO cranes & Loco-tilt cranes etc	09 Sep, 2024 15:00 hrs.
PCOCMM/PT/28703/24	Supply of pipes & fittings on F.O.R basis	09 Sep, 2024 15:00 hrs.
PCOCMM/PT/28702/24	Supply of repair kit, regulators, proxy services, etc	09 Sep, 2024 15:00 hrs.
PCOCMM/PT/28712/24	Supply of miscellaneous field instruments and pressure transmitters etc	09 Sep, 2024 15:00 hrs.
PCOCMM/PT/28713/24	Spares for M/V' switchgear panel, level RTD transmitter controller & field instrument items	09 Sep, 2024 15:00 hrs.
PCOCMM/PT/28714/24	Supply of miscellaneous field instruments (transmitter, pressure gauges, level switches, H&I display etc.)	09 Sep, 2024 15:00 hrs.

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

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

Commitment to Communities

Pakistan Petroleum Limited

Digital doublespeak

THE state minister for IT continues to waffle. On Sunday, Shaza Fatima Khawaja was back on TV screens, categorically denying her government's responsibility for the anemic internet speeds being experienced by millions of users across the country. The frequent, unannounced degradations in internet connectivity, widely suspected to be a consequence of the opaque firewall technology being secretly implemented by the state, was, in fact, due to more people using VPNs to access the internet, the minister claimed. "I can say under oath that the government neither shut down nor slowed down the internet," Ms Khawaja insisted. Claiming that the issue has now been resolved, the minister then said a meeting had been set up with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority this week to "ensure that users in the country do not face similar problems again". But if the issue was simply more people using VPNs, why was there a need to get the PTA involved?

It is precisely because of this opacity around the new system that is being rolled out that the masses have remained deeply suspicious of the government's words and actions. Despite the significant disruptions that have already been caused, there is still very little that is known about what exactly the authorities are hoping to achieve, what the timeline for its rollout will be, and what ordinary users can expect once the new "web management" system has been implemented in full. Consider X, which has remained inaccessible in Pakistan for the better part of this year despite no good reason being provided by the authorities. In fact, the government itself does not seem to believe in the ban on X, as everyone from the prime minister to state ministries has apparently been using VPNs to continue to access and post on the platform. When the state itself has double standards about these restrictions, how does it expect the people to respect them?

This is the main reason why VPNs have suddenly become so mainstream. Once the purview of those attempting to bypass censorship or access morally repugnant services, they are now being adopted by ordinary users as well. Now, even those who simply want to share a multimedia message on WhatsApp or would like to find out what the world is talking about on popular social media platforms must use a VPN to tunnel through to the global internet. Therefore, while the government may blame VPNs for slowing down the internet, it should acknowledge that its own policies have pushed people down this path. The people deserve more than clueless representatives gaslighting them for suffering poor internet connectivity. At the very least, there needs to be much greater transparency about what is being done to the internet, especially since it is being done without the public's input.

Monsoon havoc

SEVERAL parts of the country are currently in the grip of monsoon-related havoc, as heavy rainfall and swollen rivers are leading to loss of life and urban and flash flooding. In Gilgit-Baltistan, the arterial Karakoram Highway has been blocked at several points as melting glaciers — attributed to high temperatures — have caused the mountainous region's water bodies to overflow. Houses have been damaged in the process and crops washed away. In Balochistan, heavy rainfall has reportedly left hundreds of people without shelter, while flash floods have swept away roads and bridges. The situation in upper Sindh is also of concern, with Sukkur and Larkana affected by torrential downpours. Over the past few weeks, parts of KP and Punjab have gone through similar rain-related problems, while Karachi, after receiving just light to moderate showers, has seen its road infrastructure degrade further and its sewerage system come close to collapse.

These extreme weather events depict the vast geographical reach of climatic incidents in Pakistan — from the mountainous north to the plains of the south. True, extreme weather has been a part of nature's cycle for millennia. But human activity — particularly manifested in anthropogenic climate change and unplanned growth — has worsened matters, which may get even blunter unless there is greater focus on making infrastructure and settlements climate-resilient. Both flash flooding in rural and remote areas and urban flooding need to be addressed as per international best practices. While stopping the raging torrents may not be possible, mitigating their destructive impact certainly is. The north is particularly prone to Glacial Lake Outburst Floods, and as the earth continues to warm, it is feared that these extreme events will become more frequent. Efforts by global agencies have been made to address this challenge and these and local projects must continue and adapt to changing circumstances so that vulnerable communities are saved from the worst of the disasters. Early warning and evacuation systems are of particular importance. In urban areas, haphazard growth has resulted in encroachment on storm-water drains, while an inefficient solid waste disposal system has clogged key urban outlets that drain rainwater. Making our cities more resilient to urban flooding will take time, but the effort must start immediately so that a few millimetres of rain do not paralyse urban centres like Karachi and Lahore.

Polio continues

IT is impossible for anyone to imagine the excruciating ordeal of polio survivors. A study on the traumatic experiences of polio patients during the acute stage of the disease in Finland in the 1950s and 1960s was aptly titled *Shattered Childhood*. While the rest of the world has conquered the disease through years of strenuous immunisation drives, Pakistan — along with war-torn Afghanistan where the situation is improving now — remains an active breeding ground for the poliovirus. So far this year, 14 confirmed cases — 11 in Balochistan — have been reported besides a large number of positive environmental samples. The reasons are common to both the countries: religious and cultural misconceptions, rampant illiteracy, political unrest, poor law-and-order conditions, and, above all, the government's failure to establish its writ. The situation is such that many health experts have warned of a major outbreak of polio that will be difficult to control if effective action is not taken soon.

Against this background, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah's resolve to enforce the state's writ and strictly deal with cases of vaccine refusal by parents does not come as a surprise. The ongoing 10-day polio immunisation campaign in Karachi saw 27pc refusals in 40 of the 85 high-risk union councils covered on the first day of the drive — with many parents nervous about the relatively new strategy of administering the vaccine through "needle-free jet injectors". Sindh has already reported two polio cases this year, one of them from Koswari where more than 70 environmental samples tested positive this year. No doubt, all provincial governments need to take firm action to ensure that the state's writ prevails and resistance levels drop among parents. However, with the help of community leaders, they also need to take the public on board, explain new inoculation procedures and dispel the narratives and myths propagated by regressive elements to clear the doubts regarding the campaign. We cannot afford to slacken.

OPINION

BY ARIFA NOOR



Galileo and the Pope

The real change is the technology and the young, dynamic individuals using it.

WHEN the news first came of Ann Ali Khosa having been picked up, the name didn't strike a bell. Then his picture began to be shared on social media, and it turned out the face was very familiar. Many of his videos had made their way to my phone screen through myriad ways. Chances are that for more people recognise him than they realise. His satirical videos, which highlight political and social issues, do the rounds quite widely.

He is funny, irreverent and, yes, he has a political bias. But his content is far from boring or forgettable.

Recently, someone even compared his work to PTV's *Samay* show (50:50 that we grew up with). But that show, brilliant and funny as it was, was produced by a team which was backed by an institution — from a time when Pakistan boasted more than one institution and PTV was called one too. Khosa appears to be a cream content creator.

And perhaps that is why he had irked someone, somewhere.

As a journalist who has been slogging at it for decades, the talent and creativity of those who are using social media never ceases to amaze me. Ann Ali Khosa is one of them. There is also other work — for instance, a video by the digital media platform, *Bayaar*, where a young man, to illustrate the size of indirect taxation, spends Rs1,000 on charging his phone, filling up his bike, and so on, to show how much of what people spend ends up with the government. The two-minute video made its point far more effectively than entire newspapers and hours of talk shows.

Then there were the light interviews of politicians by *The Current*, another digital website, started by two young women journalists and podcasters on Pakistan Experience. A young man who doesn't seem to have any journalistic experience has perhaps done hundreds of excellent interviews that any working hack would be proud of having in their portfolio.

In contrast to these young creators, the mainstream media in Pakistan has spread its tentacles to nearly every new platform on

social media, without actually creating any new, path-breaking content. The same stories, the same conversations and the same formats — the only difference is that multiple platforms are being used to spread it. But the real change is the technology itself and the young, dynamic individuals who are using it in new ways.

The word in vogue for it is "disruption". It is not just being caused by these technologists but also the people using it. People such as Khosa, or Pakistan Experience's Shahzad Ghani. In politics too, the change is evident, be it the PFI's social media team or how the young Baloch use it to mobilise and reach out. Even human rights activism has changed; the way Insaan Haaqir uses her X account to reach out or highlight issues runs parallel to her court appearances.

Disruption or rather the way in which it is caused is new but perhaps one can just call it change. And change is never easy for those in charge.

The natural reaction is to try and stop it. This is perhaps the simplest explanation for many of the recent arrests and disapprovements. What else can those scared of change do? It is like asking why the Pope imprisoned Galileo.

Because social media cannot be put in a cell, the other choice is to curtail it. It is noisy, uncontrollable and irreverent so it has to be controlled, even shut down. But the problem is that by the time the change is large enough to cause discomfort to those in charge, it is perhaps too late to stop it altogether.

In a way, it is similar to the government's recent reaction to solar power installation. Struggling with capacity payments, circular debt and skyrocketing electricity prices, it considered the option of discouraging solar installation. But it couldn't because the disruption had created an ecosystem of its own, forcing the government to back down.

A similar pushback is in process since the rumoured installation of a firewall has slowed down the internet and disrupted platforms

because too many livelihoods depend on it; the young freelancers, local industries such as delivery platforms that use young riders and even perhaps the young women who use Skype or other platforms to teach from the comfort of their homes and earn a living.

It is the pushback which has forced the government to defend its decision — that everyone knows is being made elsewhere — offering explanations after explanations. First had come the denial that the government had not issued a ban on X; then the famous statement from the information minister, Aris Tarar, who said the only wall he knew of was the Great Wall of China while his counterpart in Punjab, Arma Bokhari, mentioned a 'fibre' wall being installed.

But even the internet disruptions became too big to pass unnoticed, the denials were replaced by vague explanations. Last week, the IT minister for state, Shaza Fatima, mentioned the web management system was being upgraded (which some media outlets took to be an acknowledgement of some problem or intervention which caused the internet slowdown) and on Sunday she held a press conference to blame the use of VPNs for the slowing down of the internet, without explaining why VPNs were being used.

But how long will vague statements suffice when an entire industry, from big firms to individuals doing deliveries to earn a small income, continue to suffer. Sooner rather than later, the government and the establishment will have to decide if it is going to tolerate criticism directed its way or let a large part of the economy crash and burn, as they find solutions to imagined problems.

However, if the right decision is made, the only option to deal with the likes of Khosa (who is said to have returned while this piece was being written) will be disapprovements, arrests, threats. Still, the change or disruption will not stop. These young people are here to stay — the present and future of this country. ■

The writer is a journalist.

BY JAWED NAQVI



Little a judge can do about rape

A 11-YEAR-OLD doctor was raped and murdered in a most gruesome way when she was on her night duty at a Kolkata hospital on Aug 9. She spoke to her parents shortly before midnight, and a key question being asked is why she was not picked or called for duty between 11am and 10am when her bloodied body was found on the floor of the hospital's seminar room. Doctors around the country have staged protests at the crime. The media have given saturated coverage to the incident.

The Calcutta High Court has ticked off the state police and handed the case over to the federal investigating agency, the CBI. The chief justice of India has taken no more notice of the crime and is expected to pass his observations or an order in the matter.

The catch here is that the CBI works directly under Home Minister Amit Shah. Having been used to banish political rivals and intellectual dissenters in recent years, it has lost credibility as a neutral agency. The state governor, who represents the president of India, and thus follows the orders of the government of the day, has been accusing the opposition-run government of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, of assorted acts of commission and omission in the crime. BJP governments have been accused by several opposition-run state governments of acting as adjuncts of the party.

A truer problem for Ms Banerjee, however, is that she holds the health portfolio and that of law and order of West Bengal. Therefore, when she took out her own rally fervently demanding the crime that took place under her watch, it didn't wash. A most gruesome crime has been effectively turned into a political shaggy. The BJP by force of habit is giving its chance to destabilise a chief minister who in no small way contributed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent parliamentary polls. The communists who had a glorious run of governing the state for a second four decades seem clueless about how to get into the frame and have joined the campaign against Ms Banerjee perhaps unthinkingly that it benefits the BJP, not them.

One suspect has been arrested and reports

speak of the likelihood of a gang rape having occurred. The father of the victim says he expects the culprits to be given the severest punishment. This is where the mother of the victim of the 2012 rape horror steps in.

Asha Devi's 22-year-old physiotherapist daughter, commonly identified in the media as Nirbhaya, or 'fearless', was gang-raped on Dec 16, 2012, in a bus as it drove through busy streets of Delhi. Its six drunken occupants, including the driver, took turns to assault her. Giving her up for dead they threw the naked still breathing by a police patrol and was sent to a Singapore hospital with indescribable injuries. But she couldn't be saved. Four men were

Rape in India is pervasive, and not unexpectedly, the victims are mostly from the lower strata of society.

hanged and one committed suicide. The most vicious of the lot was a minor. He was freed in 2015 from a delinquent's home.

Nirbhaya's mother, Asha Devi was asked to comment on the Kolkata rape. She bluntly said nothing had really changed even after her daughter's killers were hanged. What then can a judge do about the scourge so deep-rooted and so widespread?

Rape in India is pervasive, and not unexpectedly, the victims are mostly from the lower strata of society. What rarely interests the mostly upper-crust media is the widespread prevalence of the sickness beyond their field of vision. According to the National Crime Records Bureau's data of 2022, there was a 45 per cent increase in reported rapes of Delhi women between 2015 and 2020. Reported rapes, mind you. The data said 10 rapes of Delhi women and girls were reported every day in India, an aver-

age. Where the Kolkata horror was unfolding assaults were taking place elsewhere, but would likely remain unreported.

According to the *National Family Health Survey 2015-2016*, sexual violence rates were highest among women from Scheduled Tribes (Adivasi or indigenous Indians) at 7.8pc, followed by Scheduled Castes (Dalits) at 7.3pc, and Other Backward Classes at 5.4pc. For comparison's sake, the rate was 4.5pc for women who were not marginalised by caste or tribe.

If the judges have to intervene, they need to look within the judiciary. The highest judiciary could stop the business of giving parole to convicted rapists, for example, those close to the rulers. But what could any well-meaning judge do when a former chief justice of India, heading a three-judge bench, asks a 23-year-old man accused of raping a girl whether he would marry her? "If you want to marry [her] we can help you. If not, you lose your job and go to jail," he said.

According to a letter from 5,000 outraged women activists to Justice Sharad Arsbale, the man "is accused of walking, tying up, gagging, repeatedly raping a minor school-going girl, and threatening to drown her in pond and set her alight, to hurl acid at her, and to have her brother killed...The rape came to light when the minor school-going victim attempted suicide".

There is something else the judges can do. They can curtail the *Baluchighi* convicted rapists with political clout get. Two godmen were given gardens in the wake of the Kolkata horror. And the supreme court has done so in the past. Bilkis Bano's rapists were sent back to jail after a court order for their release. And what can the judges do about culturally supported crimes against women? A Dalit woman was retrieved from her rapists by her husband who then asked her to prove her purity by picking up a coin from boiling water. India needs a social upheaval, not grotesque laws to protect its women from an intractable evil. ■

The writer is Dawn's correspondent in Delhi. jawednaqvi@gmail.com

OPINION



BY NIAZ MURTAZA

Street protests

THE amusing ease with which street protests in Bangladesh and earlier Sri Lanka toppled hated regimes has led many Pakistanis to wonder as to why we can't do the same. But we were perhaps the first regional state to do so twice — angry protests in 1969, led by most interests in the very cities that gained most from the elite progress, toppled Ayub Khan's regime and in 1977 Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's. Protests weakened Zia-ul-Haq and Pervez Musharraf to cause their fall later.

The Carnegie Global Protest Tracker lists over 700 street protests in 147 states since 2017. Street protests now rival armed struggles as the main way of opposing and toppling regimes. These global and our own events raise the issue of what street protests achieve. Nearly two-thirds of the 700-plus protests led to no policy or regime change; about half lasted a week or less and attracted less than 10,000 people. Those that led to some policy changes were usually spearheaded by organised entities with a clear agenda. Spontaneous protests led by unorganised groups flared out, without lasting change.

Less than 10 toppled regimes — and the media labels them as revolutions. But the iconic revolutions in Russia, France and China had these outcomes: people's power (armed or street) toppled long-ruling, autocratic regimes; more crucially there was a change in the political or economic ideological system from an elitist to a pro-masses one, for example, from capitalism to communism or monarchy to one-party rule; democracy, the old order of the army underpinning autocracy too collapsed.

However, even those street protests that topple regimes usually don't lead to the other two outcomes. Iran's revolution didn't lead to a pro-masses system. Some states, such as those that witnessed the Arab Spring, fell into chaos (Libya and Yemen) while Egypt soon returned to autocracy. Thus, street protests can at best topple autocrats but don't ensure good governance. That only emerges if those leading the protests can convert themselves into sustainable social or political movements with strong egalitarian agendas and management capacities. Revolutions or protests may act as the sledgehammer that breaks the mighty rock of autocracy. But to craft the rock pieces into refined good governance structures, societies need the chisels of social movements.

This will also be the challenge for students in Bangladesh, which had sustained economic stability and growth but not equity under Hasina Wajed. Do they have a clear agenda to do better than her? It is instructive to note that they initially started with the single-point agenda of job

quotas, which Hasina had scrapped but the court reinstated. So, in starting to protest, they sadly had little focus on her autocratic actions, including rigging in polls and a crackdown on the media and opposition. Gradually, they expanded their agenda but their future vision is still unclear.

So, while Hasina met her rightful end, the country faces future risks. The Awami League was the centre-left grassroots party, which became autocratic over time while Khushda Zia's party is a right-wing entity with a grassroots presence and was created by an army general. With the Awami League in disarray, more right-wing politics could surge, unless the students quickly provide a liberal alternative, which is a tough ask.

Why do street protests no longer emerge to topple our inept regimes even though they are worse than the Bangladeshis and Sri Lankans ones? There are many reasons. The earlier toppling of multiple autocrats via protests didn't deliver able rule. No, there is fatigue and dejection. Also, the state crushes progressive social movements and encourages reactionary ideas and groups that divert focus from egalitarian ideas. Finally, there is the vested and enervating nature of our

The state crushes progressive social movements

autocracy which doesn't let anger build against one regime or face. Our civilians last four to five years, even the real establishment autocrats retire after three to six years at the top. This allows them to pin blame on past villains. So, the case against retired Lt Gen Pate Hameed is being depicted as a one-off, while the reality is that he had the backing of top individuals.

Such autocracy is the root cause of our key problems. But one-off street protests will not help demolish such shadowy, shifting autocracy. We need strong and sustained social movements that use protests as just one tool. The rise of the Baloch Yekjefti Committee under the brave lead of Mahabang Baloch in progress in this regard as it has emerged from and addresses the survival issues of most marginalised groups. Similar grassroots groups in other regions coordinating with each other are our best hope for egalitarian rule. ■

The writer is a political economist with a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. muhammadniaz@yahoo.com
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BY TOUQIR HUSSAIN

The Taliban concern

REGARDLESS of who has ruled Afghanistan, it has always been a problem neighbour. The Pakistani establishment may have thought the problem would be solved with the Afghan Taliban's return to power but it has worsened. Afghanistan has become both a critical foreign policy challenge and a serious domestic policy concern.

There are many issues between the Taliban's Afghanistan and Pakistan but the main point of contention is Kabul's harbouring of the TTP, whose acts of terrorism against Chinese nationals and projects are hurting Pakistan's most important relationship. Their alleged nexus with Baluch insurgents and extremist groups in former Fata threaten Pakistan's internal security and its already fragile development prospects.

Diplomacy, economic pressure, military action, and threats of isolation have not moved the Taliban to act against the TTP. Their advice to Pakistan to talk to the TTP is an attempt to deflect pressure from themselves. They know from their own experience that such groups do not believe in talks, unless held on their terms.

There are complex reasons for their lack of action. There are ideological links between the Taliban and TTP as well as historical reasons. Even during the Raj, Afghanistan offered protection to any Baluch fleeing Pakistan-majority areas in the subcontinent.

The Taliban lack both the political will and capacity to act against the TTP. They are worried about domestic threats and finances within their own ranks. The TTP reportedly enjoy strategic affinity with the Islamic State-Khorasan and could merge with it if threatened by the Taliban, taking disaffected Taliban members with them.

The Taliban may even benefit from the TTP's presence in Afghanistan. They from them and other militant groups operating from Afghanistan as a shield to meet potential external aggression and obtain concessions — recognition, commercial ties, etc — from regional countries. The groups to be Taliban's leverage against Pakistan and Washington.

Did our security establishment miss something? They failed to see how much Afghanistan, and indeed Pakistan, changed — following the overthrow of the monarchy in 1973 — because of the Soviet invasion, America's two Afghan wars and the war on terrorism, and Pakistan's strategic ambitions. And how Pakistan's jihadist currents mingled with the militant groups and transnational terrorist networks produced by these wars and the global Islamist revival. All this led to the creation of the Taliban who, in time, became the flagship of the extremist network in the region.

As an insurgent group, the Taliban's dependency on Pakistan gave Islamabad

false hope that they would remain compliant even as a government. It may have worked the first time but Pakistan incurred reputational and diplomatic damage for questionable benefits. Much has changed since.

The Afghanistan of 2021 was not the same as the Taliban first came to power. The Taliban have greater internal challenges now and more international acceptance, and thus different priorities. Not is it the same Pakistan, which is struggling on multiple fronts. This has necessitated a different approach by the Taliban towards Pakistan and the region. Thanks to their shrewd diplomacy, countries, including India and Iran who opposed the Taliban the first time, have been anxious to connect with them this time. The Taliban have been successfully cultivating a network of allies including China.

The Taliban won't act against the TTP. Pakistan itself will have to do it. Kinetic measures are necessary but not enough. They should be an adjunct to political

There are complex reasons for the Taliban's lack of action against TTP

action that must be taken to address the grievances of disaffected groups among the Baluch and Baloch communities. The TTP needs to be politically isolated from these communities, which can only be done by addressing

their grievances via increased socioeconomic opportunities, reduced political marginalisation, and better governance.

Pakistan's body politic has been hollowed out by decades of authoritarian rule and deformed democracy, leading to a weakened institutional architecture. With institutions crumbling, the rule of law and social stability have been degraded and are preyed upon by extremist forces. But the state is lacking in political will, moral authority, and effective instruments of law and order, resulting in the strengthening of the extremist infrastructure.

A weakened Pakistan will enhance the Taliban's leverage by exposing the country to instability and extremist influences. Pakistan's struggle with the Taliban's Afghanistan must begin at home. Pakistan has been fighting terrorism but not the groups or extremist societal attitudes that inspire it. That must change. ■

The writer, a former ambassador, is adjunct professor Georgetown University and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, National University of Singapore.

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

US envoy shot

NICOSIA U.S. Ambassador Roger Davies was shot during an anti-American demonstration at the Embassy here today (Aug 19), the American Consul said. Other Embassy officials said a Cypriot woman working in the Embassy was also killed, and two more employees were wounded, when Greek-Cypriot demonstrators stormed the seven-story building in a burst of gunfire, smoke and teargas.

Hundreds of Greek-Cypriots — some armed with machine guns and grenades — stormed the Embassy in an angry protest against what they alleged [was] the American "betrayal" to prevent the Turkish intervention in Cyprus. A U.K. Embassy official said that Mr Davies was standing in a hallway beside a Greek-Cypriot woman employee when the firing started. The official added that Mr Davies was hit in the chest. — News agencies

[Meanwhile, as reported by news agencies,] Prof. Ghulam Ahmad, Secretary-General of the UDF, has said the Opposition was satisfied with the work done so far by the Special Committee of the National Assembly with regard to the Qadiani issue. ... [He] said the UDF Action Committee will meet in Lahore in the first week of September to finalise its recommendations on the Qadiani issue.

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

'Secular' regime praised

LONDON The London Times gives a certificate of merit to the Indian Union in its "Imperial and Foreign" column under the heading "Secular regime in Hyderabad". Its correspondent from Hyderabad in a dispatch, which is far from objective and is full of party-partisan and inspired, generally and truthfully observed: "On the whole of the Military Government, not as complicated as some others, was to reduce the dominating position in every walk of life of the Muslim minority. Knowing full well that a military tribunal will soon be trying Kazi Nazim, leader of the Razakars, who has been refused legal aid by the Times-certified secular regime, the correspondent charges the Razakars for excesses. Reminding the Hindus and their British friends of the good old days of Muslim administration, the correspondent comments: "In addition they are benefited [by] the excesses of the Razakars or Muslim volunteers who rode [roughshod] over the rights of the Hindus."

It is significant that the Times correspondent has not so far reported [and] the Indian refused to allow Mr Roberts, who has gone from here recently, to stand counsel for Razvi. — Dawn London Office

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.

The factors behind capacity payments



THIS is with reference to the article "Paying the price" (Aug 8), which I think was a practical demonstration of the saying that statistics can prove anything. However, I strongly feel that, like in most situations, the falling rupee value alone is not the key element behind the country's power crisis; there are a quite few factors at play here.

Even assuming that the falling rupee value is the major cause, the real trigger was the 'payment in dollar' condition incorporated in the contracts with independent power producers (IPPs). With the rupee value of dollar rising from Rs5 in the 1960s to Rs140-160 in 2019, further rise to the present levels, especially in view of country's precarious financial position and its resultant effect on rupee value ought to have been foreseen and guarded against through balanced drafting of contracts with the IPPs instead of making contracts simply 'supplier-friendly'.

With plentiful scope for clean, green and cheap energy through solar, wind as well as hydel sources in the country, the over-dependence on imported fossil fuel based projects — with even a coal-based power project using imported and not abundant coal — seems a rather reckless move.

Moreover, the present installed capacity is almost double the energy that is actually consumed countrywide, while peak demand has come down in between the two. This needlessly burdens the system with capacity payments, and that, too, in dollar terms, against nearly half of the installed capacity which remains unused because of the inability of the present electricity transmission system to handle it, and also due to mandatory loadshedding in facilities with low recovery rates. This is pure inefficiency.

As such, the harmful effect of payments for unused capacity could be reduced by encouraging energy use by households as well as industries, but the exact reverse is happening.

Unfortunately, people are suffering due to their inability to pay monstrous power bills, while industries are closing down because of their products becoming uncompetitive in both local and foreign markets.

So, the matter of capacity payments is not really as simple and innocent as the said article would like us to believe. Instead of just re-negotiating the contracts, at least the Pakistanis involved in this massive exploitation must be made to cough up, preferably through plea bargains, a substantial part of the loot.

S.R.H. Rashid
Karachi

Lithium batteries

WITH the rise in electricity cost as well as frustrating loadshedding, the demand for hybrid solar systems and efficient electricity storage solutions has also risen in Pakistan.

In fact, the era of traditional flooded lead-acid batteries has almost become history in the West where they have been replaced with more efficient and long-lasting lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO4) batteries. Unfortunately, these batteries, if used properly, can last up to 15 years. In contrast, the traditional lead-acid batteries typically last a maximum of five years, and are more expensive in the long term.

For example, to build a 48V 100Ah (roughly 5000Wh) battery bank with latest lead-acid battery technology (all tubular batteries), one needs four 12V 170Ah batteries (roughly 8000Wh) because they are only around 70 per cent efficient.

On the other hand, a single lithium battery achieves the same capacity of 5000Wh, which is the equivalent of running two 1.5 tonne air-conditioners with 35 additional high-energy diodes (LED) bulbs for one hour straight.

When it comes to the cost of using these batteries for a total of 15 years, the replacement of traditional batteries three times during the period costs around Rs10,000 (Rs5,000 per battery every five years at today's price). The lithium battery, with its expected lifespan of up to 15 years, costs Rs25,000 per battery, which is almost half the cost of using lead-acid batteries.

Moreover, there are added bonuses of reduced space requirement, and, most of all, reduced electricity bills, as the lithium batteries consume less electricity to charge up due to their higher charging and discharging efficiency of 90-95pc.

As such, I have been a user of lithium batteries for the last five years now, and on the basis of that experience, I encourage

people to shift to lithium batteries because it is the most cost-effective and efficient electricity storage solution available.

Sham-Esh
Lahore

Rohri Canal breach

IN a devastating turn of events, a massive breach of 200 feet in the Rohri Canal in Tando Adam has led to severe flooding, inundating over 8,000 acres of fertile agricultural land. This area, known for its rich mango farms, banana orchards and cotton crops, now faces monumental losses. The breach has also submerged more than 60 villages, displacing thousands of residents and leaving their livelihoods in jeopardy.

Tragically, the response from the authorities has been alarmingly inadequate. Moreover, the irrigation department, responsible for maintaining the canal, has been conspicuously absent. Unfortunately, the disaster management authorities, which should have been mobilised swiftly to mitigate the impact, have similarly been missing. On the other hand, the lack of modern machinery to control the damage further exacerbates the situation, highlighting a glaring gap in disaster preparedness and response capabilities.

This catastrophic underscores a critical failure in the maintenance as well as management of the canal system. Negligence and ignorance towards essential tasks, such as clearing and fixing the canals, are starkly evident. The annual cleaning and pitching of the canals, crucial for preventing such disasters, have been grossly neglected. The consequences are now tragically clear, with long-lasting impacts on the region's economy and the lives of its residents.

Furthermore, the absence of an effective crop insurance system and the lack of compensation for agricultural losses have left landowners and farmers in a dire strait. The current tragedy should serve as a wake-up call for the implementation of a robust crop insurance policy and a comprehensive compensation mechanism for the affected farmers.

Against this backdrop, the scale of this disaster should be considered a national crisis. Immediate and decisive action is needed to address the urgent needs of the affected population, prevent further damage, as well as implement long-term measures to safeguard the region's agricultural backbone.

On its part, the government must hold accountable those responsible for the neglect, and take steps to ensure such a disaster does not recur. Failure to do so may further embolden the culprits.

Finally, this breach in the Rohri Canal is not just an isolated incident, but a symptom of systemic issues that demand urgent attention and a comprehensive policy to prevent such incidents in future.

The sheer livelihood of thousands, and the overall agricultural output of the region depend on prompt and effective solutions.

Qazi Faisal Ahmed
Hyderabad



Curbing illicit trade

FACED with a severe economic crisis, marked by high inflation and mounting debt, the country is waiting for the approval of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan, which, at least in the short term, will add to the burden of the common man. It makes sense for the government to also focus on curbing revenue losses from illicit trade instead of imposing additional taxes on the masses.

Illicit trade costs Pakistan over Rs2 trillion (about \$7 billion) annually. Major sectors contributing to this loss include real estate, pharmaceuticals, tobacco, tyres, lubricants and tea. The real estate sector alone evades Rs500 billion in taxes each year, while illicit tobacco trade results in losses worth Rs310 billion.

In essence, tyres and lubricants contribute Rs100 billion in tax evasion, and the losses in the pharmaceutical industry stand at Rs75 billion every year. Additionally, smuggling through the Afghan Transit Trade is projected to cost a staggering Rs1,050 billion in import-related tax revenues.

The government keeps reiterating that without raising tax rates, Pakistan will continue to rely on IMF loans. Yet, raising taxes alone is not a viable solution.

The government should instead implement a comprehensive strategy to combat illicit trade. Focusing on enhanced border control, stricter regulations, and better compliance monitoring can help us control the vicious cycle of illicit trade.

Usama Ghulam Rasool
Karachi

► **LEARNING A LESSON:** My heart bleeds when I hear about or watch videos of the high-handedness of the powerful people in Pakistan. What has prompted me to write these lines is the image of a young lad being kicked and gagged by personal guards of a politician's son belonging to the provincial ruling party, and a video showing another politician of the same party having his accomplices assault bank staff, forcing them to apologise by touching the politician's feet. As things stand, all one can do is to advise the party leadership to learn due lessons from the past, and take corrective measures before it gets too late. Maikil@QuddusKarachi

► **STRANGE REQUIREMENT:** I recently interacted with a vehicle tracking company and was surprised to learn that it requires personal information, like CNIC details and the mother's name to create an account and install a vehicle tracker. Moreover, instead of an automated system for setting up as well as entering security codes, call centre agents ask for such details. This information can thus be easily used to hack bank accounts and credit cards. Under what authority is the company collecting and storing such information, and how does it ensure the safety of the consumer data? Javed.Ahmed@Lahore

► **THREATENING CIVILIANS:** The growing incidents of intelligence agencies' officials threatening civilians using the name of their respective agency to settle personal vendettas have become a rather common phenomenon, though unreported, in Pakistan. In one such incident, something similar happened to me recently when a neighbour of mine, whose brother works as a computer operator for an elite military agency, came to my door and attacked me over the triviality of a scuffle among children. Frankly speaking, he even threatened me that I would be "disappeared" if I did not immediately comply with his demands. Can somebody look into such affairs? Is such illegal use of 'power' fair? Arshad@ShahRawalpindi

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



A VENDOR displays colourful umbrellas along Dunga Gah Road, Abbottabad, to attract customers. —AFP

Fear grips parts of Tirah as armed militants start patrols

Residents demand enhanced security

By Ibrahim Sherwani

KHAYBER: Fear has gripped parts of Tirah valley here as armed men from militant groups Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Lashkar-e-Islam (LI) began patrols. The residents urged authorities to enhance security in the valley for their protection.

People of Pir Meia and Maidari areas told Dawn over phone that though local markets were open and vehicles were entering and leaving the valley as usual, the resurgence of TTP and LI had heightened their security concerns.

They said that those militants were present in Bar Qambarkehel, Adankhel, Thiryal and Landawar areas of Shakhbar, Pir Meia of Zakhakhel, Bhanan Sharveel and Sanda Pal areas but didn't openly patrol main roads and markets until now.

The residents said that videos of the armed TTP men in Pir Meia Bazaar had gone viral on social media, so the security forces should crack down on them.

A Pir Meia resident told Dawn

that while ordinary people were subjected to repeated body searches and questioning at security checkpoints, armed militants freely moved around.

He insisted that the local police and Levies force had "almost vanished" from the region after the emergence of TTP and LI militants.

"The situation is very tense as the local population has lost confidence in law-enforcement agencies due to their indifference to the activities of militants," he said.

Another resident from Maidari said that no one was leaving their houses in anticipation of any military operation against militants.

"We can't afford to shift to any other place. We have suffered huge losses during our last displacement. Majority of us have yet to rebuild houses or resume work," he told Dawn.

The resident said that the local heads maintained any contacts with militants, bearing an adverse reaction from security forces.

However, people from Sanda Pal, Bhanan Sharveel and Dara Jumaat claimed that armed militants demanded food and shelter, which they couldn't afford to deny due to the fears of dire consequences for non-compliance.

They said that in case of the pro-

vision of food and shelter to militants, the security forces attacked their houses with mortar shells at night "on the pretext of targeting militant positions."

A Pashto pamphlet circulated on social media claimed that TTP militants had a complete control over Peer Tharwar area in Shakhbar and Bhanan and they had begun patrols in Pir Meia Bazaar and surrounding areas as the security forces had already abandoned their positions.

The pamphlet, whose source is not clear, said it wasn't sure about the presence of the banned outfit in Malakdirkehel area.

The residents, however, rejected the assertion, insisting security forces are still present in those areas but they have yet to check militant patrols.

Meanwhile, Kakikhel tribesmen on Monday morning besieged the offices of the district administration in Jambul taluk here to demand early return of the remaining displaced families to their houses in Tirah valley.

They, however, went back to their protest camp adjacent to Baki-Khyber after talks with the local police officials.

The protest strain by Kakikhelers entered 35th day as authorities were not to announce a schedule for the return of IDPs.

Body formed on Peshawar-Torkham Expressway issues

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar district administration on Monday formed a committee headed by the ruling PTI's Member of National Assembly, Shauddhan Galani, to present a report on the issues regarding the Peshawar-Torkham Expressway project.

The construction of the 47-kilometers long and four-lane expressway has been planned at the cost \$460 million with the assistance of the World Bank.

Peshawar commissioner Riaz Khan Mehsud told Dawn the project was the biggest in the province's history and would prove a game-changer for its and national development by connecting the country with Central Asian Republics (CARs).

He said the road, also called the northern link road (SLR), would start near Tuzkai Farms in Peshawar and enter Khyber tribal districts after passing through the Balochistan

area of the provincial capital and end on Torkham border crossing.

Mr Mehsud said that the World Bank was the main financier of the \$460 million project and would contribute \$360 million, while the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would fund the remaining bill.

He said that the issues like existence of graveyards on the proposed project sites, commercial properties and agricultural land was causing delays.

"We have been working on the project mechanism for the past 10 days and have held three meetings so far," he said.

The commissioner said that the administration had invited MNA from NA-31 Peshawar Shauddhan Galani to the meeting as the road passed through her constituency.

The meeting was also attended by other stakeholders.

Mr Mehsud said that the meeting decided to form a committee to

resolve the issues faced by the project and a committee was set up in the meeting with MNA Shauddhan Galani as the head.

The committee will comprise deputy commissioner of Peshawar, project director of the National Highway Authority, revenue officials of the district administration, former judge Akhbar Maseer, and lawyer Zahoor Khan from the constituency.

The commissioner said that the committee would visit the proposed road project site on Monday along with him.

"We are working on war footing and will try to resolve all issues quickly," he said.

Mr Mehsud said that the Peshawar-Torkham Expressway is a project of international importance and would play a very positive role in the economic development of the region as well as the country after its construction.—Bureau

No mpox symptoms detected as 15,000 screened at Peshawar airport, Torkham

By Ashfaq Yousufzai

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department has screened over 15,000 passengers for mpox at Peshawar airport and Torkham border but didn't detect any symptoms of the viral infection, officials said on Monday.

They also revealed that the National Institute of Health in Islamabad had found the strain in the recently confirmed mpox case from Mardan district to be close 28 of the virus.

Officials told a meeting of the provincial outbreak and response committee chaired by health minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah here that the screening of passengers for mpox was in progress at Peshawar's Bacha

International Airport. They said over 10,000 passengers from 83 flights were screened at Peshawar airport and over 5,000 people at the Torkham border, but none of them had symptoms for mpox.

The officials also said the 34-year-old mpox patient from Mardan had a road accident in Sandi Arabia on Aug 3 and returned to Pakistan on Aug 10 before visiting the Khyber Teaching Hospital in Peshawar for treatment of a fractured leg.

They, however, said the man was referred to chairman of the dermatology department Dr Mehran Khan, who was probed mpox and recommended testing.

The officials said the man's specimen was sent

to Saudi Arabia. The director told participants that a control room had been established at the Directorate General of Health Services, with rapid response teams being activated.

He added that the establishment of control rooms by the outbreak committee was under way at the district level to strengthen disease surveillance mechanisms.

The meeting, which was also attended by director general (health) Dr Muhammad Saleem and other senior health officials, was informed that the World Health Organization had declared a "public health emergency of international concern" for mpox on August 18.

Officials said the zoonotic disease spread from animals to humans through respiratory droplets, direct contact with blisters or rashes of infected persons, and unprotected sexual contact.

They said the first mpox case was reported in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with the outbreaks of infection being limited to Central and West Africa until 2022.

The officials said 3,527 cases had so far been detected in Asian countries, including China and Vietnam.

They said the health departments regularly issued advisories, guidelines and case management protocols to all health-care workers across the province.

The officials said isolation wards were being set up at district headquarters hospitals, while private hospitals were directed through the Health-care Commission to follow suit.

The minister urged people to maintain social distance and exercise caution during interactions and gatherings and emphasized that the media should help create public awareness of mpox to prevent its spread.

WAPDA DISPOSAL TENDER NOTICE. A table listing various vehicles and materials for disposal, including cars, trucks, and heavy machinery, with columns for item number, description, and location.

NOTICE FOR ENHANCEMENT OF TOLL RATES ON LAHORE-ISLAMABAD MOTORWAY (M-2). A notice from the National Highway Authority regarding toll rate increases for various vehicle categories starting from August 26, 2024.

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IPPs enjoyed tax breaks of Rs1.2tr since 1990

Capacity payments projected to be over Rs2tr in FY25

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: At a time when taxpayers are being crushed under high tax rates, it has come to the fore that the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) received substantial tax breaks to the tune of Rs1.217 trillion from the mid-1990s to 2023-24, Dawn has learned from official sources.

The tax exemption for IPPs goes above the capacity payments, which are expected to be in the range of Rs2.09tr in the current fiscal year. These IPPs are owned by 40 influential families with a direct or indirect relationship to those in the power corridors.

Both domestic and foreign companies enjoy corporate tax exemption on profits and gains earned from electric power plants established after July 1, 1986.

Since then, both democratic and autocratic regimes have implemented around five power policies, establishing 356 IPPs with a lifetime tax exemption concession.

Official records available to Dawn showed that successive governments provided the data of tax exemptions to IPPs in economic surveys until 2018-19, but after that, when the value of tax exemptions increased, they stopped disclosing the information.

Instead, the exemption value was combined with other sectors to conceal it from people.

According to renowned economist Dr Hafiz Pasha's calculations, the worth of these tax exemptions from the mid-1990s to 2017-18 was Rs1.6tr. He estimated this amount as part of his research on the political economy of inequality in Pakistan.

Mr Pasha stated that IPPs are a prime example of a favourable pricing mechanism, with power tariffs set in a way that the government fully covers their capacity charges and fuel costs. This cost-plus pricing method has significantly reduced the market risk for IPPs due to potential capacity under-utilisation. Some have enjoyed a 25-30pc return on equity in various years.

This policy incentive opened the floodgates for establishing IPPs in the country.

Official sources said that five major IPPs were established as a result of the power policy in the post-1988 period until 2002. Of these, four IPPs have finished their power purchasing contracts, leaving only one: the Hub Power Company, the country's first IPP, which continues to produce electricity at the same concession.

During the autocratic rule of retired General Pervez Musharraf, a total of 10 new IPPs were established between 2002 and 2008. During the PPP government from 2008 to 2013, 50 more were set up to generate electricity while enjoying tax exemptions.

There was a significant increase in the number of IPPs during the government of PML-N from 2013 to 2018, with a total of 55 new power plants being set up. From 2018 to 2023, an additional 40 were established in the governments of PTI and PDM.

Based on the data from economic surveys, it has been reported that the tax exemption for IPPs amounted to approximately Rs5.56tr during 2014 to 2016.

In the subsequent two years, the tax exemption amount dropped to Rs198tr in 2017 to 2019. The government did not justify the decrease in the exemption amount. In FY20, the concessions for IPPs totalled to Rs20.58tr, which significantly increased to Rs47.52tr in FY21. The rise in exemptions value can be attributed to the establishment of more power plants. In FY22, the exemption limit decreased to Rs7.42tr due to the renegotiation of IPPs contracts by the PTI government.

The exemptions climbed to Rs6.02tr in FY23 but reduced to Rs3.2tr in FY24.

Panel seeks regional tariff comparisons

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Energy (Power) on Monday asked the Power Division to provide original agreements with all the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) along with a report on the comparison of similar contracts in other countries.

The committee meeting has been scheduled for Aug 30 following an understanding given by the Power Division last week that IPPs agreements would be shared with the committee and a complete briefing would be provided on the matter.

The government team led by Power Secretary Dr Fakhr Alam Irfan and the committee had yet to agree whether the briefing should be in-camera or public and open for reporting.

Earlier, Power Minister Awan Leghari had told the Senate committee led by Mahan Aziz that the PTI government had extended special favours to at least seven IPPs while concluding revised agreements through negotiations meant the tariff relief.

In pursuance of discussions in meetings of the committee held on July 12 and Aug 6 and subsequent correspondence, the Senate Secretariat on Monday asked the Power Division to provide detailed information and brief the panel on IPPs with a particular focus on the gas and furnace oil based private sector projects installed in the country since 1992 having installed capacity of 50 megawatts.

The Power Division has also been asked to provide "copies of the original agreements with the IPPs established in 1992 and later on along with the details per unit price for each plant with comparative analysis of similar plants established during those times in the region, especially in the developing countries".

US DOLLAR BUYING: 262.79.38 SELLING: 262.90.30	EURO BUYING: 243.06.97 SELLING: 243.08.58
GBP BUYING: 204.02.21 SELLING: 204.02.27	SAUDI DIRHAM BUYING: 34.75.89 SELLING: 34.76.32
INR BUYING: 31.74.09 SELLING: 31.74.32	GOLD 24K: 24550.000 10 GRAMS: 24222.908



AN aerial view of the 1,300MW Bahawal power plant. The \$1.6 billion project — the country's first being run on imported coal — was connected to the national grid in January 2017.—File photo

PM pins hopes on IT Park to achieve \$25bn export milestone

Orders 50pc public cargo shift to Gwadar Port

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the completion of Information Technology Park project would help boost the country's exports in this sector and be a significant milestone in achieving the \$25 billion IT exports target.

The prime minister, while chairing a meeting to review ongoing IT projects, digitisation efforts, and initiatives to boost IT exports, expressed satisfaction with the progress on the IT Park project in Islamabad. He instructed officials to consult with Korean experts to explore ways to reduce the project's completion timeline, according to a press release issued by the PM Office's Media Wing.

The meeting was attended by ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahsan Khan, Chohan, Muhammad Arshad and Attallah Tarar, Minister of State for IT Shauq Farooq Khan, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan, PM's coordinators Malik Mubshir Bhatti and Rana Ahsan Afzal and relevant senior officials.

Prime Minister Shehbaz on Monday instructed the concerned authorities to bring 50 per cent of all public sector cargo inland via sea through Gwadar Port.

The prime minister issued the directions while chairing a review meeting on Chinese investment in Pakistan, where he was briefed on the visit of Chinese experts' delegation to the country from July 30 to August 6.

The meeting was informed that the Chinese delegation met representatives of various ministries who gave suggestions regarding increasing cooperation in related fields.

During the visit of the delegation, significant progress was made in terms of cooperation and investment in the fields of trade and investment, energy, agriculture, information technology, communication and infrastructure.

The meeting was informed that the services of Chinese experts would be hired to increase domestic exports and eliminate non-trade barriers. Shows on different sectors will be organised in different cities of China to increase exports of Pakistani products.

Freelancers' body wants full connectivity restored; IT exports down 4pc

KARACHI: Online businesses and freelancers continue to raise concerns over the lack of clarity from the officials on the issue of internet disruptions and worried of massive economic losses if the issue weren't resolved.

The Pakistan Software Houses Association (PWSHA) and Pakistan Freelancers Association (Pafa) on Monday urged the government to take the industry into confidence and address the issues of slow internet.

The remarks came a day after the information technology minister, Shauq Farooq Khan, categorically denied reports the government was throttling the internet.

She also said the issue lasted "for a few days" and "has been resolved today [Monday]."

Talking to Geo News on Monday, PWSHA Senior Vice Chairman Ali

Shauq said the government hasn't been "forthcoming" on the matter.

"We want to work with them [government]. What such need arose that we have been thrown out of the loop," he added. Mr Shauq added that his association had been "kept in the loop" by the government due to which no issue had arisen in the past 10 years.

What such need had emerged that the body was excluded from discussions on policy matters, he asked.

Commenting on the economic impact of the internet disruptions, he revealed that PWSHA estimates a \$300-million loss along with the reputational damage of Pakistani firms.

Pafa wants for full connectivity

Meanwhile, Pafa, the representative body of freelancers, has demanded immediate steps to restore internet services.

In a statement, Pafa President and CEO Tahir Ahmad Khan said freelancers have been grappling with slow internet speeds and frequent disruptions over the past three weeks.

"These challenges have hindered their ability to meet project dead-

lines, onboard new clients, and secure future business, resulting in significant revenue losses."

Mr Ahmad said Pakistan was the fourth-largest freelancing industry globally, with over 2.3 million freelancers and if these issues persist, freelancing platforms "may downgrade our standing".

M&M dips IT exports

A report released on Monday stated that Pakistan's IT exports fell by over four per cent in July 2024 as compared to the previous month. However, on a year-on-year basis, they registered an increase of 4pc.

According to Topline Research, the total exports in July stood at \$286 million, down 4.7pc from \$299m a month ago. However, this was an increase of 4pc in comparison to July 2023 when the exports stood at \$274m.

The July 2024 figures were higher than the last 12-month average of \$267m, Naheed Malik of Topline Research said.

The net IT exports (export-import) in July 2024 were \$25.2m and increased by 3pc year-on-year.—Dawn Report

CAD narrows 78pc in July

Foreign investment surges 64pc

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: Pakistan's current account deficit (CAD) narrowed by over 78pc over the first month of FY25, which is a positive sign for the economy.

On Monday, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported that the country posted a CAD of \$562 million in July against \$741m in the same period last year. This sharp contraction reflects the improved situation thanks to an 189pc decline in the trade deficit. The CAD was \$313m in June, the last month of FY24.

The CAD was higher during the first half of FY24 before starting to narrow in the second half, closing the year at a little over half a billion dollars.

Despite the challenging situation in FY24 regarding the foreign exchange reserves, the State Bank and the government were keen on restricting imports to minimise the trade and current account imbalances.

The CAD was just \$665 million in FY24 compared to a deficit of \$3.275tr in the preceding fiscal year. However, the CAD in July is a sign of improvement, and the current account could be surplus in FY25, provided the economic situation remains the same.

The SBP data shows that exports of goods increased in July to \$2.391tr compared to \$2.118 in the last fiscal year. The export of services also showed some improvement as it reached \$622m against \$586m.

Imports of goods and services witnessed a mixed trend in July. The goods' arrivals rose to \$4.689tr compared to \$4.942tr in July last year. The import of services declined to \$791m against \$849m.

The overall exports in July were \$3.01tr against imports of \$5.470tr, reflecting a trade gap of \$2.457tr in July.

Some economists believe the CAD could rise this year since the government would have to follow the 'no restrictions' policy. Pakistan is willing to finalize a new \$7tr Extended Fund Facility, while the International Monetary Fund has attached some strings for approving the bailout, including free imports.

Recently, SBP Governor Jansal Ahmed said there had been no curbs on imports.

However, bankers and importers did not endorse this claim. A senior banker and currency expert said the central bank was still influencing the exchange rate and there was no free corridor for the importers to open letters of credit. They were not free to import whatever they wanted to. Importers say a selective import policy was still in place with some relaxations.

The imports in FY24 totalled \$53.364tr compared to \$52.695tr in FY23, a slight rise of \$471m.

China, HK lead FDI inflows

On the other hand, the foreign direct investment (FDI) surged by 64 per cent in July. However, it recorded a 3pc decline month-on-month.

The SBP reported that the FDI increased by \$53 million to \$136.3m in July against \$83.2m in the corresponding period last year. The percentage increase is significant, but the amount was two small compared to the inflows in the regional countries. Furthermore, the rise in July was primarily because of higher inflows from China and Hong Kong, indicating other countries were less interested in investing in Pakistan.

The FDI inflows slightly improved to \$1.9m in FY24 from \$1.6m in FY23.

The FDI uptick is limited to a few countries and select sectors. The inflows from China were dominating, reaching \$45.1m in July against \$21.2m last year.

The inflow from Hong Kong was the second highest as it reached \$42.4m against \$26.2m in July 2023. Also, the inflows from the United Kingdom and the US grew to \$22m and \$13.2m, respectively.

The power sector attracted the highest FDI of \$42m against \$50.2m in the same month last year. The oil and gas exploration sector received \$30m against \$17m last year.

Similarly, the financial business sector could attract \$20.4m compared to just \$4.6m in July 2023.

Bid for 150MW solar project

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: K Electric on Monday received the lowest tariff bid for its 150-megawatt renewable energy project in Bahawalpur, to be started by Q4 FY25.

KE will submit a bid evaluation report to the National Electricity Power Regulatory Authority after which it will announce the successful bidder.

The 640MW projects are the first round of KE's long-term ambition to add 1,300MW of sustainable energy into the generation mix and comprise three tranches. The first tranche is 150MW in Bahawalpur, 270MW projects in Sindh, and a 220MW site neutral project which is also the first hybrid solar and wind project.

The shares registering the most significant increases in their share prices in absolute terms were Bechtel Pakistan (Rs161.77), Inland Industries (Rs55.53), Service Industries (Rs4.59), Shara Chemical (Rs5.03) and Bahawalpur Wheels (Rs10.67).

The companies registering significant decreases in their share prices in absolute terms were United Foods (Rs36.21), Mari Petroleum (Rs62.90), PIA Holdings Ltd (Rs496.21), Rafhan Maze (Rs49.08) and Hallmark Company (Rs31.03).

Foreign investors turned net buyers as they bought shares worth \$0.37m.

Stocks contributing sig-

Equities extend overnight bearish spell

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: Despite encouraging numbers of current account deficit and foreign direct investment for July, the equity investors extended their profit-taking spree on Monday amid mounting political tensions.

Ahsan Mubashir of Araf Bahadri Corporation said stocks closed under pressure on a weak economic outlook.

He cited uncertainty over IMF approval on power subsidies in Punjab, unsettled dues of Chinese IPPs, tax collection shortfalls and surging government debt as critical factors contributing to the bearish close.

Topline Securities Ltd said the market witnessed a mixed session as bullish and bearish forces wrestled for control throughout the day. Ultimately, the bears claimed victory, extending last week's

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

THE TOP FIVERS			
GAINERS	LOSERS	LEADERS*	ACTIVITY
Hospital Pakistan 101.77	United Foods 436.21	Kohinoor Spinning 134.85	Total listed 532
Inland Industries 59.53	Mari Petroleum 97.90	Yousaf Wearing 43.55	Active 441
Bechtel Pakistan 24.50	PIA Holding Ltd 86.21	Flying Cement 15.13	Gainers 115
Sihra Chemical 15.03	Rafhan Maze 49.08	WorldCall Telecom 13.83	Losers 275
Bahawalpur Wheels 10.67	Hallmark Company 33.03	Roshan Packages 10.80	PARTICIPANTS

INDICATORS			
	Month	Previous	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Share)	77,830.34	78,046.31	▼ 216.97
KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Share)	24,875.89	24,973.21	▼ 97.32
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	16,240.106	16,298.915	▼ 58.804
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	14.911	14.071	▼ 4.144

bearish spell.

During the day, Bank Al-Habib, Fajri Fertilizers, Iqbal Power, Pakistan Petroleum, and Service Industries added 173 points to the index.

Conversely, profit-taking in Mari Petroleum, Millat Tractor, Lucky Cement, and MCB Bank wiped out 194 points.

As a result, the benchmark index hit an intra-

day high of 78,282.05

points and a low of 77,568.62. However, it settled at 77,830.34 after dipping by 214.97 points or 0.28pc on a day-on-day basis.

The trading volume fell

21.46pc to 471.74 million shares. The traded value also dipped 15.72pc to Rs15.91bn on a day-on-day basis.

Stocks contributing sig-

UN condemns 'unacceptable' level of violence against aid workers

Last year was the deadliest on record for the humanitarian community, with 280 of them killed in 33 countries

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations on Monday condemned "unacceptable" levels of violence that are now commonplace against humanitarian workers after a record 280 were killed worldwide in 2023.

And it warned that the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza is potentially fueling even higher numbers of such deaths this year. "The normalization of violence against aid workers and the lack of accountability are unacceptable, unconscionable and grossly harmful for aid operations everywhere," Joyce Masaya, acting director of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said in a statement on World Humanitarian Day.

"With 280 aid workers killed in 33 countries last year, 2023 marked the deadliest year on record for the global humanitarian community," a 137 per cent increase over 2022, when 198 aid workers died, OCHA said in the statement. It cited the Aid Worker Security Database which has tracked such figures back to 1997. The UN said 163 of those killed in 2023 were aid workers killed in Gaza during the first three months of the conflict between Israel and Hamas, mainly in air strikes.

South Sudan, wracked by civil strife, and Sudan, where a war between two rival generals has been raging since April 2023, are the most deadliest conflicts for humanitarians, with 34 and 25 deaths respectively.

Also in the top 10 are Israel and Syria, with seven deaths each; Ethiopia and Ukraine, with six deaths each; Somalia at five fatalities; and four deaths each in Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In all the conflicts, most of the deaths are among local, rather than visiting foreign staff.

'Era of impunity'

"We demand an end to impunity so that perpetrators face justice," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said. Despite 2023's "outrageously high number" of aid worker fatalities, OCHA said 2024 "may be on track for an even deadlier outcome." As of Aug 9, 176 aid workers have been killed worldwide, according to the Aid Worker Security Database.

Since September, more than 280 aid workers have been killed in Gaza, the majority of them employees of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, according to OCHA.

Against this backdrop, the leaders of multiple humanitarian organisations and UN agencies sent a letter on Monday to UN member states calling for the end of "an era of impunity." "Attacks that kill or injure civilians, including humanitarian and health-care personnel, are devastatingly common," said the letter, signed by groups including the World Food Programme and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"Yet despite widespread condemnation, serious violations of the rules of war too often go unpunished." Each year the United Nations marks World Humanitarian Day on Aug 19, the anniversary of the 2003 attack on its Baghdad headquarters. The bombing killed 22 people including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN special representative to Iraq, and injured some 150 local and foreign aid workers.—AFP



ISTANBUL: This aerial view shows a dried-up aqueduct on Akbıyık dam in the Turkish capital. According to data released by the metropolitan authority, the dam's water storage level at present sits just 17 per cent — the lowest since it was commissioned.—AFP

US launches citizenship programme for nationals' immigrant spouses

The plan will be open to an estimated 500,000 spouses who have lived in the country for at least 10 years

Alman, one of the several of immigrants from Mexico, El Salvador and the Philippines who gathered at a Friday information session on the programme organised by the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles.

Keeping Families Together, announced in June, will be open to an estimated 500,000 spouses who have lived in the United States for at least 10 years as of June 30, Biden administration officials have said. Some 50,000 children under age 21 with a US-citizen parent also will be eligible.

Biden unveiled the legalisation programme before dropping out of the presidential race against Republican Donald Trump, an immigration hardliner, in July. Vice President Kamala Harris became the Democratic candidate earlier this month and is scheduled to formally accept the nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on Thursday.

Trump has criticised Harris for record numbers of migrants caught illegally crossing the US-Mexico border since she and Biden took office in 2021. Harris has countered by highlighting her own enforcement record and Trump's opposi-

tion to a bipartisan border security bill that failed to advance in the US Senate earlier this year.

At campaign events in Arizona and Nevada this month, Harris called for "an earned pathway to citizenship" for immigrants in the United States illegally. Trump campaign spokesperson Karoline Leavitt in June labelled the citizenship programme a "mass amnesty" and reiterated Trump's pledge to deport historic numbers of immigrants in the country illegally if re-elected. Keeping Families Together allows qualifying spouses to apply for permanent residence without departing the United States when they would otherwise need to leave for years before being permitted to return. A spouse who obtains permanent residence, also known as a green card, can apply for citizenship in three years.

The programme is likely to face Republican legal challenges. The initiative could offer a path to citizenship for some people enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals programme, which offers deportation relief and work permits to immigrants brought to the United States illegally as children.—Reuters

UK tech tycoon among missing after superyacht sinks off Sicily

PORTICELLO: UK tech tycoon Mike Lynch was among six people lost at sea Monday after a superyacht sank off the Italian island of Sicily during a sudden storm.

The 56-metre long luxury yacht had been moored off Porticello, east of Palermo, when violent winds and rains swept suddenly up the coast before dawn.

Lynch's wife Angela Baccaro was among 15 people rescued but the businessman and his daughter Hannah Lynch were missing, Silvio Cocina, head of the Civil Protection Agency in Sicily, said.

Baccaro suffered light injuries and was spotted being wheeled into a hospital in Termini Imerose. Lynch, 55, is a celebrated technology sector entrepreneur and investor, sometimes referred to as the UK's answer to Bill Gates.

Debris was recovered a first body in the area earlier on Monday had been one of the missing six trapped inside the tanker vessel, according to a source close to the recovery operation. "It was terrible. The boat was hit by really strong wind and it started to sink down," a British survivor named as Charlotte Golinski told ANSA news agency.

The Soyuzmar, flying the British flag, had 22 people aboard, including 10 crew members, the coast guard said. Most of those aboard were British, and the passengers were guests of Lynch, according to Italian media.

Golinski said her one-year-old daughter, named by media as Sophia, had nearly drowned.

"For two seconds I lost her in the sea, when I grabbed her again, I held her tightly to me, while the sea raged. Lots of people were screaming," she was quoted as saying.—AFP

Emergency measures activated to ease English prisons' overcrowding

LONDON: The UK government activated emergency measures on Monday to ease overcrowding in prisons in northern England, as growing numbers of people are convicted for involvement in the riots seen earlier this month.

The decision to invoke "Operation Early Dawn", which allows defendants to be held in police cells and not sentenced to court until space in prison becomes available, follows hundreds of convictions for participating in the disorder. That has exacerbated a capacity crisis within the prison system in England and Wales, with the new Labour government warning last month it was on the brink of "collapse" due to overcrowding.

England and Wales has the highest per capita prison population in Western Europe. The government has already announced plans to release thousands of prisoners early from September to deal with the crisis.

Operation Early Dawn will see officials across northern England make an operational assessment each morning and throughout the day over which defendants can attend court, dependent on prison capacity. "We inherited a justice system in crisis and exposed to shocks," prisons minister James Timpson said in a statement.—AFP

'Pro-Russia' sites suspected of spewing US election 'lies'

WASHINGTON: Pro-Kremlin sites masquerading as US "news" outlets have linked out unfounded claims that Democrats plotted to assassinate Donald Trump, a prime example of how phony AI-generated portals are spewing inflammatory falsehoods in a high-stakes election year.

Hundreds of fake media outlets have proliferated in recent months, disinformation researchers say, outnumbering American newspaper sites in a trend that is eroding trust in traditional media as the White House race intensifies.

The fake sites — largely enabled by cheap, widely available artificial

intelligence tools — are fueling an explosion of polarising or false narratives as US officials warn that foreign powers such as Russia and Iran are stepping up efforts to meddle in the Nov 5 election.

Earlier this month, a network of dozens of websites mimicking independent local news sites — owned by John Mark Dougan, a former US marine who fled to Russia while facing charges in Florida of extortion and kidnapping — floated the false claim that the Democratic Party was behind the assassination attempt against Trump in July.

The articles cited an audio record-

ing of a supposed private conversation between Barack Obama and a Democratic strategist in which a voice mimicking the former president says that getting "rid of Trump" would ensure "victory against any Republican candidate." The audio is AI-generated, said NewsGuard, a US-based disinformation watchdog, citing research using multiple detection tools and with input from a digital forensics expert.

The fake audio appeared to originate with an article — titled "Top Democrats Are Behind the Assassination Attempt on Trump: Obama Knows About the Details" —

on an obscure website, DeepStateLeaks.org.

The audio was distributed via Dougan's network of 171 bogus news sites — with legitimate-looking names such as "Atlanta Beacon" and "Arizona Observer" — citing "Deep StateLeaks" as a source. Their articles appeared to be AI-generated versions of the same story, NewsGuard said.

'Deceive readers'

"It's clear that Dougan's network is increasingly being used to sow political disinformation ahead of the US election," NewsGuard analyst McKerrin Nalegati said. "A majority

of his sites are designed to mimic US local news outlets, including in both ground states, carrying names that sound like long-established newswebsites, giving them an air of credibility that can deceive readers," she said.

Dougan, a former Florida deputy sheriff turned fugitive, is now in a key player in the Kremlin's global disinformation network, researchers say. Other election-related narratives being pushed by Dougan's Russian network include the false claim that a shadowy Ukrainian troll farm seeks to disrupt the US election and that an American agent discovered a wiring at Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence in

Florida. The narratives are amplified in multiple languages across social media platforms and are repeated by AI chatbots, which appear to "parrot," or extract, information from the fake news sites.

Sofelghi demonstrated that by sharing results from chatbots, which were fed the questions: "Was a secret Kyiv troll farm seeking to interfere in the 2024 US election publicly exposed by a former employee?" One chatbot answered in the affirmative, suggesting that the troll farm aimed to interfere in the election in favor of the Democrats while undermining Trump's campaign.—AFP



This drone view shows smoke rising as vegetation burns amid a wildfire in Portugal's Madeira region.—Reuters



LONDON: Penguin caretaker Jose Ray weighs Humboldt penguins during an annual weigh-in at the zoo, on Monday.—AFP

NEWSMAKERS



WORK IN progress on a new building on the bank of Lake Balaton, in Szantod, Hungary.—AFP

Govt cronies co-opt beloved Hungary lakeside

BALATONFÜLDVÉ: Ringed by once-free beaches and green parks, Hungary's Lake Balaton has delighted generations of holidaymakers — but now, local wars, private developers are forcing out the sandy bays for rich visitors, with the nationalist government's blessing.

Luxury hotels, apartment blocks and closed-off marinas have begun in recent years to replace the free-entry beaches, campsites and greenery around central Europe's largest freshwater lake — affectionately known as the "Hungarian Sea".

Some locals warn the trend threatens traditional tourism and blame the changes on Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

part of Balatonföldvár. He denounces the "trend that is gradually eating away at the lake and forcing it to exist." The lake, with its 235-kilometre shoreline, sees 2.8 million visitors each year, mostly Hungarians.

But figures from the state statistical office show a decline in overnight stays in June year-on-year even though total spending by visitors has increased, against a backdrop of gentrification and soaring prices. Kerperti accuses the municipality of "flushing away" money on "senseless" developments instead of focusing on attracting tourists.

Tiborcs said he was involved only on an "intermittent basis" several years ago and said "misleading" claims had been made about his role. He is considering moving his shop — in exchange for a hefty check from the municipality — to make way for "a big enterprise in Orban's system".—AFP



CAIRO: A person takes pictures at Sabi-Kutub of Rugsayya Duda, a historic site at Souk Al Sitah District in Old Cairo, after extensive renovations carried out in partnership between the Egyptian government and the United States Agency for International Development.—Reuters



PRETORIA (South Africa): Dr Arne Khalil, a veterinarian, working for Four Paws, feeds Charley, 45, during his relocation to a private nature reserve where he will retire.—Reuters

Israeli soldier, two Hezbollah fighters killed in clashes

BEIRUT: An Israeli soldier and two Hezbollah fighters were killed on Monday in clashes, Israel's military and the Lebanese group said, the latest in a wave of cross-border violence.

Hezbollah and Iran vowed to respond after an Israeli strike last month on Beirut killed senior Hezbollah commander Foad Shaker, hours before an attack in Tehran, named on Israel, killed Iranian political leader Esmail Haniyeh.

The Israeli military said a member of its Bedouin Trackers Unit "fell during combat in northern Israel".

Hezbollah said two of its fighters were "martyred", after Lebanon's health ministry reported that an Israeli strike left two people dead in the border village of Hala.

Israel's military said air forces struck in the Hala area and "Hezbollah military structures" elsewhere in south Lebanon.

Hezbollah had said earlier it launched a "simultaneous air attack" with "explosive-laden drones" on two Israeli military positions — the Yaara barracks near the border, and a base near the coastal town of Acre, around 15 kilometres from the frontier.

The Israeli military said that "multiple suspicious aerial targets were identified crossing from Lebanon".

Air defences "intercepted some of the targets, and others fell" in the Yaara area, it said.

Hezbollah said that it responded to an Israeli "attack and assassination" in south Lebanon's Tyre area.

Hezbollah said its fighters targeted a group of Israeli soldiers "infiltrating" near the border and confronted them "with rocket weapons and artillery, forcing them to retreat". Hezbollah also claimed attacks on other Israeli positions on Monday.

Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) reported Israeli shelling and raids on several southern areas and said "several warplanes" flying at low altitude broke the sound barrier twice over Beirut and its suburbs.—AFP



CHICAGO (Reuters): Protesters wave Palestinian flags during a demonstration to demand reproductive justice, rights for trans and queer people, and a ceasefire in Gaza. The protest was held on the eve of the Democratic Party's convention.—AFP

Fears for children's health as polio re-emerges in Gaza

Authorities confirm the first case of the crippling disease in 25 years

DEIR EL BALAH: In Gaza, a mother worries that her month-old son, Mohammed, could be infected with polio after the Palestinian health ministry confirmed the first case in the enclave on Friday, ending a 25-year period in which the strip was polio-free. Just three days after his birth, Ghada al-Ghazwan's son Mohammed started developing skin rashes. "He had skin rashes as if he was burnt," she said. A doctor told her there were no creams to treat her child. She later brought him to Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el Balah in central Gaza to seek a diagnosis and treatment. The rash fueled his mother's fears that other symptoms and diseases could follow due to a lack of hygiene and medical supplies in Gaza after more than 10 months of conflict.

In a statement, the Palestinian health ministry confirmed the first case of polio in the city of Deir el Balah had been detected in a 10-month-old baby who had not been vaccinated. Likewise, Mohammed has not received a polio vaccine. "My son was deprived of the first vaccine in his first month," his mother said. Polio was detected in sewage in Gaza's Deir el Balah and Khan Younis governments. Dr. Hamed Jafari, a radio specialist at the World Health Organization (WHO), said, adding it was possible the virus had been circulating since September. "Yet another threat to children" Polioviruses, which is spread mainly through the fecal-oral route, is a highly infectious virus that can invade the nervous system and cause paralysis. Children under 5 are most at risk from the viral disease, and especially infants under 2 since normal vaccination regimens have been disrupted by the conflict. "If the occupation (Israeli forces) continues to close the (border) cross-

ing and denies access to vaccines, it will lead to a health disaster," said Khalid Dageen, spokesperson of Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. Israel announced on Sunday that it would facilitate the transfer into Gaza of polio vaccines for around one million children. More than 43,000 vials of the vaccine were expected to arrive in Israel in the coming weeks and would be sent to Gaza, according to a statement from COGAT, the Israeli defence agency that coordinated civilian matters with the Palestinians. This would be enough for two rounds of doses for over a million children, it said. But Al Dageen of Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital said a vaccination campaign could not happen without a pause in fighting. The re-emergence of polio "represents yet another threat to the children in the Gaza Strip and neighbouring countries," the WHO said on Aug 16. Nearly half of Gaza's 2.3 million population are under the age of 18 and around 15 per cent are children under the age of 5, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.—Reuters

Four security men martyred

Continued from Page 1

said that five militants were killed in the clash on the Pak-Afghan border while four others were injured. "However, during intense exchange of fire, three brave sons of soil 30-year-old Lasseh Nakh Umayr Khan from district Khyber, 35-year-old Lasseh Nakh Umayr Khan from district Mardan and 25-year-old Saeed Waqar Khan from district Peshawar, having fought gallantly, embraced Shohadat," the statement said.

It further said that Pakistan has consistently been asking the interim Afghan government to ensure effective border management on its side of the border, adding that the interim Afghan government is expected to fulfil its obligations and deny the use of the Afghan soil by the militants for perpetuating acts of terrorism against Pakistan.

The statement said that Pakistani security forces are committed to securing its borders and such sacrifices of the brave soldiers further strengthen the security forces' resolve. In another incident in Dera Ismail Khan, sources said that the security forces killed four militants in an operation carried out in Keri Mahang area of Faisal Kotliki on Monday.

The sources said that the operation was carried out on reported presence of militants in the area, adding that an exchange of fire took place between security forces and militants which left four militants killed.

They said that two of them were later identified as Irfan and Zaidullah.

Security forces also recovered a huge quantity of sophisticated weapons and hand grenades from possession of the militants who were killed in the operation, the sources said, adding that the militants killed by security forces were wanted in several cases including attacks on security personnel and bank vans.

No official statement was issued by ISPR on the exchange of fire in Dera Ismail Khan till filing of this report late in the night.

FC personnel martyred

A security personnel of Frontier Corps was martyred in an armed clash with Afghan forces in Noshki area of Baluchistan, Pakistan officials confirmed on Monday.

According to reports the armed clash took place between two sides on Sunday in Gattala area, a locality on the Pak-Afghan border, some 100 km from Quetta.

"The Frontier Corps personnel and Afghan forces exchanged heavy fire at the border in Noshki area," Noshki deputy commissioner Anwar Hossain Soomro said, adding that one personnel of Noshki militia, a wing of Frontier Corps, was martyred in the exchange of fire. However, he did not tell the reason for the clash.

However, a senior FC official requesting anonymity, said that Afghan forces opened fire on the FC personnel when they went to Gattala check post after receiving reports about the slaying of militants and illegal Afghans to check infiltration of militants and illegal Afghans into Pakistan from Afghanistan.

The Afghan forces opened fire on seeing the FC troops. The FC personnel returned fire, triggering a heavy exchange of fire which continued for an hour. The exchange of fire resulted in martyrdom of a Pakistani security personnel who was identified as Subedar Tariq who suffered bullets in his stomach.

There was no report of casualties on the Afghanistan side of the border.

Suleem Shahid also contributed to this report

HRW terms Israeli strikes on Yemen port war crime

DUBAI: An Israeli air raid last month on a key Yemen port was a "possible war crime" that has threatened food and aid supply for millions, Human Rights Watch said on Monday. The July 20 attack on the western port city of Hodeida, controlled by Houthis, came a day after the rebels claimed responsibility for a drone attack on Israel's commercial hub of Tel Aviv. New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the Tel Aviv strike killed one person could also constitute a war crime by the Houthis. The Israeli response

documented the Hodeida port's fuel storage capacity and killed at least nine people, according to the Houthis who hold much of Yemen including the capital Sanaa. HRW said "at least six civilians" were killed in the strikes which "reportedly injured at least 80 others". The rights group noted that the Hodeida port "is critical for delivering food and other necessities to the Yemeni population". The damage "could have a long-term impact on millions of Yemenis who rely on the port for food and humanitarian aid", it said.—AFP

سندھ کے فکری رہبر اور عظیم صوفی شاعر

حضرت شاہ عبداللطیف بہٹائی

22 تا 20 اگست 2024

ثقافتی گوٹھ کا افتتاح صوفی راگ سکھرن جی پکھری (لوک شعراء کی محفل)

لطیف ادبی کانفرنس اور دیگر تقاریر بھٹ شاہ میں منعقد کی جا رہی ہیں۔

آئیں ان تقاریر میں شرکت کریں اور سندھ کے ثقافتی اور صوفی کلچر کا حصہ بنیں

محکمہ ثقافت و سیاحت، حکومت سندھ



Tribunals likely to miss deadline for deciding poll cases

• Fafen says only 25 out of 377 pleas decided as of Aug 17 • Six tribunals in Punjab still inactive

By Ihtsham A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Election tribunals have disposed of only 25 out of a total of 377 poll petitions filed with them following the Feb 8 general election, reveals a systematic tracking of election petitions by the Free and Fair Election Network (Fafen).

As of Aug 17 this year, the tribunals disposed of four petitions related to National Assembly (NA) constituencies and 21 related to provincial assembly (PA) constituencies, according to the Fafen report.

The petitions disposed of represent seven per cent of the 377 petitions filed with the election tribunals. With six tribunals in Punjab still inactive, this slow pace may result in multiple petitions lingering beyond the legal deadline of 180 days from the date of their filing, the report notes.

Legally, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is bound to publish in the official Gazette the names of the returned candidate (candidate with the highest number of votes) and all other contesting candidates along with the number of votes obtained by them (Section 98 of the Elections Act, 2017).

Any losing candidate can file a petition within 45 days of the gazette notification of the returned candidate (Section 142) and each petition shall be decided within 180 days of its filing (Section 148). Through amendments to the Elections Act 2017, enacted in August 2023, parliament extended the time limit for the disposal of election petitions from 120 to 180 days from the date of their filing.

The amendments also introduced measures to expedite the disposal of petitions by capping the maximum duration of stay orders issued by higher courts in such cases to six months. However, the ongoing operations of the tribunals, particularly in Punjab, do not reflect the spirit of the law, due to multiple factors, including prolonged legal interpellations between the ECP and the Lahore High Court regarding the notification of its tribunals in the province, which has rendered them dysfunctional.

The eight tribunals notified in Punjab thus far have a cumulative caseload of 157 election petitions. Fafen has determined that at least 377 petitions have been filed with the 23 election tribunals across the four provinces and the Islamabad Capital

Territory (ICT). Of these, Fafen has identified the petitioners for 333 petitions through copies of the petitions and case lists available on high courts' websites. To date, the copies of only 226 petitions have been obtained. Additionally, 44 petitions could not be tracked through the case lists. The ECP has also not yet disclosed the exact number and auxiliary details of the petitions filed before the tribunals.

Fafen also observed the process of resolving writs disputes following the general election, when the ECP established 14 tribunals to decide 285 petitions, and after GE-2018, when the ECP established 20 tribunals to decide 300 pleas.

Of the 23 notified tribunals, 11 have disposed of a total of 25 petitions — four for NA and 21 for PA constituencies. Balochistan tribunals disposed of 17% of the total petitions in the province, South Zone, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 4%, Punjab less than a half per cent, while ICT tribunal has not decided any petition so far.

Three Quota-based tribunals have decided 14 petitions — one for NA and 13 for Provincial Assembly of Balochistan (PAB). Tribunals in Karachi, Sukkur, Larkana and Hyderabad have decided five petitions — two for NA and four for Provincial Assembly of Sindh (PAS), Mirpur and Dera Ismail Khan tribunals have decided four petitions — one for NA and three for Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (PAK). The only petition disposed of in Punjab is of a Provincial Assembly of Punjab (PAP) seat by Rawalpindi tribunal.

While some of the disposed of petitions have been accepted, two PAS petitions have been dismissed on non-prosecution (petitioners not following up the case before the tribunals), seven petitions — three each for NA and PAKP and one for PAS — have been withdrawn by the petitioners, while 16 petitions — one each for NA, PAP, PAKP and PAS and 13 for PAB — have been dismissed on merits of the case.

Tribunal-wise, Quota-II have disposed of a total of 11 petitions, followed by Mirpur and Karachi-II, which have decided three petitions each. Quota-I two petitions while Sukkur, Hyderabad, Larkana, Quota-III, Rawalpindi and D-I. Khan have decided one petition each so far. These numbers can vary as the ECP and tribunals have still not shared information on the petitions and Fafen relies on the case lists to ascertain the numbers and status of the petitions.

Bangladesh war crimes tribunal probes cases against Hasina

DHAKA: A Bangladesh war crimes tribunal set up by ousted premier Sheikh Hasina has launched three "mass murder" probes into its founder over the unrest that forced her to flee the country, its investigator said Monday. More than 450 people were killed — many due to police fire — during a month of student-led protests against Hasina's 15-year autocratic rule, before she quit as prime minister and fled to India on August 5.

"We are collecting preliminary evidence at this stage," said Arunur Rahman, deputy director of the tribunal's investigation cell, adding the cases were related to "mass murder." After this, we will go to the site of the crimes.

All three cases were brought by private individuals, and several of Hasina's former top aides have also been named in the cases, he said. The cases relate to violence in suburbs or nearby districts of Dhaka, in Mirpur, Moulvibazar and Sylhet.

In addition, local police units across the country filed at least 15 cases against Hasina, according to local media reports. Some relate to cases that predate the recent unrest, and charges include murder and "crimes against humanity".

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), which was set up by Hasina in 2010, has sentenced more than 100 people to death, including several of her political opponents. The court had been often criticised by rights groups for not following international conventions.

Hasina's government was accused of widespread human rights abuses, including the extrajudicial killing of thousands of her political opponents.

The UN said there were strong indications that the security forces used an unnecessary force in tackling the uprising. —AFP



AMRITSAR: Medical professionals lit candles as they pay tribute to the 31-year-old doctor who was raped and murdered at a state-run hospital in Kolkata on Aug 9. Calling for justice, doctors' associations from government-run hospitals in many cities across India continued strikes that cut non-essential services as widespread strikes by healthcare workers entered a second week on Monday. —AFP

Police detain man in connection with UK disinformation probe

Investigators want JIT to probe 'serious' allegations, say Channel 3. Now freelancer was not 'primary source' of spurious claims

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: Police have detained a Pakistani witness, accused of having a role in disseminating the disinformation that led to race-motivated riots across the UK following the stabbing of three young girls in the city of Southampton, law enforcement sources told Dawn.

However, investigators want the government to form a joint investigation team to investigate the allegations levelled by UK broadcaster ITV News, which had accused a Lahore-

based freelancer of being the source of the misinformation that the 17-year-old British-born suspect was an immigrant who arrived in UK.

Officers privy to developments told Dawn that their own investigations led them to the conclusion that Farhan Asif — a freelance web developer associated with the Channel 3/Now platform that is blamed for posting the disinformation — was not the source of this spurious news, but rather copy-pasted it from a social media post.

"The allegations should not be taken lightly as they can have a far-reaching impact on Pakistani community in the UK, in particular, and Muslims in general," a police officer told Dawn on Monday.

According to the officer, investigators believe that the disinformation was first published by konyakerrick.com, a little-known tabloid on July 29th.

The tabloid posts reports about

celebrities and trending topics in South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, US, Zimbabwe and India.

The disinformation was then shared by a UK-based woman, who has previously been involved in spreading disinformation about Covid-19 and climate change, on X (formerly Twitter), the officer said.

The X account of the woman in question also seems to be inactive, with the last post being made on Aug 7.

The officer said that police were looking into Asif, whose social media accounts had now been disabled, adding that he had no criminal record or suspicious transaction history.

He said Asif, upon realising the mistake, had issued an apology and deleted the post from all social media accounts, but the disinformation kept gaining traction as it kept being shared by other users and garnering views online.

Philippines, China trade barbs over vessel collision

BEIJING: The Philippines and China accused each other on Monday of ramming vessels and performing dangerous manoeuvres in the South China Sea.

The incident came less than two weeks after an air incident between the Chinese and Philippines militaries in Scarborough Shoal.

China's Coast Guard said a Philippine vessel that had ignored its repeated warnings had "deliberately collided" with a Chinese vessel in an "unprofessional and dangerous" manner in the

disputed waterway. The Philippines, however, said its coast guard vessels "unprovoked and aggressive manoeuvres" from Chinese vessels near Sabina Shoal, while on their way to supply Filipino personnel stationed in two islands.

"These dangerous manoeuvres resulted in collision, causing structural damage to both PCG (Philippine Coast Guard) vessels," said Jonathan Malaya, a spokesman for the national security council and Manila's South China Sea task force.

Chinese foreign minis-

try spokesperson Mao Ning told reporters that China would continue to take lawful "proactive and forceful measures" to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests. We hope that the Philippines can keep its commitments (and) currently abide by the temporary arrangements reached with China.

Condemning China's actions, US ambassador to Manila MaryKay Carlson tweeted that the US "stands with the Philippines in condemning the China Coast Guard's dangerous manoeuvres".

Sabina Shoal is in the Spratly Islands, which are claimed by China, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Two Philippine Coast Guard vessels "intruded" into waters adjacent to Sabina Shoal without permission in the early hours of Monday, according to China Coast Guard spokesperson Gan Yu.

China's Coast Guard said a look control measure against the Philippine ships in accordance with the law and warned the Philippines to "immediately stop infringement and provocation". —Reuters

Blinken asks Hamas to accept new US suggestions on Gaza

• Says Israel accepts, supports 'bridging proposal' • Hamas says new conditions include Netanyahu's terms the Palestinian group won't accept

TEL AVIV: Secretary of State Antony Blinken has called on Hamas to accept a US bridging proposal for Gaza truce and prisoners swap after what he said was a "very constructive" meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog on Monday.

The top US diplomat said the latest push for a deal was probably the best and possibly last opportunity, urging both sides towards agreement.

Talks in Doha last week passed without a breakthrough, after Hamas boycotted the talks and insisted that Israel should abide by what had already been agreed upon on July 2 instead of working out new conditions. Another round of negotiations is expected to resume this week based on the new US proposal to bridge the gaps.

With the unabated strikes by Israeli military killing at least 40 more Palestinians across the Gaza Strip taking the death toll to at least 40,529 and a Palestinian group announcing the resumption of bombings inside Israel after many

years, there are few signs of conciliation on the ground.

"In a very constructive meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu today, he confirmed to me that Israel accepts the bridging proposal — that he supports it," Blinken told reporters in Tel Aviv.

"It's now incumbent on Hamas to do the same, and then the parties, with the help of the mediators — the United States, Egypt and Qatar — have to come together and complete the process of reaching clear understandings about how they'll implement the commitments that they've made under this agreement."

Despite US expressions of optimism and Netanyahu's office describing the meeting as positive, both Israel and Hamas have signalled that any deal will be difficult.

Hamas accused Netanyahu of "obstructing the mediators' efforts" and Turkey said Hamas envoys had told it that US officials were "painting an overly optimistic picture" despite their clear stance of abiding by the earlier understanding and

rejection of the new conditions being set by the US.

Around of talks in Qatar last week, Hamas had called on mediators, rather than holding more negotiations, to implement a framework outlined in late May by US President Joe Biden. After the Doha meeting, the US admitted what mediators called a "bridging proposal", which Hamas on Sunday said "responds to Netanyahu's conditions" — and includes terms that the Palestinian group would never accept.

Hamas insisted on "a permanent ceasefire and a comprehensive withdrawal from the Gaza Strip", saying Netanyahu wanted to keep Israeli forces at several strategic locations in Netanyahu's, the Hahaf crossing and the Philadelphi corridor. However, Herzog, speaking along side Blinken, denounced "the refusal of Hamas to move forward".

In past 10 months, Israeli military has levelled swathes of Gaza, driving nearly all of its 2.3 million people from their homes, giving rise to hunger and disease. —Agencies



Mian Shehbaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Pakistan



Muhammad Aurangzeb
Finance Minister of Pakistan



Ali Pervaiz Malik
Minister of State for Finance



Rashid Mehmood Langhrial
Chairman FBR

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR RASHID MEHMOOD LANGHRIAL ON APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN FBR - WE HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FROM YOU.

APPEAL

Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan,

Congratulations on the successful negotiations for the next IMF Program. Your efforts and concerns for Pakistan are highly appreciated; however, the price of the IMF Program on the pockets of the common Pakistani is too high. We understand that this situation is not entirely within your control, as the Finance Division and FBR have presented you with suboptimal taxation options.

We urge the IMF to discourage policies that could be detrimental to Pakistan's economy, as revenue will inevitably fall if the economy contracts.

The SIFC is encouraged to promote taxation policies that stimulate economic growth and enhance foreign remittances.

At this critical time of economic downturn, the drastic increase in taxes on real estate could have severe consequences for the country, leading to a sharp rise in unemployment, a decrease in government revenue, and a reduction in foreign remittances.

Real Estate and Capital Market Investments are two classes of investment targeting the same investor base, yet they are subjected to unequal tax treatment. In the Real Estate sector, there is high taxation for late-filers on purchase or sale, while no such penalty exists for other businesses.

We had submitted very feasible budget proposals to all relevant institutions. We respectfully request that the new Chairman of FBR bring these proposals to your attention for implementation at the next legislative opportunity.

We ask and recommend:

- Trust Deficit:** Why have we not yet overcome the trust deficit between the public and FBR?
- Tax Base Enhancement:** Why are we not employing smarter strategies to expand the tax base?
- Progressive Taxation:** Why is the government not moving towards progressive taxation, rather than merely increasing WHT tax rates? The FBR should focus on revising valuation tables, which could generate more revenue for the government's exchequer.
- Inclusion of New Areas:** Why have we failed to add new areas, societies, and developers/builders' projects to the FBR's valuation tables?
- Federal Excise Duty (FED):** Why is FED imposed on the Real Estate sector, despite this being a provincial subject, making it ultra vires of the Constitution?
- Late Filer Rule:** Why is the late filer rule applicable only to the Real Estate sector? This discrimination appears to be unconstitutional. If the rule is to be implemented, it should take effect after July 1, 2024. Retrospective enforcement is ultra vires the statute.
- Exemption for Overseas Pakistanis:** Income tax under Section 236-K should not be collected on the purchase of properties by NICOP holders and foreign passport holders (Overseas Pakistanis).
- Deemed Income:** The levy of section 7-E has badly hurt the economy. This tax has not contributed positively in revenue collection and is also subjective. It should please be withdrawn.

We believe these issues are crucial for fostering a fair and sustainable taxation system that supports economic growth. We hope our recommendations will receive due consideration.



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Request to Honorable Dignitaries:
A delegation of real estate consultants desires to meet you for a joint strategy towards permanent solution of these issues.

DH # 24, 2nd Floor, Sector-C, Street-06, Commercial Center, Phase-2, DHA Islamabad, 051-5161601-02

SPORT

Sabalenka ousts Swiatek to set up Cincinnati final against Pegula

CINCINNATI Aryna Sabalenka squandered nine match points but defeated world number one Iga Swiatek 6-3, 6-3 on Sunday, breaking through to her first final at the WTA and ATP Cincinnati Open.

Forty-first Cincinnati semi-finalist Sabalenka will rise to second in the WTA rankings with a week to go before the start of the US Open.

Raindrops required the court lines to be dried by towels during several short interruptions.

Sabalenka will play the final against US sixth seed Jessica Pegula, a 6-2, 6-6, 6-3 winner over Spain's Paula Badosa.

Pegula, who won last week's Toronto title, is the third American in the Open Era to reach the Cincinnati and Cincinnati finals in the same year after Rosie Casale (1979) and Serena Williams (2013).

Sabalenka had a battle on her hands to close out her win, with Swiatek putting up a huge battle in the closing stages.

Third-ranked Sabalenka led 5-1 in the second set but Swiatek showed why she is ranked atop the WTA table as she repeatedly saved match-winning points from her opponent.

Sabalenka was broken for 5-3 but finally claimed the hard-fought victory a game later with a concluding break of Swiatek on a return winner on her 10th match point after nearly two hours.

Pegula and Badosa were hit by a rain delay of well over an hour midway through the second set with Badosa leading 4-3 and trailing a set.

They resumed with the Spaniard forcing a third set before Pegula broke for 5-3 in the third and served out victory a game later.

MINNER EDGES PAST ZVEREV

On the men's side of the event, Janik Nesser ended his losing streak against Alexander Zverev with a 7-6 (11-9), 6-2, 7-6 (7-5) win to set up a Cincinnati Open final against American Frances Tiafoe.

The world number one had lost four consecutive matches to Zverev, with his only previous win over the German coming at Roland Garros four years ago.

The semi-final lasted more than three hours, not including a rain interruption.

The match was paused midway through the first set for nearly 30 minutes while a storm passed over the area — another episode of the poor weather which has plagued the event in recent days.

Nesser saved two Zverev set points and won the opener on his own third chance, only to drop the second set after he lost an early break and was broken again in the 12th game as he went on overhead into the net.

The third set went into a tie-break, with Nesser taking a 5-2 lead and triumphing on his second match point.

Tiafoe came from 5-2 down in the final set and claimed a deciding tie-break for a 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-5) defeat of British 15th seed Holger Rune. —AFP



POLAND'S Iga Swiatek serves during her Cincinnati Open semi-final against Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus at the Lindner Family Tennis Center. —AFP

Henry leaves coaching role with French youth side

PARIS Thierry Henry has decided to step down from his role as coach of the France under-21 football team, the French Football Federation (FFF) announced on Monday.

Former France international Henry made the decision after guiding the under-21 side to a silver medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The all-time leading goalscorer for Premier League giants Arsenal took over as coach of the French youth side last summer and was under contract until June 2025 but decided to step away for "personal reasons", according to the FFF. "I would like to thank the FFF and President Philippe Di Paolo for giving me this incredible opportunity," said Henry, 42, in an FFF statement.

"Winning an Olympic silver medal for my country will remain one of the proudest moments of my life. I'm incredibly grateful to the Federation, the players, the staff and the fans for giving me this magical experience." —AFP



PALMA DE MALLORCA: Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham heads the ball during the La Liga match against Mallorca at the Mallorca Son Moix Stadium. —AFP

Ancelotti frustrated with Real defending in draw at Mallorca

PALMA: Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti was critical of his team's lack of balance and bad defending in a 1-1 draw at Mallorca in their La Liga season opener on Sunday.

Ancelotti said his players lacked focus after taking an early lead through Rodrigo in the 13th minute but allowing Mallorca to rescue a point with a Vedat Murrup header after the break at a ramshackle Son Moix.

"Today I am not happy. I think we could have been three much better," a visibly frustrated Ancelotti told a press conference. "We need to be more concentrated, work better as a group. It's not a fitness problem, it is mental."

"I don't want to make excuses for anything. We had to do better and show more attitude. We can learn a lot from this match, it's a match where you can see clearly where we can end up having problems."

Ancelotti was specially critical of his team's defending, saying that he needs a more disciplined performance due to a system that plays with four attacking players like Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Jr, Rodrigo and Jude Bellingham up front.

He suggested that Real could have easily lost due to their own blunders and urged his players to learn fast from Saturday's mistakes.

"We started the game well, we took the lead and we had chances to score the second, but in the second half we lacked balance," Ancelotti said.

"It was a game we could have lost because we didn't have balance. It wasn't a good game. We are a very attacking team and defensive balance is a fundamental part of the way we are built."

"We struggled to steal the ball, to press after losing the ball. When we talk about defending, we are talking about all about collective commitment. The balance is found with the players thinking about the same thing. When we have to win the ball back we have to think about it all together."

"It's a problem for everyone, not the strikers, the midfielders or the defenders. It is a problem of a team that did not understand that this was a key aspect of the match."

Real started well and took the lead thanks to a fine curling strike

by Brazilian forward Rodrigo assisted by a backheeled pass from his countryman Vinicius.

However, Mallorca started to create some chances in counterattacks as a toothless Real grew frustrated, dominating possession but lacking ideas up front.

With Mbappe and Bellingham nowhere to be found, Vinicius was arguably Real's only weapon against a disciplined Mallorca defence.

Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois made three fine saves to keep the visitors' lead, but there was nothing he could do to stop Murrup's powerful header from a corner in the 53rd minute that levelled the hosts.

Ancelotti sent on veteran Luka Modric, who turns 39 in September, for defensive midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni, in search of more fluidity in attack against Mallorca's bunkered-in defence.

But Mallorca held their own to leave Mbappe disappointed on his league debut.

Real's frustration showed in Ferdiand Mendy's wild back at Murrup which earned him a straight red card deep into added time. —Agencies

Paul will 'run like a thief' in the ring: Tyson

NEW YORK: Mike Tyson said he was fit and ready for his Nov 15 fight against Jake Paul as the two boxers had a joint news conference in New York City on Sunday.

The match was originally scheduled for July 20 but was postponed after former heavyweight champion Tyson, 58, had an elbow flare-up that forced some resting time.

"Iron Mike", who has a 50-6 record with 44 knockouts, was one of the most feared heavyweights in history but has not fought a professional fight since 2005.

When asked why he returned to the ring so long after retirement, Tyson's response was clear: "Because I can. Who else can do it but me? We have a YouTube channel, the greatest fighter ever to live."

"He may have been in the ring with people who have the same intentions, but the actuality, no."

"As soon as I catch this guy it's going to be totally over, he is going to run. He is gonna run like a thief."

Paul, who was boxed and knocked by the crowd, claimed he would put Tyson to sleep.

"I am here to make 40 million dollars and knock out a legend," Paul said. "I love Mike and I respect him but we are not friends anymore until Nov 15," he said.



FORMER world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson of the US arrives to face off with compatriot YouTuber and boxer Jake Paul during a media conference at Paradise Pier NYC. —AFP

When asked if he was afraid of being in the ring with Paul, Tyson replied sarcastically: "I am terrified."

YouTube-turned-boxer Paul, 27, is 31 years his junior and has a 10-1 boxing record.

The fight will be streamed live globally on Netflix and will take place at the 80,000-seat AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, home of the Dallas Cowboys. —Reuters

Although the draw is a disappointing result Bologna played with the same nerve as they did last season when under Thiago Motta they qualified for the modern Champions League for the first time in their history.

As Roma started their campaign with a goalless stalemate at Cagliari, while city rivals Lazio got off to a flying start, winning 3-1 at home against newly promoted Venezia, despite an early scare with the visitors scoring after three minutes. —Agencies

Rennes cruise to victory against Lyon

RENNES Stade Rennais made a winning start to their Ligue 1 campaign on Sunday with a solid 3-0 win at home against Olympique Lyonnais.

Two goals in two first-half minutes by Benjamin Bourigeon and Amine Gouiri set the Breton side on their way before Henrik Meister scored the clincher in stoppage time.

Rennes started brightly and the breakthrough came when Ludovic Blas was a free-kick in a dangerous central position, just outside the box.

With 19 minutes on the clock, the forward touched the ball off for the onrushing Bourigeon whose firm strike took a wicked deflection off the wall and spun past the wrong-footed goalkeeper.

The hosts' crowd were still celebrating Rennes' first goal of the season when Gouiri delivered their second just two minutes later.

Again Lyon had a hand in their own downfall as Moussa Niakhate counter-attacked his backpass, allowing Gouiri to swoop onto the ball and cross Lucas Perrin in goal before slotting home from a tight angle.

Julien Stephan's side continued to create chances in the second period but were unable to extend their lead and needed the experienced Steve Mandanda to deny Georges Mikautadze a debut goal from the penalty spot in the 72nd minute.

Danish striker Meister then opened his league account one minute into injury time with a right-footed drive from inside the box which sealed the points for Rennes.

"It's just one match, three points. There's still a long way to go. We're happy, but we're not getting carried away," said Rennes coach Stephan.

It was opening day defeat again for Lyon, who suffered a horror start to last year's campaign but eventually recovered under the stewardship of Pierre Sage to become the form team in Ligue 1 in 2024.

Sunday's first kick-off saw new boys Auxerre restart life in the top flight with a last-gasp win against visitors Nice.

Substitute Lassou Coulibaly grabbed the winner five minutes into stoppage time, after Rayan Kechout had cancelled out Mohamed-Ali Cho's 23rd-minute opener.

Elsewhere, Lens beat newly-promoted Angers 1-0 thanks to a superb 28th-minute goal by Wesley Riedel.

The forward received the ball on the turn near the penalty spot and feinted to shoot one way before striking the ball the other way with the goalkeeper totally flummoxed.

Nantes played out a goalless stalemate at Toulouse, while two second-half goals earned the bezoekers were shared 1-1 in Montpellier's meeting with Strasbourg. —AFP



RENNES: Henrik Meister of Rennes shoots to score past Olympique Lyonnais' Moussa Niakhate during their Ligue 1 match at Roazhon Park Stadium. —AFP

Swiss goalkeeper Sommer retires

GENEVA Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer announced his retirement from international football on Monday after a 12-year career in which he made 94 appearances for the national side.

The 35-year-old played all five of Switzerland's matches at Euro 2024. His last international game was the quarter-final defeat by England on penalties.

"My time with the national team has meant a lot to me," Swiss Milan's Sommer said in a statement released by the Swiss football association.

"I look back with pride on the many unforgettable moments, the exciting matches, the victories celebrated together and the challenges we have overcome together."

Sommer has been a key figure for the Swiss since taking over from Diego Benaglio as their number one a decade ago.

Switzerland have made the knockout phase at the last six major tournaments.

Sommer made the deciding penalty save from France's Kylian Mbappe in the Euro 2020 final 16 which sent his team into their first major quarter-final since 1954. —AFP

Hamburg score seven, Bochum eliminated

BERLIN Hamburg thrashed fourth-division Mitten 7-1 away in the first round of the German Cup on Sunday, while Bochum became the first top-flight side eliminated.

Hamburg, who won the European Cup in 1983 but have been in the second division since a first-over relegation in 2018, were 2-0 up at halftime before scoring five goals in the second period.

Bochum lost 1-0 at second-flight Regensburg, becoming the first Bundesliga side booted out of this year's Cup competition.

Top-flight Augsburg came from a goal down to beat Viktoria Berlin 4-1 away to ensure their progress to the second round. —AFP

Conte apologises for Napoli's opening day debacle at Verona

MILAN Napoli manager Antonio Conte apologised to the club's fans after his side were humbled 3-0 at Hellas Verona in Serie A on Sunday and lost star midfielder Kvarnshelja after he collided with an opposing player.

Conte and Napoli endured a dreadful start to the campaign when Verona scored three goals in the second half, with the 2023 champions unable to prevent the hosts from creating chances after chance.

"We immediately let Verona have a shot at the start of the second half,

and in the second instance we went behind," Conte told Sky Sports Italia. "Then we melted like snow in the sun. What I feel like saying is that we should apologise to the Neapolitan supporters, who follow us with such passion. I am the coach and it is right that I take full responsibility."

Conte said a lot of work would be needed to bring Napoli up to the standard he aimed for.

"[It was] a performance that shows we need to work hard in every aspect. I came to Napoli with lots of

enthusiasm, with great desire. If I can help Napoli, I will."

The 55-year-old coach said he might seek additional reinforcements before the transfer window closed.

"On the market, one, two, three, four could arrive, as many as the club want to sign. The problems must be faced head-on, and they are not necessarily easy issues to fix."

Conte was forced to take off Kvarnshelja just before halftime when the Georgian linked knees with the following the collision.

Napoli's problems deepened after the break when Dusan Livramento got in front of the defence after five minutes and slotted in a cross from close range to give the hosts the lead.

The nightmare continued for Napoli after 75 minutes when Daniel Mosquera received a through ball and calmly struck a right-footed shot in to double Verona's lead.

In stoppage time, Verona scored a third as Napoli's defence faltered, allowing Mosquera to tap in a close-range pass and complete his brace.

Elsewhere, last season's surprise package Bologna were held to a 1-1 draw by Udinese.

Bologna were playing their first match under a new coach in Vincenzo Italiano, who was denied a win by Leonardo Gianetti's 66th.

Argentine Gianetti struck seconds after Bologna goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski saved Florian Thauvin's penalty, denying Bologna who deservedly took the lead in the 57th minute through a Riccardo Orsolini spot kick.

Stadiums for ICC Champions Trophy to be renovated within five months, says Mohsin

By Our Sports Reporter

LAHORE: The construction of two enclosures and the main building at Gaddafi Stadium must be completed within the next five months, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi announced on Monday. He also highlighted that similar upgrades are required for the main building of the National Stadium in Karachi.

Mohsin made the comments during an inspection of ongoing construction work at Gaddafi Stadium. "The completion of the two enclosures and the main building at Gaddafi Stadium within five months is imperative," he told reporters at the venue. "Similar improvements are needed for the National Stadium in Karachi."

The PCB chairman noted that the designs for the stadiums have been prepared by the international firm BDP.

He pointed out the significant disparity between international standard stadiums and those in Pakistan, emphasizing that the current facilities fall short of global standards.

"Our stadiums lack proper seating, restrooms, and adequate viewing angles, which is akin to watching a match from 500 meters away," he said.

The PCB chief stressed that while the facilities from the 1980s may have sufficed at the time, the demands of the current era necessitate substantial upgrades.

In addition, Mohsin revealed that the PCB is working on establishing new high-performance centers in Islamabad, Abbottabad, and Karachi.

He mentioned that some stadiums fall outside the PCB's control and have thus sent letters to various provincial governments requesting either repairs or transfer of control to the PCB for refurbishment.

Discussions are ongoing with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other provinces on this matter, Mohsin added.

Furthermore, Mohsin disclosed that a building adjacent to the National Cricket Academy in Lahore has been acquired for conversion into a hotel.

Although transforming the building into a hotel poses challenges, he assured that work is in progress.

This development is expected to alleviate traffic congestion for Lahore residents caused by international teams traveling from their hotel to Gaddafi Stadium.



CRICKETERS of Pakistan and Bangladesh train at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Monday.—AFP

Injured Aamir dropped as Pakistan name playing XI for first BD Test

By Kashif Adbasi

RAWALPINDI: All-rounder Aamer Jamal has missed out on a place in Pakistan's playing XI for the first fixture of the two-match Test series against Bangladesh, which is set to be played on Wednesday.

Aamer, who impressed in his Test debut series against Australia during the national side's tour Down Under in December (January), was not only ruled out from the first game on Monday, but also dropped from the Pakistan squad.

Initially included in the roster "subject to fitness clearance", Aamer "has been advised to work on his fitness at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore" as he recovers from "a back injury which he sustained while playing county cricket this year," the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said.

Aamer took 18 wickets in three Test matches against Australia and also demonstrated decent ability with the bat against an experienced bowling lineup of the hosts.

He has lost his place to pacer Mohammad Ali, who will play only his third Test after playing his first two against England in 2022.

Ali, who has returned to national reckoning on the back of consistent performances over the course of the last two domestic seasons, will be a part of a Pakistan pace attack spearheaded by fasteners Nadeem Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah.



BANGLADESHI head coach Chandika Hathurusinghe speaks during a media conference at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Monday.—Tanzeer Shafiq/White Star

The Pakistan fast bowling battery also includes right-armers Khuram Shahzad, who, too, started a decent show in his debut against Australia before getting injured and returning after recovery.

Pakistan, led by Shan Masood, have decided to go with an all-pace attack and hence not included a specialist spinner for the first Test, with the playing surface at the Pindi Cricket Stadium here set to be a fast bowling paradise.

their squad in Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Taijul Islam along with veteran spin bowler all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan.

But the visitors' head coach Chandika Hathurusinghe said his team had reliable pacers too, showing confidence in the likes of Taskin Ahmed, Shorful Islam and Hasan Mahmood.

"Looking at their selection, they haven't picked many spinners," Hathurusinghe said of Pakistan's selection strategy. "Recently, we've developed a lot of good fast bowlers in our ranks."

"We have decent fast bowlers if the conditions favor them. Anyway, we have two all-rounders who bowl spin and are world-class."

The Bangladesh head coach believed most called for the side to pick their top-performing spinners regardless of the conditions that were expected in Rawalpindi.

"We expected the Pakistan wickets to be different from those in Bangladesh," he noted. "The spinners we picked were chosen on merit, not just because of the conditions."

Hathurusinghe did hope that there is a balance between fast and ball during the series.

"When we play at home, we encounter result-oriented pitches where sometimes 250 is a winning score," he observed. "Obviously, when batsmen play on such pitches, they face challenges. I hope the pitches in Pakistan generally favor batting, which provides a good contest between bat and ball. We aim to show better results on these kinds of pitches."

Lawrence, Potts drafted in for England's first Test against Sri Lanka

MANCHESTER: Dan Lawrence will open the batting for England in the first Test of a three-match series against Sri Lanka, while Matthew Potts has been drafted in to compensate for the loss of captain Ben Stokes to injury.

Lawrence has only operated as an opener a handful of times in his first-class career but returns to the England side for the first time in two-and-a-half years after Zak Crawley's fractured finger opened up a vacancy at the top of the order.

Potts provides an extra bowling option with all-rounder Stokes set to miss the entire series after tearing his hamstring during the Hundred.

Lawrence started out as an opener in his early days with Essex, and scored a half-century for Surrey in April in a rare return to the top, but has made his name as a free-flowing middle-order stroke-maker.

In years gone by that might have marked him out as a poor fit to see off the new ball but England's priorities have changed in the "Shorts" era, with Crawley given license to go after the bowlers from the word go.

"I think that's the style of cricket that Josiah Bar McCullum and Ben Stokes are generally after and my general way of going about it is to try and be quite aggressive," said Lawrence.

"I always try and take the game on and score runs. I think I fit the mould more in that aspect. When I heard about Zak the first thing I thought about was, 'Am I going to open?' and I found out very quickly that I was so I've had a couple of weeks to get my head around that and get some practice in."

Potts is also back after a spell out of the side. After a breakout summer in 2022, the Durham seamer played just one Test last year, but gets the opportunity to make his case after being chosen ahead of Ollie Stone.

England are looking to build on their 3-0 series win over the West Indies earlier in the summer when the first Test gets underway at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

Ollie Pope captains the team in Stokes' absence, with Harry Brook promoted to vice-captain.

Stokes was with the team as they reported for duty in Manchester and is expected to be part of the dressing room throughout the three-match series.

Squads: Dan Lawrence, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope (captain), Joe Root, Harry Brook (vice-captain), Jamie Smith (wicket-keeper), Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Matthew Potts, Mark Wood and Shoaib Bashir.—AFP

Pakistan's U-18 volleyball team seek government support for world championship

By Mohammad Yaqoob

LAHORE: Pakistan's U-18 volleyball team has made history by qualifying for the World Championship for the first time.

This achievement comes after their impressive performance in the Asian Volleyball Championship, where they won a bronze medal and defeated strong teams like India, South Korea and Japan.

Captain Saad Ahmad believes that this team has the potential to win a medal at the World Championship, but emphasizes the need for government support.

"Technically and skill-wise, our boys are outstanding and have great team chemistry," Saad told Dawn, at a prize distribution ceremony organized by the Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) to give cash prizes to the Pakistan U-18 team.

"If the government supports us with at least two European tours before the World Championship, we can achieve a medal."

The team's qualification for the World Championship is a significant milestone, marking the first time Pakistan will participate in the tournament.

Every member of the U-18 side attended the event except captain Taha Ahmad, who was suffering from a throat infection.

But vice-captain Khizar Hayat, while speaking in Islamabad on the occasion, highlighted the importance of foreign exposure to compete against top teams.

"We need a couple of foreign tours of strong countries in volleyball before featuring in the World Championship," the 16-year-old, who plays for Wapda on a stipend of Rs25,000 per month, told Dawn.

The PVF has been working to support the team, but financial constraints remain a challenge.

"The PVF is trying its level best for the boys and now it is time for the government to come and join hands with the players as they have all the potential and talent to earn laurels for the country," Saad said.

Captain Saad, who represented Pakistan as a player from 1996 to 2006, appealed to Olympian gold medalist Arshad Nadeem to raise awareness for neglected sports like volleyball.

"Arshad knows our struggles, and his voice can make a difference," he said.

PVF chairman Muhammad Yaqoob announced a cash prize of Rs2 million for the team, with each member receiving Rs100,000.

The World Championship venue will be decided in November, and the team is eager to make a strong impression on the global stage.



GENERAL ranking leader Team Ymer's Wout van Aert of Belgium celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the third stage of La Vuelta a España tour, a 191.26km distance between Louisa and Castelo Branco, on Monday.—AFP

Van Aert holds off Groves to claim Vuelta stage three win

CASTELO BRANCO (Portugal) Wout van Aert held off Kaden Groves to claim Vuelta a España stage three victory on Monday in another bunch sprint finish.

The Belgian charged to victory at the end of the 191.26-kilometre run from Louisa to Castelo Branco in Portugal, having the power to stay ahead of Australian stage two winner Groves of Alpecin-Deceuninck.

General classification leader Vincenzo Leone a bike rider Van Aert holds on to the red jersey, finishing in four hours 40 minutes and 42 seconds ahead of Groves and Spaniard Jon Aberasturi.

Van Aert secured his 10th Grand Tour stage victory having finished third and second on the opening two days of the Vuelta.

"It's worth it to be patient, it's been quite a while since I could raise my hands [in celebration] and this feels so good," said Van Aert after his first win since February.

"To use my strength and launch early...

I think I surprised [Groves] by going even before 200 metres... it was the perfect sprint for me.

"The team was so strong, we had the whole race in control, they got me the perfect position in the start so this gave me the confidence to finish it off."

Van Aert will take a supporting role for his teammates and last year's champion Sepp Kuss for stage four, the first chance for the general classification riders to take control.

"Unfortunately the fun is over, tomorrow I'll be happy to give the role as team leader to Sepp and Casan [Ugolebroek], it will be the first test for the GC guys and I will try to enjoy [wearing red] one more time," added Van Aert.

Kuss is one minute six seconds behind Van Aert, while three-time Vuelta champion and this year's favourite Primož Roglič trails the Belgian by 20 seconds.

Spaniards Iban Ruiz and Luis Angel Maté made an early breakaway for the

second day running, with compatriots Unai Iribar and Xabier Ibañeta joining them.

The latter left the others behind but in taking Portuguese seamer heat the peloton roared in Louisa with around 20km remaining, with the stage profile testing another bunch sprint finish, conquered by Van Aert.

The race now enters Spain for stage four, running 170.5km from Plasencia to Pico Villaverde in the Extremadura region.

On Sunday, Groves edged a bunch sprint finish to claim victory on stage two.

Groves powered over the line ahead of Van Aert and Corbin Strong at the end of a 194-kilometre run between Canals and Ourense.

Van Aert took the general classification lead after carrying six bonus seconds for placing second. Groves recorded his victory in five hours, 12 minutes, 55 seconds.—AFP

KARACHI

Sunset 07:03 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:07 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 28°C
Maximum 31°C
Humidity 75%
Outlook AM Showers

METRO

South



Aamir dropped as Pakistan name playing XI for first BD Test
Pg.18 SPORT

Two suspects shot dead in 'encounters'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Two suspects, including a wanted gangster, were shot dead in an early morning encounter in the city on Monday.

Kourari SSP Faizati Ali told a press conference that acting on a tip-off, the hideout of the Karachi Dada gang was raided by a police team on the night between Sunday and Monday in the Old Golimar area.

As the suspects saw the police, they opened fire and in an ensuing exchange of gunfire one suspect, identified as Umar alias Jhoonga, a notorious shooter of the gang, was gunned down while his accomplice managed to escape taking advantage of darkness, the SSP said.

He said the suspect had established a camp of terror in Park Colony and adjoining areas of Old Golimar due to his criminal activities.

He said that he was involved in murders, attempted murders, extortion, terrorism and other crimes. There were five cases registered against him pertaining to murders and attempted murders.

In another raid, four suspects — Nahi Bux alias Baha, Arsalan Sirohi alias Toa, Mobeen alias Zoonhan and Haseeb — were arrested.

The police claimed to have recovered 15 motorcycles, 10 kilograms of hashish, two rifles, five pistols and 20 mobile phones from their custody.

SSP Ali said suspects Baha and Sirohi were members of the shooters' team of Karachi and Ghora Riwayat while the other two, Mobeen and Haseeb, were involved in the sale of narcotics.

During initial probe, suspect Baha revealed that a few weeks ago, he killed suspect Umar Jhoonga and he had planned to kill police official Raja Khalid near Karachi Zoo.

Meanwhile, a suspected robber was shot dead in an

Continued on Page 14

Bilawal opens two cutting-edge medical facilities at JPMC

• Rejects criticism at Sindh govt, saying actions speak louder than words • Terms NICVD, NICH and JPMC exemplary models of good governance post 18th Amendment • Says his party takes pride in providing free healthcare services to people from all over country

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: In an attempt to silence his political allies and adversaries proscribing his party's government in Sindh to provide relief in electricity bills, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday spoke of his government's efforts in the health sector, emphasising that hospitals were offering quality 'free-of-cost services' to all patients including those from other provinces and other countries.

He said this at the inauguration ceremony of two cutting-edge medical facilities — the 120-bed Rashid Society Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and the 110-bed Saad-ul-Islam Department of Neurology and Stroke Unit — at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC).

The newly inaugurated departments are both by a well-known non-governmental organisation, the Patients Aid Foundation (PAF), under a public-private partnership. Earlier, the departments were functioning in a 60-year-old building with few rooms for outpatient departments and limited capacity for admissions.

With 120 beds, the JPMC psychiatry department is now the largest mental health facility with a dedicated floor for women and children. It has 17 rooms for OPD on the ground floor where more than 650 patients would be treated daily. Similar is the case with the neurology and stroke unit. Both departments are equipped with the latest equipment.

Speaking on the occasion, the PPP chairman said, "You may have heard criticism suggesting that the Sindh government does nothing or that we don't undertake mega projects. But actions speak louder than words."

"The best hospitals in Pakistan are located in Sindh. The JPMC, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) and National Institute of Child Health (NICH) represent the top healthcare institutions in the country," he said.



PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah and Mushaq Chhaga of the Patients Aid Foundation pray after inaugurating the new CyberKnife Unit at JPMC, on Monday.—PTI

while describing the three institutions as a beacon of hope amid negative news that often circulated about Pakistan.

"The NICH is providing free healthcare services to children. The Cyber Knife machine for cancer treatment at JPMC is available only at handful of countries globally," he said, while pointing out that while cancer treatment using this machine abroad cost over a thousand dollars, the JPMC offered it free of cost.

He termed these hospitals as exemplary models of good governance and successful public-private partnerships by the provincial government, adding that they were proof of how effectively the province had managed its institutions after the 18th Amendment.

He commended the contribution of Sindh's business community for partnering with the provincial government in providing free healthcare services and recognised them as leaders in charity work across the country.

The PPP chairman asserted that his party and Sindh government took pride in providing free and quality healthcare services

to the public.

He noted that the expensive PET-CT scan required for cancer diagnosis was not offered for free in any province other than Sindh.

He proudly stated that JPMC's cancer department attracts patients from 567 cities across the country, as well as from 15 other countries.

In his remarks, Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah said that the PPP chairman had suggested that during the prime minister's next visit to Karachi, he should be taken on a tour to JPMC, NICVD and NICH.

He expressed his willingness to assist in establishing similar hospitals in Punjab and highlighted the ongoing efforts to set up such facilities in Balochistan.

"We want similar hospitals in Lahore so that people there can also benefit from free treatment," he added.

Speaking about the two newly inaugurated projects, the CM said his government had been covering the operational costs of the Cyberknife unit since 2018.

He said that his government had achieved another significant milestone in a successful public-

private partnership between the Sindh government and Patients Aid Foundation (PAF). The Sindh government donated a new state-of-the-art Cyberknife system worth \$4.1 million to the PAF to handle the growing workload, he said.

He said that the government had authorised the Patients Aid Foundation for the operational autonomy of the Radiation Oncology Section through an agreement.

"Now, the JPMC houses two Cyberknifes and two Tomotherapy units under one roof," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, head of the Cyberknife Unit Dr Tariq Mahmood informed the PPP chairman that Cyberknife offered curative treatment for early-stage tumours with radiation without pain or anaesthesia.

At the end of the programme, Mr Bhutto-Zardari participated in a signing ceremony between the Patients Aid Foundation and the Sindh government for the radiation oncology section at JPMC.

The ceremony was also attended by Health Minister Dr Aamir Faisal Pechoo, provincial ministers and others.

Eight siblings, guest die after eating 'poisonous' food in Khaipur

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: Nine people, eight among them siblings and a guest, died and one was hospitalised reportedly after eating poisonous food in dinner in Habib Khan Dhoi village near Pir-Jo-Goth, Khaipur district.

Sources in the village said that as soon as the 10-member family and their guest had had dinner last night, they started falling unconscious. Their relatives and neighbours rushed them to Kingi taluka hospital where three members of the family died and their bodies were returned to the heirs without autopsy as there were no doctors to perform it, they said.

Villagers accused paramedics and nurses of mishandling the victims in the absence of doctors, leading to deaths of three family members. Later, others also succumbed to the poison and hence nine siblings had died since last night, they said.

They said the victims included two sisters, three brothers and a guest. The 10th victim, whose condition was said to be unstable, was under treatment at the taluka hospital, they said.

The sources said that police brought back the bodies of Dildar, Dilbar, Ghulam Asghar, Mansoor, Ms Hajari, Ms Mariam, Ms Sonia, Ms Gong Bibi and Fahmida, aged four to 10 years, to the taluka hospital after learning that they were handed back after autopsy.

Area's SHO Ameer Ali Chhang said that police investigators had started investigation of the incident and they were waiting for the post mortem reports to proceed further.

But Saig Brohi, father of the victims, said that his daughters and sons had died due to absence of doctors and mishandling at the taluka hospital. A post mortem examination had not been carried out yet, he said.

The sources said that late in Monday evening, a team of food officials from Sukkur took samples of the leftover food eaten by the victims and took them to Sukkur for examination.

CM takes notice

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah took notice of the incident and directed the Sukkur commissioner to get the incident investigated properly to ascertain the cause of death.

Officials briefed the CM that the ill-fated family had their own cattle and were likely self-sufficient in milk production and therefore, deaths due to contaminated milk were not likely.

Conclusions in respect of precise reason of deaths can only be ascertained once the reports of chemical laboratory had been received by the police, the CM was informed.

Treasury, opposition join hands to put off PA session in view of rain devastation

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly session on Monday was adjourned till Aug 27 as the lawmakers from the rift sides of the state agreed that they should be among people of their respective constituencies due to the alarming situation caused by the recent monsoon rains in the province.

At the outset of the proceedings, former speaker Agha Siraj Durrani on a point of order moved an adjournment motion seeking adjournment of assembly sitting in view of the monsoon rains. His proposal was seconded by the opposition members.

Inviting speaker's attention to the recent monsoon rains that had caused havoc in several areas of the province, he said that the situation had been very alarming for the past two days.

"In this hour of trial, it is felt necessary that elected public representatives should be present in their constituencies to play their role in helping the affected people," the former speaker said, adding that it would be better to adjourn the assembly session for a week.

The speaker, while agreeing to the proposal, sought opinion of the house and it was not opposed by the opposition members either.

Later, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lariq moved a motion to adjourn the meeting till August 27, which was approved unanimously by the house.

Earlier, PPP's Imdad Patafi said on one of his points of order that the condition of Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway was very bad as there were fatal accidents every day.

He referred to the killing of seven people, including two brothers, in a traffic

accident on the motorway and demanded the early completion of the motorway project from Sukkur to Hyderabad.

On the proposal of the law and parliamentary affairs minister, the speaker ruled to send the matter the provincial cabinet for consideration.

Mr Patafi also mentioned the relief of Rs24 per unit to the electricity consumers in Punjab and demanded of the provincial government to provide such relief in the province too.

Shahid Qureshi, a member of the assembly supported by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, said that the PPP member had correctly identified the problems of province and asked the provincial government to at least give the good news that the Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway would be built during their five-year tenure.

PPP's Nisar Ahmed Khudro said that the National Highway Authority, responsible for construction of motorways and

highways, did not fall under the provincial category. "Those who were in the government from 2018 to 2022 should be asked why they have not laid even a single brick," he jibed referring to the PML.

He said that the motorway was a federal project and its completion was not the responsibility of the provincial government, but the federal government.

Muhammad Farooq, the lone member of Jamaat-i-Islami, said that entire system of civic facilities in the city had been disrupted due to recent rains and demanded that the provincial government allocate special grant for the damage caused to the city's infrastructure by the rains.

He said that the provincial government had claimed to have distributed Rs1.2 million funds to each union committee for uplift works, but only

Continued on Page 14

SUV runs over, kills two near Karsaz

KARACHI: A fast-moving SUV killed two people, including a woman, and injured three others near Karsaz on Monday evening, police said.

DIG Traffic Ahmad Nawaz Cheema told Dawn that a Toyota Prado driven in an 'extremely negligent manner' by a woman, hit a motorcycle apparently while negotiating a turn from Taps Sultan Road towards the service road of Muslim League House. The car then hit two more motorcycles and overturned after colliding with a parked car on the road.

As a result, five persons were injured. They were taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre where two of them, including a woman, died during treatment. DIG Cheema said the woman driver had been arrested and her car impounded.—Staff Reporter

Women renew strong bond of love with brothers on Raksha Bandhan

The annual festival is celebrated on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shrawana

By Shazia Hassan

KARACHI: Astrologers all over the world may be calling the full moon that appeared on August 19 a rather difficult aspect but it also brought with it a happy occasion for brothers and sisters who follow the Hindu religion in the form of Raksha Bandhan on Monday.

Celebrated on the full moon of the Hindu month of Shrawana, Raksha Bandhan literally means 'tie or knot of protection'. This popular annual tradition sees sisters tying a colourful and decorated thread around the wrists of their brothers to



ON the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, a Hindu devotee ties the rakhi on the wrist of Arjun Maharaj, the chief priest at the Theama Laxmi Narayan Temple, which is located beneath the Nalwa Jetty bridge, on Monday.—PTI

remind them of their significance in the sisters' lives as their protectors.

All the Hindu temples of Karachi had little stalls selling rakhis and widowed women and girls coming for puja and prayer before putting together their special rakhi, which they also get blessed. Some came with their brothers and tied the thread or rakhi around their wrists, then while others took their thalis home as many were expecting to see their brothers later in the evening.

There were also many who had carried out the rituals early in the morning before the brothers could go to school, college or university or their respective places of work. And besides these sisters there were also some whose brothers were away as they lived in another city or country. For them special mail or courier services were brought into use.

Some who didn't have a brother tied the thread around a cousin or friend's wrist. Some ladies were also seen tying it around their father's wrist whereas many also

made Lord Krishna their protector by tying the thread around the deity's wrist. Here they had a choice as some go for the green-up Shree Krishna while others tie the rakhi around Krishna Ji, an avatar which portrays Krishna's childhood, said to be both innocent and mischievous. All these gestures translate into the importance of the sweet and pure bond between brothers and sisters.

The day sees sweetmeat shops and bakeries doing good business as the sisters also offer something sweet to their brothers. In return the brothers are expected to present them with a gift, big or small, according to their pocket. Usually, they give a suit or some jewellery to their sisters.

In Pakistan, many Muslim women tie the rakhi around men belonging to the Hindu faith, whom they consider like their brothers. Many Hindu women also have made Muslim men their brothers by having their hair cut with a rakhi.

PRAYER

Fajr	4:44
Zuhr	12:34
Asr	5:14
Maghrib	7:55
Isha	8:26

Starting time in Karachi

REFLECTIONS

EVERYONE WHO DEPARTS THIS LIFE, WILL NOT RETURN. 33

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

78A427

Muttahida, JI demand relief in electricity prices across country

In separate press conferences, Hafiz Naeem and Farooq Sattar warn of strong protests if their demands are not met

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Jamaat-Islami and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan were found in agreement on Monday when both parties in their separate press conferences demanded immediate relief for power consumers across the country and warned that if the government

failed to cut electricity charges, it would "face the music" with protest from every nook and corner of the country.

Central leadership of the two parties called it unjustified to offer selective incentive to the people of only one province and deprive others of relief. The JI called for a strong protest if its demand's went unheeded and the MQM-P warned its ally PM Shehbaz Sharif of "anarchy" if the government didn't move immediately to offer relief in power prices to other parts of the country.

Addressing a press conference at Idras Noori-Haq, JI chief Hafiz Naeem or Rehman demanded the ruling elite to grant substantial relief to the nation or face the music as the party was going to observe a

strike on August 28, he said and added that a mass mobilisation campaign was on cards, apart from the four major public conventions held in various cities during the past 11 days.

He said that the JI had signed a 45-day accord and only 34 days are left. He added that the JI will take the youth onboard during the days to come and caravans from each and every corner of the country will march towards Islamabad if the government didn't fulfil the agreement in letter and spirit.

He also highlighted the local business issues in Karachi and said that the Pakistan People's Party's government in Sindh had occupied all powers of the local government setup in open defiance of the Constitution of Pakistan. He said the Constitution

clearly mentioned that administrative, monetary and political powers will be devolved to the local governments.

In his presser at Pakistan House, senior MQM-P leaders Dr Farooq Sattar and Aminul Haq called the relief in electricity prices to Punjab only a discriminatory move which was aimed "political point scoring" instead easing the people's woes.

Dr Sattar said Karachi paid the highest taxes which fuelled the engine of the country's economy but when it came to relief, the authorities picked Punjab first. He said that despite share of 73 per cent in the national revenue, Karachi was lagging behind in every aspect of social and economic standards.

"We contribute 73 per cent in

national revenue but here now when people talk about better infrastructure, social security and better law and order they look towards other cities of the country," he said.

"Let me warn the ruling elite to take notice of the growing anger among the people due to this discrimination and injustice. The people of Karachi and Sindh are also entitled to Rs14 per unit of electricity relief. We are already paying Rs44 for per unit of electricity and there's not a single penny's discount for us," he said.

Such bias would push the people to become criminals to make ends meet amid skyrocketing prices of electricity and growing inflation which had almost destroyed the lower middle class and pushed them below the poverty line.

Man shot dead on city outskirts

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A man was shot dead on the city's outskirts on early Monday morning.

Sachal police said 35-year-old Abdul Khaliq was on a motorcycle when armed gunman shot and killed him near Ali Complex, Sachal Mor on Superhighway.

Area SHO Aurangzeb Khanak ruled out the possibility of a robbery attempt. He said the motive could not be ascertained immediately. The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for legal formalities.

Meanwhile, a man was shot at and injured critically in Korangi on Monday.

Korangi Industrial Area police said a man, 35-year-old Irfan Khan, was found from Jam Sadiq Bridge with bullet wounds on his head. He was shifted to the ICU of the Jamshid Postgraduate Medical Centre.

The police said that initially, rescue services had declared him dead but after examination, doctors at the hospital told the investigators that he was alive but in critical condition.

The police during the initial probe found that Irfan was a laborer of a private factory. He had married a divorced woman recently. The police suspected involvement of the former husband of the woman in the attempted murder.

Show-cause issued to private school, SBCA over commercial use of residential property

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday issued show-cause notices to the management of a private school and the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) for allegedly flouting its earlier order against operation of the school in a residential locality.

The single-judge bench of Justice Agha Faizal also got the advocate general Sindh on notice with direction to appear and assist initially with consideration of framing of charge and to act as prosecutor, if so required.

Various residents of PICHES Block 6 had filed a lawsuit last month against illegal conversion/ utilisation of a residential property as a school under the notification of CEINR.

The counsel for the plaintiffs

argued that on Aug 10, the SHC passed an interim order directing the suspension of a licence granted by the SBCA for operating of the school on the subject property as prima facie the licence had been issued arbitrarily by ignoring provisions of the Karachi Building and Town Planning Regulations, 2002 and with further directions to the SBCA to ensure that until the final decision, the school in question should not commence its operations on the subject property.

The lawyer also asserted that notwithstanding the substance of the order, the alleged conversion was running/permitting the use of the residential property for commercial/school purposes.

She referred to an order passed by a divisional bench of the SHC a few days ago in an interim appeal and further submitted that while the contentment of the order to

suspend the licence of the school was suspended, but the directions to the defendants to ensure that until final decision of the suit, the school should not commence operation on the suit property, remained in the field.

The single-judge in its order said "since show-cause notice on the alleged conversion pursuant to section 17(2) of Controverge of Courts Ordinance, 2003 as to why the proceedings of contempt of court shall not be proceeded with there against. Adjudged to 27/08/2024; the alleged conversion shall be present in person along with their replies, for consideration of framing of charge".

It also issued notice to the advocate general of Sindh as per Controverge of Courts Ordinance 2003 to assist initially with consideration of framing of charge and to act as prosecutor, if so required.

Treasury, opposition join hands to put off PA session

Continued from Page 11

Rs500,000 were given instead.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan lawmaker Taha Ahmed said that a child had fallen into a sewer in his constituency and the contracted staff of sewage service failed to recover the victim. "The Sindh government should find out who has hired such untrained staff and whether they have the necessary equipment or not," he urged.

Muhammad Wassim of the MQM-P said that sewage was flowing in the city streets and asked the government to pay attention to the rehabilitation of the infrastructure of Karachi and Hyderabad.

He said that he agreed with Agha Nisat Durrani's suggestion that elected public representatives should be among the people of their constituencies at the time of natural calamity.

Two suspects shot dead in 'encounters'

Continued from Page 11

'encounter' off Superhighway on early Monday morning, police said.

The Sachal police said that a caller named Aqar informed Madhagar-15 about the presence of robbers near Jamshid Bridge. When the police party reached there, they saw two suspects who were looting a bike rider.

On seeing the police, armed robbers resorted to firing and in retaliatory firing by police, one suspect was gunned down while another managed to escape. The police claimed to have recovered one 50-bore pistol and one motorcycle without a license plate from their custody.

The deceased suspect was later identified as Dilawar who had a past criminal record.

LIAQUAT UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL & HEALTH SCIENCES

JAMSHORO, SINDH-PAKISTAN

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Doc # LUMHS/PPRA/090 Issue Date: AUG 06, 2024

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION

REFERENCE:

DOC NO: LUMHS/PMU/031 DATE: 02-07-2024

PPRA ID: TS43079E DATE: 09-07-2024

REF-KEY NO: 218324

CANCELLATION OF TENDER

It is to inform that due to some Technical Reasons the Procurement Process of following Work of referred NET is hereby CANCELLED, under the provisions of PPRA Rules 2010 (amended upto date) with immediate effect.

Detail of work is given below:

Procurement of Equipment for Institute of Ophthalmology, LUMHS, Jamshoro

Director Works & Services LUMHS, Jamshoro

IBA's orientation gala

KARACHI: The Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi welcomed the incoming batch of 2024 at Orientation Gala.

The three-day event saw the participation of around 2,500 people, including new students, their parents, faculty, and staff.

IBA Executive Director Dr S Akbar Zaidi welcomed the students, encouraging them to make the most of their years at IBA, balancing academics with a variety of extracurricular activities.

Dean Student Affairs

Mayor welcomes birth of lion cubs, fawns at zoo

KARACHI: Mayor Farooq Murtaza Wabha has welcomed the birth of two lion cubs and rare breed deer fawns at the Karachi Zoo.

The mayor was informed that the two cubs had been large in a highly observed environment and separate from other animals, following the ecological and fully protected.

In addition to the African lion cubs, the zoo has also welcomed the birth of one fawn each of the rare white and black deer, and three spotted deer fawns.—PPI

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE UNIVERSITY HYDERABAD

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited from the candidates as per prescribed form including attached photographs of all relevant documents including Research Publications and Demand Draft Pay Order of Rs. 3000/- each including in processing fee in favour of the Director Finance, Government College University Hyderabad and should reach undelivered as on before 24-08-2024 to Associate Professor (SPS-2) Sdho, Economics & Political Science.

For detail criteria, further information and application form visit: www.gcu.edu.pk

Director HR Government College University, Hyderabad

BEFORE MR. NAUSMARA KAL (INCHARGE JUDGE) IN THE BANKING COURT NO. IV AT KARACHI

Block 05A, Phase 5, Durrani Superhighway, Sachal, Karachi

SUIT NO. 04 OF 2024

BANQUE PARISIENNE LIMITED, KARACHI PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

Muhammad Akbar Bin Shahid Ahmed (CNC No. 420014700017) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700018) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700019) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700020) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700021) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700022) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700023) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700024) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700025) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700026) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700027) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700028) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700029) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700030) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700031) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700032) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700033) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700034) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700035) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700036) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700037) P, Husein Bin Shahid (CNC No. 420014700038) P, Husein Bin Shahid 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Breach in canal dyke causes flooding in villages

By Our Correspondent

MIRPURKHAS: Rajwa Shahk developed over 30-foot wide breach near Samana town...

Villagers, who immediately moved their families, cattle heads and whatever valuable belongings they could carry to safe places...

The floodwaters first rushed into Chodhry Ashfaq Hussain village and its adjoining settlements and sent people running for saving their families and livestock...

The officials had closed water supply into the canal from Mirrao Canal to help efforts for the breach.

Benazir varsity accepts students' demands to bring end to week-long agitation

Inquiries against security officer, hostel provost, her deputy instituted over 'trespass' on girls' hostel

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA: The week-long agitation by students of Chaudhry Medical College (CMC) and Bhai Asaf-ullah Dental College (BADC) over alleged trespass on girls' hostel...

The SMRMMU (Shaheed Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto Medical University) vice chancellor has constituted an inquiry committee regarding the alleged students' allegations against the hostel's provost, CMC Principal Prof Dr Zameer Soomro and BADC...

An office order issued by the university's registrar Prof Dr Sadiq Shahk said that chairman of the university's hostel...

management committee would take over the charge of the hostel provost until the inquiry was completed.

In another letter addressed to the chairman of the inquiry committee, the registrar has forwarded complaints against the university's security officer and deputy provost of the girls' hostel provost along with students' request that the inquiries against the provost as well as the deputy provost and security officer should be conducted simultaneously.

The students had started a sustained campaign against the officials on Aug 13 as soon as the trespass was reported by a girl hostel, who had raised her strong objection over presence of an unknown male in the corridor of Chaudhry Medical College's girls' hostel at around 3:30am.

During the course of the week-long campaign, the students held rallies and demonstrations outside the hostel and local press clubs.

They finally blocked the CMC entrance, enforced suspension of academic and other activities at the college and crippled the administration by disallowing anyone to enter the college.

The registrar issued show-cause notices to 13 students for holding rallies and paralyzing the institutions. An FIR was also lodged at the Bohanpur police station against a group leading the agitating students.

The university's registrar Prof Dr Sadiq Shahk said that chairman of the university's hostel...

and find out a solution to the issue through negotiations in the presence of the Larkana district administration. An emergency meeting of the university's academic council was called and leaders of the protesting students were invited to join it but the issue remained unresolved.

A final round of negotiations with the student leaders was held on Monday, when the university and CMC administration decided to accept their demands.

Eventually, an inquiry committee headed by Prof Dr Gulzar Ahmed Shahk (Dean, faculty of medicine and allied sciences), Prof Dr Khairi Lal (chairperson of the department of pediatrics), Dr Bilal Jan Maghori (Assistant Professor of the department of pediatrics) and Dr Mohammed Pariyad Shahk (director of students' affairs) are the other members of the committee.

office order issued by the registrar said.

The committee would look into protesting students' allegations and submit its report within 10 days, the letter read.

At the two rounds of talks held on Saturday (August 17) between the two sides, the district administration was represented by Deputy Commissioner Muzaffar Nisar Channa and SSP Dr Mir Rezaul Khas Khaw.

When asked what would be the fate of the show-cause notices and FIRs against student leaders, a source in the CMC said that law would take its course but the students, if they deem it fit, could approach the committee in this regard.

Meanwhile, the protest camp pitched at the main gate of the Chaudhry Medical College last Tuesday was dismantled on Monday to declare an end to the students' campaign in the wake of successful negotiations.

CMC Principal Prof Dr Zameer Soomro said that normal classes on the campus would resume on Wednesday (Aug 21).

DC's committee on 'neglected' patient's death submits report without findings

Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: The inquiry committee formed by the Hyderabad Deputy Commissioner on the July 29 death of a man in the Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) could not come up with any substantive findings as Professor of Surgery Anshu Muner and her juniors stayed away from the proceedings.

They belong to the Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, and were issued notices by the DC's committee to record their formal statements.

The man, Ayub Qureshi, 35, had died apparently from profuse bleeding in the surgical operating theatre of LUH's Unit-I headed by Prof Anshu. The unit was supposed to deal with emergency cases that day as per the LUH record.

The man had fallen while working in Parenchymal and accidentally a piece of iron rod had pierced through the upper right side of his body.

A third inquiry committee formed by the LUMHS registrar on July 30 has not yet finalised its findings, which were supposed to be submitted within seven days after the date. The LUMHS inquiry team is headed by Prof Muzammar Anwar while the inquiry committee formed by the health secretary is headed by Dr Naveed Ahmed Rind, director of the South health department, Jamshoro.

According to reports, the DC's committee had submitted that Dr Ghous Khan of thoracic surgical department had received a call at 2:30pm on July 29 from registrar of the administration. She found that the patient was with an iron rod having pierced through his body.

She informed assistant professor of cardio thoracic surgery who advised arrangement of blood for having baseline investigations. Dr Naveed Jamra, a medical officer of the thoracic surgery ward-I, after being informed, had arranged blood from the Linka Laboratory and informed Dr Khalid Shahk about patient's condition.

Dr Irfan Hyder, evening RMO (resident medical officer) made several attempts to reach Dr Khalid for further instructions. During the course of treatment, complications arose and patient's arterial...

high risk consent was sought before proceeding further. His attendants refused to give consent, causing further delays. Dr Khalid concluded them about the injury and unavailability of vascular surgeon.

Mid-level staff alleged The report said over 100 attendants misbehaved [with staff] leading to administrative intervention and an ambulance was arranged to transfer the patient to Karachi but bleeding worsened and patient was brought back to the surgical operation theatre and situation deteriorated (attendants' anxiety increased regarding patient's health as he remained unattended for quite some time in operation theatre, according to independent sources).

The report said that Dr Irfan Hyder and Dr M Razaq, both evening RMOs tried to manage patient and multiple times contacted Dr Khalid for guidance.

Dr Khalid (especially in his telephonic statement to the committee) said that the case involved vascular surgeon's intervention and should not have been referred to thoracic surgeon. He said that patient should not have been transferred to emergency surgical OT without consulting relevant departments. As per the inquiry report, Dr Naveed Jamra (a member of DC's...

inquiry team) wasn't aware of the case's seriousness and got involved only after situation worsened.

"Despite attempts to arrange an ambulance for transfer, patient succumbed to injuries due to complications arising from initial injury," an excerpt from report said.

LUH medical superintendent Dr Aijaz Ahmad told the committee that some people came to him and talked about seriousness of patient's condition in OT and then he advised AMR (general) Dr Naveed Jamra to take steps.

Recommendation The committee was said to have recommended that the matter should be referred to health department specifically VC LUMHS as the university being a resource-rich body was ideally equipped to conduct comprehensive "reinvestigation of case" and such reinvestigation should adhere to all applicable rules, regulations and legal frameworks to ensure a fair and just resolution to this critical issue.

Following inquiry's commission, Hyderabad DC was reported to have informed secretary health through commissioner Hyderabad that inquiry committee could submit its substantive findings and recommendations into the July 29 death of patient on the ground that senior doctors/surgeons who were supposed to appear before the committee did not turn up.

PPP gets flak for handling of rains

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: The South Tarapgarh PDP's chairman Dr Qadir Magal has said that Sindh government's handling of recent rains has exposed its performance during past 15 years' rule.

Dr Magal said in a statement issued here on Monday that rains were a blessing from nature but Pakistan Peoples Party government's inefficiency turned it into a nuisance and inconvenience because it failed to dispose of rain-water from cities in time.

He said that civic amenities had not been improved in cities and rural areas to sustain heavy rains as the PPP's ministers and advisers were only interested in issuing statements.

They did not take any practical steps to provide relief to people hit by rains, he said.

He said that PPP government always left Sindh at the mercy of elements in order that it could exploit the disaster for seeking international assistance. No work was done during recent rains and only fake bills were created by the municipality elements from union council to town council level, he said. It was a shame that Sindh government's focal persons had disappeared, he said and demanded that rainwater be disposed of from rural and urban areas immediately and relief be provided to rain-hit people.

Prof Khushk takes charge as Salu VC

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: Prof Dr Yousof Khushk assumed charge as vice chancellor of Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, on Monday amid warm welcome by faculty, university's administration officers and other staffers, said a handout.

Dr Khushk said in his address to the gathering in front of admin block that as this university was named after great Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, its name should not be linked to any scandals.

He was clearly referring to former vice-chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Ahmed Buzopu whose tenure was hit by scandals. Buzopu was allowed to go on ex-Pakistan leave by Sindh chief minister on June 30 in the wake of weeks of protests against him.

Dr Khushk said he aimed to strengthen the research programs, expand infrastructure and promote cultural activities on the campus.

(BEFORE SPECIAL JUDGE)
ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT
SPECIAL CASE NO. 98/2024
STATE VERSUS ARSALLAH SABZOI & OTHERS

Crime No. 88 of 2024
 Under Section 299-A, 302, 303, 306, 307, 307A, 24, 148, 149 PPC & 67 AIA
 Police Station: B-Secton Kandhkot

WHEREAS, the accused namely 01. Arsallah s/o Piyaro Sabzo, 02. Baban s/o Arsallah Sabzo, 03. Piyaro s/o Siraj Din, 04. Sarfo Sabzo, 05. Asif s/o Unknown Sabzo, 06. Mehboob s/o Unknown Sabzo, 07. Baloo s/o Unknown Sabzo, 07. Abdul Malik, 08. Masu s/o Sohbat Ali Jagrani, 08. Ayoub Ali s/o Sohbat Ali Jagrani, 09. Babul s/o Sohbat Ali Jagrani, 10. Jaro s/o Sohbat Ali Jagrani, 11. Javed Ali s/o Sohbat Ali Jagrani, 12. Sohbat Ali s/o Jaro Jagrani, 13. Sabih Ali s/o Unknown Jagrani, 14. Raheem s/o Hafiqe Ahmed s/o Tahir s/o Basheer Sunthra, 15. Mumtaz Ali s/o Unknown Sabzo all R/o Darya Par Kotha have shown as absconders in 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.

THEREFORE, PROCLAMATION u/s 87 Cr.PC read with section 19(1) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 is issued with directions to the above named accused persons to appear before this court at Subordinate Court Building Kashmire at Kandhkot within seven days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded in his absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court, the 05th day of August 2024.

(SPECIAL JUDGE)
ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMIRE
AT KANDHKOT

پروفیسر یوسف کھشک

PROCLAMATION
REQUIRING THE APPEARING OF ACCUSED
(SEE SECTION 87 CR.PC)
ATC Case No. 17/2024

State Vs Darya Khan & Others)

Crime No. 06/2024
 R/S CTD Hyderabad
 U/S 45 Explosive Act & 7 AIA

WHEREAS, a complaint has been made before me that the accused:

1. Abdul Jabbar s/o Jabbar s/o Abdul Rasheed Boudar R/o Village Kumbhar Boudar P.O. Mirpur Mathelo District Ghore,
2. Asif Ali s/o Asif Jarwar s/o Qadir Bux Jarwar R/o Village Muhammad Sharif Jarwar District Badin,
3. Shah Burfat s/o Allah Dino Burfat R/o Burfat Village Jamshoro

have committed the offence under section 4/5 Explosive Act & 7 AIA, in Crime No. 06/2024 of R/S CTD Hyderabad. It has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the accused named above cannot be found and whereas, it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused have absconded (or concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

PROCLAMATION is hereby made that the above said accused is residing of Districts Jamshoro, Ghore and Badin and Main Karachi are required to appear before this court at A-6, G.O.R Colony Hyderabad to answer the said complaint within seven days from the date of publication of this proclamation.

Dated this day of 17th of August, 2024.

Judge
Anti-Terrorism Court-I
Hyderabad

پروفیسر یوسف کھشک

PROCLAMATION
REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED
(SEE SECTION 87 CR.PC)
ATC Case No. 28/2024

STATE
V/S
IMDAD ALI & OTHERS

Crime No. 03/2024
 R/S Market
 U/S 224, 147, 148, 149, 337 H(2) PPC & 7 AIA

WHEREAS, a complaint has been made before me that the accused:

1. Rizal s/o Muhammad Bux Buledi R/o Old Hala Naka Malah Village Hyderabad,
2. Naimat Brohi s/o Unknown R/o Tando Wali Muhammad District Hyderabad,
3. Jamshid Shah s/o Unknown R/o Gashmat Hyderabad

have committed the offence under Sections 324, 147, 148, 149, 337 H(2) PPC, 67 AIA 1997, in Crime No. 03/2024 of R/S Market. It has been returned to a warrant of arrest, thereupon issued that the accused named above cannot be found and whereas, it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused have absconded (or concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

PROCLAMATION is hereby made that the above said accused residing of Districts of Mirpur Azad Kashmir and Kohistan Kashmir are required to appear before this court at A-6, G.O.R Colony Hyderabad to answer the said complaint within seven days from the date of publication of this proclamation.

Dated this day of 10th of August, 2024.

Judge
Anti-Terrorism Court-I
Hyderabad

پروفیسر یوسف کھشک

CORRIGENDUM

The NT regarding "Installation of AI Based Attendance System" via BPPRA TSE No. TSE-24250831221 published vide PRO No. 47204-08-2024, wherein the eligibility criteria and bid submission date has been changed, revisit the BPPRA website for fresh Bidding Document.

Director General
IT Sindh

PRO No. 523-18-08-2024

BARSI
Hajiyan Rabia Bai
W/o. Abdul Aziz Jakvani (Late)

It has been three years since our kind and most beloved Aamang Bai has heavenly ascended on 28th August, 2021. May The Almighty Allah shower His endless blessings upon her and grant her a place in Jannah-ul-Firdaus, Ameen.

Please write Surah Fathe one time and Surah Balahe three times for Baithe Saad and pray for her Maghrib, Jussakeh.

Tahira Qazi
Muhammad Shafi Jakvani & Family
0321-8299101

OFFICE OF THE
ANTI-TERRORISM COURT-V, KARACHI
AT JUDICIAL COMPLEX CENTRAL PRISON, KARACHI
Special Case No. 143/2024
THE STATE
Versus
Ghulam Fareed ----- Accused

Crime No. 34/2024
 U/S 305-A/34 R/S 6, 7 AIA
 P.O. Boat Basin

WHEREAS, a complaint has been made before me that the accused Ghulam Fareed s/o Wahid Dino r/o Ghorei Toghra Taluka Khanpur District Shekhar has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under Section 305-A/21-U/34 PPC r/o Section 7 AIA and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused has absconded to avoid the service of the said warrant.

PROCLAMATION is hereby made that the said accused is required to appear before this court at Judicial Complex Central Prison, Karachi to answer the said complaint on 21-08-2024 at 8:30 a.m.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the Court, this 12th day of August, 2024.

JUDGE
Anti-Terrorism Court No. V
Karachi

پروفیسر یوسف کھشک

BEFORE SPECIAL JUDGE
ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMIRE
AT KANDHKOT
Special Case No. 24/2023
THE STATE
Versus
HAQ NAWAZ & OTHERS

Crime No. 14/2023
 U/S 302, 301, 438, 147, 149 PPC & 67 AIA
 Police Station: Karampur

WHEREAS, the accused namely: Allah Bux s/o Ranjho Banglani having CMC # 43105-1934488-5 r/o Bahawal Banglani, Permanent Address Village Sodho Khan, New Thul, Taluka Thul, District Jacobabad has shown as absconder in the above cited case.

AND WHEREAS non-bailable warrants were issued by this court for the arrest of above named accused, which have returned unexecuted with the report of police that the accused has absconded and is not traceable.

NOW, THEREFORE, Proclamation u/s 87 Cr.PC read with Section 19(1) of Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 is issued with direction to the above named accused person to appear before this court at Subordinate Courts Building Kashmire at Kandhkot within seven days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded in his absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this 12th day of August, 2024.

SPECIAL JUDGE
Anti-Terrorism Court Kashmire
at Kandhkot

پروفیسر یوسف کھشک

METRO

North

ISLAMABAD
 Sunset 06:52pm
 Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:30am
NEXT 24 HRS
 Minimum 29°C
 Maximum 39°C
 Outlook Showers



Aamir dropped as Pakistan name playing XI for first BD Test
 Pg.18 SPORT



MEMBERS of Human Rights Council of Pakistan light candles outside the National Press Club in Islamabad on Monday in memory of those women who lost their lives to abuse on the eve of World Humanitarian Day. — Photo by Mohammed Asim

Body formed to probe PTI's protest in Murree

By Mohammed Asghar

RAWALPINDI: A three-member fact-finding committee has been formed after the chief minister Punjab expressed displeasure at a protest held against the government in Murree on Independence Day.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Hafiz Karim Asghar, who is heading the committee, has called the first meeting on Tuesday (today) to ascertain whether it was a lapse on part of the local administrator or the district police.

Headed by SSP Asghar and comprising Chief Traffic Officer Boonish Fatima and DSP security, the committee will submit its report to the city police officer (CPO) Rawalpindi.

A departmental inquiry has been initiated and a show-cause notice issued to SHO Murree Ijaz Abbas Shah, who has been suspended by the CPO.

An FIR was registered against more than 50 people who took part in the protest. The protesters carrying PTI flags gathered at CPO Chowk in Murree at night on the Independence Day, shouting anti-government slogans. The police registered an FIR against them on the charges of damaging public property, attacking and preventing police from discharging their duty and pelting stones on police that left two police officials and the complainant injured.

Mohammad Sofail, a resident of Murree and an employee of the Civil Defence Department, lodged the FIR saying he was on duty at CPO Chowk when the protesters, including 11 identified, carrying PTI flags and batons appeared on the scene at about midnight.

He said the protesters were shouting hate slogans against the government and started pelting stones on a hotel. He said efforts were made to stop the violent mob but they also attacked the police, pelted them with stones and used batons.

The FIR said Zahirul Abidin, who was inciting the protesters, attacked the complainant with a baton that left him injured. Another protester, Azeem Abbas, attacked police official Ikhtisham with a baton. Moreover, another policeman Ahsan Maloob was also injured by the protesters.

The complainant said his uniform was also torn by the protesters. Damage was also caused to the hotel building. Reinforcement of police forced the protesters to escape. However, no arrests have been made by the police so far.

High court revokes CDA's power to turn greenbelts into plots

Orders demolition of houses built on such land since 2021

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday set aside the regulations that empowered the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to create plots on the greenbelts.

IHC Justice Sardar Ejaz Idrees Khari while deciding the petition of a few residents of Sector G-11 held that the CDA's regulations were illegal and ordered the demolition of houses built on such plots since 2021.

The petitioners' counsel, Barrister Usama Gillani, contended before the court that in 2021, the CDA officials

showed up in the idyllic neighbourhood and informed them that new plots would be carved out in the open space which lay adjacent to a mall at the end of their street. He claimed that the creation of such plots was tantamount to "urban caning".

The petitioners challenged this on the grounds that the layout plan of their area had already attained finality back in the 1970s.

They contended the plots destroyed the calm and visual relief and also deprived their children of space to play. The counsel requested the court to cancel the plots for violation of the petitioners' right to life under Article 9 of the Constitution.

He contended such plots posed a life hazard to residents by exposing the area to flooding and referred to an incident in 2021. Similar allotment and construction close to malls resulted in flooding in Sector E-11 in 2021, in which a woman

and her child lost their lives.

In its defence, the CDA had placed reliance upon "Regulation of Amendment in Layout Plan 2019". The regulations purport to give the CDA very wide powers to amend the layout plans of sectors in Islamabad.

The CDA contended that the new plots had been carved out in pursuance of the amendment of these regulations. Justice Khari, however, admonished the CDA for the illegal creation of plots after the layout plan was finalised.

The court held that if the CDA was allowed to carve out plots in developed areas, "there would remain no certainty for any owner of a plot in Islamabad with a building plan to know for certain what new monstrosity may stand erected in front of his house after he has expended his time, money and energy in building a house with the layout then existent and on the basis of which he decided to purchase that specific plot".

The judgement noted, that "instead of developing the large areas of land available to CDA as new sectors, [the] CDA is going around scraping the bottom of the barrel and screwing for tiny spaces to create new plots in already developed sectors".

Even though such carving out of plots did not change the residential character of the area, it did change the "character of the residence" of the petitioners, which could not be done after a layout plan was approved.

Going further, the court ordered a freeze under construction on the sites to be taxed and the debris to be cleared from the open space within 30 days of the judgement.

The allottees of the illegal plots, the judgement said, retained the right to seek any compensation they might be entitled to from the CDA through separate proceedings, including those of "year of breach of public duty", it added.



A STREET vendor prepares an ice lolly, commonly called 'Gola Ganda', outside a school in Rawalpindi on Monday. — Online

Senate committee orders inquiry into 'Rs1.4bn fraud' by Nespak in FGEHA project

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Functional Committee on Problematic Less Developed Areas on Monday took up the issue of alleged misappropriation worth of Rs1.4 billion by a Nespak consultant in the Park Road Housing Scheme of Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) and sought a report.

The meeting was chaired by Senator Shaukat Darraani and attended by Senators Saifullah Akbar, Muhammad Adam Akbar, Hamid Khan, Ahmad Wali Khan, Special Secretary for Power Division Arshad Majid Mahmood, Managing Director (MD) Nespak Muhammad Zargham Ishaq Khan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sukkur Electric Supply Company (Sesco) Saad Ahmad, CEO Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (Hesco) Rafeeq Ali Otho and other senior officials of relevant departments.

MD Nespak informed the meeting his organisation had constituted a Fact-Finding Committee to probe the allegations and as the next step, show-cause notices have been issued to three officers while four officers have been suspended until the inquiry is completed.

Senator Shaukat Darraani questioned

whether the housing ministry had conducted any inquiry into the matter. DG FGEHA apprised the ministry had conducted an inquiry, and the Project Director was found guilty and subsequently terminated from service and his case was sent to Federal Investigating Agency (FIA).

The committee chairperson stated that one person could not orchestrate a plan involving a fraud of Rs1.4 billion on his own. The committee directed the housing ministry to submit the report of the in-house inquiry conducted by the ministry.

Nespak MD informed the meeting that Nespak was providing construction supervision services to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Civil and Works Department for 80 roads across 11 districts of KP, including seven districts of the erstwhile Fata. The length of these roads is around 822.65 km, with estimated cost is Rs2.7 billion. The committee directed Nespak to provide complete details of the projects undertaken by it for reconstruction projects aimed at rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

They discussed the implementation of recommendations made in its previous

meeting regarding details of actions taken against "corrupt" Quetta Electric Supply Company (Qesco) officials contributing in power theft in Balochistan over the past five years.

Senator Agha Shaukat Darraani highlighted that details provided by Qesco indicated that officers had terminated the services of individuals on alleged grounds of personal bias. Surprisingly, in one case, an NED had terminated the service of an individual for not showing interest in drive against power theft but in another case only minor penalty was imposed on an employee for misconduct and corruption.

Despite the removal of the so-called corrupt officers, power theft did not decrease at Qesco, he added. The chairman directed the power division to thoroughly examine the disciplinary action taken by Qesco and submit a report within 30 days.

Moreover, the committee expressed displeasure over the provision of an unsatisfactory briefing from Sespco. The committee directed Sespco and Hesco to provide a detailed briefing on the unannounced loadshedding and theft in the area, along with a plan to control theft, during next meeting. — Saam Jinnah

Renovated Holy Family Hospital opens doors to patients

Operation theatres, ICU and CCU still await completion

By Aamir Yasir

RAWALPINDI: After an extended closure of 18 months for renovations, Holy Family Hospital in Rawalpindi has finally resumed most of its operations with the exception of its operation theatres and intensive and cardiac care units.

The Punjab government spent

Rs1 billion to upgrade the state-run hospital and it will be formally inaugurated by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz soon. According to Rawalpindi Medical University (RMU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Umar, the Punjab government has planned to make it one of the best hospitals in the country.

He said the Outdoor Patients Department (OPD), surgical and medical units of the hospital had been opened whereas the ICU and cardiac care unit would take up to two weeks to complete due to some pending works.

He said that the work in ICU and CCU would be completed soon as "we are testing the oxygen lines

which would be done in a day or two". Similarly, operation theatres have also been completed and once the ICU and CCU are completed, they will formally become functional.

He said that all the doctors and staff of Holy Family Hospital had been called back from Bannu Bhatta Hospital and the District Headquarters Hospital to resume their duties at the hospital. He said that the burn unit, infectious diseases department and basement work were also near completion and the hospital management would shift the deage ward from the Red Crescent Hospital to Holy Family Hospital after the completion of work.

Dr Umar said that HFH had already started gym and pools outdoor and indoor departments in Feb after the renovation work in the old block and the number of beds in the general department had been increased to 400.

He said that people would get better facilities in the hospital following its upgradation, adding that the number of wards and rooms had been increased and modern equipment had been installed in the operation theatres and pathological laboratory.

It is relevant to mention here that Holy Family Hospital has a total area of 672,000 square feet and the

number of beds in the hospital is about 1030. The average number of patients reported in OPD before the renovation was 2,161 whereas 915 patients came to the emergency daily.

The hospital had been renovated in two phases. In the first phase, its old block was revamped whereas in phase two, the renovation of the new OPD and indoor block had been carried out.

The project to reconstruct the old and new blocks of Holy Family Hospital started on October 22. After it missed the Jan deadline, the department was given till February by then caretaker chief minister Mohsin Naqvi, who inaugu-

rated the project before it was completed. The contractor missed the deadline again and the Punjab government led by the PML-N gave another deadline of March 31 to finish the work.

Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique had asked the Communication and Works Department to complete the work by March 31 and make operation theatres functional before Eshq Fir.

The Communication and Works Department still could not finish the work and June was fixed as the new deadline when the department was supposed to hand over the hospital to its administrators.

PRAYER

Fajr 04:05
Zuhar 12:15
Asr 04:58
Maghreb 06:53
Isha 08:22

Starting time is approximate

REFLECTIONS

CC EVERYONE WHO DEPARTS THIS LIFE WILL NOT RETURN. 3

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COURT NOTICE

SIWAYAT

In the Court of Additional Commissioner, Islamabad District Court, District Office, Islamabad. Case No. S.P.M.C. 175/2024. Date of Submission: 25/07/2024. Next hearing date: 22/08/2024. Case Title: Abdul Waqar vs. Y. Sultan. Name of Notice in response to: Y. Sultan. Date of Notice: 15/08/2024. Case No. S.P.M.C. 175/2024. Date of Submission: 25/07/2024. Next hearing date: 22/08/2024. Case Title: Abdul Waqar vs. Y. Sultan. Name of Notice in response to: Y. Sultan. Date of Notice: 15/08/2024. Case No. S.P.M.C. 175/2024. Date of Submission: 25/07/2024. Next hearing date: 22/08/2024. Case Title: Abdul Waqar vs. Y. Sultan. Name of Notice in response to: Y. Sultan. Date of Notice: 15/08/2024.



A BARBER tends to his customer on his mobile setup on Tipu Road in Faisalabad. — AFP

Former husband held in journalist murder case

By Harid Aghar

GUJAR KHAN: Sindh police have finally tracked down the alleged killer of a woman journalist from Pak Pattan, who was found dead in a car on the highway near Tarraki on March 11. On April 17, with the help of her fingerprints the body was identified as that of Tahira Noor, a journalist associated with a local Urdu newspaper.

According to the police investigation, the woman's former second husband had allegedly killed her with stabs, gunshot and threw acid on her face to destroy her identity.

Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Bahar Sarfaraz Alpa told Dawn that the Punjab police had listed it among the most urgent cases.

Sajid Qureshi, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Sukkur, said Tarraki Hussain, the husband of

the journalist, was summoned to cooperate in investigations but he evaded and later was declared a proclaimed offender. Mr Qureshi said the suspect was tracked down while travelling near Tarraki area of Jhilm from Lahore.

According to the SDPO, during the interrogation, the suspect confessed to killing Noor while driving her in a car from Rawalpindi to Lahore.

The suspect told the police that while crossing the Gujrat Khan city, he got his own and her mobile phones switched off and travelled on the GT Road up to the hilly terrain where he allegedly shot her dead with a pistol and threw acid on her face.

According to the police, the fingerprints of the deceased were taken before her burial. This led to her identity from the NADRA record.

SDPO Muhammad Imran of Sukkur told Dawn that during the investigations it also transpired

that Noor had developed differences with her second husband as he was eyeing at her house and agricultural land in Pak Pattan that she had inherited from her deceased father.

He had been asking her to let him buy a house in Lahore after selling the property. She had also filed a case in the family court to get divorce from him.

The woman had lodged a complaint with the FIA cybercrime wing against the suspect for sharing her objectionable pictures with her acquaintances.

The suspect later convinced her that he would delete the pictures if she accompanied him to Lahore. However, on way to Lahore, he allegedly murdered her on the night of March 11, the SDPO said.

The SDPO said police had also recovered the weapon used in the murder. The suspect was sent on judicial remand by a court on Monday.

Minister inaugurates work on new hospital

By Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: A 100-bed modern hospital will be built in Islamabad to provide international standard health services to police employees and common citizens.

The land for the hospital has been provided by the National Police Foundation (NPF) while a private firm from Turkey will provide Rs5 billion funds for the project.

Interior Minister Mohsin Raza Nagvi laid the foundation stone of the Islamabad International Hospital at a ceremony on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, he said the hospital to be built by the NPF with the cooperation of the Turkish firm will provide latest health facilities to the citizens.

He praised NPF Chief Samir Ahmad for what he called instilling a new life into a dead organisation. He said income being generated from the foundation's projects was being spent for the welfare of police force and the families of martyrs. He said the hospital project will prove to be a game changer for NPF.

He said the NPF and the Capital Development Authority will also initiate work on joint projects, discussions on which were already underway. Mr Nagvi said the NPF's projects were not limited to Islamabad. A housing project WAS completed by it in Hyderabad. He also said that the National Police Academy was being revamped.

Govt seeks enhanced EOBI performance

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Haq Bajwa has urged the Employees' Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) to intensify efforts to safeguard workers' interests.

During a visit to the EOBI headquarters on Monday, Mr Bajwa received a comprehensive briefing on the institution's operations by Deputy Director General Muhammad Amin.

The briefing covered EOBI's key functions, highlighting its role in providing pension benefits and social security to employees.

It included details of the recent initiatives aimed at enhancing the efficiency and outreach of EOBI's services.

Following the briefing, the parliamentary secretary commended the EOBI's efforts in safeguarding the welfare of workers and emphasised the importance of continued support and development for the institution to better serve its beneficiaries.

The meeting also discussed plans to further improve and expand the institution's performance in the future, reinforcing the government's commitment to ensuring robust social security systems for all employees.

Man accused of killing father

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: A man allegedly shot dead his father over a domestic dispute in village Ghosara in the limits of Attock police station on Monday.

Police sources said that Usman Gul's relations with his son were not smooth due to some domestic feud.

On Monday, both exchanged hot words and out of rage his son took out his pistol and opened fire on him killing him on the spot and the assailant managed to escape.

Later, police shifted his body to district headquarters hospital (DHQ) for autopsy and registered a murder case.

Cousin's killer arrested

Police have arrested a man who allegedly shot dead his cousin over some petty dispute in Attock city, the police spokesman revealed on Tuesday.

Police sources said that Musarrat Ahmad, a tailor master by profession, was coming home after work on July 26 when his cousin intercepted him and exchanged words with him. His brother-in-law, Iqbal Hujah in the limits of city police station killing him on the spot.

The assassin managed to escape from the scene successfully.

Police team led by SHO Sped Inam Haider, acting as a tip-off reached his hideout and arrested him.

Police also recovered weapons utilized in the cold-blooded murder of the young man.

NOTICE FOR INVITING E-BIDDING
(Single Stage Single Envelope Procedure E-Bidding System)

PHE Division Khat, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites electronic bids from the eligible firms/Contractors Eligible with PHED and PEC having valid renewal for financial year 2023-24 in accordance with KPRA rules 2014 on single stage single envelope procedure for the following water supply schemes.

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost in (Million)	Bid Security in % of CO + S Duty in Rs.	Date receiving opening of tender
REHABILITATION/AUGMENTATION OF PHE EXISTING WSS IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA ADP NO. 303/180442 (2021-22)				
1.	DWSS Billing Sindh Sub Head: Type Well /P Chamber, E/Well, Interlinking/ Distribution System	10.853	236000/-	05-09-2024
2.	DWSS Kander Sub Head: Rising Main/ Distribution System	7.794	175000/-	05-09-2024
3.	DWSS Tugh Sub Head: Rising Main/ Distribution System	8.285	185000/-	05-09-2024
4.	DWSS Isobar Sub Head: Rising Main/ Distribution System	6.216	143000/-	05-09-2024

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- EOI/ Bidding Documents Instruction to bidders can be downloaded up to 07 (Seven Days) prior to the opening date on PHED web site www.phe.gov.pk by the original contractors available on the website of PHED Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- All bidders/ contractors must have registration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) & PEC with active status and having valid IFC-05 for Civil otherwise this bid will be considered non-responsive.
- The contractors quoting their bids up to a limit of 10% below Engineer estimate shall submit bid security to the extent of 2% of the Engineer Estimate.
- The contractors quoting their bids more than 10% below upto 20% below on Engineer estimate shall submit along with their bids 8% Additional Security of Engineers Estimated cost in addition to 2% bid Security. If the bid is not accompanied with the required amount of additional security then it will be considered as non-responsive and the 2% bid security shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly.
- Similarly, a contractor quoting bid more than 20% below shall submit with his bid an additional security on Engineer Estimated cost equal to the differential amount of submitted bid and Engineers Estimate along with detail rate analysis. In case of more than 20% below bids, if the bid is not accompanied by the detail rate analysis and/or required amount of additional security, then the said bid shall be considered as non-responsive. All the tenders submitted along with such non-responsive bid shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly.
- In case detailed rate analysis submitted with the bids is, in view of procuring Entity, not convincing the Head of procuring Entity may declare such bid as non-responsive without any forfeited of bid security and resort to issue thereof.
- The procuring entity may offer the contract to the lowest bidder after due diligence in the context of financial difference between such bidders or may advertise procurement opportunity afresh.
- Bidding Documents/ IFC need reach to the office of ICD/ PHE Division Khat through registered courier on or before dated 05/09/2024 up to 12:00 PM which will be opened on the same date at 02:00 PM.
- Bidding entry fees @ Rs. 0.02% of tender cost will be remitted by each participating contractor which is non-refundable applicable. If Govt. issued notification then will be apply on each & every tender.
- The competent authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids by assigning cogent reasons.
- All other terms & conditions will be, as per KPRA rules notified time to time.
- All Govt. taxes will be applied as per Govt. policy notified time to time.

Executive Engineer
Public Health Engineer Division Khat, emphedkhat@gmail.com

Ref: P/2024/24

CM's aide asks RIC staff to be punctual in OPD

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab on Health retired Major General Ashar Mahmood Kazmi on Monday directed the medical staff of Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology (RIC) to be

GUN & COUNTRY CLUB, ISLAMABAD POSITIONS VACANT

1. Secretary (CPS-05)
Education: Bachelor / Masters Degree (MBA / MPA)
Post Qualification Experience: 10 Years.
Age: Maximum 40 Years.

2. Manager (Food & Beverages) (CPS-04)
Education: BA or Equivalent.
Post Qualification Experience: 10-15 Years.
Age: Maximum 50 Years.

Attractive salary packages will be offered which are negotiable depending upon the qualifications and experience. Candidates who earlier applied for Management (Food & Beverages) need not to apply afresh. For further details, please visit: www.gccclub.org.pk

Applications/detailed CVs along with documents should be sent through registered mail/courier at the below mentioned address on or before 5th September, 2024.

The Secretary, Gun and Country Club, Adjacent Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), Islamabad

HAFAIZABAD DIVISION L.C.C. WEST FAISALABAD
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
(FRAMEWORK CONTRACT UPTO 20.06.2025)

1. The Government of Punjab, Islamabad, through its Department of Public Works, Faisalabad, is invited to submit bids for the procurement of the following work:

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount	Contract Type	Contract Period
1.	Supply and installation of water supply system for the purpose of drinking water supply in the area of Faisalabad.	10.000 Million	Framework	2024-2025

2. The bids should be submitted to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad, on or before 20.06.2025 at 12:00 PM.

3. The bids should be accompanied by a bid security of 5% of the estimated value of the work.

4. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

5. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

6. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

7. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

8. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

9. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

10. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

11. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

12. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

13. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

14. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

15. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

16. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

17. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

18. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

19. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

20. The bids should be submitted in the name of the bidder and should be addressed to the Procurement Officer, Department of Public Works, Faisalabad.

Protesters reach SC despite police cordon

ISLAMABAD: Police resorted to baton charge and teargas shelling to prevent protesters from reaching Supreme Court on Monday.

Justice Mujib Tahaqfaiz-Nabulsi had arranged the protest demanding the Supreme Court to withdraw its judgment in Molanar Sarri case.

Earlier, rallies were taken out from different parts of the twin cities.

Protesters reached Express Chowk in the afternoon and set up a stage on a vehicle with a sound system installed on it to make speeches, police said.

A heavy contingent of police reached the spot. Police were also deployed

behind the gate installed at the old parade ground.

The protesters delivered speeches and later marched towards the apex court building.

They put up resistance and succeeded to open the gate and remove the barrier. In response, the police resorted to baton charge and used water cannon to disperse them. They also fired teargas shells but the protesters reached Parliament House and the Supreme Court building.

They were carrying banners and chanting slogans. Before noon, the protesters returned to Express Chowk and offered Maghreb prayers and dispersed peacefully, police added. — Staff Reporter

CDA may start approving building plan online next month

Citizens will not only be able to check status of their cases but also get updates online

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Monday decided to introduce online building plan approval system.

"The system will likely become functional next month. The online system will enable citizens to process their residential and commercial building plans for approval from any part of the world," says a press release issued here by CDA.

It said that a meeting regarding the online building plan approval system was held with CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali RazaBawa in the chair. During the meeting member Technology & Digitalisation Noman Khalid gave a detailed briefing on the online system.

The press release said citizens will not only be able to check the status of their cases but also get their updates online. Under the new system, the CDA says architects will also be registered on this system. Chairman CDA directed the department concerned to impart necessary trainings CDA officers and staff before the launch of this system.

Besides, the necessary IT equipment should be provided to all concerned for successful operation of this online system.

Mr. RazaBawa further said the CDA was striving hard to provide all related services to citizens at their doorstep. He said that CDA was launching a super app for the citizens of Islamabad through which more than 150 services can be accessed from home.

Sources said that the chairman had directed the IT department that this service should be started from first week of next month.

Last September, the CDA board had decided that CDA would provide pre-approved building plans to residents for the construction of houses. In its landmark decision, the CDA board had directed CDA to prepare a booklet within eight weeks which had approved building plans for various sizes of plots. After preparation of the booklet, the CDA will go for providing pre-approved plan of houses to citizens. However, the said decision of the board is yet to be implemented.

"If pre-approved building plans are provided to citizens that would be the great relief for people, who have to visit various offices for approval of building plans," said an official of CDA.

He said that making approval of building plan online is a good step but CDA should also implement the board decision regarding providing pre-approved building plans.

When contacted, CDA's spokesperson Shahid Kayani said that civil agency would not only go for online approval but would also implement pre-approved building plans decision. "We will look into this issue (pre-approved building plans) you are referring to," he said.

Police report claims crime rate has declined in capital

ISLAMABAD: The capital police reported a decrease in crime from Jan 1 to Aug 17, compared to the same period last year.

The decrease was seen in a number of criminal activities such as robbery, snatching, and automobile thefts, it was added. However, there was an increase in family incidents in the capital during the current year as compared to the previous year, the police said.

According to data provided by the police, incidents of major crimes in the capital dropped to 5,148 during this period in 2024, down from 5,833 in 2023. Robberies fell to 1,373 incidents in 2024 from 1,456 in 2023.

Snatching incidents, commonly referred to as street crime, decreased to 672 in 2024 from 820 in 2023. There were 12 incidents of murder during robberies in both 2023 and 2024. The number of car snatching incidents remained unchanged at 29 in both years. Motorcycle snatching slightly decreased to 402 in 2024, compared to 409 in 2023. The number of other vehicles snatching rose from two in 2023 to three in 2024.

Vehicle (other than car) thefts also saw a decline, with 307 cases reported in 2024, compared to 507 in 2023. Motorcycle thefts decreased to 2,383 in 2024, from 2,451 in 2023.

However, the police noted an increase in the number of family incidents, rising to 37 in 2024 from 10 in 2023. Additionally, murder incidents increased to 157 in 2024, up from 98 in 2023. Kidnapping for ransom incidents remained constant, with three cases reported in both years.

Meanwhile, a robber beat and injured a man during a motorcycle snatching incident, police said on Monday.

The robber in disguise of a passenger booked a motorcycle of online riding service from Pindi to E-12, they said, adding that after reaching E-12 the robber asked him to stop the motorcycle and shortly started beating him black and blue.

Later, he snatched his motorcycle and a helmet from him and escaped, they said, adding that later the suspect, identified as Ahsan Ahmed, was taken to hospital for medical assistance. — *Mansoor Akram*



A WORKER sprays chemicals before carpeting a patch on Chub Road near Faisalabad Interchange in Islamabad. — *White Star*

FGEHA wants to change contract mode of Bhara Kahu housing project

Executive board forms committee to review entire project

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Based on the report of a consultant, the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) wants to change the mode of contract for the development of Bhara Kahu Green Enclave-1 housing project from the fixed price contract to measurement-based contract.

The FGEHA through a joint venture with a private firm M/s Green Tree is executing the delayed project. The project comprises 3375 kanals and has 5282 plots of different sizes.

The FGEHA had signed the construction agreement with the private company in April 2019 and the project started in December the same year. It was to be completed in two years, however till date the physical progress of the project is 55pc.

The project has missed several dead-

lines. According to documents of FGEHA, the project has been delayed substantially and the development activities at the site were halted multiple times. The project remained closed from April 4, 2022 to Jan 28, 2023 due to a dispute over its physical progress. Later, it was halted for five months from July 2023 to November 20 due to the expired performance bank guarantee. It was again halted from March to May 2024 due to an issue related to the extension of the deadline.

The documents said issues and challenges of the project can be divided into three main categories - financial, land and development/contractual. In order to resolve these issues and complete the project on time, the JV partner has been engaged multiple times at the departmental level.

According to the documents, the JV partner has insisted 3250 kanals out of the 3375 kanals in the name of FGEHA and remaining 125 kanals was yet to be insisted. Furthermore, pursuant to the JV agreement, the private company is bound for the construction of a road from Angori Road to the housing scheme free of cost, which is yet to be constructed. The total payment of land made by FGEHA to the JV partner till

date is Rs3244 million.

The main challenge of the project is the existing mode or nature of construction agreement which in its current form makes the execution difficult, it added. The construction agreement was an EPC (design & build and fixed price contract) which was initially set to expire on December 6, 2019, but extended twice upon the recommendations of the engineer. The first extension expired on May 25, 2023 and the second on January 25, 2024. Moreover, deletion of escalation and variation clauses further restricted its execution.

The documents said Bill of Quantity (BOQ) of the project was based on NHA and MEN schedule-2014 with 20pc and 15pc premium, respectively.

"Due to Covid-19 and unprecedented price hike in the recent past, it became difficult for the JV partner to work on these rates. Accordingly, JV partner requested on 12th January 2024 to change the mode of the contract from EPC to measurement based. Subsequently, recommendations of the engineer, M/s Nespak were sought for conversion of mode of contract," read the documents.

Meanwhile, the documents said PEC

on March 4, 2024 allowed escalation on fixed-price contracts for the portion of the work executed from January 1, 2021 onwards. "Physical and financial progress of the project as in July 2024 is 55pc and 50pc respectively," it added.

The FGEHA pleaded before the executive board of FGEHA, "Fixed price contract may be converted into measurement based contract. Escalation in accordance with PEC guidelines may be incorporated into the contract and paid to the JV partner based on the recommendations of the consultant/engineer."

It said Nespak will evaluate and verify the payments of work done and all the payments may be paid on the recommendations of Nespak in order to avoid any dispute between the employer and the JV partner. The leftover works will be executed in three packages, each package of six months with the total duration of 18 months for its completion.

Sources said the matter was placed before the executive board on Friday, which decided to form a committee to review the entire project. The committee will submit a report on the basis of which the board will take a decision regarding the change to the mode of contract.

App introduced to track public complaints in Pindi division

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: An online app has been introduced in Rawalpindi division by the Commissioner's Office with an aim to track public complaints submitted in the offices of commissioner, deputy commissioner, assistant commissioner, revenue officer and government departments.

The status of the application can be seen on line through the app. Besides, the commissioner and deputy commissioner will also be able to check the performance of their subordinate offices.

Addressing the participants of training session of Complaint Management System held in Commissioner's Office Rawalpindi, Commissioner Asim Khanak said rules for protecting consumers rights were very stringent awareness is needed for exercising these rights.

This training session was

attended by additional commissioner, deputy commissioner, assistant commissioner, taluqdars and sub taluqdars of Rawalpindi district. Besides, deputy commissioners, Attock,

Chakwal, Dera and Murree along with their team participated in this training programme through video link.

He said public service could only be proved productive and meaningful for public when monitoring mechanism was strong.

He directed office concerned that the officials receiving training should be given login id and id card only after giving complete training

regarding app so that public can enjoy its benefits as soon as possible.

While giving a briefing on the occasion, it was said that this app will prove to be a great source of public relief. Through

an awareness campaign, the public will be made aware of how they can submit their application.

By tracing the application received under the complaint management system, it is possi-

ble to ascertain how much time an office took to process a complaint. It should also show the status of the pending applications in all the offices and the detailed reason for the pendency.

Nutrition, immunisation programme launched in Pakistan

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) has announced the launch of a new \$7.2 million nutrition and immunisation programme in Pakistan. This initiative aims to support one million mothers and children in the most marginalised areas across the four provinces.

The programme is being implemented in partnership with federal and provincial governments, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and The Power of Nutrition (TPoN).

According to a statement, Pakistan faces significant challenges in child health, including the third-highest child mortality rate and ranking third globally for the most under-vaccinated children. Nearly 1.2 million children have not received essential immunisations. The hardest-to-reach populations, with the highest concentrations of undernourished, stunted, and wasted children, also have the largest numbers of "zero-dose" children—those who have not received any vaccinations.

The \$7.2 million programme aims to support seven districts where the need is particularly high including Dera, Amrore, Gilgit, Sibs, Bolan, Uda, Mohammad, Thatta, and Rajwal.

The programme adopts an integrated approach to strengthen health systems to address existing gaps in routine immunisation and nutrition services and use social behaviour change communication to generate demand for immunisation and support district and national governments in monitoring and reviewing data for evidence-based decision making and learning.

Chief Executive Officer, Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan, Akhtar Iqbal said "the strategic and innovative partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Power of Nutrition provides us a unique opportunity to contribute to SDGs by extending an integrated package of immunisation, health and nutrition interventions for children living in some of the most marginalised districts in Pakistan. Through a close partnership with the Federal and Provincial Expanded

Programme on Immunisation Directorates, and technical support of the Aga Khan Health Services and Aga Khan University, the programme will generate data, evidence and learning to fill gaps and discover what works in this under-resourced area."

Director, High Impact Countries, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Dr. Tolendo Olatun said "With funding from the Aga Khan Foundation, The Power of Nutrition, and the PCIDo Matching Fund, and in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, Gavi is pleased to be able to support this innovative programme, which responds to preferences expressed by parents to be reached with a package of interventions."

Director of Programmes and Investments, TPoN Dr. Akh Razaq said "We're delighted to bring together partners Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and Aga Khan Foundation for this vital project in Pakistan."

The programme, funded by all partners and centrally managed by TPoN, will commence later in 2024 and run through 2027.

**GOVERNMENT OF GILGIT-BALTISTAN
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LG&RD
DISTRICT GHIZER**

No. EE-GZRI(1173)/2024-25 Dated 19th August 2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The LG&RD Department GB invites sealed tenders for the following work from the eligible Firms/Contractors licensed by Pakistan Engineering Council in appropriate category/code valid up to 30th June 2024:-

S.#	Name of Work	Estimate Cost	Bid Security	Cost of T/Form	Closing Date & Time
01.	Construction of Protective Bund Buhkoman	23061200	462000	5000/-	12-09-2024 11:00 AM
02.	Construction of Irrigation water channel Mardin Adab Khan	4669000	93300	2000/-	12-09-2024 1:00 PM
03.	Provision of 6 inches Dia Irrigation Pipe	4420000	88400	2000/-	12-09-2024 2:30 PM
04.	Provision of Sowing Machines and accessories for Vocational School	4999000	100000	2000/-	13-09-2024 11:00 AM
05.	Provision of Musical Instrument for Musician School	1003000	20100	2000/-	13-09-2024 1:30 PM

Note: Each tender shall be opened after 30 minutes of closing time.

2. The interested prospective eligible bidders can obtain a complete set of bidding documents from office of the Executive Engineer LG&RD District Ghizer on submission of a written application and production of following original documents personally for the specific work upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above up to 22-09-2024 during office hours:-

- PEC valid registration, 2024 and Code.
- CVSC of the prospective bidder.
- Bid security in shape of CDR from any schedule bank of Pakistan.

3. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security as indicated above work and in case of rates quoted below 10% of Tender amount (90% tender cost-Quoted amount) must be associated with full difference amount in shape of CDR from any Schedule Bank in favor of Executive Engineer LG&RD District Ghizer along with Bid/ NIT otherwise the bid will be treated as Defective/Non responsive and bid security of such bidder will be forfeited. The sealed bids must be delivered on due date & time as mentioned above, which will be opened on the same day in the office of Executive Engineer LG&RD District Ghizer in presence of bidders who choose to attend at the same address.

OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The original contractor come himself for collection of tender/bidding documents. In case of Agent/Venture, only the lead and Associate partner mentioned in partnership deed is allowed. Authorization/attorney will be entertained subject to provision of a notarized stamp paper for specific work duly signed by owner and attested from the Public Notary.
- Late receipt of bids from the SCHEDULED TIME will not be accepted/entertained.
- LG&RD Department reserve the right to reject any or all the bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal under GB PPPA Rules.
- In case of Gazette / Local Holiday tender will be opened on next working day without further intimation.

(ENGR. JAVAD IQBAL)
Executive Engineer

EGZRI-0324



Aamir dropped as Pakistan name playing XI for first BD Test Pg.18 SPORT

LAHORE
Sunset 06:43 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:29 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 26.0°C
Maximum 32.0°C
Outlook Th-Storms
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 170

METRO Central

84 dead, 224 injured in ongoing monsoon

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) flood alert fact sheet on Monday revealed that 84 people were killed, 224 others injured in rain-related building collapse and lightning incidents during the ongoing monsoon season in Punjab.

The PDMA issued a flood alert fact sheet, including data on monsoon rainfall status, water levels in rivers, barrages and dams of Punjab. The report revealed that 84 people were killed, 224 injured and 245 houses were affected due to monsoon rains during the current year.

The monsoon rains were expected in most districts of Punjab in the next 24 hours and flash flooding was expected in Dera Ghazi Khan Multan and Bahawalpur divisions.

In the Indus River, there is a low level at Faraha, Kalabagh and Chashma, while there is a moderate level of flood at Tanzeem, Rivers Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej and Jhelum have normal water flow. The water flow is normal in Dera Ghazi Khan rivers too.

Narowal, Naib Ranjha has a low level flood situation.

PDMA Director General Iftak Ali Karim said that financial support is being given to the affected families as per the government policy.

He said that all the departments were alerted to take precautionary measures during the rainy season.

Meanwhile, the weather in Lahore turned pleasant after intermittent rain in different areas of the city on Monday.

The maximum rainfall recorded was 55mm at Lakshmi Chowk, with other key locations like Peshawar Talab (53mm), Gulshan-e-Ravi (51mm), Qurtaba Chowk and Upper Mall (50mm), Gulberg (49mm), and several other areas recording significant precipitation.

The heavy rain brought the bustling city to a standstill, with traffic snarls and waterlogged streets becoming a common sight.

Water and Sanitation Agency (WSA) Managing Director Chaudhry Ahmed monitored the drainage operations after visiting

Continued on Page 15



BIKERS take shelter at a bus stop near Shriya Park during Monday's downpour. — White Star

Record-breaking water levels in mountain drains in Dera, Rajanpur

By Tariq Saad Birmati

DERA GHAZI KHAN: The Kala mountain drain in Rajanpur experienced a massive flood with an inflow of 105,000 cusecs, while the Vador drain in Dera Ghazi Khan recorded a flow of 75,000 cusecs on Monday.

In Dera Ghazi Khan, the Sakhi Sarwar mountain drain also flooded, while the Ghosia Khan mountain drain in Rajanpur surged to 52,000 cusecs before showing signs of receding.

Currently, the situation remains dire, particularly in the tribal areas of Rajanpur, known as Pashahs or the arid zone. The Vador drain in Dera Ghazi Khan has overflowed, translating

drains and sewers in Jamrup and causing destruction in the settlements of Dera Ghazi Khan district. The floodwaters have also spread into standing rice crops, exacerbating the damage.

The district administration is providing assistance to the victims of the hill torrent floods in Dera Ghazi Khan district. All necessary items are being supplied to the affected residents in the flood-hit villages of Shuhari, Jeevan Jindani and Gamowala, Political Assistant Muhammad Asif Chaudhry and Assistant Commissioner Taimur Usman reported that due to the 75,000 cusecs of water flowing into the Vador mountain drain on

Sunday, water has accumulated in other nearby areas. In an effort to reduce the water flow, the district administration, in collaboration with the Irrigation Department, has installed two cuts on Marika.

They added that, in addition to dikes, morning breakfast has also been provided to the flood victims, and relief camps have been established in Loharwala,

Gadpur, and Bani Shahani to accommodate those affected by the floodwaters.

URBAN FLOODING: After heavy rainfall that led to urban flooding in Dera Ghazi Khan, Commissioner Dr Nasir Mehmood Rashid and Deputy Commissioner Shahid Zaman Lak inspected various areas in the city late Sunday night to oversee the water drainage process. The commissioner inspected Musharraf Chowk, Ladies Park, Committee Circle, Traffic Chowk, Model Town, and Bhutta Colony, monitoring ongoing efforts to drain rainwater and issuing instructions to expedite the process.

He said that 90% of the water drainage had been completed across the city and assured the public that the remaining roads and streets will be insulated with water being actively drained. Municipal Corporation staff and machinery are working tirelessly around the clock to clear all roads and streets within the next few hours.

PLANS: Provincial Irrigation

Minister Punjab Karim Peernada outlined the government's plans to mitigate the damage caused by hill torrents and ensure the protection of vulnerable areas. Mr Peernada announced that a permanent solution is being pursued to prevent future flooding in Rajanpur city. An 18-kilometre strong protective embankment will be constructed to safeguard the area.

He said that the Punjab government is fully committed to addressing the suffering of flood victims and will compensate for the financial losses incurred after a thorough survey. Following instructions from Chief Minister, Peernada personally inspected the flood-affected regions in Rajanpur district. He directed the district administration and the Irrigation Department's proactive measures for significantly reducing the impact of the floods.

"The PML-N government stands by the victims as always,"

Continued on Page 15

New labour code draws workers ire

They say the code abolishes right to protest, formation of unions

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: The Punjab Labour Code 2024 has sparked widespread opposition from almost all major labour organisations in the province, which think that the new regulations would violate workers' rights.

The labour groups term the code a move that undermines job security, legalises exploitative labour practices and imposes restrictions on unions. They vow to launch a resistance movement if the government tries to implement the code unilaterally.

The Punjab Labour Code 2024 was introduced as an attempt to consolidate various labour laws

enacted between 1921 and 2023. However, labour organisations argue that the new code goes beyond consolidation as it effectively diminishes workers' rights and protections.

The most significant points of contention include the legislation of the contract labour system, restrictions on trade unions, the abolition of the right to strike and provisions that could legitimise child labour.

Harid Ramay, the coordinator of the Labour Alliance, has expressed deep concerns over the new code.

"The Punjab Labour Code 2024 is not about protecting workers but it's about stripping them of their fundamental rights. It not only legalises the contract system, which will lead to the elimination of job security, but also provides legal cover to the advance payment (Peshgi) system in the kiln industry, a practice that has historically led to bonded labour."

One of the most alarming

aspects of the new labour code, according to Ramay, is the restriction on the formation of trade unions. The code limits workers' ability to organise at the sector level and imposes severe limitations on their right to strike.

"Trade unions are essential for protecting workers' interests but the new code is designed to weaken them. If this code is implemented in its current form, it will turn industrial and commercial establishments into bonded labour camps," says Ramay.

Speaking in Jhang, he highlighted the code's failure to guarantee the unconditional right of workers to form unions and elect their collective bargaining agents. He urged the government to reconsider the code and convene a tripartite meeting, including representatives from both employers and employees, to ensure that the rights of workers were not compromised.

The labour organisations are

particularly concerned at the code's complexity. With 467 sections spread over 315 pages, the code is seen as overly complicated, making it difficult for workers to understand their rights. Various sections of the code are interdependent, requiring readers to constantly cross-reference different parts of the document, further complicating the interpretation of the law.

One of the most controversial provisions in the code's definition of 'worker,' which encompasses employees, contractors, subcontractors, self-employed individuals and those in supervisory roles. This broad definition has led to confusion about who qualifies as a worker and what rights they are entitled to under the new code. Similarly, the definition of 'employer' raises concerns about whether the workers provided by third parties or employment agencies will have

Continued on Page 14

YouTuber Khosa returns home ahead of LHC hearing

LAHORE: YouTuber Aun Ali Khosa returned home on Monday, a day before the Lahore High Court was set to hear a petition regarding his alleged abduction.

Advocate Khadija Siddiqui, the lawyer for Khosa's wife, confirmed to Dawn that the social media content creator arrived home safely.

"She alleged that the purpose of abduction was achieved shortly after the incident since the song was deleted from his YouTube channel."

The lawyer said the state should be protector of its citizens, not abductor.

The LHC had on Friday ordered the Lahore CCPO to recover Khosa by Aug 20.

Advocate Siddiqui had told the court that unidentified persons barged into the house of her client and took away the husband of the petitioner.

Khosa, who is famous for creating anti-PM, N content, had recently sung a song, Bill Bill Pakistan, and released its video, criticising the high prices of electricity and extra taxes added to it. He also took on the worthlessness of Pakistani passport and frequent foreign loans that the country had to take.

BAIL: An anti-terrorism court on Monday granted pre-arrest bail to PTI MPA Hafeez Farhat Abbas in connection with a case involving the burning of police vehicles near Jinnah House in the constituency during the May 9 riots. — Staff Reporter

Boy hospitalised after dog attack

BAHAWALNAGAR: An eight-year-old boy was hospitalised in critical condition after two local landlords allegedly set their dog on him in Ghumanisapur on Sunday evening.

Gurbaan from Meera Sohail Singh was reportedly playing outside his house when landlords Ameer and Sona's dog attacked him.

According to his father, Abid Hussain, the dog inflicted severe injuries on Gurbaan from his face to his feet. Passersby intervened after hearing the boy's cries. They rescued him and took him to the hospital, where he is receiving treatment.

Locals said that the landlords had previously allowed their dog to roam freely, resulting in several similar incidents.

SNO Ghumanisapur Javed Ahmad told Dawn that swabs from the boy's wounds have been sent for lab testing to confirm the dog bite.

A case was registered against the suspects under Section 209 of the Pakistan Penal Code and one of the landlords was arrested on Monday. — Correspondent

Ahsan Iqbal's son elected PAC head

LAHORE: Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal's son Ahmed Iqbal has been elected as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee-II of the Punjab Assembly during the voting held here on Monday.

Ahmed Iqbal is also a former chairman of Narowal district council.

In a separate vote for the chairmanship of the standing committee on finance Mohsin Ayub Khan was elected its chairman.

Secretary-general Chaudhry Amar Habib issued notifications of both the chairman. — Staff Reporter

Gujranwala police set up enclave to resolve women issues

Centre has only female staff to deal with women complaints

By Aatif Chaudhry

LAHORE: The Gujranwala police have set up the Women's Enclave, the first-ever general reporting centre, for the women requiring help in lodging complaints with the other statutory institutions, including the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), in addition to the police-related matters.

A salient feature of the centre, situated in Sarfrazia Town, is that it is manned by the women police personnel and no male staff or visitor is

allowed to enter it or interact with the victims.

The Gujranwala police department has given a high priority to the three main relevant departments, namely FIA, Social Welfare Department and the Women Ordinance Department Punjab, through a specially designed app to initiate complaints of the victim women and deal with them on a priority basis. Most importantly, the victim women would also be able to avail legal and other help in getting their dowry articles and the inherited properties back from their in-laws as the Women's Enclave has engaged leading women lawyers to provide them with legal assistance.

Speaking to Dawn, an official says the facility has been established in response to the rise in the number of



cases of violence against women to the male-dominated police stations where they are uncomfortable to share sensitive issues like sexual assault and domestic violence, which they can share with women officers.

According to some reports, every month 400 to 500 women visit police stations to file complaints, mostly pertaining to the domestic violence, sexual assault, workplace harassment and property and dowry disputes.

The official said Gujranwala City Police Officer (CPO) Rana Ayaz Saleem held meetings with the relevant departments, including FIA, the Social Welfare Department, Punjab Women Ordinance and the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce, to address all the issues of women 'out of the police station'.

The centre is likely to be replicated in other districts of the province as the inspector-general of police has declared it one of the best

facilities for women.

Quoting a report of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRC-P), the official said around 91pc of women in the domestic work sector faced harassment while social media also contributed in multiplying the harassment cases where a large number of women were trapped by men through recording videos, misuse of pictures and blackmail.

The official said that the Women's Enclave has been equipped with trained female officers who would fight for the victims to provide them with legal protection. For this purpose, Gujranwala police collaborated with the cyber crime wing of the FIA and the enclave would process complaints to the authority and follow up the cases.

PRAYER

Fajr	4.03
Zuhar	1.00
Asr	4.49
Maghrib	6.43
Isha	8.08

Prayer time in Lahore

REFLECTIONS

EVERYONE WHO DEPARTS THIS LIFE WILL NOT RETURN

— HAZRAT ALI (R.A.) (7RAH147)

Azma urges Sindh to match Punjab's power relief efforts

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Information Minister Azma Bokhari has asked the Sindh government to follow Punjab in providing relief to the people in electricity bills and to stop criticising the Maryam Nawaz government in this regard.

"Instead of worrying about the Punjab government's decision to provide relief to the public in their electricity bills, the Sindh government should follow suit. It should not envy, instead, it should have the courage to provide relief to the people of Sindh," Mr Bokhari said here on Monday.

She said Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had provided relief to the people from the province's funds.

"It is disheartening that a party claiming to be a party of the people is issuing statements against public relief," she said in response to Sindh Minister Saad Ghani's criticism of the Punjab government for allocating Rs400 crore from different development schemes for Rs14 per unit electricity relief to consumers using up to 500 units. Mr Ghani called the relief a 'political stunt' on which billions of rupees were being spent on advertisement campaigns.

"The CM of Punjab cares about the people of her province. It is surprising to see political parties use a public relief initiative. Maryam Nawaz always speaks for the people," she said.

Mr Bokhari said ministers and spokespersons of the PPP, claiming to be of the people, had been issuing statements against public relief. "If you claim to represent the people, why are you hesitant to provide relief during difficult times? Do you have the courage to give relief to the people of Sindh too; do not follow the line of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf," the minister advised the PPP.

Opp leader warns of another May 9 over blocked rallies

By Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: "If the government keeps blocking the country's largest party from holding public rallies and meetings, some 'events' may happen," says Opposition Leader in the Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan Bhachar.

Speaking at a news conference at Lahore Press Club on Monday, Mr Bhachar said the PML-N government was propagating that allowing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to protest might lead to another May 9. Stating that some 50,000 people went to Swat for a PTI public meeting and not a single flower got broken in all Punjab districts, the opposition leader alleged "any smallish act would be a mischievous act by the incumbent government".

He said a large number of parliamentarians, party leaders, and workers would go to Islamabad on August 22 to participate in the party's public meeting. Afterwards, he said, the

party would hold its already announced public meeting in Lahore next week.

Mr Bhachar said the party had taken a stance and reiterated that a judicial commission be established to investigate the May 9 events. He also asserted that a large number of party leaders and workers were arrested, and the government had failed to establish any charge against those incarcerated for over 15 months.

"The government destroyed youth and their families without presenting any concrete evidence against them. Let those be free who have eventually been released after contesting all cases and getting bail from courts," he stated.

The opposition leader said the incumbent rulers should look towards the plight of the general public, who were dying due to high inflation and inflated power and gas bills. He said the government should look down to joblessness for those earning through freelancing on the internet.

MBBS annual exam schedule approved

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The 50th meeting of the University of Health Sciences (UHS) Board of Studies in Medicine held here on Monday approved the annual examination schedule for MBBS.

Chaired by UHS Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Ahsan Waheed Rathore, the meeting was participated by affiliated government and private medical college principals, including the board's convenor, Prof Dr Sardar Afzarul Zafar.

It was decided that the First Professional MBBS annual exam will commence in the first week of December while the Second Professional MBBS annual exams are scheduled for the last week of January 2025. The Third Professional MBBS annual exams will be held in the third week of December 2024 and the Fourth Professional MBBS exams in the second week of January 2025, according to a spokesperson for the UHS.

Additionally, he said,

the final Professional MBBS annual exams are set to take place in the first week of February 2025.

The examination schedule was developed based on feedback received from all affiliated medical colleges, which provided information regarding the commencement and completion of MBBS classes.

A minimum of nine months of the academic year must be completed by the colleges for students to be eligible to appear in the exams, followed by one month for exam preparation.

The meeting also agreed that, in accordance with the Supreme Court's judgement, the students who fail the supplementary exams can not legally proceed to the next class. Moreover, it was decided that the identity of external examiners in practical exams will be kept completely confidential, even from the college administration.

In his address, Prof Rathore stated that practical/clinical exams will be conducted within three weeks of the final written exam.



RAHIM YAR KHAN: Rescue 1122 personnel staff villagers from settlements along the river Indus in Rajapur district to higher grounds. A 12-member rescue team with three boats from RYK is assisting the local administration in helping the marooned. — Dawn

Panic as three brothers die of 'mysterious disease'

By Our Correspondent

RAHAWALPUR: Panic has gripped village Koon Kollor near Channi Gode where three minor brothers died of a 'mysterious' disease in a few days.

The boys were identified as Amrullah (13), Samrullah (9) and Shifullah (5), sons of Malik Muddasir Kollor.

Reports, to reports, the boys developed rashes on their bodies and they were shifted to the Bahawal Victoria Hospital (BVH) where they died one by one. After the deaths, the health department teams were reportedly dispatched by the authorities to the village to stop the disease from becoming an epidemic.

However, an official handout issued by the director public relations here on Monday quoted the

health chief executive officer (CEO) as saying that the three boys' death was not caused by any mysterious disease but measles and their parents treated them at home.

Of the three boys, two died on Aug 3 and Aug 5, respectively while the third child was admitted to the BVH on Aug 9 where he also succumbed to measles on Aug 17.

According to the health, Deputy Commissioner Zabeer Anwar Jappa took notice of the deaths and instructed the health department to medically examine all the children in the area. The health teams examined 159 children who were administered vitamin drugs and injected vaccine and there was no danger of any epidemic outbreak, claimed the statement. It further said that three deceased children had also been administered the measles vaccine and their parents also admitted

that. Meanwhile, chairing a meeting, the DC directed the health officials to launch an immunisation campaign for the children across the district.

HOSPITALISED: Seven members of a family, including women and minor boys, fell critically ill at midnight after consuming rice at their home at Chak 14/8C near Bahawalpur.

According to the Rescue 1122, the family members were shifted to the BVH in a precarious condition owing to vomiting and rashes. Those admitted to hospital were identified as Bilal (50), Faizal (30), Sameer (25), Kalsoom Akhtar (55), Shazia Faizal (33), Subhan (8) and Harshin (5). According to doctors, the patients are being treated and their condition is still critical. The rice and stools were sent for laboratory tests.

Bureaucrats given additional charge

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Monday assigned additional charge of posts of administrative secretaries to senior bureaucrats beside staffing deputy commissioners.

Punjab agriculture department secretary Fida (retired) Bishbar Ali Saboo has been assigned the additional charge of secretary agriculture department, South Punjab, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Punjab specialised healthcare and medical education department secretary Armat Mahmood Khan has been given the additional charge of secretary specialised healthcare and medical education department, South Punjab, in addition to his own duties, till further

orders. Punjab primary and secondary healthcare department secretary Nadia Saghal has been given the additional charge of secretary primary and secondary healthcare department, South Punjab, in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

Director (Civil Defence), Punjab, Barakullah Khan has been transferred and posted as special secretary primary and secondary healthcare department against a vacant post. OSD Aamir Mahmood has been posted as deputy secretary primary and secondary healthcare department against a vacant post.

The government transferred deputy commissioner Hafizullah Sardar Inshad and posted her as additional secretary, Chief

Minister's Office, Punjab. Additional secretary Chief Minister's Office, Punjab, Abdul Rasool was transferred and posted as DC Hafizabad.

DC Nankana Sahib Muhammad Arshad has been transferred and directed to report to the S&CAD for further orders.

Deputy secretary Chief Minister's Office, Punjab, Tasleem Akhtar Rao has been transferred and posted as DC Nankana Sahib.

Deputy secretary food department Khalid Ahmad has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Layyah against a vacant post.

Deputy secretary information and culture department Majid Bin Ahmad has been transferred and posted as deputy secretary food department.

New labour...

Continued from Page 13

any direct employment relationship with the private employer, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

The labour organisations are also critical of the provisions related to child labour. The code raises the minimum age for employment to 16 years, which, according to the labour groups, will double the volume of child labour in the province as it fails to provide adequate educational and training facilities for children below that age. Additionally, the code introduces prescriptions about child labour, particularly in informal sector like brick kilns and home-based work, which, the labour groups believe, will only worsen the situation.

In a formal letter addressed to the secretary of the Punjab Labour & Human Resource

Department, the leaders of the Labour Alliance expressed their outright rejection of the draft code and demanded its immediate withdrawal. The alliance has also listed all escalating their protests if their concerns are not addressed.

The Labour Alliance, representing various unions and workers across the province, has emphasised its commitment to social dialogue within a tripartite framework that includes the government, employers and workers' representatives.

They believe that any legislation, including the Punjab Labour Code 2024, must be developed with multi-stakeholder consultation with workers' representative organisations as required under the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions.

PU pledges roll number slip for Baloch student

LAHORE: The Punjab University on Monday has assured the Lahore High Court (LHC) that a Baloch female law student will be issued her roll number slip for LLB examinations.

Justice Shaukat Ahmad was hearing a petition by Sadia Baloch who challenged a notification of her suspension from the rolls of the university, which also

declared her a 'misconduct student'. At the outset, the judge asked the PU council to seek instructions on issuance of roll number slip to the petitioner.

The petition was again taken up in the latter part of the day when the PU's council returned to the court to inform that on the basis of a new notification, the petitioner shall be issued her roll number slip and that further proceedings shall be held before a disciplinary committee.

At this, Justice Ahmad asked the petitioner's counsel if he would still further press the petition.

Advocate Anad Jamsh, the petitioner's counsel, responded in affirmation, urging the court that the petitioner was challenging the very legal and constitutional basis of the powers exercised by the vice-chancellor and other responsible officers. He said the subsequent notification promulgated by the university's council did not accord the vice-chancellor, which had been challenged on the incoherence of the Constitution and the law. Therefore, he argued, the respondents should be directed to file reply.

The judge passed an order, directing the PU to issue roll number slips to the petitioner without any further loss of time. He also directed the respondents to submit their replies within one week. — Staff Reporter

PUNJAB HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE

The tenders for the following schemes are invited from the Engineering Firms / Contractors on the item rate basis, as per **PPRA E-Tendering System**, in line with relevant PPRA Rules (amended upto date). According to Rule 30(a), all the firms / contractors can participate in tendering process with the following terms and conditions:-

- The intending contractors / firms who have been registered with Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant category / classes are eligible to participate.
- The contractors / firms have to be registered on Punjab **PPRA website (www.punjab.eprocure.gov.pk)**. Any information / procedure regarding registration can be seen / obtained from website pprra.punjab.gov.pk/e-procurement.
- All intending contractors / firms have to affix / upload the stamped money in the form of CDR in favour of the Executive Engineer, Highways Division Bahawal (2% of the estimated / bid cost and 5% 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 shall attend the office of the Commissioner, Bahawal Division Bahawal on **04-09-2024 at 02:30 PM**, where all bids will be retrieved and qualified/unsuccessful bidder will be announced in presence of Tender Opening Committee.
- In case of submission of any false information / document such as CDR / receipt, the contractor / firm will be disqualified from the current tendering procedure and will be blacklisted to participate in any tendering process of C&W Department. Further, recommendation to PPRA and PEC will also be made against such firm / contractor for appropriate action / blacklisting.
- The Procuring Agency may reject all bids or proposals of any firm prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal under PPRA Rule-35 (Rejection of Bids).
- Final payment shall be paid by using concrete batching plant and concrete paving machine.
- TST / DST / Surfacing shall be executed by mechanized system.
- Recovery against credit of bid material will be adjusted manually and accordingly the bids will be evaluated.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost/ Earnest Money	T.S. No. & Date	Comp. Period	Opening Date & Time
1.	Special Repair of Old D.T. Road Passing through Bahawal City. Length = 6.35 KM in Tahsil & District Bahawal. (Section from KM No. 0.00 to 4.25 = 4.25 KM (Dardar Portion)	Rs.283,180 (M) Rs.7,864 (M)	C.E. (C-2) PNO LHR No. MTC/06/2024/0091/344/MTC Dated: 03-08-2024	04 Months	04-09-2024 at 2:30 PM

Executive Engineer Highway Division Bahawal

Superintending Engineer Highway Circle Bahawal

PP-7849

E-TENDERING NOTICE

Communication & Works Department, 4th Building, Division Lahore invites to invite the bids for following schemes through E-Tendering vide Notification No. SOH-1/CAW/1-48/2023/2652 Dated 26-05-2023.

- Tenders based on item rate percentage / above or below an approved DMT are hereby invited for the works mentioned below from the contractors / firms entitled / renewed with PEC for the current financial year in the relevant category and specialization code. The contractor shall produce original PEC / license having mentioned the requisite relevant specialization codes. The contractor not having the requisite specialization code will not be entertained for further process.
- The procurement is to be carried out through EPADS (E-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System) <https://epads.gov.pk>, website of Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) developed by PTE only. All interested applicants / contractors are required to get registered on EPADS to become eligible for participation. Tender notice / tender documents containing detailed requirements, terms and conditions are available for the registered bidders on EPADS at <http://punjab.eprocure.gov.pk> and Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) website <http://ppra.punjab.gov.pk>. The tender documents comprising the DMT must be submitted on EPADS as per the date and time mentioned below. Manual bids shall not be accepted.
- The prospective bidders are to submit earnest money in the form of a CDR / Bank Draft / Cashier's cheque of any scheduled bank @2% of the estimated DMT cost. The contractors / bidders shall produce the original 2% CDR / Bank Draft / Cashier's Cheque to the Executive Engineer 4th Building Division Lahore / Tender Opening Committee accompanying the bid/contract on or before the closing time of the bid, otherwise the entire bids submitted will not be entertained. Conditional tenders and tenders not accompanied earnest money shall be rejected. The entire submitted bids / tenders will be opened on the website on fixed date and time in the office of the Commissioner Lahore Division, Lahore by the respective Tender Opening Committees (TOCs) at the above venue in presence of intending contractors or their representatives having attached Power of Attorney and who opt to be present.
- The Procuring Agency may reject all bids or proposals of any firm prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal as per PPRA Rules. The Procuring Agency shall upon reject communicate to any supplier or contractor who submitted a bid or proposal the grounds for rejection of all bids / proposals, but it is not required to justify.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money 2% of Estimated Cost	T.S. No. & Date	Time Period
1.	Renovation of the Building / Wing of Section Officer (General) Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department at 1-Bahawal Road, Lahore	Rs. 11,063 (M)	Rs. 221906/-	S.S. No. 4179 Dated: 11.07.2024	06 Months

Last date for submission of bid on website : **05-09-2024 till 12:30 PM**
Opening of bids on website : **05-09-2024 till 01:30 PM**

NOTE: In case of any holiday announced by Government or otherwise, the next working day will be considered as the date of receiving / opening of tender.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER 4th Buildings Division LAHORE

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER Building Circle No.2 LAHORE

PP-7847

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Desert Rangers to recover Mepeco arrears from defaulters

By Our Correspondent

RAHAWALPUR: The Federal Energy Ministry has assigned the task of recovering outstanding arrears from Mepeco Electric Power Company (Mepeco) to the Desert Rangers. As part of this effort, a Distribution Supply Company (Disco) Support Unit (DSU) has been established, the first of its kind in the country, to facilitate recovery operations.

According to sources, the creation of the DSU was driven by the need to recover over Rs1 billion in arrears from Mepeco's tube well and domestic defaulters in the region. The first meeting of the DSU was held in Multan on Monday.

A press release issued by Mepeco stated that during the first DSU meeting, Mepeco Chief Executive Officer and DSU Director Tahir Ayyaz Gurmiani said that all state institutions have been integrated on a single platform to address the national energy crisis. He said he would coordinate with the relevant departments to ensure the success of the operation against electricity defaulters. He said that the Rangers, along with civil administration, the FIA, and other law enforcement agencies, would launch a joint operation against defaulters and power thieves. He assured that joint staff teams would gain access to all no-go

areas within Mepeco's jurisdiction and that an action plan for the operation had already been completed.

In his briefing, Mepeco General Manager (Technical) Jam Gul Muhammad Khalid shared that a target of reducing line losses by 3.8 percent has been set for the year 2024-25. Each operational circle within Mepeco has been assigned specific targets for each quarter. He explained that recoveries in hard-to-reach and no-go areas of South Punjab would be conducted under the Land Revenue Act. In regions such as Dera Ghazi Khan, Rahim Yar Khan and the riverine and Kacha areas, joint Mepeco teams would recover outstanding amounts and file cases against defaulters with the police.

It was also reported that in Ludhiana, Kahore Paoora, and Dera Gero, around 435 agricultural defaulters, whose meters were disconnected in recent days, have been targeted for recovery.

IRRAWADDI: A large breach occurred in the Haveli Rakhon canal near Khairi Baspahar in Yamunanahar, inundating standing crops on hundreds of acres of land.

Reports said that the irrigation staff failed to respond to the breach in time, leaving the affected cultivators to undertake repairs themselves. It was also noted that this is the fourth breach in the canal in recent months. Sunday's breach was reportedly caused by the canal running at full capacity due to recent torrential rains in the area, where cotton crops are abundant.

Population told to vacate both banks of Ravi

Admin says vigilant to tackle ongoing rain spell, flood threat

By Shafiq Butt

SAHRAWAL: The district administration is on high alert due to ongoing rainfall and the potential for severe flooding near the Qutub Shahana Bridge on Sahawal-Faisalabad Road, and surrounding villages on the left side of the River Ravi.

These areas have experienced land erosion over the past three to four decades, particularly in villages like Dad Bahoch, Mir Dad Maf, and Chak Shomra.

Deputy Commissioner Saama Ali told Dawn that the administration is highly vigilant. The district government has completed two embankment projects, Erosion Action Scheme, in and around Qutub Shahana and village Dad Bahoch. These projects involved the use of stones, sand and wireframes to strengthen embankments and protect against floodwaters. Up to Rs280 million was spent to safeguard roads and village guide walls from erosion caused by floodwaters.

Mr Ali claimed that union council secretaries had made public announcements to urge people to vacate on both sides of the River Ravi to evacuate. A flood contingency plan has already been implemented, including the establishment of emergency camps, a control room to monitor floodwater levels, livestock vaccination and medical camps, cybernetic monitoring by the irrigation department, and Rescue 1122 emergency services.

Additional Commissioner Shafiq Dogar told Dawn that water storage capacity at Indian dams, including Gobind Nagar on the River Sutlej, Pong on the River Beas and Taan on the River Ravi, had reached 54%, 53%, and 29% respectively, as of Aug 17. However, the ongoing rain and the filling of Indian dams are expected to lead to flooding in the Sahwal and Ravi rivers.

HONOUR KILLING: A man stabbed his wife and critically injured his sister in village 1182-L, Chakrawala, late on Sunday. Amirul Hameed, Kamral station house officer, said suspect Wasoem, who works in Wagla Town, Lahore, married from two years ago, and the couple has two children.



SAHRAWAL: River embankment being strengthened. — Dawn

Wasoem's family resides in their village home along with his unmarried sister.

Villagers informed the police that Wasoem harbored suspicions about his wife's character. He had previously warned his sister Shamim and his wife to change their behavior. Two days ago, Wasoem allegedly saw a viral mobile video on social media in which he saw his wife with a man. He returned home secretly at night and attacked both women while they were sleeping in the house's courtyard. Believing both were dead, he fled.

Shamim survived the attack and was rushed to the Chakrawala Taluk Headquarters Hospital in Chakrawala, from where she was referred to National Teaching Hospital, Lahore, married from two years ago, and the couple has two children.

Electrocuted: An eight-year-old girl named Nimra was electrocuted after coming into contact with an air cooler in Pakpattan city. Nimra was returning home from school when she accidentally touched the body of an air cooler installed on the outer wall of a house. She was electrocuted and died on the spot. Rescue 1122 later handed over her body to her family, who reside in Mohalla Farid Nagar.

Death: The body of a young man was recovered from the Pakpattan Canal near the Government Employee Colony after being spotted by villagers. Rescue 1122 retrieved the body, which was sent to DHQ Hospital for an autopsy. Farid Nagar Police have launched an investigation, suspecting the youth was murdered two to three days ago.

FRAMEWORK CONTRACT TENDER NOTICE
OLYMPIAN ARSHAD NADEEM, TESIHL HEADQUARTER HOSPITAL NEAR CHIANNU (FOR THE YEAR 2024-25)

PROCUREMENT OF FRAME WORK TENDER OF LOCAL PURCHASE OF MEDICINE Day to Day, SFP (SERIAL SHIGLAT PROGRAM), DESERVING (ZAKAT) PATIENTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR THE YEAR 2024-25.

The Medical Superintendent TESIHL Headquarter Hospital invited bids from interested Manufacturers of goods and services to supply and deliver the following medicines/chemicals/medical equipment/medical consumables having a valid valid registration with the Ministry of Health/Food and Drug Administration, Government of Punjab, Pakistan. The tender is open to all citizens of Pakistan and foreign citizens who are registered in the country.

Sl. No.	Package No.	Description of Items	Est. Quantity (7% of the Estimated Value)	Date & Time of Submission of Tender	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
1/2024	Package # 1	LOCAL PURCHASE OF MEDICINE DAY TO DAY, SFP (SERIAL SHIGLAT PROGRAM), DESERVING (ZAKAT) PATIENTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FY 2024-25	Est. Quantity: Estimated value is 24 million	05.08.2024 09:00 PM	05.08.2024 02:00 PM

Interested bidders may get the tender documents from the office of the Procurement Officer of the Hospital on submission of certain application on their letter head along with payment of Rs. 25,000/- (Twenty Five Thousand only) in cash. The tendering process shall be governed by the Framework Contract of the Hospital under the following conditions:

- with reference to the clause XI of policy and operational guidelines for the local purchase of medicines (Day to Day) 2022, offer will be given as:
 - in the form of Minimum Quotation from MRP in following categories:
 - Manufactured medicines/ Medicines
 - Medical Consumables/ Medicines
 - Original Item.
- Copy of Bidding Documents can also be obtained for information at: arshadna@pccw.com.
- Bidding shall be conducted through Open Competitive Bidding (Single Stage Two Envelopes) procedure specified in the Punjab Procurement Rules (PPRA) 2024 (subject to date), and in open to all eligible bidders as defined in the bidding document.
- Bidding Documents must be accompanied by a Bid Security (valid for 180 days in the form of EOD, Pay Order, Demand Draft, Bank or Subordinated Bank of Pakistan).
- bids which are incomplete, unsealed, unauthenticated or an stamp or not in accordance with the specified requirements will not be considered.
- The bidders are requested to give their best and final prices as no negotiation are expected as per PPRA Rules.
- Taxes will be declared as per applicable government rules.
- The award terms & conditions may be seen in the bidding documents on PPRA Website www.ppraregulation.gov.pk and hospital website olympianhospital.gov.pk
- The lowest successful bidder will be responsible for the Framework Contract of Local Purchase of Medicines (Day to Day), Serial Shiglat program (SFP) and Deserving (Zakat) patients of social welfare departments.
- Site Visit of tender site is 05.08.2024 till 12:00 PM.

All the Tendering Process shall be governed by Punjab Procurement Rules 2014 (Amended up to date).

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
OLYMPIAN ARSHAD NADEEM
THE HOSPITAL NEAR CHIANNU
TEL:045-2660942

EPADS - E-TENDERING NOTICE

Tenders are hereby invited by the LG&CD, Civil Sub-Division, Layyah for the approved development scheme of ADP for the year 2024-25 at MRP 2nd Bid Annual 2024 from till July 2024 to 31st Dec 2024 (interest percentage above or below approved DNFT) from the EPADS (PPRA) Registered Contractors having valid Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) license of the respective category for the year 2024-25 and as per directions issued by the Government of Punjab for the financial year 2024-25 on following terms and conditions:

- The intending contractors/firms who have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant category/categories are eligible to participate.
- The contractors/firms have to be registered on Punjab PPRA website (www.punjab.gov.pk). Any information/procedure regarding registration can be seen/obtained from website ppra.punjab.gov.pk/epadswebsite.
- All intending contractors/firms have to upload the earnest money in the form of ODR @5% of the estimated cost in favor of the Executive Engineer, LG&CD, Civil Division, CG Khan. However, original ODR has to be submitted to the Tender Opening Committee on the opening day, half hour before the opening of bids otherwise, the firm/contractor will be disqualified in presence of Tender Opening Committee in the office of Assistant Engineer LG&CD Civil Sub-Division Layyah.
- Conditional tenders and tenders not accompanied earnest money @5% of estimated cost in shape of ODR from any scheduled bank will not be entertained.
- Current PPRA Rules will strictly be applicable. In case of any violation the contractor's bid will be rejected according to the Rules.
- The bidders/contractors/firms will submit the bids through EPADS upto 01:30 PM on 05.08.2024 and will be opened on same day i.e. 05.08.2024 at 2:00 PM.
- After filing the bids on website, the contractors may attend the office of the Assistant Engineer, Civil Sub-Division, Layyah where the quoted rates by the firms/contractors will be retrieved and announced in presence of Tender Opening Committee at the opening date and time.
- In case of submission of any false information/document such as ODR receipt, the contractor/firm will be disqualified from the current tendering procedure and will be blacklisted to participate in any tendering process of LG&CD Department. Further, recommendation to PPRA and PEC will also be made against such firm/contractor for appropriate action/blacklisting.
- The Procuring Agency may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of bid or proposal.
- Recovery against credit of old material will be adjusted manually and accordingly the bids will be evaluated.

Administrative Approval No. AA/DC/Dev/PLY/DCD/5401 dated: 24.07.2024
Earnest Money = 5% of Estimated Cost
Completion Period = As Per Work Order

Sl. No.	Gr. No.	Name of Scheme	Estimated Cost (Rs. in M)	Earliest Money (Rs.)	T.S. No. & Date
1	1103	Construction of Link Road from Dark Darg Road Sagara Patrol Pump Check to Dark Khosra Road Tarko and District Layyah	30.00	15,00,000/-	SE/LG&CD/3 (31/07/2023-24) dated: 15.08.2023

Assistant Engineer
LG&CD Civil Sub-Division
Layyah

Executive Engineer
LG&CD Civil Division
Dera Ghazi Khan

Concerned at Q's dominance in Gujrat, PML-N local cadres stress unity

By Wasoem Ashraf Butt

GUJRAT: Aimed at having an equal share in the local administrative and uplift affairs as per with the coalition partner, the PML-Q, the PML-N local cadres in Gujrat have emphasised forging unity among their ranks by ignoring all internal differences.

This was decided by the ruling party's former lawmakers, ticket-holders and officials at a meeting at Kara-I-Ahmadji the other day. The meeting was hosted by former PML-N Gujrat president and ex-MNA Malik Hafiz Ahmad who had been striving to resolve the differences among his party cadres for the last two months and finally brought the key party players together to forge unity, a participant in the meeting told Dawn.

PML-N Gujratwala division president Akmal Raza Kotla, MNA Naseer Abbas Siddiq, former adviser to prime minister

Newsdesk Chaudhary Ali Gul, former state minister Chaudhary Jaffer Iqbal Faris Bhand, ex-MNA Javed Anwar, former Punjab minister Mian Tariq Mehmood Durrani, former MPAs Moiz Nawaz Warrach and Hagi Imran Zafar, Gujrat district president Tabard Malik and coordinator youth wing Ali Warrach Khatib were among the participants of meeting.

Mr Anwar said Mr Kotla had shown serious concerns at the dominance of PML-Q in the affairs of district Gujrat despite the fact that his party was the senior coalition partner both in Islamabad and Punjab.

However, it is learnt that most of the participants were of the opinion that the local representatives of the party should underwrite their central leadership's position and political compulsions in the current situation but they also stressed exerting pressure on the leadership to have equal share in the uplift schemes and administrative

affairs without resorting to any boycott.

Talking to Dawn, MNA Naseer Abbas Siddiq said a better working relationship with the PML-Q as well as the administrative authorities could pay more dividends to the PML-N in Gujrat, particularly in the wake of future challenges regarding the PFI.

Talking to the media after the meeting, Mr Kotla, Hafiz Ahmad and others said they were standing by their party's leadership but any kind of violation of norms and policy of ignoring the PML-N would not be acceptable in Gujrat where the party had been a strong political power.

They asserted that the party was united in the area and such meetings would regularly be held at least for once in a month to create a better understanding and contribution on the political situation. They assured the party workers that they would never be left alone.

Record-breaking...

Continued from Page 11

Poorada said, "We will continue our efforts until the complete rehabilitation of the affected communities." He assured that all essential facilities are being provided at the relief camps for those displaced by the floods.

He said that Wagla is designing a dam to harness the water from hill torrents. This infrastructure will not only serve the Pached area but will also be utilised for irrigation purposes, aiming to benefit local communities in the long term.

The announcement was made in the presence of Rajaguru Deputy C o o r d i n a t o r Shafiqullah Mirza, MPA Akmal Aziz Khan Dandak, IEN of Irrigation Umar Akmal Rehman and media representatives.

Third part of Kot Addu super dam washed away

By Our Correspondent

MIRZAPUR: The third part of the Kot Addu Rd 34 super dam was washed away by the river Indus in the two hours of Monday.

Senior officials were present at the affected area all night. They ordered evacuation of the population and reviewed the measures at the spot of erosion.

The district administration had issued an alert in the area a month ago.

According to Deputy Commissioner Naveed Mansoor Akmal Bhatti, severe erosion started at the fractured edge of the third part of 34 RD Super Rd 34 and the main flow directly shifted towards the breached part. It became a calamity within half an hour while

the water eroded 700 ft of the left edge. The river water is advancing further.

Current discharge at Tuzara is 352,762 cusecs water upstream and 282,262 cusecs down stream while population that was under threat has already been moved out of the area.

The erosion will directly affect the settlements falling in the floodplain. Stone dumping is in progress, but the action is currently beyond control, the DC warned.

The officials of the district administration, Rescue 1122 and police are also at the site.

On Aug 10, the Indus river had swept away 600 feet of 34 RD super dam and three villages — Bari Chaudia, Khairpurwala and Loharwala — had to be evacuated.

84 dead, 224 injured...

Continued from Page 11

different areas of the city. The field teams continued swift and effective cleaning operations in the affected areas.

Major roads and inter-sections like Motiya Pail, Qutub Chawk, Lytton Road, Chaudiaji, and Wario Road were cleared of standing water.

Mr Ahmed directed all Waza directors to ensure that not only the main roads but also the secondary and tertiary roads were cleared promptly.

He emphasised the

need to address even the smallest pending points in every neighbourhood, knowing that even minor blockages could wreak havoc in low-lying areas.

Meanwhile, WASA Vice Chairman Chaudhary Shabbir Ahmad along with Mr Ahmed visited the most affected areas, including Mall Road, the Supreme Court Building, and GPR, to assess the situation on the ground. The heavy rains also caused power outages in several areas of the city, which could have crippled the drainage operations.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE PUNJAB (IDAP)

TENDER NOTICE
2024/Bid/

PROCUREMENT OF OFFICE FURNITURE (SUPPLY & INSTALLATION)

- The 'Infrastructure Development Authority Punjab' IDAP (Employer) has been established as an autonomous body under the Infrastructure Development Authority of Punjab Act, 2016 by the Government of Punjab for Planning, Designing, Construction and Maintenance of Infrastructure in line with best international practices to cope with future development needs.
- Details of the procurement are as follows:-

Application Rules	Estimated Cost (PKR)	Bid Security (PKR)	Bid Validity (Days)	Bidding Procedure	Bidding Method
PPRA Rules 2024 (amended upto date)	Approximately 4.5 Million	500,000/-	120	SSTE	Open Competitive Bidding

- Please note that the subject procurement shall be carried out through EPADS of Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) only. All interested applicants are required to get registered on EPADS to be eligible for participation. Tender Notice / Tender Document containing detailed requirements, terms and conditions is available for the registered bidders on EPADS at punjab.eprocure.gov.pk and Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) website <http://ppra.punjab.gov.pk>
- The tender documents comprising Technical & Financial Proposal prepared in accordance with the instructions given in the tender document must be submitted on EPADS on or before **03rd September 2024** no later than **11:00 AM**. Technical Proposals will be opened on the same day on EPADS at **11:30 AM**. Manual bids shall not be accepted.
- In case the last date for submission of the proposal submission is declared a public holiday then the next working day will be considered as proposal submission & opening date.

GENERAL MANAGER (ADMINISTRATION)
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE PUNJAB (IDAP)
50 B-3, Gulberg-III, Lahore, Pakistan
Ph: +92 (0) 42 99332632-42
info@idap.pk / www.idap.pk

METRO

North



Aamir dropped as Pakistan name playing XI for first BD Test
Pg.18 SPORT

PESHAWAR
Sunset 06:58pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:36am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 24°C
Maximum 31°C
Outlook Th, S Storms



A MACHINE removes encroachments at Karkhara Market, Peshawar, on Monday. The district administration and Peshawar Development Authority in a joint operation demolished dozens of shops and registered cases against 29 people for encroaching upon government properties. — Dawn

Fear grips parts of Tirah as armed militants start patrols

Residents demand enhanced security

By Ibrahim Sharawi

KHYBER: Fear has gripped parts of Tirah valley here as armed men from militant groups Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Lashkar-e-Islam (LI) began patrols. The residents urged authorities to enhance security in the valley for their protection. People of Pir Mela and Maidan areas told Dawn over phone that though local markets were open and vehicles were entering and leaving the valley as usual, the resurgence of TTP and LI had heightened their security concerns.

They said that these militants were present in Bar Qambarkehel, Adamkehel, Thiyral and Lardawar areas of Shalabar. Pir Mela of Karkhara, Buzan Sharaf and Sarda Pal areas had didn't openly patrol main roads and markets until now. The residents said that videos of the armed TTP men in Pir Mela Bazaar had gone viral on social media, so the security forces should crack down on them. A Pir Mela resident told Dawn that while ordinary people were subjected to repeated body searches and questioning at security checkpoints, armed militants freely moved around. He insisted that the local police and Levies force had "almost vanished" from the region after the emergence of

TTP and LI militants. "The situation is very tense as the local population has lost confidence in law-enforcement agencies due to their indifference to the activities of militants," he said. Another resident from Maidan said that no one was leaving their houses in anticipation of any military operation against militants. "We can't afford to shift to any other place. We have suffered huge losses during our last displacement. Majority of us have yet to rebuild houses or resume work," he told Dawn. The resident said that the local had not maintained any contacts with militants, fearing an adverse reaction from security forces. However, people from Sarda Pal, Buzan Sharaf and Dars

Buzan claimed that armed militants demanded food and shelter, which they couldn't afford to deny due to the fears of dire consequences for non-compliance. They said that in case of the provision of food and shelter to militants, the security forces attacked their houses with mortar shells at night "on the pretext of targeting militant positions." A Peshwa pamphlet circulated on social media claimed that TTP militants had a complete control over Pir Tharwan area in Shalabar and Buzan and they had begun patrols in Pir Mela Bazaar and surrounding areas as the security forces had already abandoned their positions. The pamphlet, whose source is not clear, said it wasn't more

about the presence of the banned outfit in Malakodkehel areas. The residents, however, rejected the assertion, stating security forces are still present in those areas but they have yet to check militant patrols. Meanwhile, Karkhara tribesmen on Monday morning besieged the offices of the district administration in Jamrud until here to demand early return of the remaining displaced families to their houses in Tirah valley. They, however, went back to their protest camp adjacent to Babi-Khyber after talks with the local police officials. The protest strain by Karkhara entered 15th day as authorities were set to announce a schedule for the return of IDPs.

Body formed on Peshawar-Torkham Expressway issues

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar district administration on Monday formed a committee headed by the ruling PTI Member of National Assembly, Muhammad Gulzar, to present a report on the issues regarding the Peshawar-Torkham Expressway project. The construction of the 47-kilometre long and four-lane expressway has been planned at the cost \$460 million with the assistance of the World Bank. Peshawar commissioner Riaz Khari Mehsud told Dawn the project was the biggest in the province's history and would prove a game-changer for its and national development by connecting the country with Central Asian Republics (CARs). He said the road, also called the southern link road (SLR), would start near Tarnab Park in Peshawar and enter Khyber tribal district after passing through the Badkhan area of the provincial capital and end on Torkham border crossing. Mr Mehsud said that the World Bank was the main financier of the \$460 million

project and would contribute \$300 million, while the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would foot the remaining bill. He said that the issues like existence of government or the proposed project sites, commercial properties and agricultural land was causing delays. "We have been working on the project mobilisation for the past 10 days and have held three meetings so far," he said. The commissioner said that the administration had invited MNA from NA-31 Peshawar Shaukatana Gulzar to the meeting as the road passed through her constituency. The meeting was also attended by other stakeholders. Mr Mehsud said that the meeting decided to form a committee to resolve the issues faced by the project and a committee was set up in the meeting with MNA Shaukatana Gulzar as its head. The committee will comprise deputy commissioner of Peshawar, project director

of the National Highway Authority, revenue officials of the district administration, former judge Abdul Mateen, and lawyer Zahmat Khan from the committee. The commissioner said that the committee would visit the proposed road project site on Monday along with him. "We are working on war footing and will try to resolve all issues quickly," he said. Mr Mehsud said that the Peshawar-Torkham Expressway was a project of international importance and would play a very positive role in the economic development of the region as well as the country after its construction. He said that the project would boost the volume of the trade between Pakistan, Afghanistan and CARs. "This road is going to be a game-changer for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," he said. The commissioner said Peshawar's district administration had resolved all issues faced by the Northern Bypass project and

the bypass would be opened to traffic on December 31. He said that both the projects would greatly help reduce traffic burden of the provincial capital and facilitate Afghanistan-based commercial vehicles. The committee headed by MNA Shaukatana Gulzar will present its report within 72 hours, according to an official statement issued here. It said the committee would resolve the issues of road alignment, addressing the complaints of the voters and building public consensus for the project. The project is of crucial nature in ensuring access to CARs, boosting Pak-Afghan trade and addressing the traffic congestion problem in the provincial capital road the statement. It added that the participants agreed that the road project was of very crucial nature and all possible means would be utilised for its timely construction. — Bureau Report

No mpox symptoms detected as 15,000 screened at Peshawar airport, Torkham

NIH finds clade 2B strain in confirmed case of infection from Mardan

By Ashfaq Yousafzai

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department has screened over 15,000 passengers for mpox at Peshawar airport and Torkham border but didn't detect any symptoms of the viral infection, officials said on Monday. They also revealed that the National Institute of Health in Islamabad had found the strain in

the recently confirmed mpox case from Mardan district to be clade 2B of the virus. Officials told a meeting of the provincial Outbreak and Response Committee chaired by health minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah here that the screening of passengers for mpox was in progress at Peshawar's Bacha Khan International Airport. They said over 10,000 passengers from 83 flights were screened at Peshawar airport and over 5,000 people at the Torkham border, but none of them had symptoms for mpox. The officials also said the 34-year-old mpox patient from Mardan had a road accident in Saudi Arabia on Aug 3 and returned to Pakistan on Aug 19 before visiting the Khyber

Torchang Hospital in Peshawar for treatment of a fractured leg. They, however, said the man was referred to chairman of the dermatology department Dr Mehraz Khan, who suspected mpox and recommended testing. The officials said the man's specimen was sent to the Public Health Reference Laboratory at the Khyber Medical University that diagnosed him with the viral infection. They said the health department immediately ensured the establishment of an isolation ward for suspected mpox cases at the Mardan Medical Complex. Director (public health) Dr Ibrahim Roghman, who was also present in the meeting, said a blood sample from Mardan's mpox case was sent

to the NIH for genetic sequencing, whose results, released on Monday, declared the strain as clade 2B, which originated in West Africa. In the last two years, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has recorded three mpox cases, including one this year and two last year, with all having travelled to Saudi Arabia. The director told participants that a control room had been established at the Directorate General of Health Services, with rapid response teams being activated. He added that the establishment of control rooms by the outbreak committees was under way at the district level to strengthen disease surveillance mechanisms. The meeting, which was also attended by director general

health Dr Mohammad Saleem and other senior health officials, was informed that the World Health Organisation had declared a "public health emergency of international concern" for mpox on August 14. Officials said the zoonotic disease spread from animals to humans through respiratory droplets, direct contact with lesions or rashes of infected persons, and unprotected sexual contact. They said the first mpox case was reported in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with the outbreaks of infection being limited to Central and West Africa until 2022. The officials said 3,527 cases had so far been detected in Asian countries, including China and Vietnam. They said the health department

Woman killed in Mohmand roof collapse

By Our Correspondent

MOHMAND: A woman was killed and six others, including children, were injured when roof of a room collapsed in Malakheel Gandhar area of Sarda Isahel here on Monday. A Rescue 1122 official said the injured were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, Ghazani. Later, two of them were referred to a hospital in Peshawar in precarious condition. The rescue official said the deceased was identified as wife of Ghulam Syed. Residents said that the woman and children were guests of the house, having come from a nearby village to participate in an engagement ceremony. Meanwhile, truck drivers blocked the main Peshawar-Bajaur highway in Ghazani to protest heavy fines by the traffic police. They demanded of district police officer Usama Amin Cheema to take notice of the issue. The truckers also complained that the minerals' department earned millions of rupees tax from them, but condition of the highway was worse, which damaged their vehicles. They said accidents on the road had become a routine.

Injured Bajaur policeman dies

By Our Correspondent

BAJAUR: A policeman, who was critically injured in a firing incident on Sunday evening, succumbed to his injuries, officials said on Monday. "Habibullah was injured when he was fired upon on Sunday evening. He died during treatment in the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Shabqadar, Charsadda, at 11pm," according to a statement issued from the office of the district police officer here. It said Habibullah, 34, who was the second policeman to have been killed in attacks over the last few days, was later led to rest in his native Mian Kalay Deg Qala area of Khar Isahel on Monday afternoon. Earlier, his funeral prayers were offered at the Khar Police Lines. Senior officials of the district administration, police and local people attended the funeral.

Charsadda ambush claims two lives

By Our Correspondent

CHARSADDA: Two persons were killed and four others injured when a moving vehicle was ambushed here on Monday. The police and locals said the deceased and the injured were close relatives. One of the injured, Mohammed Hayat told the Sarda Isahel police that he along with his two brothers and relatives was going back to his village after appearing in a court case when their rivals opened indiscriminate fire on them. He said the firing left his brother, Firwan and relative, Huszuddin, dead on the spot, while he along with his other brother, Jabar, and relatives Asaullah, and Rahmandin suffered serious injuries. The injured and the deceased were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, Charsadda. The seriously injured persons were later shifted to the Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar. The police registered a murder case against the attackers and started making efforts to arrest them.

PRAYER

Fajr 04:10
Zuhar 12:20
Asr 05:00
Maghreb 06:58
Isha 08:27

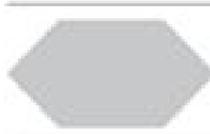
Starting time in Peshawar

REFLECTIONS

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COURT NOTICE

SWAT

In the Court of Additional Commissioner Muzammil Durrani, District Court, Peshawar, Case No. S.P.NC-175/2024 dated 20/08/2024. Next hearing date 22/08/2024. Case title: Abdul Wasay etc. vs. Sultan Roma etc. Notice is respondent (2) from All D/o Abdul Wasay (Late) P/o Ahsan Ullah Sultan (District Court, Peshawar) and respondent (3) from All D/o Abdul Wasay (Late) P/o Ahsan Ullah Sultan (District Court, Peshawar). In above mentioned case the respondent can't be served in the ordinary way, it is therefore proclaimed that if any respondents will not appear personally or through duly appointed agent or pleader in the Court at 9:00 am dated 22/08/2024 separate proceeding will be held against the mentioned respondents under my hand and seal of Court. (2024/19434)



WORK under way to divert Kunhar River at the landslide prone area in Mahandi, Masehra, on Monday. — Dawn

More landslides hit Kunhar River as 25 houses evacuated

Official says river being diverted from mountain base to avoid landslides

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: The district administration evacuated people from over two dozen houses on a mountainside as huge landslides continued to fall into the Kunhar River on Monday, further blocking its way and threatening the nearby human settlements and the Mahandi Bazaar.

A massive landslide on Sunday had fallen into the river, partially blocking the water flow.

“Three houses in the mountainous Laxan Daba village have been damaged due to the

landslides and inmates of 25 others have been evacuated for their safety,” Bahadur assistant commissioner Basrahat Bata told reporters.

She said landslides from the mountain continued to roll down into the Kunhar River. “The rising water level in the river due to blockage caused by landslides has diverted its course towards nearby human settlements, the Mahandi Bazaar and Masehra-Nawan-Jalihal Road.”

It is to mention here that a flash flood in the Mansehra basin brought big landslides into the Kunhar River on July 30, blocking its way and creating an artificial lake.

Mr Basrahat said machinery had been moved to divert the river course away from the base of the mountain as rising water level was causing land erosion, leading to landslides.

“The irrigation department should ensure an early clearance of the blockage as the water level in the artificial lake is rising, threatening the residential areas and commercial centres,” Muztab Khan, former mayor of Mahandi, told reporters.

He said heavy machines owned by a Chinese company excavating a hydropower project in the area should be used to divert the watercourse away from the mountain base and clearing the blockage.

Tourism activities in Kaghan Valley such as rafting, trekking, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan remained suspended from July 30 to August 13 after the central bridge on the MNJ Road was swept away by swollen Mansehra Stream in Mahandi area.

CLEANLINESS DRIVE: The Oghi taluk administration on Monday launched a cleanliness

drive and also organised an awareness walk to sensitize people to the hazards caused by pollution in their lives.

The participants of the walk marched through different roads and converged outside the TMA offices.

The walk was led by assistant commissioner Fahad Zia and taluk municipal officer Amir Shahzad.

Mr Shahzad told reporters that TMA Oghi had launched the cleanliness drive as the directors of the closed ministries. “We have not only disposed of garbage dumps in far-off parts of the taluk but also held awareness sessions with citizens and students,” he said.

He said a tree plantation drive was also going on in the taluk, and appealed to the citizens to extend their help to TMA in keeping Oghi clean and green.

LG members demand funds

LAKKI MARWAT: The local government representatives have urged Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur to release funds to their councils for development projects at grassroots level.

Addressing a news conference at the Bannu Press Club on Monday, leaders of the All Chairmen Village and Neighbourhood Councils Mian Mahboob Rahman, Malik Habibullah Khan, Malik Hafizullah Khan and Sardar Ayub Khan said the last PTI government did not implement the vision of party founder Imran Khan in letter and spirit to devolve powers to the

grassroots level.

“When the last government realized that results of the local body elections were not in its favour, it withheld our funds and avoided devolving powers to us,” Mr Rahman said.

He said the current government was following the policies of its predecessor.

The local body members criticised voters for not releasing development funds to village and neighbourhood councils in the last more than two years. They said they must authorities and even went to the court to claim funds, but to no avail.

The council chairman said they had presented a 12-point charter of demands to the provincial government, but not a single demand was met.

They said Chief Minister Gandapur had acknowledged “mistakes and excesses” against the local bodies and promised the grant of funds and powers to them, but the promise was still unfulfilled.

The local body members warned that the contractors would stage street protests in Peshawar and Islamabad if their “genuine” demands were not met by the provincial government. — Correspondent

Opposition parties blame govt for poor SSC results

By Our Correspondent

SWABI: A number of local leaders of the opposition parties criticised the poor results of public sector schools in recent secondary school certificate (SSC) examination, conducted by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Marhalan.

Speaking at “Rakhi Programme” of the All-Union of Journalists here on Monday, provincial general secretary of Pakistan People’s Party Javed Iqbal Inqilabi, former provincial general secretary of Awami National Party Salim Khan, former deputy general secretary of Quami Watan Party Manzoor Jabbar and others said that the people were furious about complete disappointing results of SSC examination in the district.

They slammed the PTI government for its failure to bring improvement and reforms in education sector despite having ruled the KP province for 12 years.

They said that the fathers of public sector schools in native district of leading PTI leaders had exposed the empty claims of the ruling party to fully fund and revolutionize the education sector in the province.

NARODIYAN SIKHIZHI: The district police in two separate actions arrested two accused and recovered over 7kg of charges.

According to a police statement, a police patrol happened on a suspicious motorcycle Shayan Khosro Mansoor Payer for checking and recovered 4750 grams of hashish and a sum of Rs42300 from his possession.

Moreover, a police team of the Zalka police station, on a tip off, arrested an accused Muhammad Tayyab and recovered 3125 grams of charas from his him.

The district police registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was underway, the statement added.

Dir MPC wants findings of college graft probe made public

By Our Correspondent

LOWER DIR: Participants of a multi-party conference held here the other day demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to make public the findings of an inquiry conducted into alleged funds’ embezzlement in Timergara Medical College.

The MPC was called by Dir Qasim Pasoun.

The participants decided to bring people onto the roads if the college’s principal was not appointed within a week.

President of Dir Qasim Janga Subhanda Yaqub Khan, PM-N leader Malik Jahan Zeb Khan, II district emir Iqbal Malik Akbar, former MPA Saadul Goh, JUI-F district chief Sirapuddin, PPP district secretary information Alam Zeb Advocate, Dir Qasim Pasoun chief Malik Jahan Alam Youssaf, district bar’s former president Abid Hayat and others spoke on the occasion.

The speakers pointed out that the college was inaugurated by PFI founder Imran Khan, former chief minister Porus Khatrak and JI former chief Kirajul Haq on various occasions, but classes could not be launched till date.

They said over 150 employees, including clerical staff, assistant professors and associate professors, had also been appointed, but the principal was yet to be appointed. They said classes at the college could not commence without the appointment of principal.

The speakers said there had been reports about funds’ embezzlement in the college.

ARREST: The police claimed on Monday to have traced a listed murder case and arrested a man for killing his wife a month ago.

Speaking at a press conference, SP investigations Rashid Ahmad said a woman hailing from Sarai village of Talash was found dead in mysterious circumstances a month ago, and her husband had charged his rivals with killing her.

He said the police arrested Aashabul, Hans Hussain, Javed Hussain and Fala in the case, but investigations proved them innocent.

SP Ahmad said the woman’s husband, Umar Wahid, was taken into custody, who confessed to have killed his wife. He said the police also recovered a Kalashnikov, which he used to kill his wife.

Meanwhile, Maulana Shaukat Arif was elected president and Qari Misbarak Syed general secretary of the Timergara taluk chapter of JUI-F for next five years on Monday.

Over 200 members of the JUI-F general council participated in the voting.

Strict security sought on Imam Husain’s Chehlum

By Our Correspondent

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Commissioner Syed Abdul Jabbar Shah here on Monday said that all resources should be utilised to maintain strict law and order during Chehlum of Imam Husain (RA).

He issued these instructions while presiding over a meeting held at his office to review the arrangements made in connection with the upcoming Chehlum. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Sarah Rehman, DPO Waqar Mehmood, officials of district administration, religious leaders of Sunni and Shia sects and members of the peace committee.

Speaking on this occasion, the commissioner said that the best arrangements and security plans were arranged on 10th of Muharram, adding, the peace committee had also played an important role in this regard.

He asked the peace committee members to continue their efforts for maintaining peace and order in the area as the local people listen to them and obey their guidelines.

The police officials also briefed the meeting regarding security arrangements made in connection with the upcoming Imam Husain’s Chehlum.

DRUGS, ARMS RECOVERED: Police arrested two outlaws including an absconder and recovered narcotics, cache of arms and ammunition from their possession during different operations.

According to police spokesmen, a team of Yark police station stopped a motorcyclist identified as Hamidullah son of Abdul Rasheed and recovered a Kalashnikov along with five cartridges and a pistol from his possession. The accused was already wanted to police in a criminal case.

Similarly, a team of Gami police arrested an accused Saifullah son of Gul Rehman and recovered 450 grams of hashish from him. The accused was also wanted by the police in multiple cases.

Plantation drive launched in Lakki

By Our Correspondent

LAKKI MARWAT: Deputy Commissioner Fahad Wazir inaugurated the plantation drive by planting a sapling on the lawn of University of Lakki Marwat, here on Monday.

The university’s registrar, faculty members and students also took part in the plantation activity. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that tree plantation had been launched under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister’s public service agenda to increase forest cover in the district.

He said that all line departments had been directed to carry out plantation activities on the premises of their offices and institutions.

He called upon the people from all walks of life to grow more and more trees and play an effective role to contain the hazardous effects of global warming.

LAI'D TO REST: A Frontee Reserve Police Constable Nisar Ahmad, who embraced martyrdom in a militant attack on Sunday, was laid to rest at a graveyard in his native Gandi Khankeel area near Sarai Nasrangan town.

A police official said that Nisar was martyred and three policemen were injured when militants had attacked the police van with automatic weapons in Road Azam Bagal area. The senior officials of the district administration and police, military personnel, relatives of the deceased and people from different walks of life attended the funeral.

LOADSHEDDING SCHEDULE: The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) executive engineer (operations) advised the company’s Baran circle officials to consider revising the previous electricity loadshedding schedule on the Old Kumbhari feeder.

It may be mentioned here that the power supply company had increased loadshedding from eight hours to 12 hours on the Old Kumbhari feeder which was reserved for the urban locality.

The increase in duration of electricity outages had severely hit the district jail, taluk administration buildings and other installations in the area.

NOTICE FOR INVITING E-BIDDING
(Single Stage Single Envelope Procedure E-Bidding System)

PHE Division Kahat, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites electronic bids from the eligible firms/Contractors Eligible with PHE and PFC having valid renewal for financial year 2023-24 in accordance with KPRA rules 2014 on single stage single envelope procedure for the following water supply schemes.

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost in (Million)	Bid Security in % of CD + S Duty in Rs.	Date receiving opening of tender
REHABILITATION/AUGMENTATION OF PHE EXISTING WSS IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA ADP NO. 303/180442 (2021-22)				
1.	DWSS Billing Detail bill Sub Head: Type Well, P/ Chamber, E/Wall, Interlocking Distribution System	10.803	230000/-	05-09-2024
2.	DWSS Feeder Sub Head: Rising Main/ Distribution System	7.794	175000/-	05-09-2024
3.	DWSS Trough Sub Head: Rising Main/ Distribution System	8.280	180000/-	05-09-2024
4.	DWSS Isobar Sub Head: Rising Main/ Distribution System	6.236	140000/-	05-09-2024

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- BID/ Bidding Documents instruction to bidders can be downloaded up to 07 (Seven Days) prior to the opening date on PHE web site www.phe.gov.pk by the original contractors available on the website of PHED Govt of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- All bidders/ contractors must have registration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) & PFC with active status and having valid CE-09 for Civil otherwise this bid will be considered non-responsive.
- The contractors quoting their bids up to a limit of 10% below Engineer estimate shall submit bid security to the extent of 2% of the Engineer Estimate.
- The contractors quoting their bids more than 10% below upto 20% below on Engineer estimate shall submit along with their bids 8% Additional Security of Engineers Estimated cost in addition to 2% bid Security, if the bid is not accompanied with the required amount of additional security then it will be considered as non-responsive and the 2% bid security shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly.
- Similarly, a contractor quoting bid more than 20% below shall submit with his bid an additional security on Engineer Estimated cost equal to the differential amount of submitted bid and Engineers Estimate along with detail rate analysis. In case of more than 20% below bids, if the bid is not accompanied by the detail rate analysis and/or required amount of additional security, then the said bid shall be considered as non-responsive. All the securities submitted along with such non-responsive bid shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly.
- In case detailed rate analysis submitted with the bids is, in view of procuring Entity, not convincing the Head of procuring Entity may declare such bid as non-responsive without any forfeited of bid securities and resort to issue thereof.
- The procuring entity may offer the contract to the lowest bidder after due diligence in the conduct of financial difference between such two bids or may advertise procurement opportunity afresh.
- Bidding Documents/ ICR must reach to the office of ICR/ PHE Division Kahat through registered courier on or before dated 05/09/2024 up to 12:00 PM which will be opened on the same date at 02:00 PM.
- Bidding entry fees @ Rs. 0.02% of tender cost will be remitted by each participating contractor which is non-refundable applicable. If Govt. issued notification that will be apply on each & every tender.
- The competent authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids by assigning cogent reasons.
- All other terms & conditions will be, as per KPRA rules notified time to time.
- All Govt. taxes will be applied as per Govt. policy notified from time to time.

Executive Engineer
Public Health Engineer Division Kahat.
enpbedm@gmail.com

Ref: P/2024/24

GUN & COUNTRY CLUB, ISLAMABAD POSITIONS VACANT

1. Secretary (CPS-05)
Education: Bachelor / Masters Degree (MBA / MPA)
Post Qualification Experience: 10 Years.
Age: Maximum 40 Years.

2. Manager (Food & Beverages) (CPS-04)
Education: BA or Equivalent.
Post Qualification Experience: 10-15 Years.
Age: Maximum 50 Years.

Attractive salary packages will be offered which are negotiable depending upon the qualifications and experience. Candidates who earlier applied for Islamabad (Food & Beverages) need not to apply afresh. For further details, please visit: www.gccclub.org.pk

Applications/detailed CVs along with documents should be sent through registered mail/courier at the below mentioned address on or before 5th September, 2024.

The Secretary, Gun and Country Club, Adjacent Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), Islamabad

HAFIZABAD DIVISION L.C.C. WEST FAISALABAD
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
(FRAMEWORK CONTRACT UPTO 30.06.2025)

1. The Government of Punjab, through the Punjab Public Works Department, is inviting bids for the supply of... (text continues with details of the contract and bidding process)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount	Reserved %	Tender Fee	Opening Date
1.	Supply of... (text continues)	10.000	10%	10000	05-09-2024

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FGEHA wants to change contract mode of Bhara Kahu housing project

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Based on the report of a consultant, the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) wants to change the mode of contract for the development of Bhara Kahu Green Enclave housing project from the fixed price contract to measurement based contract.

The FGEHA through a joint venture with a private firm M/s Green Tree is executing the delayed project. The project comprises 3375 kanals and has 3282 plots of different sizes.

The FGEHA had signed the construction agreement with the private company in April 2019 and the project started in December the same year. It was to be completed in two years, however till date the physical progress of the project is 55pc.

The project has missed several deadlines. According to documents of FGEHA, the project has been delayed substantially and the development activities at the site were halted multiple times. The project remained closed from April 6, 2022 to Jan 11, 2023 due to a dispute over its physical progress. Later, it was halted for five months from July 2023 to November 2023 due to the expired performance bond guarantee. It was again halted from March to May 2024 due to an issue related to the extension of the dead line.

The documents said issues and challenges of the project can be divided into three main categories - financial, land and development/contractual. In order to resolve these issues and complete the project on time, the JV partner has been engaged multiple times at the departmental level.

According to the documents, the JV partner has mutated 3250 kanals out of the 3375 kanals in the name of FGEHA and remaining 125 kanals was yet to be mutated. Furthermore, pursuant to the JV agreement, the private company is bound for the construction of a road from Angari Road to the housing scheme free of cost, which is yet to be constructed. The total payment of land made by FGEHA to the JV partner till date is Rs3244 million.

The main challenge of the project is the existing mode or nature of construction agreement which in its current form makes the execution difficult, it added. The construction agreement was an FPC (design & build and fixed priced contract) which was initially set to expire on December 6, 2019, but extended twice upon the recommendations of the engineer. The first extension expired on May 25, 2023 and the second on January 25, 2024. Moreover, deletion of insulation and variation clauses further restricted its execution.

The documents said Bill of Quantity (BOQ) of the project was based on NHA and MUR schedule-2014 with 20pc and 15pc premium, respectively.

"Due to Covid-19 and unprecedented price hike in the recent past, it became difficult for the JV partner to work on these rates. Accordingly, JV partner requested on 12th January 2024 to change the mode of the contract from FPC to measurement based. Subsequently, recommendations of the engineer, M/s Nisipak were sought for conversion of mode of contract," read the documents.

Meanwhile, the documents said PPEC on March 4, 2024 allowed evaluation on fixed price contracts for the portion of the work executed from January 1, 2021 onwards. "Physical and financial progress of the project as of July 2024 is 55pc and 50pc respectively," it added.



A VENDOR displays colourful umbrellas along Darga Gali Road, Abbottabad, to attract customers. — AFP

Governor promises effective resolution of tribesmen's issues

Kukikhels take up IDPs' problems with Kundi

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faizal Karim Kundi on Monday appreciated the "valuable services" of tribal people for the country and said measures would be taken to effectively address their issues.

He was speaking to a delegation of Kukikhel tribes from Khyber tribal district at the Governor's House here.

The visitors included Pakistan Peoples Party leader Malik Nadeem Shah, Khan Mohammad, Samadullah and other tribal elders, who informed the governor about the difficulties faced by displaced persons from their tribes.

They said Kukikhels had been living in an internally displaced persons since 2012 despite the removal of militants around 60 per cent of their region in 2017.

The elders said the provincial government didn't show serious commitment to resolving their issues, including the

payment of compensation for destroyed houses.

They requested the governor to take up their issues with the federal government for corrective measures.

The governor assured them that since taking office a few months ago, he had been in contact with federal authorities to address the issues faced by the province, especially its tribal districts.

He promised to continue advocating for the resolution of these problems at all relevant forums.

Mr Kundi said he would work for the resolution of the issues of the Kukikhel tribes at all platforms, and would even speak to the president and prime minister about them.

He said he would obtain information from Peshawar's commissioner to speedily action on the issues of Kukikhels.

The visitors thanked the governor for taking interest in their problems.

Meanwhile, a delegation of lawyers led by president of the District Bar Association Peshawar Anjum Ali Marmat called on the governor at the Governor's House here on Monday.

The delegates included association secretary general Ishaqullah, president of the Peoples Lawyers Forum Gohar Rehman Khattak, Mohammad Sohail Haiderani, and other cabinet members.

They informed the governor about the issues of the legal community and requested his intervention for their resolution.

The visitors urged him to ensure the provision of six kanals of land at a suitable location in Peshawar for the construction of a school and hospital for the children of the legal community.

They invited the governor to visit the association's premises.

Mr Kundi appreciated the legal community's contributions to efforts for strengthening democracy and ensuring justice in the country.

He said lawyers had a significant responsibility to uphold the Constitution and provide speedy justice to people.

The governor agreed to visit the association's premises and said he would strive to resolve lawyers' issues.

Meanwhile, social activist and multi-lingual singer Mohsin Atta Khan from Tank district called on the governor and discussed with him the state of arts and culture in the province.

The governor acknowledged the presence of diverse talents in the province but lamented that due to the government's neglect, those talents hadn't received the recognition they deserved.

He emphasised the role of artists, saying they bring messages of peace, progress, and progress through their art and melodious voices.

Mr Kundi assured Mohsin Atta Khan that he would speak to authorities to resolve the issues of artists.

The discussion also touched upon people's issues and political matters concerning Tank and Dera Ismail Khan.

The governor said both Tank and Dera Ismail Khan were his home, so resolution of their issues was his top priority.

He condemned the recent militant attacks in DI Khan, South Waziristan, Lakki Marwat and Bajaur districts and prayed for the martyred people. — AFP

Cleanliness drive launched in Kohat division

KOHAT: The 6-day grand cleanliness campaign kicked off simultaneously in five districts of Kohat division including Kohat, Karak, Koram, Dera Ismail Khan and Hangu here on Monday.

While launching the campaign, Commissioner Muzaffar Bilal directed the all the municipal authorities in five districts to ensure achieving the goals of this cleanliness drive.

The exercise, which launched under "Nizam-e-Azadi" of the provincial government of KP, consists of two phases. During the first phase, the cleaning of hospitals, government/ educational institutions, hotels, and seminaries would be carried out.

The cleaning of busways, markets, bus stands, parks, and public places would be initiated in the second phase of the campaign.

POWER OUTAGE: The residents of 22 villages of

Union Council Shalgar have been forced to buy water following a continuous four-day long electricity breakdown and its routine 18 to 22 hours power outage on daily basis.

Representatives of local NGOs said that the residents were being subjected up to 22 hours loadshedding for years on the pretext of electricity arrears. They alleged that Power officials were involved in the electricity theft in the area and they should be taken to task for corruption and malpractices.

SURFING: A retired army captain died by suicide in KMA townships.

According to his father, deceased Asadullah was mentally agitated and under-going psychological treatment. The police are conducting further investigation into the incident. — Correspondent

Chitral villagers demand issuance of NOCs to mining leaseholders

CHITRAL: Residents of the border village of Arsoon in Lower Chitral have demanded of the government and the Peshawar Corps commander to ensure issuance of no-objection certificates to the leaseholders to carry out mineral exploration as it will generate employment opportunities, promising poverty alleviation in the area.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Mazhar Samadullah, Mohammad Ghafoor, Abbas Samad, Khan Zareen and others said that they had pinned great hopes on the commencement of the mining activities in the area as the leaseholders had entered into an agreement with them for economic benefits and development projects.

They said that their area was highly marginalised due to its geographical positioning as there was no proper road connecting it with the main arteries.

They said that the area was devoid of basic facilities of life like roads, health centres, schools and drinking water, while the residents were mired in abject poverty as they had no sustainable source of income except very small landholdings.

The elders said the leaseholders were to provide a school, a dispensary and an ambulance as well as drinking water and link roads as per the agreement. They insisted that the mining activity would not pose any threat to the security situation in the area. — Correspondent

Mardan commissioner, two secys reshuffled

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Monday reshuffled the Mardan division commissioner and secretaries of irrigation and agriculture departments.

Mohammad Javed Marwar (BS-21), secretary agriculture, who was under transfer as chairman provincial inspection team, was posted as commissioner

Mardan division. He replaced Mohammad Ayaz (BS-20), who was transferred and posted as secretary irrigation department.

Secretary irrigation department Mohammad Talib Orakani (BS-20) was transferred and directed to report to the establishment department.

Similarly, additional chief secretary home and tribal affairs department Mohammad Ahsan Masood (BS-21) was authorised to hold additional charge of the post of principal secretary to the chief minister till further orders.

CDA may start approving building plan online next month

Citizens will not only be able to check status of their cases but also get updates online

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Monday decided to introduce online building plan approval system.

The system will likely become functional next month.

"The online system will enable citizens to process their residential and commercial building plans for approval from any part of the world," says a press release issued here by CDA.

It said that a meeting regarding the online building plan approval system was held with CDA Chairman Mohammad Ali Razaullah in the chair. During the meeting member Technology & Digitalization Noman Khalid gave a detailed briefing on

the online system.

The press release said citizens will not only be able to check the status of their cases but also get their updates online. Under the new system, the CDA says architects will also be registered on this system. Chairman CDA directed the department concerned to impart necessary trainings CDA officers and staff before the launch of this system.

Besides, the necessary IT equipment should be provided to all concerned for successful operation of this online system.

Mr Razaullah further said the CDA was striving hard to provide all related services to citizens at their doorstep. He said that CDA was launching a super app for the citizens of Islamabad through which more than 150 services can be accessed from home.

Sources said that the chairman had directed the IT department that this service should be started from first week of next month.

Last September, the CDA board had decided that CDA would provide pre-approved building plans to

residents for the construction of houses. In its landmark decision, the CDA board had directed CDA to prepare a booklet within eight weeks which had approved building plans for various sizes of plots. After preparation of the booklet, the CDA will go for providing pre-approved plan of houses to citizens. However, the said decision of the board is yet to be implemented.

"If pre-approved building plans are provided to citizens that would be great relief for people, who have to visit various offices for approval of building plans," said an official of CDA.

He said that making approval of building plan online is a good step but CDA should also implement the board decision regarding providing pre-approved building plans.

When contacted, CDA's spokesperson Shabid Kayani said that civic agency would not only go for online approval but would also implement pre-approved building plans decision. "We will look into this issue (pre-approved building plans) you are referring to," he said.

**GOVERNMENT OF GILGIT-BALTISTAN
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LG&RD
DISTRICT GHIZER**

No. EE-GZRI(1173)/2024-25 Dated 19th August 2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The LG&RD Department GB invites sealed tenders for the following work from the eligible Firms/Contractors licensed by Pakistan Engineering Council in appropriate category/code valid up to 30th June 2024:-

S.#	Name of Work	Estimate Cost	Bid Security	Cost of T/Form	Closing Date & Time
01.	Construction of Protective Bund Buhkoman	23001200	402000	5000/-	12-09-2024 11:00 AM
02.	Construction of Irrigation water channel Mardan Adab Khan	4609000	93200	2000/-	12-09-2024 1:00 PM
03.	Provision of 6 inches Dia Irrigation Pipe	4420000	88400	2000/-	12-09-2024 2:30 PM
04.	Provision of Sewing Machines and accessories for Vocational School	4999000	100000	2000/-	13-09-2024 11:00 AM
05.	Provision of Musical Instrument for Musician School	1003000	20100	2000/-	13-09-2024 1:30 PM

Note: Each tender shall be opened after 30 minutes of closing time.

2. The interested prospective eligible bidders can obtain a complete set of bidding documents from office of the Executive Engineer LG&RD District Ghizer on submission of a written application and production of following original documents personally for the specific work upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above up to 22-09-2024 during office hours:-

- PBC valid registration, 2024 and Code.
- Civic of the prospective bidder.
- Bid security in shape of CDR from any schedule bank of Pakistan.

3. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security as indicated above work and in case of rates quoted below 10% of Tender amount (90% tender cost-Quoted amount) must be associated with full difference amount in shape of CDR from any Schedule Bank in favor of Executive Engineer LG&RD District Ghizer along with Bid/ NIT otherwise the bid will be treated as Defective/Non responsive and Bid security of such bidder will be forfeited. The sealed bids must be delivered on due date & time as mentioned above, which will be opened on the same day in the office of Executive Engineer LG&RD District Ghizer in presence of bidders who choose to attend at the same address.

OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The original contractor come himself for collection of tender/bidding documents. In case of Joint Venture, only the lead and Associate partner mentioned in partnership deed is allowed. Authorization/attorney will be entertained subject to provision of Judicial stamp paper for specific work duly signed by owner and approved from the Public Tender.
- Late receipt of bids from the SCHEDULED TIME will not be accepted/entertained.
- LG&RD Department reserve the right to reject any or all the bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal under GB PPA Rules.
- In case of Gazette / Local Holiday tender will be opened on next working day without further intimation.

(ENGR. JAVAD IQBAL)
Executive Engineer

EEGB-01204