



## CJP Afridi takes oath, brings back Munib to panel

- President Zardari swears in chief justice; PM, CMs, services chiefs attend oath-taking ceremony
- New top judge summons meetings of full court, SJC
- Issues order to expand live-stream service

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Justice Yahya Afridi was sworn in by President Asif Ali Zardari as the 10th chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) on Saturday.

As his first action after taking oath as the top judge, CJP Afridi reconstituted the three-judge committee — which forms benches to hear cases — bringing back Justice Munib Akhtar to the post of it. The committee, headed by the chief justice, already has senior justice judge Justice Naved Manzoor Ali Shah in it.

Earlier, President Asif Ali Zardari administered the oath to CJP Afridi at a

ceremony also attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the three services chiefs, Senate Chairman Syed Younas Raza Gillani, National Assembly Speaker Anas Nadeem, federal ministers, provincial governors and chief ministers, judges of Supreme Court and high courts, former chief justices, law officers, and lawyer leaders' representatives.

The new chief justice was presented a guard of honour by the police upon reaching the apex court after the oath-taking ceremony.

### Three-judge committee

Justice Afridi became the chief justice under the new constitutional order

that came into place after parliament passed the 25th Constitutional Amendment last week.

The legislation, which brought major changes to the country's judicial structure, scrapped the previous process of appointing chief justices, where the senior-most judge automatically took the post when the incumbent retired.

After the amendment, a parliamentary committee picks the chief justice from a panel of three senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.

CJP Afridi was third on the list when he was appointed the chief justice, bypassing Justice Akhtar and the senior-most judge, Justice Shah.

The constitution of the three-judge committee, as done by the new CJP, is being seen as a significant move as it was this issue which led to the controversy between the SC judges and former CJP Qazi Faez Isa.

The committee was mandated by the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023 and comprises the chief justice and the next two senior-most judges.

However, last month, President Zardari signed an ordinance that amended the law to give the CJP powers to nominate

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RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's spin duo Sajid Khan (right) and Noman Ali jointly hold the ball as they walk towards the pavilion with their teammates at the end of England's second innings during the series-deciding third Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Saturday. Pakistan sealed an emphatic nine-wicket win, with Noman taking 6-42 and Sajid 4-69 in the second innings as England were bowled out for just 112 to wrap up a 2-1 series win. The impressive pair shared 39 of the 40 England wickets that fell in the last two Tests to spur Pakistan's revival from an innings defeat in the first match and hand Pakistan their first home Test series win in nearly four years. —AFP

## Six personnel among eight martyred in suicide blast on post

- Several vehicles damaged in N. Waziristan attack
- Militants target former JUI-F senator's residence

By Fazir Gul and Umar Farooq

### NORTH WAZIRISTAN

PESHAWAR: At least eight people, including four policemen and two security officials, embraced martyrdom and several others were injured in a suicide bomb blast at a joint police and security forces checkpoint in the Tildak area of North Waziristan district on Saturday, officials said.

The attack took place when personnel were inspecting vehicles, they said, adding that the suicide bomber, travelling in a rickshaw, blew himself up at the Aslam checkpoint.

"Four policemen, two security

personnel and two civilians have been martyred," an official said.

The injured were initially shifted to a Miramshah hospital before being airlifted to the Combined Military Hospital in Bannu district.

Police sources said several vehicles were damaged in the blast. The area was immediately cordoned off and the road was closed.

No statement was immediately issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations, the military's media wing.

The attack follows a series of terrorist assaults over the past two days, which claimed the lives of 15

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## Four FC men injured in Duki IED attack

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Four Frontier Corps (FC) personnel were injured when a bomb exploded near their vehicle in Duki district of Balochistan on Saturday, officials said.

An improvised explosive device (IED) planted by unknown miscreants at the roadside in the Mandi syah area detonated when the FC patrol was passing through the area.

"Four FC soldiers were injured in the blast," a senior security official said, adding that they were getting off for the security of trucks carrying coal to Punjab from Duki coal fields.

FC personnel and police arrived on the scene and shifted the injured to the district hospital in Duki.

Later, a bomb disposal squad visited the scene of attack and collected evidence. Initial investigation showed the IED was detonated with remote control.

Security in Duki, a coal rich area, has been increased after several violent attacks targeting miners in the past few months.

On Oct 11, armed assailants killed 21 coal miners and left six others injured in the coal field area. The assailants also destroyed ten mines and burnt equipment and machinery.

Brothers shot dead  
In Mastung, Indian-led coalition of two brothers

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PRESIDENT Asif Ali Zardari administers the oath of office to Justice Yahya Afridi as the Chief Justice of Pakistan at a ceremony at Awan-e-Sadr. —White Star

## Israel hits targets in Iran, putting regional peace at stake

- Missile strikes claim lives of four soldiers
- UN chief 'deeply alarmed' by the escalation of violence
- Tehran's foreign ministry says Iran entitled to defend itself, but it 'recognises its responsibilities towards peace'

TEHRAN: In yet another move risking a wider conflagration in the region that could drag in global powers and imperil world energy supplies, Israel bombed military sites in Iran in the early hours on Saturday, but drew no immediate signs of vengeance as Tehran's initial response appeared somewhat muted.

Israel's military said scores of jets had completed three waves of strikes before dawn against missile factories and other sites near Tehran and in western Iran, warning its heavily armed arch-enemy not to hit back while a semi-official Iranian news agency said there would be a "proportional reaction" to the strikes.

Iran said the attack claimed the lives of four soldiers but its air defences successfully countered it. "Thanks to the

Region on edge: Editorial on Page 6

Assassinations, sabotages, cyberattacks: Israel's operations against Iran — Page 11

Pakistan condemns attack as violation of Iran's sovereignty: Page 12

timely performance of the country's air defences, the attacks caused limited

damage and a few radar systems were damaged," the armed forces general staff said, adding that a large number of missiles were intercepted and enemy aircraft were prevented from entering the country's airspace.

Earlier in response to the assassinations of Hamas leader an Iranian jet allegedly by Israel and Hezbollah leader in Lebanon, Iran had launched ballistic missiles at Israel, killing one person in the occupied West Bank.

Israel's military claimed its jets had struck missile manufacturing facilities and surface-to-air missile arrays, and safely returned home. If Iran were to make the mistake of "beginning a new round of escalation, we will be oblig-

ated to respond", the military said.

Tehran's foreign ministry said Iran was "entitled and obligated" to defend itself, but added that it "recognises its responsibilities towards regional peace and security".

Two regional officials briefed by Tehran said several high-level meetings were held in Tehran to determine the scope of Iran's response. One official said the damage was "very minimal".

Iranian news sites aired footage of passengers at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, seemingly meant to show there was little impact.

Israel's military, signalling it did not

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## Zain quits as PTI's deputy parliamentary leader

By Iqbal Javed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) legislator Zain Qureshi on Saturday resigned as the party's deputy parliamentary leader in the National Assembly.

PTI distances itself from plea filed in IHC on Imran's behalf: Page 3

The announcement was made after the issuance of a show-cause notice to Mr Qureshi that he was not in contact at the time of the passage of 25th Amendment.

The PTI has been suspecting that Mr Qureshi was present in Parliament House on the occasion of the passage of the 25th Amendment, as the government wanted to use his vote in case of failing to get the two-thirds majority.

"Based on my belief for a free and transparent

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## ON OTHER PAGES



### Minister eyes higher CPEC investments

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that CPEC has transitioned from a government-to-government investment model in its first phase to a business-to-business engagement in its second phase. During an interview with China's CGTN network, he highlighted Pakistan's anticipation of increased Chinese investment to support the stage. Page 9

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## ATC denies bail to Cheema, Ejaz in three May 9 cases

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Saturday denied post-arrest bail to PTI Senator Ejaz Cheema, former governor Umar Sarfraz Cheema and former provincial minister Miran Mahmood Farhad in six cases of May 9 riots.

Judge Anshad Javed announced the decision on the bail petitions filed by the PTI leaders in six cases, including forcing the PMU-N office in Model Town, police vehicles in Gulberg, a container near Kaima Chowk and others.

Earlier, special prosecutor Abdul Jabbar Dogar concluded his arguments and presented police record before the court.

The lawyers for the petitioners rejected the charges against their clients, saying they had been implicated in the 'false' cases on political considerations. The judge adjourned the bail petitions of former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi till Nov 6.

Around a dozen cases had been registered in Lahore alone against the PTI leaders and workers for attacking and vandalising public and private property besides army facilities, including the Jinnah House, during the last year protests on May 9.—Staff Reporter



LAHORE: Girls take part in a garter session Khushal Lahore Diya organised by the Walled City of Lahore Authority at Shalimar Gardens.—APP

## Punjab teachers boycott assessment test over fear of failure

Only 80 out of 43,000 appear in Training Need Assessment test

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: Punjab teachers completely boycotted the Training Need Assessment (TNA) test held in the province on Saturday to assess the training needs of teachers in the School Education Department (SED).

The government had designed the TNA App, developed by PMU-PTSRP, to assess the training needs of teachers in the department. It would enable efficient online testing through an MCQ-based assessment, evaluating essential teaching competencies. The app is designed to create seamless navigation and a smooth testing experience, effectively identifying key areas for professional development.

The department had established 720 centres to conduct the test in the province and 60 teachers were to appear for the test at each centre. Around 43,000 primary school teachers (PSTs) were to appear in the test being held in Punjab on Saturday.

The TNA was planned to be conducted from Friday and would continue on Saturday and Sunday.

Punjab Teachers Union general secretary Rana Usman told Dawn that only 80 teachers out of 43,000 appeared in the test in the province.

He said the teachers observed a complete strike and all the centres were empty. The test was developed in English and there was no time for its preparation.

He said that 10 to 40 per cent of teachers could not use the android application on their phone and they were also not connected to any social media platform including Facebook and WhatsApp.

He said the teachers were directed to take tests three days ago and they did not have any internet facility in their schools.

He said that the government was planning to privatise the schools and had already 'sold'

11,000 schools and would remove the teachers from jobs who could not pass the test.

He said the teachers should have been given time to prepare for the test and already the government was not registering 14,000 educators and they had been protesting for many years.

He said the government was also not providing leave allowance to them.

Punjab Minister for School Education Rana Sikandar Hani in a video statement said that the unions were misguiding the teachers and they would always 'approach him to get personal benefits.'

He said there should be a system of accountability as a Dera Ghisari private school has 1,500 staff and a 20-kanal public school working with 250 students. The salaries of public school teachers are double than those of private ones. "I love teachers who are competent."

He said there were 80pc of hardworking teachers and he had announced prizes for them but the "incompetent" teachers were

leveling allegations of favouritism. "I did not know any teacher before assessing the change of the minister and they are leveling false allegations." He said the government carried out transfers and posting in a transparent manner and no one had to pay bribes for any posting. "Around 10 to 15pc of teachers attached with the unions are propagating that the government is privatising the schools. We have not privatised a single school and will not do so in future," he appealed to the teachers to trust the government.

He said the test was being conducted to check the competence of the teachers and they would be trained after finding [any] deficiencies.

He said there was Rs600 billion taxpayers' money being spent on education every year and he appealed to the public that the government was trying to ensure quality education for children after spending so much money.

He said they were outsourcing the schools for better management and quality and it was not privatisation.

LAHORE: Over 250 affiliates of different housing societies registered their grievances with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Saturday during an open court proceedings.

The affiliates sought justice and recovery of their lost money.

NAB Lahore Director General Anjum Majid Aslam listened to their grievances and issued on-the-spot instructions while updating them on the progress of their ongoing cases.

Affiliates from various housing societies and PAFSA schemes, including State Life Cooperative Housing Society, Palm Vista Housing, Prime Zone, and Bold Vision, as well as employees of ForU Real Estate, New Lahore City project, Quam Garden, Defence Paradise, Faisalabad and employees of Radwan Store participated in the open court session.

Regarding Palm Vista Housing, the NAB arrested two directors, Mahmood Tariq and Amer Anwar, who were accused of embezzling Rs1.4 billion from 295 affiliates in the scam.

To further investigations and recovery of lost funds, the accused had been remanded in custody until Oct 30.

The NAB director general also informed the affiliates that efforts were underway to register the main absconding accused Qasim Khan through Interpol.

However, all movable and immovable assets of those involved in the fraud have been frozen.

The State Life Cooperative Housing Society affiliates sought affiliation and NoC from NAB.—Staff Reporter

## Lesco disconnects power supply to Zoo Safari Park

LAHORE: A team from the Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) disconnected power to the Zoo Safari Park on Rawand Road on Saturday due to unpaid bills totalling nearly Rs5 million.

"We issued multiple reminders for payment, but there was no response, forcing us to cut the power supply," a Lesco spokesman stated.

SEALED: The joint enforcement teams from environment department, police and other agencies have sealed 17 factories and arrested seven people for contributing to smog.

The teams also imposed significant fines on those violating government regulations regarding the installation of equipment to enhance environmental conditions in the Rawi industrial zone.—Staff Reporter

## SC puts limit to postings on acting charge at varsities

Asks Centre, provinces to make regular postings of VCs, others

By Wajih Ahmad Sheikh

LAHORE: The Supreme Court has ordered the federal and provincial governments to ensure that vacant tenured positions at the public sector universities must not be held for more than six months on an acting charge basis and the appointments of the regular incumbents, including the vice chancellors, be made strictly under the prescribed laws.

"Students unions be revived in universities but it must be ensured that they are inclusive and not discriminatory, ethnic or sectarian," said a judgement authored by former chief justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa.

Justice Isa issued the judgement on Oct 24, his last working day, allowing a constitutional petition of All Public Universities BPS Teachers Association (APUBTA), representing about 50,000 teachers working in public universities.

Justice Nasim Akhtar Alghani and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan were the other members of the bench, headed by the former CJ, which heard the petition at the principal seat in Islamabad.

The petition was filed through association's president versus the Federation of Pakistan through Secretary Federal Education and Professional Training, Islamabad and others, including the higher

educational institutions of Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The association sought a direction to ensure compliance of federal and provincial laws and the statutes of public sector universities. The petition had questioned the immediate delay in filling the vacancies of top positions, including the VCs, at least 60 universities.

The judgement carries a set of directions to all federal and provincial public sector universities, the federal ministry of education, science and technology and defence, the provincial ministries of education, the Higher Education Commission (HEC), and the provincial higher education departments (HEDs).

It said governing bodies of the universities must meet (at least) the minimum prescribed times in the

laws. It said the appointments be made to all tenured positions in the universities as prescribed in their respective laws, including those of VCs, registrars, directors-general, deans, trustees/directors of finance, controllers of examinations, chancellors and others specified must be done transparently and on merit, by utilising their respective criteria and inviting appointments through their respective websites and advertisements.

The judgement said the universities should not exceed the academic to non-academic staff ratio prescribed by the HEC and those universities which have exceeded the same must not hire further non-academic staff unless absolutely necessary after specific permission is granted by their respective governing bodies.

The HEC and HEDs should annually rank the universities in their respective jurisdictions pursuant to internationally recognised criteria.

The SC said a safe and harassment-free environment, free of psychotropic drugs and weapons must be created at the universities. The transparency and those who destroy universities' properties must be dealt with strictly.

It said the hostels meant for the students must not be allowed to be occupied by those who have completed their studies and by outsiders.

During the hearing, the apex court was informed that the National Fertilizer Institute of Engineering and Technology, Multan, was established in 2012 and Akhtar Ali Malik was appointed as its first VC; however, he is still holding the position for the last over six years despite the expiry of his term in 2018.

The judgement noted that the federal ministry of education and the HEC admitted that Mr Malik was illegally holding on to the position of VC but ironically demonstrated his willingness and it could not even stop the salary which he had been illegally taking since 2018.

The court ordered a message of all payments to him, observing that the authorities may consider recovering what he had paid to himself after completing his tenure in 2018.

It also ordered the appointment of the new VC in accordance with the applicable law and rules as soon as possible to ensure the functioning of the university.

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## PTI distances itself from plea filed in IHC on Imran's behalf

• Gohar denies Advocate Faisal's claim of consent for filing plea • Says outdated *wakalatnamas* used

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD, In a surprising turn of events, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on Saturday distanced itself from a petition filed in the Islamabad High Court by Advocate Faisal Hussain Chaudhry on behalf of its founding chairman Imran Khan challenging the withdrawal of certain facilities in prison.

Interestingly, Advocate Faisal claimed that the petition was filed with the consent of PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan. But the PTI chairman reportedly said on Saturday night that Faisal Chaudhry had filed the petition on his own and used an outdated *wakalatnama* (power of attorney) of Imran Khan.

Just a day ago, Faisal Chaudhry was reportedly excluded from the PTI's legal team, with the party's Secretary General Salman Akram Raja instructing him to disassociate from all cases related to the PTI founder. He has also been removed from PTI lawyers' WhatsApp groups, Barrister Gohar also confirmed this on Saturday night.

In his response, Faisal Chaudhry in a post on X, formerly Twitter, said he was understood that Barrister Gohar is "under immense pressure".

There are allegations that Faisal Chaudhry, alongside Intizar Panjtha, was working to facilitate the return of certain leaders to the party, indicating possible internal dynamics within PTI's legal and leadership circles.

Notably, Advocate Faisal's brother, Faisal Chaudhry, previously served as a cabinet minister in the PTI government, but left the party during the crackdown on its leaders following the regime change in 2022.

### The petition

The petition filed in the IHC claimed that Imran Khan's political opponents are determined to undermine his commitment to democracy, rule of law, Constitution and the people of Pakistan, alleging that he has been subjected to inhu-

mane treatment since Oct 3 this year by the prison authorities. It said the PTI founder has been denied his legal rights and made to endure severe conditions that violate prison rules.

The petition said the former premier "has been subjected to mental torture by the respondent authorities and he was kept in a tiny cell measuring 8x5 feet death cell throughout the day and not allowed exercise or walk. The electricity of his cell was disconnected for many days and he was made to sit in a pitch dark room all alone from 12 to 14 hours, putting his life and security at great risk due to the illegal and unlawful command of the incumbent government".

The petition cited some news reports about the poor quality of food provided to Mr Khan, which has caused him acute stomach issues and vomiting. "The petitioner has also not been provided newspapers or other reading material since Oct 3, to keep him oblivious from the ongoing hostilities and brutal crackdown on his family and his workers".

The petition requested the high court to direct jail authorities to ensure proper facilities according to his status as a former prime minister.

### Indictment in Toobakhana case

Muzaffar, the indictment of Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi in the Toobakhana case was postponed again, as Special Judge Central Shahrukh Arjumand was on leave.

Previously, the judge was set to formally indict them concerning allegations of retaining an expensive Bulgarian jewellery set from Toobakhana at a minimal cost. With Judge Arjumand unavailable, the court staff postponed the proceedings until later this month.

The next court session will be held in Adiala Jail, through prison security and legal considerations have influenced the scheduling and location of hearings for this high-profile case.

## Pakistan sends 13th consignment of aid for people of Gaza, Lebanon

NDMA dispatches 100 tonnes of tents, blankets to Amman for onward distribution

By Bakhtawar Man

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan on Saturday sent another consignment of humanitarian aid, including 100 tonnes of winterised tents and blankets, to the war-affected people of Gaza and Lebanon.

The aid shipment was dispatched by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on the directives of PM Shehbaz Sharif.

This is 13th consignment sent from Islamabad to Amman (Jordan) for people affected by Israeli bombardments. With the latest addition, a total of 1,381 tonnes of relief items have been dispatched to affected people of Gaza and Lebanon.

The send-off ceremony held at

Islamabad International Airport was attended by spokesperson of federal government on legal affairs Barrister Aqbal Malik, Pakistani Ambassador to Pakistan Zohair M.H. Darraiz, representatives from NDMA, the ministry of foreign affairs and armed forces.

Addressing the ceremony, they emphasised the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected populations of Palestine and Lebanon, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities. They reaffirmed the Pakistan's commitment to supporting their brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration with welfare organisations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts.

The Palestinian ambassador extended the deepest gratitude for unwavering support and generous humanitarian assistance to Gaza from people of Pakistan. He remarked that solidarity during these trying times is a beacon of hope and a testament to the brother-



THE 13th consignment of humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza is being sent from the Islamabad airport to Amman, Jordan, on Saturday.—APP

ing bond between our nations. He added that the humanitarian aid from Pakistan is not just a lifeline of essential supplies but a powerful message of compassion and unity.

Before the latest consignment,

Pakistan had dispatched a total of 12 consignments, comprising 1,281 tonnes of relief goods, to Gaza and Lebanon. Of these, 10 consignments (5,151 tonnes) were directed to Gaza, while two aid consignments (130 tonnes) were sent to Lebanon.

## Fazl renews call for fresh elections

By Sajjad Abbas Nizki

SARGODHA, JUIF emir Manzura Fakhr Rahman on Saturday reiterated his call for fresh elections, declaring that the present assembly is not legitimate.

Speaking to party workers in Khushab, he stressed the need for new elections, arguing that the country was being mismanaged. "At present, it's a case of putting the cart before the horse," he said.

Manzura Fakhr reaffirmed JUIF's position as part of the opposition, stating that the party would remain in that role. He stressed that the party had participated in discussions on the recent constitutional amendment as a key stakeholder alongside other opposition parties.

On the recent change of command in the Supreme Court, the JUIF chief expressed hope for a "constructive term" under Chief Justice Yousaf Ali Shah.

However, he refrained from commenting on the tenure of the outgoing CJP Qazi Faez

Is, stating, "Since he has completed his term, further comment serves no purpose."

Earlier in Sargodha, while speaking to workers and the media, the JUIF emir stressed that the Federal Shariat Court's ruling on implementing an interest-free economy was final and the country would positively transition to this system by 2028.

Replying to a question about the jailed PTI founder Imran Khan, he said it was too early to comment on any potential talks or meetings.

Manzura Fakhr also praised the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting, describing it as a positive step from an economic perspective. He urged all political parties to unite to improve the economy.

When asked about government's potential plans for a new constitutional amendment, the JUIF chief stated that he was unaware of any such developments. He made it clear that his party would oppose any attempt to include the text of the 26th Amendment in future legislation.

## Amendment seals avenues of interventions: Rana Sanaulah

Says PML-N gearing up for local govt elections in Punjab

By Zulqarnain Tahir

LAHORE, Former law minister and PML-N's Punjab chapter president Rana Sanaulah has said that with the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment, Pakistan is now safeguarded against "backdoor interventions", as these channels have been permanently closed.

While addressing a press conference on Saturday, the PML-N stalwart said former chief justice Saqib Nisar played an "unconstitutional role" in the ouster of an elected leader, Nawaz Sharif.

"After Nisar's intervention, the project (Imran Khan) was imposed by the establishment and judiciary, which brought Pakistan to the verge of economic default," he said.

The PML-N leader said the original draft of the constitutional package presented by the government and the final one passed were markedly different.

"Flexibility was introduced to promote unity. The final draft, which was approved, was a result of collaboration between Manzura Fakhr Rahman and PTI. We agreed to this for the sake of national solidarity. To reach a national consensus, we set aside our own 10 points."

"With the 26th Constitutional Amendment, Pakistan will no longer suffer from such backdoor interventions, as those avenues have been sealed," he said.

He claimed that the PTI had devolved into a "group of disruptors", unwilling to negotiate on any matter.

Commenting on the appointment of the chief justice, Mr Sanaulah said it was initially proposed that the prime minister should appoint the CJP from among the three senior judges.

"However, Shehbaz Sharif declined to take this decision on his own and left it to Parliament to decide," he added.

### No deal

In response to a question about the bail of the spouse and sisters of PTI founder Imran Khan, the PML-N leader dismissed the notion of any deal. "This perception is completely baseless. Any deal would be made with us, as we are the legitimate authority. Unfortunately, the practice of targeting women in legal cases began during PTI's tenure, when Shehbaz Sharif's family members were dragged into court and Maryam Nawaz was imprisoned," he said.

In Saturday's meeting, discussions focused on the upcoming local government elections. "We are gearing up for local government elections in Punjab, and once elected, we aim to strengthen the local bodies," he concluded.

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### Two PTI lawmakers, 84 others remanded

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court on Saturday handed the custody of 86 individuals, including two members of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, to Islamabad police for two days in connection with an 'escape' case.

The police produced PTI MPAs Malik Liaquat, Ammar Zaki as well as 34 KP policemen and 42 F5 rescue 1122 employees in the court.

They are facing charges of being part of an alleged attack on a prisoner's van in which they were being transported to Attock jail.

The prosecution argued for their custody on physical remand. The police prosecutor used a physical remand was essential to uncover details of the alleged conspiracy, recovery of any weapons and analyse video evidence.

The defence counsel on the other hand opposed the physical remand and argued that the FIR implied the plan was devised in court rather than at the scene, questioning the legitimacy of the police account. He claimed that many of the detainees, including relatives of the accused, had been unjustly held with no attempt to escape the scene as alleged.

Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra ordered that all injured suspects should undergo medical examination with a report to be presented at the next hearing. The court approved a two-day remand for the suspects, allowing police to continue their investigation.

### FIR registered over Friday's prison van attack

ISLAMABAD: The capital police have registered a case over Friday's attack on prison vans that were transporting 82 political prisoners from the lower courts of the capital to Attock jail.

The case has been registered under section 7 and 21(i) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, along with 324, 353, 188, 427, 440, 324, 109, 148, and 149 of PPC and sections 13 and 20 of Arms Ordinance 1965 at Sangami police station in response to a complaint lodged by Inspector Liaquat Ali.

According to the FIR, a police team reached Sangami Toll Plaza after getting information about an attack on prison vans that were shifting 82 accused to Attock jail after their appearance in a court of the judicial magistrate police station Secretariat. Three police vehicles, including two pickups and a coaster, were in the squad.

About 35 to 40 people armed with weapons, batons and sticks appeared from the left side and started firing at the police when the caravan reached near the toll plaza at around 5:05pm, the FIR said, adding that as a result, the front tyre of the one of a prison vans burst.

The suspects then attacked the vans with batons and sticks and broke their windcreens as well as those of the squad pickups, it said, adding that as a result 51 Mohammed Hamza and comrades Abdul Majid, Munaf and Mudasar sustained injuries.

The attackers then broke the locks of the prison vans with the help of iron rods and set free the prisoners despite warnings from the police officials.

The accused in the prison vans also attacked the police after disembarking from the vans, the FIR said, adding that after reaching the spot, the police team arrested most of the accused and called for more police contingent to look for the remaining escaped prisoners.

The team also arrested four attackers, the FIR said, adding that a GMM and 30-bore pistol were recovered from them, and two vehicles were also impounded.

—Munawar Azeem

## A fun-filled weekend marking UN Day

By Adeel Raza

ISLAMABAD: "This is amazing. I have never seen such a huge crowd, not even at my exhibitions here at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA)," Nigar Nazki, Pakistan's first woman cartoonist and the face behind Gogi, the famous cartoon character, said as she looked for the first time to enter the PNCA arena which was hosting a family event in connection with the annual UN Day.

Being a weekend, the number of visitors to the event was extraordinary. A stream of vehicles could be seen heading towards the venue, trying to find the parking lot, which soon ran out of space. People were left with no choice but to park their cars along the road and head to the venue. All this while, traffic police officials remained on their toes.

The event saw various UN agencies set up their stalls including Unesco, UNWFP, UN Women, IOM, UNFPA, FAO, UNDAF, WFP, UN Habitat, OCHA, UNICEF and many more.

The highlight of the event, however, was the 'UN Career Booth' which remained crowded throughout the day.

"We had an overwhelming response; we were not expecting such a large crowd," said Ms Rafia, HR officer at one of the agencies.

"We started at 3pm, and it lasted till 8pm but we are still receiving young university graduates, who were guided on how to apply for jobs in the UN agencies," she said.

When asked if they were advertising about vacancies in the UN bodies at the booth, she said, "We are not here to tell people about the opportunities; we are here to guide them about how to apply, what all agencies are operating in Pakistan and what specific roles they would be looking for."

Head of Education Unesco Islamabad Zafar Hayat Malik said: "People basically do not understand what the UN mandate is. Therefore, we want to bring the UN closer to the people to enable it to serve them better."

"We will be organising more such events in the coming days in order to interact with people and educate them about the entire UN system," Mr Malik said.

Sania Tahir, UNWFP community-led response adviser for Pakistan and Afghanistan, who was busy interacting with visitors, said: "We've realised that with time, the stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS is increasing a lot. Therefore, this is one of the ways through which we can raise awareness and have open discussion with people."

"We are working all across the country. UNWFP is a joint programme of all UN agencies, and we partner with them as well as other community-based organisations," she added.

International Labour Organization (ILO) Country Director Gauri B. Torat said his organisation was also part of the UN family in Pakistan.



(CLOCKWISE from top) People seen visiting stalls of UN agencies while various activities are being undertaken for the entertainment of visitors at the UN Day family event in Islamabad on Saturday. —Photos by Muhammad Asim

The concluding event of the day was a concert by famous artist Shae Gill who was received by the audience, comprising youngsters, with cheers and applause.

"We have come here to listen to Shae Gill. You do not get a lot of opportunities to attend concerts of your favourite singer; therefore, we could not miss it," Shadid Sheikh and Muhammad Rafiq, two teenagers in the crowd, said.

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## President, PM reaffirm support to Kashmir freedom struggle

### Call upon world community to pressurise India to halt human rights abuses in IIOJK

By Bakhtawar Mian

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have reiterated their resolve to continue extending full moral, diplomatic and political support to Kashmiri brothers and sisters until they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination, according to UN Security Council resolutions.

They urged the international community to take serious notice of Indian atrocities on, and human rights abuses of, the people of Kashmir and prevail upon the aggressor to implement the world body resolutions.

"We urge the international community to pressurise India to halt its human rights abuses in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), alleviate the suffering of Kashmiris, and implement UN Security Council resolutions. Pakistan will stand shoulder-to-shoulder

with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters until they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination," President Zardari said in his message on the occasion of "Kashmiri Black Day" being observed on Sunday (Oct 27).

The day marks a dark chapter in South Asian history when India sent troops to occupy Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

For decades, the people of IIOJK have endured brutal repression by Indian forces. Over the years, India has transformed IIOJK into one of the most militarised regions in the world.

Thousands of innocent Kashmiris have been killed, while their legitimate land and resources remain confiscated, and local media is heavily censored, the message said.

The United Nations Security Council has repeatedly affirmed the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination through a fair and impartial plebiscite. Yet, India continues to defy these resolutions and deny Kashmiris their fundamental rights.

Since August 5, 2019, India has further escalated its occupation by stripping IIOJK of its special status and implementing measures to alter its demographic and political landscape.

These actions are part of a broader strategy to consolidate control and suppress the Kashmiri Freedom Movement.

Despite these oppressive tactics, the resilient people of Kashmir remain steadfast in their struggle for freedom.

"We strongly condemn India's ongoing atrocities and reaffirm our unwavering moral, diplomatic, and political support for the Kashmiri people's just cause. The recent developments in the Middle East are a stark reminder that long-standing disputes should not be allowed to fester. Violating international law and pushing disputes under the rug does not guarantee lasting peace. Three generations of Kashmiris have waited for the world, especially the United Nations, to deliver them their right to self-determination. The world can no longer ignore its responsibility," President Zardari said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in his message said, "On this day, 77 years ago, Indian forces landed in Srinagar. India has since nullified the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people to determine their own destiny. It has failed to fulfil its obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have suffered countless hardships during the last seventy-seven years. However, their resolve to realise their inalienable right to self-determination remains as firm as it was in 1947."

He praised the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people in their continued struggle for the right to self-determination. Undoubtedly, their sacrifices will not go in vain.

India has been taking successive steps

to tighten its grip over IIOJK since 5 August 2019. India's nefarious designs are aimed at undermining the disputed status of IIOJK and denying the Kashmiri people their democratic right to decide their own future, the message said.

Today, the Kashmiri people are enduring the most egregious and painful curbs on their daily lives and livelihoods. The number of political prisoners remains in the thousands.

The Indian occupation forces act with impunity under draconian counterterrorism laws.

However, these oppressive measures cannot dampen the Kashmiri people's yearning for self-determination.

He mentioned his recent address to the United Nations General Assembly saying that Pakistan has consistently maintained that peace and stability in South Asia remain contingent upon peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people by its cooperative tactics.

Pakistan has always expressed its unwavering solidarity with Kashmiri brothers and sisters. It will continue to extend its full moral, diplomatic and political support to them until the final resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

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## Kashmiris observe Oct 27 as black day worldwide

By Tariq Nagesh

MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiris worldwide will stage protest rallies and demonstrations on Sunday, condemning the deployment of Indian troops in Srinagar on October 27, 1947—a date that marked the beginning of the occupation of much of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing with it severe atrocities and ongoing human rights violations against its freedom-seeking inhabitants.

The main event will be held in the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) under the auspices of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), a coalition of anti-India organisations advocating for the freedom of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir on political and diplomatic fronts.

"October 27 is the darkest day for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, wherever they may be, because it initiated the occupation of their homeland against their will, unleashing a reign of terror in the occupied territory that continues in its worst forms at the hands of India's oppressive forces, backed by draconian laws," said Usair Ahmed Ghazali, chief of Padan-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir (PHJK), a constituent of the APHC.

PHJK is an organisation of over 100,000 migrants and consistently holds anti-India demonstrations

on key days throughout the year.

"Since this unlawful landing, Kashmiris have always marked October 27 as Black Day, with relentless calls for the withdrawal of occupation forces," Mr Ghazali added.

He said that the protest gathering would be held at Barban Wari Chowk, a busy roundabout named after a young Kashmiri commander killed by the Indian army in July 2016.

Participants, including women, will wear black armbands and hold black flags as a mark of protest against the Indian military occupation, he said.

"They will reaffirm their demand that India withdraw its troops and allow Kashmiris to freely determine the future of their homeland," he added.

Later, they will also march from Barban Wari Chowk to Garhi Pan Chowk, he said.

Meanwhile, in his message on the eve of "Black Day," AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarud Din maintained that India had illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on October 27, 1947, disregarding international law and principles of justice.

"Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control, as well as those worldwide, have never accepted India's illegal invasion and occupation, which opened floodgates of bloodshed, violence, oppression, and repression for them," he said.

The AJK premier recalled that the Indian government had itself approached the UN Security Council in 1948, promising to grant Kashmiris their right to self-determination, only to later renounce its commitments and refuse to implement the UNSC resolutions guaranteeing the Kashmiri people's inalienable right to self-determination.

The so-called largest democracy has consistently used its repressive state apparatus to crush the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle but has failed to break their resolve or spirit of freedom."

Expressing his gratitude to Pakistan for its consistent support to the just cause of Kashmiris, the AJK premier urged the United Nations to take practical steps to implement its resolutions on the disputed Himalayan region and to help halt the ongoing oppression in the India-occupied territory.

Meanwhile, the state-owned AJK Television has produced a special play commemorating India's illegal invasion and occupation of Kashmir. Written by Shabaz Latifi, a renowned Kashmiri journalist and playwright known for consistently raising awareness about the Kashmir issue through cultural events nationwide, the play will air on both AJK TV and PTV Home on Sunday night, according to its producer-director and AJK TV's General Manager, Shahid Cheema.

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**UNDERGRADUATE (MORNING PROGRAMMES)**

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">BBA Bachelor of Business Administration</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Duration: 4 Years (Crs: Hrs: 138)</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Finance, Marketing, Human Resource Management, Logistics &amp; Supply Chain Management, Project Management</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;"><b>Eligibility Criteria:</b> Intermediate with Minimum 45% marks or equivalent</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">BBA (HHCM) Bachelor of Business Administration (Hospital &amp; Health Care Management)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Duration: 4 Years (Crs: Hrs: 138)</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Eligibility Criteria: Intermediate with Minimum 45% marks or equivalent</p>
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**GRADUATE SATURDAY, SUNDAY (EVENING PROGRAMMES)**

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">EMBA Master of Business Administration-Executive</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Duration: 2.5 Years (Crs: Hrs: 60)</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Finance, Marketing, Human Resource Management, Logistics &amp; Supply Chain Management, Project Management, Hospital &amp; Health Care Management</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;"><b>Eligibility Criteria:</b> 16 years of education plus 4 years of work experience (minimum 50% marks)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">MBA (HHCM) Master of Business Administration (Hospital &amp; Health Care Management)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Duration: 2.5 Years (Crs: Hrs: 60)</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;"><b>Eligibility Criteria:</b> MBBS/MS/BSN/Pharm-D, or equivalent 16 years of Non-Business education (Minimum 50% marks)</p>
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# Top officials ally traders' concerns over search, seizure

Interior secretary says security agencies shouldn't hinder legal trade

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The Ministry of Interior secretary, Muhammad Khuram Akhbar, has assured Balochistan traders that the "unwarranted" stoppage of their goods trucks by security forces on high ways would be halted.

In a meeting with Balochistan's traders and the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) president on Saturday, Mr Akhbar said the role of security agencies is to ensure the security of public and business community and not hinder legal trade.

The meeting was also attended by the head of Pakistan Customs, Muhammad Jaseem Jilil Khan, Customs Balochistan Chief Collector Yaqoob Mako, Customs Appointment Collector Jaseem Baloch, and officers of Frontier Comptrolary North and South zones in Balochistan.

The federal secretary stressed that obstacles to legal trade were unacceptable. During the meeting, which took place on the directives of FFR Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial, QCCI president Muhammad Ayub Mariani raised concerns over the

stoppage of trucks by security forces. He said the transported goods were already cleared by Customs, and duty was also paid on them.

According to the QCCI head, the trucks from Balochistan were being "unreasonably" stopped and goods seized by the Customs collection in Multan, Lahore, Faisalabad, and Hyderabad.

Although the goods are later cleared, the practice causes significant financial losses to Balochistan's importers and exporters, who have to attend "needless" court hearings in various cities, he added.

The federal secretary acknowledged that actions based on credible intelligence were appropriate, but the "unwarranted" stoppage of goods vehicles was unacceptable.

Mr Khan, the Customs head, assured the meeting that immediate action would be taken against those officers who stop vehicles without any reason.

He also promised that the process to clear vehicles in Quetta would be expedited and would not to tolerate any negligence in this regard.

Mr Mako, the chief officer of Customs in Balochistan, told the meeting that the authority of Customs Intelligence to stop and seize goods transport vehicles has already been revoked. He added that the concerns of clearing agents and importers were being addressed.

# Another challenge to 26th amendment lands in SHC

By Ishaq Tariq

KARACHI: A petition filed in the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Saturday challenged the 26th Constitutional Amendment and asked the court to declare it against the Constitution.

This is the second petition in the SHC against the constitutional amendment passed last week. A challenge has also been submitted to the Supreme Court.

The recent petition, filed by two lawyers, asserted that the amendment was liable to be struck on the grounds of procedural impropriety as well as interference in the independence of the judiciary.

The petitioners contended that the amendment was "not passed" by the two-thirds majority in both houses of parliament as required by Article 239 of the Constitution.

Some lawmakers were "coerced or unlawfully induced" to support the amendment, the petition claimed.

Besides, they argued that there were disputes regarding the status of several members of the National Assembly pending before election tribunals.

The petitioners asserted that certain clauses of the 26th Constitutional Amendment have "violated" the salient features and basic structure of the Constitution.

They said the same "cannot be trumped" by the parliament as held by the Supreme Court in the case of Rawalpindi Bar Association (PLD 2015 SC 401).

The amendment "has empowered" the government to "control" the judiciary by appointing the chief justice and other judges of the higher judiciary.

This would also allow the executive to "influence" the judges since "non-judicial members" have now been inducted into the Judicial Commission of Pakistan.

The applicant requested the SHC to form a larger bench with its five most senior judges to hear this petition.

A few days earlier, another lawyer had filed an identical petition in the SHC and asserted that the amendment was "contrary to the principles of judicial independence and separation of powers".

**KRA rally**  
The Karachi Bar Association took out a rally from City Courts to the Karachi Press Club on Saturday against the amendment.

While addressing the protesters, KRA president Amir Nawaz Warraich and Sindh High Court Bar Association vice president Zubair Ahmed Abo called the amendment "a direct attack" on the independence of the judiciary.

They also claimed the amendment would "radically affect" the basic rights of people.

**Ad hoc justice Sardar Tariq Mansoor and Mazhar Alam Miralich have been included in the eighth bench.**

**Live streaming**  
CJP Afridi called a full court meeting — to be attended by all available judges — at 1pm on Monday.

He has also called a meeting of administrative judges of the Anti-Terrorism Courts along with progress reports on Nov 7.

A meeting of the Supreme Judicial Council will take place on Nov 8.

Besides, CJP Afridi ordered the SC staff to extend the facility of live streaming service to all courtrooms. Introduced by former CJP Ijaz, the facility was only available in Courtrooms No. 1 where the top judge presides over the proceedings.

However, the broadcast will remain conditional, requiring consent from all parties involved in the case, including specific consent of a female petitioner to maintain her confidentiality.

A committee has been working on a proposal for the equipment and logistic required for this expansion. Their proposal will be reviewed and approved by the chief justice.

**Continued from Page 1**

the third judge to join him and the senior justice judge on the committee.

Legal observers believe the change was made to give CJP the authority he had over the formation of benches. In the lead-up to the ordinance, the ex-CJP seemed to be in the minority, with justices Shah and Akhtar disagreeing with him during the committee's meeting.

After the amendment, ex-CJP has removed Justice Akhtar and added Justice Aminuddin Khan — the fourth senior-most judge — to the committee.

An office order issued by Supreme Court Registrar Jaseem Aslam on Saturday stated that the committee was constituted with the addition of Justice Akhtar.

The three-judge committee constituted seven benches to hear cases in the coming week.

The first bench will comprise CJP Afridi and Justice Shahid Hafeez Hameed.

Justices Akhtar and Arshad Miralich have been included in the second bench, justice Aminuddin Khan and Ijaz Nadeem Khan in the third bench, justice Jamal Khan Mansoori, Mansoor Hali and Malik Shahzad Ahmed Khan in the fourth bench, justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Syed Hassan Asghar Rizvi in the fifth bench, justices Ayuda A. Malik and Asghar Ahmed Abbasi in the sixth bench, and justices Shahid Wahid and Naveem Akhtar Afghani in the seventh bench.

# Six personnel among eight martyred in suicide blast

Continued from Page 1

law enforcement personnel in various parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The incident occurred in the Dera Ismail Khan district, where 10 Frontier Constabulary soldiers were martyred in an attack on a checkpoint.

A banned militant group claimed responsibility for the attack, describing it as "retaliation" for a military operation in Bajaur earlier in the week, which saw nine militants, including a key leader, Saif Muhammad alias Qureshi Usaid, killed on Wednesday.

**Ex-JUI-F senator targeted**

On Friday night, militants targeted the residence of former JUI-F Senator Masudana Muhammad Saleh Shah in Upper South Waziristan's Khairpur area in Tarzai tehsil. According to police sources, unknown attackers planned a bomb near the house, causing significant damage, but no casualties.

Mr Shah's son, Shams, said the attackers wanted to assassinate his father. Armed men reportedly stormed the house and opened fire, but the family remained unharmed.

Police have launched an investigation into the incident, with sources suggesting the attack may be linked to extortion demands that Mr Shah had refused to meet.

In a statement, the JUI-F leader,

who is also the president of the fourth Waziristan Upper Political Alliance, condemned the incident, urging the government and law enforcement agencies to take a decisive action against extortion and restore peace in the area.

He revealed that this was not the first attack on his residence, attributing the repeated targeting to his refusal to pay extortion.

**Condensation**

President Asif Ali Zardari expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the loss of lives of civilians and security personnel in the North Waziristan suicide attack.

"Terrorists will never succeed in their evil designs," he said in a statement issued by the President House. He stressed the need to take all possible measures to eradicate terrorism.

KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur also strongly condemned the attack. "Such cowardly acts will never weaken the resolve of our forces. The people and security personnel have made immense sacrifices in the war against militancy," Mr Gandapur said in a statement.

He assured the public that the government stands by its security forces, adding, "The militants will soon be defeated and peace will prevail in the country."

With input from our correspondent in South Waziristan

# Four FC men injured in Duki IED attack

Continued from Page 1

were found in the Splein area on Saturday.

The two were kidnapped by unidentified armed men while attending a wedding ceremony the other day.

Authorities were alerted by the locals about the presence of the bodies. After receiving the information, Levies personnel arrived at the site, took the bodies into custody and shifted them to the district hospital.

The victims were shot in the head from a close range, Levies officials said. One victim was identified as Khazidul Binjalai, while the identity of his brother could not be ascertained immediately.

The bodies were handed over to the family after completing medico-legal formalities.

**Zain quits as PTI's deputy parliamentary leader**

Continued from Page 1

ingratitude and in recognition of the sentiments of our party supporters, I am resigning from my role as Deputy Parliamentary Leader, I do so until and unless I have the confidence and trust of my party and our Founding Chairman, Imran Khan," he stated in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"Also in the interest of public transparency for all PTI supporters, I have now replied formally to my share count notice providing a comprehensive account. I was, am and will remain faithful to my

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# Sealed Bid Auction of 1 armoured Toyota Land Cruiser (ZX) - 2013 Model

Auction Details	
<b>Dates</b>	Sealed bids will be accepted till November 11, 2024. Bidding will close at 5:00 PM on November 11, 2024. Successful bidder will be contacted on November 12, 2024.
<b>Item</b>	Armoured Toyota Land Cruiser (ZX) - 2013 Model.
<b>Preview</b>	Vehicle can be viewed between 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Mon-Fri), from 28 October, 2024 to 08 November, 2024 at Ufone Tower, Islamabad.
<b>Contact</b>	Bid forms are available at the inspection site. Bid forms must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked as "Offer for Vehicle", along with a copy of the CNIC of the person who has signed the form, on the following address: First Floor, Mail and Cable Department, Citibank N.A., Pakistan, AWT Plaza Karachi. For viewing, contact Mr. Kamal Majeed - (021-2075511). For further information, contact Mr. Yasir Khan - (021-32586914).
<b>Terms and Conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vehicle is being sold on as is, where it basis. As the buyer, you are deemed to have checked the vehicle and have found the same acceptable.</li> <li>The vehicle is being offered "with reserve", subject to acceptance by Citibank N.A. and the sale and transfer is subject to Citibank N.A.'s receipt and satisfactory review of all required information.</li> <li>The sale is contingent on the successful bidder obtaining the No Objection Certificate from the Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan. Application must be submitted within 5 working days from November 13, 2024. Failure to obtain the NOC within 30 days of application will result in the cancellation of bid. The second-highest bidder will qualify and be contacted.</li> <li>The vehicle will be transferred, and the original documents will be given after receipt of full sale consideration by Citibank N.A. by way of an instrument in favour of Citibank N.A., Pakistan. All fees, charges and duties for the sale and transfer will be payable by the buyer.</li> <li>Citibank N.A. reserves the right to: (a) postpone, cancel, or modify the terms and conditions of the auction at any time, or (b) withdraw the vehicle before or during the auction, and to sell the vehicle prior to the auction without notice.</li> <li>A copy of sale and purchase agreement that will be used to consummate the sale is available upon request.</li> </ul>



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# Region on edge

THE latest exchange between Israel and Iran — a shadow war that came into the open after the Oct 7 events last year — came early on Saturday, when Tel Aviv's forces hit Iranian military facilities in Tehran, as well as the provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan, which border Iraq. Iran has downplayed Israel's aggression, saying it caused "limited damage", with reportedly four Iranian troops killed. It appears that the warmongers in Tel Aviv have listened to American calls to avoid hitting Iranian oil and nuclear facilities; an attack on such installations would have had horrific consequences for the entire region. Yet this does not take away from the fact that Israel indulged in a highly condemnable act of violating another country's sovereignty — sadly, it has been displaying such behaviour for decades. The attack, unlike previous ones, has been acknowledged by Israel, and was meant as retribution for the Iranian missile barrage targeting the Zionist state on Oct 2. That Iranian action had been triggered by the killings of Ismail Haniyeh and Hassan Nasrallah, as well as the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The Israeli aggression has been followed by global calls for de-escalation. The US and UK have unanimously lectured Iran not to target Israel further. Iran's Arab neighbours have condemned the attacks, as has Pakistan, with the Foreign Office saying "Israel bears full responsibility for the current cycle of escalation". The Pentagon has also reaffirmed America's "ironclad" commitment to Israel's security. Yet Iran feels that it cannot leave its allies in the 'Axis of Resistance' alone at a time when they are confronting Israel. Moreover, it should be remembered that Israel has been killing Iranian generals and scientists long before the Hamas operations last year. And the Iranian missile strikes targeting Israel in mid-April — the first time Tehran directly hit Israel — were prompted by the devastating bombing of an Iranian diplomatic facility in Damascus, widely believed to be the handwork of Israel.

The next phase of this geopolitical tussle will depend on the Iranian reaction to the Israeli provocation. Tehran's foreign ministry has issued an ambiguous statement, observing that while the Islamic Republic wanted "regional peace", the country was "entitled ... to defend itself". Israel's Western friends, primarily the US and UK, have justified their ally's atrocities by saying that Israel has a right to self-defence. By that logic, Iran, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen also have a right to defend themselves from Israeli aggression. Most importantly, the Palestinian people have a right not to be slaughtered by Israel. If the global community is serious about de-escalation in the region, it must call for an immediate, unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, and an end to Israel's aggression in Lebanon. Without this, the regional war underway will only intensify.

# Series win, at last

NOMAN Ali and Sajid Khan walked off after England's second innings, jointly holding the ball having all but secured Pakistan's victory in the series-deciding final Test on Saturday. Since their comeback, the duo together claimed 39 of the 40 England wickets to fall in the last two Tests of the series after Pakistan had been humbled in the opener. This was a remarkable turnaround as Shan Masood and his men won the first Test series at home in over three years. Their performance in England's second innings in Rawalpindi marked the third time in the two Tests that Sajid and Nooman bagged all 10 wickets, leaving Pakistan with a paltry target of 36 runs to win. Shan knocked off the winning runs, sealing a nine-wicket victory for his side with an emphatic six, the innings defeat in the opening Test becoming a distant memory. Shan had lost six Tests in a row since taking over the team's captaincy but the back-to-back wins have helped restore Pakistan's pride and showed that smart decisions can bring the desired results. It began with the rejigging of the selection committee and a change in strategy with a turning pitch engineered for the second Test in Multan. That brought them level in the series before another turner in Rawalpindi put England in a tailspin once again.

The question is, why Pakistan were not playing to their strengths in the past and not using the home advantage on offer. In a startling claim recently, former Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja stated that the dead pitches in the past were put in place on the call of captain Babar Azeem, who was rested after the first Test against England. Pakistan lost the Test series against both England and Australia during Ramiz's tenure. The start of incumbent PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi's tenure was not ideal either with incoming coach Jason Gillespie and Shan looking out of their depth in a bumbling home series defeat to Bangladesh last month. But with the selection committee given more powers, Pakistan have turned a corner. Gillespie and Shan might have seen their powers over selection clipped, with the coach having voiced his displeasure over that only recently, but the important thing is that after so much trial and error, Pakistan finally seem to have returned to their winning ways.

# Crimes of collusion

MULTIPLE socioeconomic factors propel criminal practices. Preying on the poor for astronomical profits tops the list. The fact that Pakistan appears on "Tier 2" of the 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report by the US State Department should be viewed under this lens. A mid-frequent reports of human trade, KP Governor Faisal Karim Khan's call for widespread awareness in eliminating trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, with guidelines based on information and legal knowledge, is encouraging. An interactive session on media reporting on human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and bonded labour, MF Kundi underlined key areas: protection for the identity and dignity of victims, assessment of law enforcers' performance, and the need for media to connect sufferers with legal aid provided by the government and NGOs.

Unfortunately, we are saddled with a mammoth morass because the government has failed to provide citizens with a professional police force and empowered women, child and labour protection departments that are free from charges of patronage. Despite significant legislation in 2018, the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act and the Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act, the rights of victims of human trafficking and smuggling remain compromised due to poor enforcement. While Pakistan ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in 2002, it is not among the signatories to the UNTOC's Trafficking in Persons Protocol. We need drastic reforms focused on uprooting the culture of impunity and official collusion for effective enforcement of the law, while bearing in mind that transnational organised crimes are countered through sound strategies, based on practices and procedures stipulated in global conventions. Long cursed with the acceptance of social sins, the state has to understand that its infamy creates an unsafe environment for marginalised people. And that socioeconomic progress craves transformative nations.

# OPINION



BY AHMED BILAL MEHBOOB

# Unpacking the amendment

Most governments want to find a way to blunt the judicial weapon of accountability.

SUCCESSIVE governments and parliaments in Pakistan have appeared obsessed with constitutional amendments related to the judiciary, especially the superior judiciary. Our parliament has so far passed 23 constitutional amendments. Formally these are counted as 26 despite the fact that three (the ninth constitutional amendment of 1985, the 11th of 1989 and the 15th of 1998) were introduced but never passed. Out of these 23 amendments, a majority of 13 or 56 per cent have to do entirely or partly with the judiciary. Eight amendments almost exclusively deal with the judiciary, while the remaining five are a mixed bag with a number of subjects including the judiciary. In stark contrast, India's parliament has passed 106 constitutional amendments so far and only 11 or a little over 10 per cent deal with the judiciary.

These amendments passed in Pakistan can be viewed in the context of the ever-present power tussle between the executive and the judiciary. Since the executive is a subset of parliament in a parliamentary democracy practised in Pakistan, and a majority of parliamentarians are associated with the executive, parliament and its committees do not exercise any real oversight of the executive. The majority ruling party or parties expect their parliamentarians to go soft on their government during the proceedings of the plenary and standing committees; almost always, the members seem to oblige. In such a scenario, the only other institution which can and should independently hold the federal and provincial governments to account is the judiciary, especially the high courts and the Supreme Court. Most governments are, therefore, keen on finding a way to blunt the judicial weapon of accountability — hence, such a large percentage of judiciary-related constitutional amendments in Pakistan.

To be fair, however, it has not always been the judiciary on the receiving end; there are times when the judiciary also appears 'incoherent' on the turl of parliament and the executive. This description was used by Asif Raza Khosa, a former chief justice of Pakistan, who reportedly pleaded for a 'grand dialogue' to check

encroachment by the judiciary, parliament, the executive, the military and intelligence agencies in each other's domain.

It was the Supreme Court which endorsed the death sentence of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1979. It was also the same apex court, of course comprising different judges, which declared in 2024 that Mr Bhutto was not given a fair trial by the Lahore High Court and the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court also sacked two elected prime ministers of Pakistan: Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in 2011 and Nawaz Sharif in 2017 on grounds largely believed to be less than legitimate. Chief justice Sughit Nisar's Supreme Court went on to disqualify Nawaz Sharif for life and to hold him ineligible to head his party the PML-N, although there was no such provision in the Constitution. Justice Umar Ata Bandial's Supreme Court grossly misinterpreted the constitutional provision of Article 53-A about the deflection of parliamentary business. All such judgments had to be later reversed. The Supreme Court is also criticised for upholding four grossly unconstitutional acts of dismissal of elected governments and military takeover.

This is the background against which the 26th Amendment was proposed and eventually passed by parliament. The bill was first introduced in the Senate on Sunday, Oct 20, and the hectic process of going through the first, second and third readings continued till a little before midnight. The process concluded in the National Assembly in the early hours of Monday, Oct 21. The president assented to the law and the Act of Parliament was notified in the Gazette of Pakistan the same day.

The bill could be partly categorised as 'reactive' to the real or perceived 'encroachment' by the judiciary and partly 'proactive' to forestall possible future acts of the judiciary, which may threaten the existence of the current government and National Assembly, with some ministers saying on media that they expected such action by a section of the judiciary after the retirement of chief justice Qazi Faez Iqbal on Oct 25, 2024. This explains the incoherent haste with

which the package of constitutional amendments was rushed through the two houses of parliament.

The 26th Amendment has either amended, substituted, or added 25 articles and one sub-section of the Constitution out of which only nine articles deal with subjects other than the judiciary. Three of the amended articles deal with religious provisions and may be categorised as 'riders' using the American slang for amendments incorporated to win the support of more legislators and political parties for the package. These three amendments were proposed by Madhans Fazalir Rehman's JUI-F.

The most important changes introduced in the Constitution through the amendment include the appointment of the Supreme Court chief justice through a 12-member parliamentary committee, instead of the senior-most judge of the court automatically becoming the top judge; the retirement of the chief justice at the age of 65 or on completing a three-year term, whichever occurs first; the introduction of constitutional benches in the apex court to be constituted by the Judicial Commission from time to time and in the high courts, subject to the approval of the respective provincial assemblies; reconstitution of the 11-member Judicial Commission after merging the erstwhile parliamentary committee in it; an annual performance evaluation of high court judges by the Judicial Commission; provision for a secretariat headed by a secretary for the commission; and lowering the minimum age to qualify for becoming a high court judge from 45 to 40 years.

These amendments, no doubt, increase the influence of the legislature and the executive in key aspects of the judiciary. Will the legislative and executive branches use the newly acquired powers merely and strictly on the basis of merit, or allow personal and political considerations to colour their judgments? The jury is out on this question.

The writer is president of the Pakistan-based think tank PPKS. X: @ADMFKhat

# SENIORITY SAGA



BY ABBAS NASIR

# Is ME escalation inevitable?

AFTER several weeks of preparations, Israel carried out its promised attack on Iran in the small hours of Saturday but the scale and scope of the air-missile strikes appeared limited. It also declared it had completed its operations and warned Iran against retaliation.

What next? This must be the question on many minds, as multiple Iranian sources warned Israel of retaliation for Saturday's attacks. In the past, Iran has also warned that American assets in the region, particularly those hosting US bases, may also be targeted in any retaliation.

Many media organisations wish to credit the US with asserting a moderating influence on Israel and persuading it not to target Iran's nuclear facilities or oil infrastructure. In the event, Israeli sources claimed hitting Iranian missile manufacturing and launch sites.

Saturday's attacks were anticipated after Iran's retaliatory strikes against Israel on Oct 1 for the attack on its embassy in the Syrian capital, killing many IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) high officials, and the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, while he was in the capital to attend the inauguration of the new president.

Iran's retaliation came via drones, ballistic and cruise missile waves that targeted Israel's military and intelligence sites such as an air force base and the headquarters of the central security service Mossad. Iranian sources claimed this attack was limited in scope and new purpose was to assess the risks in Israel's famed 'Iron Dome' air defence.

There can be no denying Israel's superior West-funded and supplied state-of-the-art weaponry including aerial assets, nor its immense intelligence gathering and operational capacity. But the mere fact that within days of the Iran missile attack, the US started deploying its THAAD anti-missile batteries and their American crews to Israel pointed to the deficiencies in Israel's mythical anti-missile and air defence.

Although the US was quick to claim its forces played no part in the Israeli attacks on Iran this weekend, for many weeks it has been bolstering its military presence in the Gulf with the solitary purpose of threatening Iran with aircraft carrier battle-groups deployed in the region.

Just the other day, the US Central Command in

announced that USAF F-35s from the 480th squadron based at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany arrived at the US Central Command area of responsibility.

When I first read that tweet, I was perplexed. This was because the US has more modern and superior warplanes on its aircraft carriers and operational bases in the region, in addition to long-range bombers operating from bases further afield. The significance of the F-35 deployment dawned on me after little open source research online.

The 480th squadron based in Germany called the 'Warhawks' is dedicated to SEAD (Suppression of Enemy Air Defence) missions through electronic warfare such as jamming the radar of sea-to-air missiles and can also be used to mark

If Iran's threats are more than mere brave words, we stand poised for a mega disaster.

(For more war attacks), attack and destroy air defence missile sites.

If the US did help in neutralising Iranian missile batteries while Israeli jets attacked Iran targets or while they refuelled over possibly one of Iran's neighbours' airspace, then its claim it did not participate in the attack would be incorrect. Best assured, it won't be many weeks before a trickle of information starts to appear that either confirms or contradicts this view.

However, there are many news stories — in the Western media in particular — that the US and some of Iran's Gulf neighbours used their influence in order to impress upon Israel the need to restrict the scope and scale of its attacks on Iran as any further expansion of the conflict would threaten to suck them in.

If those news stories are credible, it is astonishing that those powers have done nothing and not used their leverage to stop the ongoing program in

Gaza and the continued expansion of settlements and the violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.

What the world is witnessing in Gaza is unprecedented. The bizarre claim of an occupation force being the 'most moral military in the world' is being shredded live on social media by its own atrocities and conduct as whatever remains of hospitals or shelters for the Palestinians are being destroyed and piles of bodies of unarmed civilians, including children and babies, are being left in the rubble.

Sayed Mohammad Marandi, a professor at Tehran University, who served in the IRGC in his teen years, and is one of the people who often articulates the Iranian government's position, has said Iran's commitment to the liberation of Palestine is as firm as ever. He tweeted that Iran will retaliate and that the scale of its retaliation could be unprecedented in the devastation it causes.

Seeing the Palestinians being murdered in their homes and streets in the tens of thousands has left many in the world speechless. Regardless of their compromised government's position, they want an end to the mind-boggling violence in Gaza. They'd give anything to see it stop.

If Iran's threats are more than mere brave words, the region and the wider world stand poised for a mega disaster, as any Iranian action could now suck in the US too — and who knows how such an escalation will damage the regional oil infrastructure?

Sadly, a conflict that is tragic and soul-destroying but at a distance, will knock on the door of everyone in the world. Without doubt, such an escalation will have a huge impact on the world economy and pose more questions than it will answer.

It is clear from their policy stands/decisions so far that those powers that can make a difference can't be bothered, to them, it appears, the Palestinians are the children of a lesser God. Perhaps, the threat to their own economic well-being may motivate them to exert influence to end the madness of a state hell-bent on genocide.

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

# OPINION



BY MUNA KHAN

## Loaded questions

MINI was one of the innumerable jaws that dropped watching the CBS interview of Ta-Nehisi Coates promoting his book, *The Message* a few weeks ago. It happened when anchor Tony Dokoupil, who edged his two co-hosts out of the conversation, told Coates: "I have to say, when I read the book, I imagine if I took your name out of it, took away the awards, the acclaim, took the cover off the book, putting the book gone away, the content of that section would not be out of place in the backback of an extremist." Coates lit up and before he could answer, Dokoupil asked: "Is it because you just don't believe that Israel in any condition has a right to exist?"

Coates — who has established himself as one of America's leading intellectual thinkers on race and has turned that moral clarity to Israel's treatment of Palestine in his new book — responded calmly: the US media was dominated by Israel's viewpoints, whereas he wanted to speak for those who don't have a voice, the Palestinians. Dokoupil, a Jew, then asked why Coates was offended by the existence of a Jewish state. Coates replied: "I'm offended by the idea of a state built on ethnicity, no matter where they are."

This exchange generated a lot of buzz and I was surprised to hear the network's boss ordered an internal review, saying Dokoupil had "violated the network's editorial standards" when he compared the book to "extremist" writings "and challenged Coates for excluding the Israeli perspective in his book," reported CNN. Interestingly, the head of the network's parent company Shari Redstone, a vocal supporter of Israel, criticised CBS' decision to ... criticise Dokoupil, saying she supported the journalist asking tough questions. Then the parent company's CEO spoke up, saying he sided by CBS' news leadership decision and how the episode must lead to "substantive dialogue about perceptions of inconsistent treatment". What a mess.

Since then, various thought pieces on the subject in the media and YouTube have tackled whether Dokoupil was simply doing his job by asking tough questions, which, we were reminded, is the role of journalism. I don't think asking if Israel has a right to exist is a tough question; it is the typical strategy of Western media which veers from tough questions when it comes to Israel. The slight of criticism is not with 'why are you against Israel' or accusations of antisemitism or, in the case of this book, questioning Coates' qualifications on 'complex' foreign policy matters. By saying Coates did not include this or that Israeli point of view distracts from

what the writer was reporting on Israel's segregation of Palestinians and how it deprives Palestinians of their humanity (forget rights and lands).

Dokoupil did not challenge what Coates wrote. He did not ask Coates what he witnessed in the West Bank in 2023, or Israel's gruesome, apartheid, inhumane treatment of Palestinians. He did not ask why Coates called Israel an apartheid state, why it denies Palestinians water, or has ghettoised them, or why he's calling for more Palestinian Americans in universities including the Jerusalem bureau of the New York Times, but instead deflected to why Coates doesn't want Israel to exist. Dokoupil didn't want to ask these kind of questions because I assume he supports Israel's genocide of Palestinians and it's hard to come on TV and say that outright or ask 'why are you harassing Palestinians', which is essentially what Coates has done in his formidable book.

"The Palestine I saw here so little like the stories I read, and so much resemblance to the systems I know," writes Coates, as he unpacks the many ways Israeli narrative has dominated the media, especially in the US.

Coates has established his credibility as a successful writer and journalist, a National Book Award recipient and a MacArthur Fellow. He can't be "cancelled" for his indictment on Israel and his country's policies towards the Zionist state, though attempts have been made to reduce him to an antisemitic terrorist sympathiser. This is not about tough questions, it is about erasure and an attempt to bring him to discredit Coates as not the right man to take on this issue.

Unfortunately, and to prove Coates' point, Palestinian voices don't make it to the mainstream press. In fact, the Committee to Protect Journalists says that more journalists have been killed in the first year of Israel's war on Gaza than in any recent conflict. There is nothing complicated about who is killing them and why.

Despite the attempts to silence Coates, he did not get derailed in this, or other, interviews. He has actually simplified the issue as he told CBS: "Either apartheid is right or it's wrong. It really is that simple. Either what I saw was right or wrong."

The writer is an instructor of journalism. X @LSteingLady



BY AJAZ AHMED

## Climate investment

THE increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, droughts, and heatwaves, result in loss of livelihood, human lives, and economic output. Furthermore, extreme weather events seriously undermine efforts to eliminate poverty and improve living standards, offsetting gains from economic development and resulting in the wastage of scarce resources. Thus, enabling adaptation to climate change and developing the resilience of key social and economic systems has become a top priority of governments worldwide.

Resource-scarce countries like Pakistan have no option, but to invest in climate change adaptation, developing climate resilience of vulnerable communities, and enhancing social and economic systems from climate-related stresses. Investment in climate resilience in the Pakistani context can protect the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities and shield social and economic systems, safeguarding the country's economic progress. For example, saving jobs and household incomes and avoiding and mitigating displacements can help maintain economic activity, facilitating local economies to rebound faster. Furthermore, investments in climate adaptation and resilience can increase the resource base, improve health and well-being, and reduce pollution, enabling a transition to a low-carbon economy.

There is much evidence of gains in investment in climate adaptation and resilience. A World Resources Institute study claims that for every dollar invested in climate adaptation and resilience, the returns range from \$2 to \$10, demonstrating a clear business case for investment in climate adaptation. The study revealed that investment in early warning systems alone can help avoid losses and damages amounting to at least 10 times the value of the investment. The returns, however, depend on several social, economic, political, and institutional factors, which create conducive conditions for climate interventions and returns on such investments.

However, the latest estimates of the 2024 Climate Resilience Report show that for every \$1 invested in climate resilience, \$4 is saved in terms of avoided losses and damages and \$7 is saved in terms of averted loss to the local economy, making the return on investments in climate change adaptation and resilience \$13. This means that billions of dollars could be saved by investing in climate change adaptation and resilience.

While the Climate Resilience Report estimates are from the US, there are successful examples of investing in climate resilience from low-income countries as well. For example, investment in water avail-

ability and increased water food security in Kenya, typhoon-resilient housing in Vietnam, urban flood risk management and averted losses in Mozambique, and urban heat management and reduced heat-related mortality and morbidity in India are some of the pieces of evidence of gainful investment in climate adaptation and resilience in Global South.

This evidence also offers key insights into successful climate interventions. Examples of such interventions include the use of data and climate information, participatory approaches, involvement of the private sector, strong coordination, decision-making planning, political support, and long-term preparation. Notably, these strategies are included in key policy documents in the Pakistani context; however, their successful implementation, scaling up, and dissemination remained hurdles.

Developing climate resilience of key economic and social systems also involves climate-informed investment decisions to develop critical infrastructure, and prevent it from extreme weather events, mitigating the losses and damages and thus wastage of limited resources. However, among other things, limited climate change knowledge and institutional capacity and the absence of appropriate data and information impede climate-informed decisions to support adaptation and resilience building.

Importantly, investment in climate resilience is profitable even if there are no extreme weather events. For example, investment in agriculture resilience can improve crop and thus the food security and performance of the agriculture sector. Similarly, better infrastructure can improve population access to basic services such as clean drinkable water, transport, and health, resulting in improving human capital, employment and economic opportunities, social equity, and economic uplift of marginalised segments. Pakistan is not only in desperate need of developing climate resilience, but it also urgently needs to improve its human capital. Both aims can be achieved by aligning climate and development policies and interventions and integrating climate action in development programmes and projects.

The writer has a PhD in economics from Durham University, UK. He specialises in environmental economics.

**We have no option, but to invest in climate change adaptation.**

## FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

### Normalisation hope

**MOSCOW** Pakistan and the Soviet Union expressed the hope that all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan will be settled as provided in the Simla Agreement in the interest of establishing durable peace in the sub-continent. A joint communique issued today [Oct 26] at the end of the two-day visit of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to the Soviet Union said the two sides also hoped that the differences between Pakistan and Afghanistan will be settled by peaceful means through negotiations. ... While reaffirming the desire to develop mutually-beneficial co-operation in trade, economy and in the cultural and scientific fields, the two sides decided to conclude a new trade agreement. ... The communique focused on bearing international problems of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Middle East and Cyprus. — News agencies

[Meanwhile, as reported by news agencies from Rabat,] the seventh Summit of Arab Heads of State was opened here ... by King Hassan II of Morocco. Present are the sovereigns and Heads of State of 20 Arab States, plus Yasser Arafat, ... Among African Heads of State present [is] Ugandan President Gen. Idi Amin.

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

### UK to go slow

**LONDON** British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, told Parliament today [Oct 26] that Britain could not continue to repay sterling debts to the same extent as hitherto. Such credits or releases added to the nation's inflationary pressure just as much as her whole internal expenditure, he said. Sir Stafford Cripps, opening the ... debate on the ... 1950 million sterling economy cuts, added that Britain's armed forces next April would be 20,000 below the figure of 750,000 already given. The proposed annual saving of 30 million sterling in defence would include a big reduction in Headquarters Staff and in training, maintenance and administrative establishments and economies in defence works programmes. ... — News agencies

[Meanwhile, according to news agencies in Karachi,] the Government of Pakistan have paid ransom one crore to the Sind Government on an ad hoc basis as compensation for the latter's assets in Karachi. ... The committee appointed soon after the separation of Karachi from the rest of Sind in 1948 ... had not yet finalised their report. ... Sind ... though they have decided upon the site of their new Capital, are not expected to take up its construction until the report has been finalised.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



## We have to redefine sense of patriotism

OVER the last many years, a large number of people, especially the educated youth, have moved abroad in search of financial stability. In Pakistan, only a small percentage of students secure admission to universities, and many of them struggle to find a place in the job market.

Moreover, the salary a fresh graduate gets in a massive majority of cases fails to cross the Rs50,000 mark. And this, mind

you, is for those who actually get a paid job. This makes it nearly impossible for them to support family expenses. These factors compel the graduates to consider relocating to meet their own and their families' expectations of achieving a more stable future.

Although monetary concerns are also prominent, there are deeper underlying issues at play. Basic rights, including access to healthcare, social security and affordable education, are among the top expectations of individuals in society, and rightly so.

The state of law and order remains a significant concern. Political instability has severely damaged the governance framework, adding to the darkness a young individual feels these days.

As a commoner, once people start thinking in terms of exploring opportunities abroad, many around them raise the issue of patriotism and one's commitment to the motherland.

Frankly speaking, it is time to redefine patriotism. Instead of holding youngsters back, we should encourage them to realise themselves and the well-being of their families. This is the only practical way of being able to do something for the country. We need to have a pragmatic view of patriotism.

As such, once abroad, people should invest some part of their earnings in meaningful projects. This investment should be for the national cause. We must encourage those struggling in Pakistan

to go abroad with a sense of larger purpose than mere self-growth.

Initially, people can help stabilise the Pakistani economy through remittances using official channels.

In the long run, well-established graduates can get greater margins when investing in Pakistan itself, where the cost of labour and material is much lower than in most other countries. We must redefine patriotism in a way that aligns with our own goals and national interests. The patriotism of a successful Pakistani abroad is practically worth a lot more than a struggling Pakistani in Pakistan.

Moham Raza  
Faisalabad

## A flawed approach

THE person who came up with the suggestion to conduct forced electricity loadshedding in areas with high electricity theft was either ignorant or an enemy of the nation and the people of Pakistan. The strategy does not make any economic sense, and it only guarantees the paying consumers rather than ending the problem of electricity theft, which happens only with the help of the staff of distribution companies (Discos).

Let us suppose an area is supplied with 100 units of electricity costing Rs5 per unit, and there is a loss/half of 10 units.

The relevant Disco recovers Rs450. But the Disco, under the current strategy, decides to impose forced electricity loadshedding for, say, 30 per cent of the time, or seven hours per day. Now, the Disco supplies 70 units of power and there is still a loss of seven units because the actual problem has not been fixed. The Disco is now able to recover only Rs315.

Since the government has to still pay for 200 units of electricity due to the nature of existing contracts with the suppliers, the Disco, by recovering Rs315 instead of Rs450, has increased the shortfall in income from 10pc to 37pc.

This is simple mathematics, not rocket science. The forced electricity loadshedding is reducing the income of Discos, and helping increase the national circular debt. Besides, it is creating hundreds of problems for the people and businesses. The simple solution is to hold the staff responsible for the losses, and get them to identify electricity thieves.

One can only hope that the government will stop this ridiculous action of conducting forced loadshedding as it is slowly destroying the national economy. Even Pakistan's enemies would have struggled to cause this much harm to the country.

Shahqar Khan Banoor  
Islamabad

## It's a mixed bag

THE World Justice Project report this year placed the judiciary in Pakistan at the 129th place on a list of 142 countries. Over the years, there have been many individuals within the institution who chose to appease powerful dictators and members of the establishment.

They are the ones responsible for such a low perception of the institution. They passed judgments authorising dictators to amend the Constitution, and then followed it up to assume this power for themselves by reversing the Constitution behind the façade of interpretation.

In such an environment, there were some who became victims of slander and vicious campaigns run just by the dictators, but also from within the institution.

The outgoing chief justice, Qazi Faez-Isa, was one of the individuals who upheld the oath of their office, and strictly followed the Constitution in letter and in spirit.

He will always be remembered for his courage and commitment in the face of heavy odds and pressures. His father, the late Qazi Mohammad Isa, was a staunch supporter of the Quaid-i-Azam, and was president of the Muslim League in Balochistan, besides being the youngest member of the All-India Muslim League (AIML) central executive committee. He would definitely be proud of his son.

Malik Tariq Ali  
Lahore

► **GROUND REALITIES:** On a recent visit from the United States, my daughter brought with her an old phone that she had been using for many years and even her daughter had used it for some years. In the UK, it was worth \$20 if she opted to exchange it with a new one. So she gave it to me. Within 48 hours, I got a message from the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority that I needed to pay the stipulated duty within 60 days, or the phone would be shut down. The amount I had to pay was Rs42,000, roughly \$150. The idea of recouping this incident is to stress that most of our institutions are being run by people who make policies without accounting for the ground realities.

Razaq Lary  
Karachi

► **FINANCIAL JOLT:** Our old non-static electricity meter was replaced by the relevant agency about three months ago. Since then, the meter reader takes the reading of other meters in the vicinity, but not ours. The meter has accumulated more than 700 units already. Upon inquiry, the meter reader said that he did not have its record yet, and, therefore, could not take its reading. One can imagine how much will be the electricity bill for so many units whenever I receive the next bill. The authority concerned should resolve the issue.

Wasim Abbas  
Swat

► **YOUTH AND POLITICS:** As a young person, I am deeply concerned about the troubling lack of youth engagement in politics. It is essential that we empower the young to actively participate in the democratic process and express their views. I propose that schools incorporate comprehensive civic education programmes, equipping students with knowledge about their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Moreover, creating accessible platforms for youth to engage directly with local leaders can significantly enhance community involvement. Initiatives such as town hall meetings, youth councils and mentorship programmes would inspire future leaders, and also ensure that young voices are heard in shaping policies that affect their lives.

Kyranza Heral  
Karachi

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

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## The significance of cooperation over confrontation

THIS is with reference to the report 'Pain scores BRICS win with rare Xi, Modi show of harmony' (Oct 24). The recent summit of BRICS, an alliance of emerging economies, in Russia marked a significant turning point in the global political landscape. The meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi signalled a potential thaw in the long-standing animosity between the two nuclear powers. This development, coupled with the summit's focus on alternative payment systems and economic cooperation, has raised hopes for a multipolar world order.

The summit's outcome, including the resolution of the long-year military standoff on the Himalayan frontier, is a testament to the growing recognition by both nations of the importance of cooperation over confrontation. The shared commitment to peace and stability on the border, as expressed by both the leaders, is a positive development that could pave the way for greater economic and political collaboration between the two giants.

The summit's focus on alternative payment systems, such as a potential BRICS-backed currency, is a significant step towards reducing dependence on the greenback. This move could challenge the



dominance of the Western financial system, and empower emerging economies to play a more central role in global economic governance.

However, the future of BRICS will remain uncertain till both China and India put their words of reconciliation into action on the ground. Else, their bilateral disputes may pose a significant challenge to the group's unity. The recent summit has offered a glimpse of hope for a more harmonious relationship between the two countries. If they can sustain this

momentum and address their underlying differences, the BRICS could play a more pivotal role in shaping the global order.

The summit has demonstrated the growing influence of emerging economies and the potential for alternative governance structures. As the world continues to evolve, the BRICS group may emerge as a key player in shaping the future of global politics and economics.

Sajjad Ali Mughal  
Larkana

## KP records 44 new dengue cases

PESHAWAR: The health department reported 44 new dengue cases on Saturday as doctors urged patients to follow precautions against the mosquito-borne illness.

During a seminar held at the Quat Hussain Ahmed Medical Complex, Nowshera, doctors urged the residents to remove standing water from their areas to prevent mosquitoes, which are the vector-borne disease's carriers and transmitters, from breeding there.

The medical complex's medical director Dr Sardar Sahid Akbar announced that the organisation would keep up its dengue awareness campaign in Nowshera district, the only one where the disease has claimed two lives.

He added that Nowshera was the site of the virus and precautions had to be taken to avoid mosquito bites, as evidenced by the 193 cases of the 2,935 infections reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During the event, Dr Khatir Hakeem Khan Deen Wazir, the hospital's director, gave the guests information about dengue symptoms and how to avoid them. He advised anyone experiencing headache, joint or bone discomfort, nausea, vomiting, or fever to see the appropriate physician for further testing.

Prof Muhammad Khalid and Prof Dr Hameed Razaq also addressed the event organised by the General Medicine Department. According to the health department, the disease had so far infected 2,935 people, of whom 2,517 had recovered.

According to the latest report, 850 persons have been hospitalised due to dengue haemorrhagic fever.

In the last 24 hours, eight new patients were admitted to hospitals. The province's highest number of cases by district is 1,001 in Peshawar.—Bureau Report

## Religious scholar Maulana Hakeem dies in Bajaur

BAJAUR: Renowned religious scholar and head of seminaries' teachers' association, Maulana Muhammad Hakeem, died after a brief illness in Bajaur tribal district, family members said here on Saturday.

They said that the 70-year-old Maulana, who died at his home last night, was laid to rest in Sahiabad town of Khar taluk. A large number of people from different walks of life, including religious leaders, political and social activists, teachers and students of seminaries from across the district, attended his funeral prayers.

Having started his career as a teacher in a notable seminary in Karachi in 1970, Maulana Hakeem had a great command on religious knowledge, especially the one related to the daily life of people.

Maulana Hakeem, who remained the administrator of several popular local seminaries from 1985 till 2024, was also the author of several books on religion.

Moreover, he also remained the president of the seminaries' teachers' association for a decade in Bajaur tribal district. According to his family, Maulana Hakeem left behind a widow and four children to mourn his death.—Correspondent

# No funds for KP local bodies due to financial constraints: Gandapur

CM discusses LG issues with tehsil council heads

By Muhammad Ashfaq

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has expressed its inability to allocate development funds to local bodies in the province, citing financial constraints as the reason.

This message has been communicated to local body representatives by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur during a meeting here on Tuesday, according to a participant.

He told them that the meeting was called to discuss amendments to the Tehsil Local Government Rules of Business, 2022, proposed by local body members as well as their other issues.

Mayor of Mardan city Haseemullah Khan said that two tiers local government system comprising tehsil and village and neighbourhood were installed in two phases of elections held in Dec 2021 and March 2022, respectively.

He said that the government was bound by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013, to allocate 20 per cent of the funds from the Annual Development Programme for the development schemes of local bodies.

"In view of the 20 per cent share in ADP funds, our [local bodies] share in the financial year 2022-23 comes to Rs33 billion, Rs34 billion in 2023-24 and Rs27 billion in the current 2024-25, but the provincial government has not released a single penny out of our cumulative share of Rs94 billion since our installation," he said.

The mayor said the denial of development funds had literally brought the municipal and social services of local bodies to a standstill, with the poor people being the ultimate sufferers.

He said the unavailability of funds had also affected the performance of devolved departments.

The meeting was attended by local government minister Arshad Ayub, officials of the local government and other relevant departments, according to an official statement from the Chief Minister's House here.

The participants included a dele-

gation of the elected local body representatives, including tehsil council chairman Ismailullah of Mithra, Arzulah of Lakki Marwat, Shah Khudai of Landi Kotal and Hafizur Rehman of Haseemkhel, and Abbottabad mayor Sardar Shuja Nali.

They discussed the proposed amendments to the Tehsil Local Government Rules of Business, 2022, proposed by local body representatives, and agreed to almost all of them in principle.

The amendments will now be tabled in the provincial cabinet for approval, according to the statement.

The participants also decided that a meeting would be held to address other legitimate demands of the local body representatives.

On the occasion, the chief minister said the approval of these amendments would empower local governments, making them more effective.

He said the provincial government was committed to strengthening local bodies financially and administratively, giving it with the vision of PTI founder chairman Imran Khan.

"Empowering local bodies will enable them to address public issues at the

provincial government and the citizens, so the current provincial government is taking priority steps to resolve issues faced by local representatives," he said.

Mr Gandapur said that monthly remuneration and allowances for tehsil council chairmen had been increased from Rs30,000 to Rs80,000, while Rs466 million were recently released for village and neighbourhood councils in settled districts and Rs14 million for those in merged tribal districts.

He also said Rs148 million had been released for tehsil municipal administrations in settled districts and Rs33 million for those in tribal districts.

The chief minister said the government had approved Rs150 million for holding sports activities under local governments in tribal districts, while the provision of vehicles to tehsil council chairmen would be completed in the next few days.

He said ministerial funds had also been released to clear outstanding dues of local bodies. The visitors appreciated the chief minister for addressing their concerns and announced the cancellation of their call for a protest on October 30.

## DG health will stay put, declares dept

It insists service tribunal hasn't ordered removal of Dr Saleem

By Ashfaq Yasulzai

PESHAWAR: Amid controversy about the position of the director general health services, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department has declared that the incumbent, Dr Muhammad Saleem Khan, will stay put due to his predecessor's failure to get an order from the service tribunal against his transfer.

The tribunal had ruled on Oct 22 that if the health department's order for the transfer of former DG Dr Shaukat Ali had yet not been acted upon, it stood suspended, according to a health official.

He told Dawn that the services tribunal's ruling was clear and self-explanatory, so Dr Shaukat couldn't be removed to the DG's post.

The official said that the tribunal's decision clearly suggested that if the concerned transfer had been executed, then its (tribunal's) temporary injunction issued over the main appeal of Dr Shaukat would be ineffective, so the existing DG would continue to hold his position.

Official sources claimed that the health department issued the clarification about the DG's position after the incumbent, Dr Saleem, formally approached the health secretary on Oct 22, 2024, insisting that he assumed the charge of the office after being posted by the chief minister on May 16, 2024.

"In an application, titled 'Incident Report' and filed with the secretary's office, Dr Saleem claimed that he was attending a meeting of the provincial task force on public eradication at the office of the chief secretary when his staff members informed him that his predecessor, Dr Shaukat, forced his

entry to his office and occupied his chair in a move, which was without any lawful authority or government's notification."

He added that the former DG was under scrutiny and faced inquiries over irregularities, misconduct and corrupt practices.

Dr Saleem also said that his predecessor pressured his supporting staff in "conspiracy with one of the additional directors-general and some private persons and signed the charge assumption report by force."

He said the "illegal attack and harassment of staff and officers by Dr Shaukat at my office are

gross misconduct, inefficiency and unlawful actions against my office."

The DG urged the health secretary to initiate legal action against his predecessor for the illegal acts.

Dr Shaukat, a BPS-20 management cadre officer, was made DG (health services) on Jan 17 last year but was suspended on April 25, 2024, on the charge of corruption. He was replaced with Dr Saleem, the then chief executive officer of the Faculty of Paramedics and Allied Health Science, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Dr Saleem, a BPS-20 management cadre officer, has held key management positions at the Provincial Health Services Academy, Peshawar-based Paramedical Institute and other public sector organisations.

He was selected as DG from a panel of three senior doctors. Official sources said that the health department had formally informed the service tribunal in the case that Dr Saleem was appointed as the DG (health services) in May after the removal of Dr Shaukat.

## Blaze rips through Hayatabad tissue paper factory

PESHAWAR: Firefighters from several districts put out a factory blaze on the western fringes of the provincial capital after several hours of effort.

Rescue 1122 said that the fire erupted at around 1:40pm inside the Royal PVC Green Tissue Paper and Diapers Factory in the Hayatabad Industrial Estate, adjacent to Karkhoro Market and Khyber tribal district.

Blal Fatai, a spokesperson for Rescue 1122, told Dawn that the fire was apparently caused by an electrical short-circuit.

He, however, said that there were no casualties in the incident.

The spokesman said that due to the intensity of the blaze, firefighters and fire tes-

ders were called in from nearby districts to put down the fire.

"Firefighters and fire engines from Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda, Swat, Nowshera and Khyber districts also worked to extinguish the fire," he said, adding that more than 20 fire tenders, including 10 from districts other than Peshawar, took part in the operation.

Mr Fatai also said that 60 firefighters also participated in the exercise, with several fainting due to the intense fire.

He said that the firefighters struggled to put out the blaze because most of the material used in the factory was of polythene, which quickly melted and spread all over the place.



FIREFIGHTERS extinguishing fire at a factory in Hayatabad Industrial Estate, Peshawar, on Saturday.—Photo by Shahbaz Butt

"Rescue workers tried to control the blaze with foam fire water, but it was almost 50 per cent under control," he said.

Hayatabad Medical Complex's medical director Shahbaz Akbar Khan told Dawn that the hospital received a few patients with minor burns and all of them were discharged after giving first aid.

The blaze was so intense that the thick plumes of smoke following from the burning factory were visible from several kilometres away in Peshawar Cantonment and Kohat Road areas.

Videos of the fire, shared on social media platforms, showed a large number of people shifting rolls of papers and diapers away from the burning factory.

Residents of Hayatabad said a thick plume of smoke hung over cantonment and city areas.—Bureau Report

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF CHIEF DEVELOPMENT GEOLOGIST

Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Islamabad, a leading E&P Company invites applications for the position of Chief Development Geologist in EG-VI.

**QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:**  
M.Sc/B.S (04 years) Degree in Geology, recognised by HEC with 12 years of relevant post-qualification experience in E&P sector as a Development Geoscientist / Geo-modeler including 8-year hands-on experience in working on the construction of Static Reservoir Modeling and Geology. Expert with Structural Interpretation, Field Development, Fracture Characterization, Reservoir Characterization, Facies Analysis, Geo-modeling Workflow, Uncertainty Analysis, and Volumetric Estimation. Applicant must also possess expertise in Brown Field Revival through the development wells. Additionally, applicant should be advanced Geo-modeler with a strong understanding of all aspects of geology, geophysics, petrophysics and reservoir simulation.

**NOTE:**

- The term of employment will be three (03) years extendable with mutual consent. Open-term contract may be offered upon successful completion of the initial period.
- In case of a foreign degree, an equivalency certificate from HEC must be provided.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview.
- The company reserves the right to fill or not to fill the advertised position.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for the interview.
- Upper Age Limit: 45 Years

**HOW TO APPLY:**  
Fill out/finish the online application form available at Company website i.e. www.ogdcl.com and submit it by **November 11, 2024**. Incomplete applications and those received after due date will not be entertained and after the deadline, the link for submitting the application form won't be accessible.

In case of any query, please contact on **051-920023544**.

**TARIQ M. QURESHI**  
MANAGER (RECRUITMENT/POLICY)  
OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED  
No. 22/02/ OGDC HOUSE, JINNAH AVENUE, BLUE AREA ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF DEPUTY CHIEF RESERVOIR ENGINEER

Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Islamabad, a leading E&P Company invites applications for the position of Deputy Chief Reservoir Engineer in EG-V.

**QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:**  
Bachelor of Engineering in Petroleum & Gas Engineering (04 years degree, recognised by HEC/registered with PEC) with 10 years of relevant post-qualification experience in E&P sector as a Reservoir Engineer including 5-year hands-on experience in Reservoir Simulation (Black oil & Compositional). Applicant must

- possess a comprehensive understanding of Reservoir Dynamic Modeling as well as EOR/IOE and Hydraulic / Acid fracturing of both conventional as well as unconventional reservoirs.
- demonstrate expertise in simulation software such as INTERSECT, Petrel (RE) & Eclipse (Office, Black Oil, Compositional, etc.) with the ability to construct simulation models by integrating geological models.
- have significant experience in production optimization of oil & gas fields.
- be champion in Brown Field Revival and be well-versed in the application of Innovative Technologies in hydrocarbon exploitation

**NOTE:**

- The term of employment will be three (03) years, contract extendable with mutual consent.
- In case of a foreign degree, an equivalency certificate from HEC must be provided.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview.
- The company reserves the right to fill or not to fill the advertised position.
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No. 22/02/ OGDC HOUSE, JINNAH AVENUE, BLUE AREA ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

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- Delivery terms: Within 90 days after order placement / Opening of L.C.
- Scope: Price includes the complete scope with installation, Commissioning, Lifecycle support with spares & Performance Test.
- Warranty: Minimum 12 Months.
- In case of authorized distributors / agents, they must have capability of providing arrangement for import process in Pakistan over FOR basis over competitive rates.

**Closing date 12th November, 2024.**

**Note:**  
Bids will be submitted through email on: [saleem.gasim@pmtf.com](mailto:saleem.gasim@pmtf.com) with cc to: [saud.ahmed@pmtf.com](mailto:saud.ahmed@pmtf.com) before **12th November, 2024**.

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TSE-2425/199/1443 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOS Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOS. The Executive Engineer Provincial B&R District Zhob invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

**Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 3%**

S.No	Name of Work	ECost
1	Construction of Road (Dab-Wana (AOCL) District Zhob (PWO-6)	962,827,587

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required PEC Registration with CE-02 (computer), CE-01 & CE-10 Code 1 ongoing work of total of minimum value 400 million or 2 combined work order of minimum value of 400 million issued by a valid procuring agency in last 05 years 1 ongoing work of bridge of minimum value 300 million or 2 combined work order of minimum value of 300 million issued by a valid procuring agency in last 05 years Turnover certificate showing an average turnover of 200 million (per year) in last 03 years 3% CGR / bank guarantee in favour of Executive Engineer Road CWP/PSH Department Registration / Black Listing Certificate on Rs. 100 Stamp Paper duly attested by notary public / with commissioner in favour of Executive Engineer Road CWP/PSH Department Zhob along with the name of work and TSE no. of the subject work Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under signed both a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 12 November, 2024@ 01:30 PM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 02:30 PM on EPPS System Address: Office of the Executive Engineer-B Provincial B&R District Zhob Phone no: 0300000000 Email: [meharshahid100@gmail.com](mailto:meharshahid100@gmail.com)

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## Aurangzeb hopes for higher investments in next CPEC phase

Sees engagement shift to business-to-business model

By Aamir Iqbal

WASHINGTON: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has transitioned from a government-to-government investment model in its first phase to a business-to-business engagement in its second phase.

He made these remarks in an interview with the US edition of China's CGTN network. He previously indicated that Pakistan could repay its Chinese debt only after successfully completing CPEC's second phase.

During his interview with CGTN, the minister described CPEC as the "champion project" of China's Belt and Road Initiative, noting that significant infrastructure — particularly road networks and ports — was developed during the first phase.

He underscored the importance of CPEC's second phase and highlighted Pakistan's anticipation of increased Chinese investment to support this stage. He thanked the Chinese government and banks for their assistance in debt rollovers, while acknowledging the need for eventual repayment, affirming Pakistan's commitment to fulfilling its financial obligations.

In a separate meeting on Saturday with China's Vice Minister of Finance, Liao Min, Mr Aurangzeb reaffirmed Pakistan and China's enduring strategic cooperative partnership. He expressed gratitude for China's steadfast support in Pakistan's socio-economic development and its role in securing the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

### Energy challenges

On his fifth day in Washington, attending the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, Mr Aurangzeb engaged in high-level meetings with key international stakeholders, including US officials and representatives from leading financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank.

In a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Geoffrey Spain, Mr Aurangzeb discussed Pakistan's energy sector challenges and the comprehensive reform being introduced. He appreciated US

support in helping Pakistan transition to renewable energy sources.

Separately, he also met with Rita Jo Lewis, President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. He encouraged closer collaboration and welcomed EXIM's interest in Pakistan's energy, minerals, and IT sectors, and assured provision of necessary data to facilitate the bank's market entry evaluation. Additionally, he sought clarification on US news requirements for goods and services financed or insured by EXIM Bank.

Muhammad Kallala, Global Head of Corporate and Investment Banking at Natixia, met with Mr Aurangzeb to discuss Natixia's operations, focusing on its strong presence in infrastructure, renewable energy, transportation, aviation, and telecom/technology sectors.

They explored potential partnerships with Gulf investors, particularly from Saudi Arabia, to provide financing and advisory support for investments in Pakistan.

In another meeting, Karan Bhatia, Vice President and Global Head of Government Affairs and Public Policy at Google, provided an overview of Google's recent activities in Pakistan, along with its plans to expand investments and contribute substantially to the country's economy. To support these initiatives, Bhatia raised regulatory, legislative, connectivity, and financial concerns.

### Rating upgrade

Mr Aurangzeb also held discussions with representatives from Moody's credit rating agency, where he expressed appreciation for the recent upgrade of Pakistan's credit rating to Caa2.

He highlighted the Ministry of Finance and the central bank's ongoing engagement with rating agencies. The meeting included a detailed briefing on Pakistan's debt sustainability, monetary policy, vulnerability to external factors, foreign exchange reserves, fiscal discipline, revenue outlook, government strength, and resilience of financial markets.

**APP AIDES:** During a meeting with representatives of AEP Global, the minister expressed the hope of a rating upgrade soon.

In a meeting with ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa, he appreciated ADB's partnership to support Pakistan's development agenda and hoped the Country Partnership Framework would be finalized soon.

positive sentiment and renewed investor interest. Also, the index profitability skyrocketed by 24.4pc during FY24 to a historic high level of Rs1.6 trillion, he said.

In 2024, the main board welcomed new listings, including Secure Logistics (SLGL), TPI, REAT Panel (TPLRPT), International Packaging (IPAK), Fast Cables (FCL), and BP Bioactives (BFRD). Moreover, Mughal Energy (GEMMEL) and Bari Clean Energy (GEMMEL) have been added to the GSE board.

Capital raised since IPOs this year reached its highest since CY21, under-scoring a strong appetite for new investment opportunities in the market.

Total demand for IPOs in 2024 amounted to Rs1.6tn, with Rs8.4tn raised, resulting in a 1.6 times oversubscription.

In addition to IPOs, 10 companies issued rights shares, raising Rs1.3tn, showcasing a consistent demand for capital expansion across various sectors.

In CY24, four companies — Nylens International, LSE Capital, UDL International, and Big Bird Foods — were listed at PSX through a merger compared to three companies last year.

"The IPO market in Pakistan has seen a significant revival in CY24, supported by an improved economic landscape and a tremendous performance by the stock market," said AHE report.

However, the report did not discuss hurdles like political uncertainty derailing economic growth over the last three years.

## Temporary vehicle imports allowed to boost tourism

Baggage rules amended to confiscate goods in bulk

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: In an apparent effort to promote foreign tourist mobility, the government has allowed foreign visitors to temporarily import duty-free vehicles for three months.

At the same time, the government has also decided that the adjusting authority would confiscate goods carried in commercial quantities under the Baggage Rules 2006. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has issued two different notifications, SROs 5649 and 1629 of 2024, to notify the proposed changes in the customs rules.

As per proposed amendments, a tourist will be given a delivery of a vehicle if they import it with a carnet-de-passage or a bank guarantee. The officer-in-charge of the customs station will make the delivery of entry without pay-

ment of duties for its retention in Pakistan for a period of three months.

However, the tourist will submit a declaration at the customs station or port of entry stating that he will not constructively or materially transfer ownership of the car to anybody else during his stay in Pakistan.

The facility appears to benefit Middle Eastern royal families and other elites who can afford to import their high-end luxury vehicles. However, the facility will also benefit those who visit Pakistan by road.

It was also clarified that the customs collector might extend the vehicle's stay for an additional three months if visitors cannot export the vehicle by the deadline. However, this extension will be subject to having valid carnet-de-passage or bank guarantee and undertaking by the carnet holder that he will not leave the country during the extended period.

To make things easier for tourists, it was determined that recognised foreign tour agencies would be permitted to re-enter

the same vehicle after it had exited within one year for a period of up to three months at a time. However, in the case of the same tourist (non-Pakistani) or in the name of someone else (non-Pakistani), a temporary release of the same vehicle after exit is permitted for 14 days in exchange for a carnet-de-passage or bank guarantee.

It was also determined that FBR would have the authority to extend the vehicle's use time for up to six months in certain instances after meeting the criteria. If the carnet holder fails to get a legal extension, the vehicle must be surrendered to the appropriate collector.

It was also agreed that if the importer chooses to keep the car beyond the period for which authorisation has been granted, he must acquire an import permit from the Ministry of Commerce and pay the customs charges and taxes levied on the day of importation.

Furthermore, if a tourist imports a vehicle for passage through Pakistan to a foreign destination, the officer in charge of

the customisation of entry may, in the absence of a carnet-de-passage or a bank guarantee, allow the vehicle to pass through Pakistan without payment of customs duties under escort from the Customisation of entry to the Customisation of exit on payment of escort charges, determined by the relevant collector.

The particulars of the vehicle permitted in transit through Pakistan will be endorsed on the tourist importer's passport.

### Baggage rules

Through another notification, SRO5649 of 2024, the FBR introduced amendments to the Baggage Rules 2006 to discourage the commercial use of this facility, which was originally available only for overseas Pakistanis.

Earlier, the goods brought in commercial quantity were allowed to be released on payment of duty and taxes at the statutory rates and the redemption fine equal to 50 per cent of the value of goods. It was decided that the customs adjudication authorities would outrightly confiscate such commercial goods.



IMPORTS from India surged to \$57.48bn in July-September 2024-25 from almost \$7bn a year ago.—AFP/PA

## Trade deficit with regional states balloons 62pc

ISLAMABAD: The country's trade deficit with nine neighbouring countries swelled by 62 per cent to \$2.517 billion in the first quarter of the current fiscal year from \$1.568bn.

Trade experts attributed the surge mainly to increased imports from China, India and Afghanistan. Since the deficit rise remains unchanged from the previous fiscal year, it may cause policymakers big problems. In FY24, the trade deficit with these countries was \$5.504bn, up 49pc from \$3.682bn in the preceding fiscal year.

Exports to Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka saw an upward trend in the July-September period FY25, but exports to other countries, especially China in the region, continued to decline during the months under review, according to data compiled by the State Bank of Pakistan.

The value of Pakistan's exports to nine countries — Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Iran, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives — rose 8pc to \$1.059 billion in July-September FY25 from \$983.19bn over the previous year.

Contrary to this, imports surged 43pc to \$1.975bn in July-Sept FY25 from \$1.382bn over the same period in the previous fiscal.

Further details show that imports from China grew by 42pc to \$1.896bn in IMFY25 from \$1.344bn over the last year. In FY24, imports from China stood at \$1.350bn — up by 20.7pc from \$1.114bn over the previous year. The bulk of imports in the region are sourced from China, followed by India.

Pakistan's exports to China dipped 12pc to \$559.05m in IMFY25 from \$633.64m over the same month in the preceding financial year.

Pakistan's imports from India increased 77pc to \$57.48bn in

IMFY25 from \$6.599m over the last year. In FY24, imports from India rose 8.66pc to \$205.89m — up from \$190.04m in the same period last year. Meanwhile, exports to India remained at \$0.277m in IMFY25 against \$0.044m over the last year.

Exports to India stood at \$3.667m during FY24, as against \$0.327m in the same period the previous year.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government has repeatedly hinted at resuming commercial links with India. Pakistan has reduced diplomatic connections with India since August 2019, when the Indian government repealed Article 370 of the Constitution, removing the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The PTI-led government attempted to allow the import of sugar and yarn from India via a Wagah border to restore commerce with India. However, the (then) opposition parties PML-N and PPP fiercely opposed the idea, and the decision was rescinded. Now, the same political parties in power are eager to resume commercial relations with India.

Exports to Afghanistan increased 55pc to \$200.87m in IMFY25 from \$129.22m last year. Imports from Afghanistan stood at \$6.38m in IMFY25, as against \$1.05m in IMFY24.

No data available as most trade with Iran is conducted via informal channels.

Exports to Bangladesh increased by 30pc to \$188.11m in IMFY25. Imports also grew 8pc to \$16.69m.

Exports to Sri Lanka surged 43pc to \$108.62m in IMFY25. Shipments to Nepal fell 29pc to \$0.565m. Exports to Maldives rose 20pc to \$2.35m in IMFY25.

No trade was observed between Pakistan and Bhutan during the first quarter of the current fiscal year. — Mubarak Zeb Khan

## PTCL group faces troubled financial path

By Kalba Ali

ISLAMABAD: PTCL group, the country's largest telecom conglomerate, appears to be heading down a similar troubled path as other beleaguered state-owned entities like Pakistan Steel Mills, PIA, and Pakistan Railways, struggling with financial losses despite increasing revenue streams.

Like previous occasions, the recent financial results announced by the PTCL group showed a revenue increase of 15.3 per cent to Rs666.6 billion in the first nine months of the current year compared to the same period in 2023. The company attributed this strong performance to the consumer segment, particularly driven by fixed broadband, mobile data, and wholesale and business solutions.

However, the PTCL group reported a net loss of Rs15.1bn during this period. The Pakistan government awarded the management control of PTCL to the UAE group Etisalat in 2016 on a cost of a \$2.1bn deal to acquire a 36 per cent stake in the company. That year, the company reported a profit of Rs28bn, but a downturn trend has persisted since then.

While the government of Pakistan is the owner of PTCL, with 62pc shares, around 12pc is held by banks, modarabas, insurance sector and general public through stock market.

The PTCL group comprises PTCL, Ufone and Uland, with the majority of undersea internet cables owned by PTCL. The company holds a dominant position in the internet wholesale business and also has a large presence in the retail internet and telephony sectors, including its cellular mobile network.

The PTCL group posted a net loss of Rs4.1bn in 2023 despite a revenue increase of 25.8pc compared to the previous year, totaling Rs190.6bn. This occurred even as Ufone achieved a 25.6pc growth in its revenue and U Microfinance Bank maintained a strong momentum with a 76.5pc revenue growth in 2023.

The company's statement said Ufone 4G emerged as the standout performer in the telecom industry in 2023, reporting exceptional revenue growth that surpassed all other operators. However, since Ufone is not a publicly listed company, its financial details remain undisclosed, whereas PTCL's financial results are publicly released.

For the 12-month period in 2023, PTCL reported revenues of Rs96.20bn, with service costs at Rs25.88bn and administrative expenses amounting to Rs8.88bn. The profit after tax for PTCL in 2023 was Rs9.39bn, compared to Rs9.05bn in 2022. The losses faced by the PTCL group were primarily attributed to a significant downturn at Ufone.

Despite inquiries about the company's ongoing financial losses, PTCL did not respond. However, a senior official indicated that the media would be updated on the issue in the next quarterly results briefing.

Analysts have raised concerns about the high administrative and financial costs of the PTCL group, which range between 8pc and 10pc of revenue generation.

"The management of PTCL should operate the company like a private sector entity, but it continues to function like any other state-owned enterprise, such as PIA, Pakistan Railways, or Pakistan Steel Mills. The only difference is that the top management of PTCL is not Pakistani," said Naveed Malik, a financial analyst at Topline Securities. He cautioned that, given the current operational approach, PTCL's financial losses could further escalate following the acquisition of Telecom Pakistan.

## MNCs essential good sales see mixed trend amid boycott

By Aamir Shafiq Khan

KARACHI: The manufacturers of essential foreign items in Pakistan have not experienced significant declines, unlike foreign soft drink, mineral water, and fast food sales, which have been adversely affected by consumer boycott in response to the massacre of thousands of Palestinians by Israeli forces over the past year.

For example, Nestle Pakistan's sales for the nine months ended Sept 30 stood at Rs149.2 billion, reflecting a decline of margin 1.3pc compared to Rs151bn in the same period last year. However, the company's profit-after-tax (PAT) plunged 29.50pc to Rs12.2bn from Rs15.8bn the previous year.

Nestle said this was a decline primarily influenced by the implementation of taxes in the Finance Act, passed on to consumers, leading to price hikes and reduced demand. Additionally, challenges such as rising commodity and energy prices and increased investment in the brands contributed to decreased operating profit.

Nestle maintains a cautious outlook for the rest of the year while focusing on optimisation across the value chain.

However, the net sales of PricedatedCampina Engro Pakistan Ltd (PCEPL) rose 12pc to Rs85.5bn during nine months ending on Sept 30 from Rs74bn in the same period last year, while PAT improved to Rs18bn from Rs1.6bn.

Out of total sales, dairy-based segment revenue posted a growth of 12pc to Rs13.5bn, according to a press release.

Effective July 1, an 18pc sales tax was imposed on the sale of UHF milk, which was previously zero-rated.

In an environment where the disposable income for an average consumer is declining, the imposition of sales tax has severely impacted the processed milk category, leading to a significant decline. This also incentivises the consumption of loose milk, which is untaxed.

The enhanced gross margins and reduced tax expense drove the growth in PAT. With consumer demand under pressure, the company will continue to adapt and respond to the evolving market through relevant consumer offerings and stricter

cost rationalisations to enhance its profitability and shareholder returns, FrieslandCampina said.

Overall sales of Unilever Pakistan Foods Ltd (UPFL) declined by 6.2pc to Rs24.8bn from Rs26.4bn in the nine months of 2023. PAT fell to Rs5.43bn from Rs7.5bn.

The company said the business faced a drop in sales but recently funded price architecture interventions resulted in a volume uplift. In response to compounding inflation, Unilever took resilient measures and successfully delivered a gross margin of 39.1 pc, while earnings per share declined by 27.3 pc due to the maturity of tax credits.

Unilever said that the new IMF loan, declining policy rate and subsidising inflation were signs of the country moving

towards economic stability. However, the implementation of ambitious reforms is crucial for long-term growth.

Like the absence of goods boycott, the manufacturers have shown no serious sales concerns in the financial results for the current and upcoming months, given soaring Middle East tension.

Many consumers have rejected foreign soft drinks and mineral water, thus paving the way for locally-made soft drinks to gain a major share.

However, the data of Large-Scale Manufacturing showed no extraordinary manufacturing of soft drinks and mineral water as they produced 607m litres in July-August compared to 600m litres in the same period in 2023.

# Rival London marches pass off peacefully

LONDON: Rightwing, anti-immigrant protesters and opposing anti-racism demonstrators held large rallies in London on Saturday, with both passing off peacefully amid a beefed-up police operation to prevent any clashes between the rival groups.

Several thousand people wearing English and British flags joined the "Unite the Kingdom" nationalist rally by parliament, organised by anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim activist Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, known by the pseudonym Tommy Robinson.

A counter-gathering of anti-racism campaigners and trade unionists also took place nearby, with marchers carrying banners saying "Refugees Welcome" and "Stop the Far Right". Police officers were drafted in from around the country to avert possible unrest, but the London force said on X only a handful of arrests had been made.



STEWARDS stand in front of demonstrators at an anti-immigration protest in London, on Saturday.—Reuters

# Thousands rally in Lisbon against racism in policing

LISBON: Thousands took to Lisbon's streets on Saturday to protest against police use of force and racism, following a week of unrest sparked by the shooting of a black man by officers.

Chanting "No peace without justice" and "Police violence, colonial heritage", the demonstrators marched peacefully on the Portuguese capital's central avenue, brandishing placards with messages including "Racism kills" and "Black lives matter". Urban violence is rare in Portugal.

But in the last week several downtown neighbourhoods with large immigrant communities have seen clashes following the killing on Sunday night of a 43-year-old man from Cape Verde, a former Portuguese colony in Africa.

Police said Odeir Morit was shot dead while trying to escape after attacking officers with a knife. That account has since been called into question by several reports in the press. The 20-year-old police officer who shot Morit — twice — has since been charged with manslaughter, Portuguese media reported.

"Odeir was a good father, someone who was appreciated by his whole community," Luis Gomes, a 20-year-old at the protest who lives in the same neighbourhood as Morit said.

"We don't judge people by the colour of their skin. I know it's not easy for the police, but they need to be better prepared. No one has the right to kill anyone," added Gomes, who works as a private security guard.

Jose Rosa, a 56-year-old from Cape Verde who has lived in Portugal since childhood, said he was "shocked by all this". "This is not the first time one of our young people has been killed and there is no justice," he said, while adding that he regretted the past week's violence.

Portugal's far-right Chega party, which made fresh gains in March's parliamentary elections, had called for a counter-demonstration in solidarity with the police for Saturday. That drew a crowd of around 200, according to the media.—AFP

# Four held in Italy over alleged illegal database access

MILAN: Italian police have placed four people under house arrest, including Leonardo Maria Del Vecchio, son of the late billionaire founder of Luxorica, as part of a probe into alleged illegal access to state databases, a source said on Saturday.

A lawyer for Leonardo Maria Del Vecchio said he was "actively assisting the completion of preliminary investigations to be able to prove he has nothing to do with the events in question and that charges laid against him have no basis". "He seems to be rather a victim given initial allegations and the negative outcome of the search conducted," lawyer Maria Emanuela Marcolini said in a statement.

The alleged database access was carried out by a private intelligence business run by a former policeman, a person with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Leonardo Maria Del Vecchio is the son of Leonardo Del Vecchio, who founded May Bancorror Luxorica. He allegedly tested the intelligence agency with gathering information, as his father's heirs are in disagreement over the inheritance, the person said.

The illegal access to confidential data, which was allegedly sold to customers or used to blackmail businessmen and politicians, went back to at least 2019 and continued up to March this year, a court document showed.—Reuters

# Commonwealth agrees 'time has come' for talks on legacy of slavery

APIA: The Commonwealth's 56 members agreed the "time has come" for talks about the legacy of the "abhorrent" transatlantic slave trade on Saturday, in a landmark summit declaration that raised the prospect of future reparations.

Gathering in Samoa, leaders from Britain and dozens of former colonies held lengthy and occasionally tense talks over one of the most sensitive aspects of their shared and troubled past.

In a joint statement, Commonwealth leaders called calls for "reparatory justice" for the "abhorrent" transatlantic slave trade and the "enduring effects" of disseminating indigenous people, inferiority and colonialism.

"The time has come for a meaningful, truthful and respectful conversation towards forging a common future based on equity," a joint "Samoa Communiqué" said.

African, Caribbean and Pacific nations want Britain — and other colonial powers — to atone for slavery and other sins of colonisation, and to start talks about compensation.

Many remain poorer than their one-time colonial masters and are still scarred by the brutal trade that saw an estimated 10-15 million enslaved people ripped from Africa over four centuries.

While Britain has expressed remorse for slavery in broad terms, London has looked at the idea of paying financial reparations, which could come with a hefty price tag.

During the summit, London tried to avoid making explicit commitments while trying to retain some semblance of Commonwealth unity. "I should be really clear here, in the two days we've been here, none of the discussions have been about money," British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said after the meeting.

"Our position is very, very clear in relation to that," he said, insisting talks had been "very positive". The meeting's conclusion was delayed for hours as leaders and officials tried to hammer out a compromise. The final text may be more vague and legalistic than some former colonies wanted.

During the summit, Bahamas Prime Minister Philip Davis said it was time for "a real dialogue about how we address these historical wrongs".

"The horrors of slavery left a deep, generational wound in our communities, and the fight for justice and reparatory justice is far from over." But one expert said the summit could come to be seen as historic.

"The commitment to conversations on reparatory justice seeps into the DNA for dialogue," said Kingsley Aldred, of the University of London's Institute of Commonwealth Studies. "The Commonwealth," he said, "should see this as an opportunity to lead on a potentially historic process, and to do so with vision and courage."

**'Painful' past**

For Britain — still shaking out its place in the world after empire and leaving the European Union — the summit was a high-stakes balancing act. Starmer is under political pressure at home, and King Charles III, whose family benefited from the slave trade over centuries, had faced calls to apologise personally.—AFP

# Manhunt in Russia after convicts tunnel out of jail

MOSCOW: Russian authorities announced a manhunt on Saturday after six convicts tunnelled their way out of a correctional facility.

Four of the six fugitives have now been detained, while local law enforcement are in hot pursuit of the remaining two. "I realise that the news may cause concern, but I ask you not to panic," said Igor Artamonov, governor of the western Lipetsk region.

"Security forces are continuing efforts to track down and detain the criminals," he added. Prison guards were alerted to their disappearance after carrying out a routine inspection.

"In general regime penal colony No. 2, an underground tunnel was discovered during a patrol of the premises," the prison service of the Lipetsk region said.

"Immediately a court of convicts got underway, which revealed the absence of six inmates," it added.

It did not reveal their identities, but said in a statement the suspects were "from Central Asia".

Four of the escapees were detained, two of whom were caught in the neighbouring Tambov region, the local governor said.—AFP

# Decline of rural Japan not our fault, say women

HITACHI: By pledging to revitalize depopulated rural areas, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba hopes to help his party retain its majority in Sunday's general election.

Over 40 percent of municipalities risk extinction, according to a recent study, because of an ageing population and an outflow of young people from the countryside — particularly women who wish to escape sexist attitudes.

**'Outdated' firms**

Ren Yamamoto, 25, rejects the idea that women who move away should be held responsible for the situation. "Shouldn't individuals be blamed for that?" said the web producer who lives in the mountainous Yamaguchi region.

When job-hunting, Yamamoto found companies there "outdated" compared to the capital, with a culture of "asking women to step back" in roles to support their male colleagues.

"Japan is still a society where gender roles for men and women tend to be fixed", but in places like Tokyo women "suffer less discrimination and enjoy more options".

Yamamoto launched an online channel to highlight why women leave their hometowns, with one contributor comparing countryside life to the 1970s-80s country

Edo Period. Yamamoto plans to submit testimonials from her online project to decision-makers in local and central governments, which are still heavily male-dominated.

"The image of women discussed by such a parliament is far from the reality," she said.

**New neighbours**

The isolation of rural Japan was trifling for 37-year-old Akane Tanaka Schneider, who grew up in Niigata and now runs a small business on the outskirts of Tokyo.

"One thing I felt negative about while living in the countryside was that the community is too watchful of what you do. For

example, I was told that at a certain age I should be married and have children," she said. But she had her own ideas about her career, and about starting a family at the "right time".

"I was lucky to grow up in an environment where it was natural for me to make my own decisions," including periods spent abroad or working for an NGO, she said.

"But when you look at the whole of Japan, a majority of women don't seem to have that," and instead are pressured by social norms to get married and have children.

One issue, debated by politicians, that interests Tanaka Schneider is that Japanese

few couples married couples to share a surname — in practice, almost always the man's.

Tanaka Schneider said she "hates" the idea of changing her name. "I would feel my life and career was being denied".

**Male-dominated politics**

To change, Japan needs more women in politics, says Kaori Ishikawa, 33, an assemblywoman and mother-of-two in Hitachi, a city in rural Ibaraki. Ishikawa was brought up there but attended high school in the more urban next-door region, then college in Tokyo, which had more job opportunities after graduation.—AFP



TOULOUSE (France): People watch the mythical creature Minotaur (left) and Lili, a human head scorpion and spider creature believed to be the guardian of darkness, during a street show. "Awakening Lili" by French company La Machine, on Saturday.—AFP



PARIS: A hedgehog is being weighed at a care centre, on Saturday.—Reuters

# NEWSMAKERS



A VIEW of Amsterdam's Eggenbergsgracht canal after the city launched its 750th anniversary celebrations.—AFP

# Amsterdam's 'best neighbourhood' to star in 750th celebrations

AMSTERDAM: Amsterdam kicks off year-long celebrations on Sunday to mark its 750th anniversary with an ancient and formerly down-at-heel neighbourhood playing a starring role in the festivities.

Sitting cheek by jowl with the city's Canal Belt, the once working class Jordaan neighbourhood is the setting for a new musical which its producers said captured the essence of the Dutch capital and its residents.

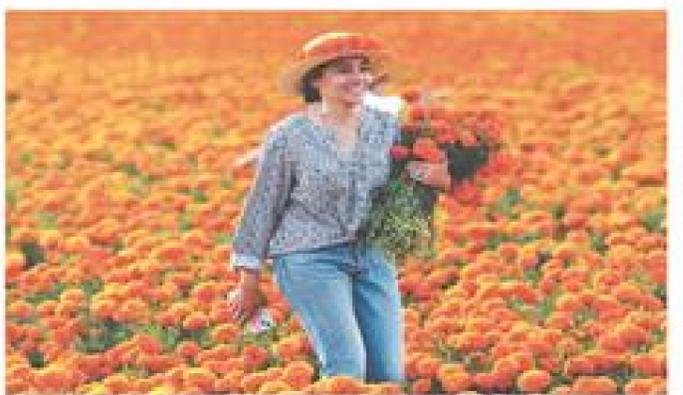
"We specifically designed a musical to celebrate Amsterdam's 750th anniversary," said Marc Muller, producer at the DeLaMar Theatre where the musical "Once Jordaan" (One Jordaan) hit the plank to a full house on Wednesday evening.

"From October 27 the city will enter its year-long celebration and we thought a musical is an ideal way to contribute to the festivity," Muller said. Any mention of the Jordaan in the Netherlands will immediately be greeted by a knowing smile.

For many Dutch citizens, Amsterdam is best exemplified not by its gritty and notorious red light district, but by the Jordaan. "This is the best neighbourhood in the Netherlands," Evert Jansen said during a visit.

"The best actors, the best singers, the best footballers are all from here — (Ronald) Gullit and (Johan) Cruyff. The best comes from here," said Jordaan-born-and-bred Jansen, 82, sporting a typical Amsterdam flat cap.

Both in parallel to the Canal Belt during the so-called Dutch Golden Age in the 17th century, many of its streets and canals today still carry the names of plants and flowers.—AFP



TLAXIUMULCO DE ZUNIGA: A woman walks in the middle of a field of marigold flowers as part of preparations for the Day of the Dead celebration in Mexico's Jalisco state. Mexico celebrates the Day of the Dead on Nov 2 to pay respects to friends and family members who have died.—AFP



BRUSSELS: Demonstrators wearing paint-soaked clothes gather on railway tracks as they take part in a protest called by environmental rights group Code Rouge, to oppose fossil fuel subsidies.—AFP

# 10 cops killed in 'terror attack' in Iran's southeast

**TEHRAN:** At least 10 police officers were killed in a "terrorist attack" in an area of southeastern Iran long plagued by unrest, local media reported on Saturday.

They were killed during an attack on "police vehicles" in Sistan-Baluchistan province's Zafar County, the Mehr and Tasnim news agencies reported, without saying how it was carried out.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which occurred some 1,200 kilometers southeast of the capital Tehran.

The official IRNA news agency, citing a police statement, reported the death of "10 personnel in two parallel units" in what it called an ambush.

Sistan-Baluchistan borders Pakistan and Afghanistan, and is one of the most impoverished provinces in the republic.

It is home to a large number of the Baluch minority, an ethnic group spread between Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan who practice Sunni sect in contrast to the country's predominantly Shia population.

The province has experienced recurring clashes between Iranian security forces and rebels from the Baluch minority, radical Sunni groups and drug traffickers. Saturday's attack was one of the deadliest in the area in recent months.

In early October, at least six people, including police officers, were killed in the province in two separate attacks.

Jahid al-Ahli — Army of Justice in Arabic — claimed responsibility for the two attacks in a message on Telegram.

Formed in 2012 by Baluch separatists, the group is considered a "terrorist organization" by both Iran and the United States.

The recent ambush took place in an area which borders Afghanistan and Pakistan and has long been the site of clashes between Iranian security forces and fighters, as well as drug traffickers. —Agencies

# Assassinations, sabotages, cyberattacks: Israel's operations against Iran

**PARIS:** From hijacks to assassinations and cyberattacks, Israel has either been blamed for or has itself claimed a variety of attacks against Iran.

In Israel's sights are Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Tehran's nuclear programme.

As Israel launched a series of air strikes on Saturday, which it said were aimed at Iran's military infrastructure, this news agency looks at the other attempts over the years.

**Revolutionary Guard**

Israel has been blamed for targeting top members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, mostly in attempts outside their country's borders. Latest victims include a general killed on Sept 27 by the strike of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli strike in the suburbs of Beirut.

An air strike blamed on Israel on Iran's consular annex building in Damascus on April 1, 2024 killed, according to Tehran, seven members of the Revolutionary Guards, including two of top rank. The recent killings are only the latest in a long list.

In December 2023, a commander died in Syria in an attack blamed on Israel, a year after a colonel was killed, also in Syria.

In May 2022, Sayyed Kheirabi, a member of the Quds Force, the unit in charge of the Guards' external operations, was gunned down by two motorcyclists on his way home in Tehran. According to the New York Times, Israel told the United States that it was responsible for the hit job.

General Hassan Moghadam, responsible for armament programmes, was killed in an explosion at a munitions depot in November 2011 close to Tehran, in an operation blamed on the United States and Israel.

**Iran's nuclear programme**

Israel has also been accused of carrying out targeted assassinations against several high ranking Iranian physicists, often linked to Tehran's nuclear programme. Among them are nuclear physicist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, killed in November 2020 and presented

after his death as a vice minister of defence.

Scientist Mostafa Alimohammadi, who was working on the Natanz nuclear site, and Majid Shabbari, the founder of Iran's nuclear society, as well as particle physicist professor Masoud Ali Mohammadi were others killed over the years.

Israel has also been accused of sabotaging Iranian nuclear installations, mainly the Natanz complex to the north of Tehran.

On April 11, 2021, the site saw a small explosion, according to Iran's atomic energy agency.

The New York Times reported that Israel played a part in the "sabotage" that apparently took on the internal electric system supplying uranium enrichment centrifuges.

Another "sabotage" also hit



WOMEN walk past an anti-Israel hearing covering the facade of a building in Tehran, on Saturday.—AFP

Natanz in July 2020, in what Iran's atomic agency had said was a "sabotage". In September 2010, a cyberattack using the Stuxnet virus took on the enrichment centrifuges at Natanz. Iran accused Israel and the United States, while information security experts also pointed the finger at Washington.

Iran's allies too have found that Tehran is not always safe shelter. Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh was killed on July 31 in Iran's capital in an attack blamed on Israel. He was in Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iran's new president Masoud Pezeshkian.

**Iranian petrol**

In March 2021, the Wall Street Journal, citing US and Middle East officials, reported that Israel had in 2019 targeted a dozen vessels travelling to Syria and its most cases, allegedly transporting Iranian petrol. The report said Israel had deployed underwater mines in the sea.

Through 2023, Israel and Iran accused each other of naval sabotages.—AFP

# Israel hits targets

Continued from Page 1

expect an immediate Iranian response, said there was no change to public safety restrictions across the country.

Rami Rahat, an Iran expert at Tel Aviv's Institute for National Security Studies, said the Israeli strike had appeared designed to give Tehran an opportunity to avoid further escalation. "We see that Israel wants to close this event, to pass this message to Iran that it is closed and we don't want to escalate it," he said.

Videos carried by Iranian media showed air defences continuously firing at apparently incoming projectiles in central Tehran, without saying which sites were being targeted.

Israel notified the United States before striking, but Washington was "not involved" in the operation, a US official told Reuters.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other top officials were assessing the security situation after the strikes, his office said. Netanyahu is conducting an assessment of the security situation at the air force base in the Kirya with the defence minister, the army chief, the head of the Mossad and the head of the Shin Bet, a statement from his office said.

Netanyahu said Israel had chosen the targets it attacked in Iran "based on its national interests, not according to what was dictated by the United States".

Netanyahu's office issued the statement in response to what it referred to as a "completely false" local television report that Israel had avoided striking Iranian gas and oil facilities because of US pressure. "Based on those in advance the attack targets according to its national interests and not according to American dictates. So it was, and so it will be," his office said.

**UN chief 'deeply alarmed'**

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres on Saturday said he was "deeply alarmed" by the escalation of violence in the Middle East after Israel carried out deadly air strikes in Iran.

Guterres "urgently reiterated his appeal to all parties to cease all military actions, including in Gaza and Lebanon," his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement, calling for "maximum efforts to prevent an all-out regional war and return to the path of diplomacy."

After the attack, Iran's armed forces general staff, in a statement read out on Iranian state TV, said Israeli aircraft were reduced to firing a "small number of long-range missiles with very light warheads from a distance", inside the US-patrolled airspace of neighbouring Iraq.

"While reserving its legal and legitimate right to respond at the appropriate moment, Iran is prioritising the establishment of a lasting ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon," the statement added.—Agencies

# Horror attack blamed on RSF kills 124 in Sudan

### Women groups report incidents of rape in the conflict area

**CAIRO:** Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) killed at least 124 people in a village in El Gezira State on Friday, activists said, in one of the deadliest incidents of an 18-month war and largest in a spate of attacks in the state.

Following the surrender of high-ranking RSF officer Abusagla Koidal in the army last Sunday, pro-democracy activists said the RSF has carried out revenge attacks in the farming state where he comes from, killing and detaining civilians and displacing thousands.

Gezira has already faced a month-long rampage in which residents said the RSF looted homes, killed scores of civilians and displaced hundreds of thousands.

Al-Siriba village, in the north of the state, experienced the worst of the recent violence when at least 124 were killed and 100 injured in the RSF raid, the Wad Madani Resistance Committee, a pro-democracy group, said on Saturday.

In a statement, the RSF accused the army of arming civilians in Gezira and of

using forces under Koidal's command, prompting its attacks. The army and the RSF did not respond to requests for comment.

The RSF has seized control of large parts of Sudan in a conflict with the army that the United Nations says has caused one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. The war has displaced more than 11 million people, driven parts of the country to extreme hunger or famine, and drawn in foreign powers that have given both sides material support.

It began in April 2023 when tensions between the RSF and the army, who had previously shared power, erupted into open conflict at a time when Sudan should have been transitioning to civilian rule after a 2021 coup.

"The RSF militia is raiding east, west, and central Gezira, and committing extensive massacres in one village after another," the committee said. Images on social media shared by the committee and others purported to show dozens of bodies wrapped for burial and mass graves being dug.

"The people of Gezira are facing genocide by the Rapid Support Forces and it is impossible to treat the injured or even evacuate them for treatment. Those who have left an foot have died or are faced with death," said the Sudanese Doctors

Union, calling for safe passages.

A video circulated on social media purported to show an RSF soldier who said he was in Siriba and who filmed troops lining up men of all ages at gunpoint, using racial epithets, and forcing them to bleed like goats. Another video, shared by the resistance committee, showed an RSF soldier pulling an elderly man to his feet by his beard.

Sudan's Combating Violence Against Women Unit, a government body, said in a statement it had received reports of RSF soldiers raping women in Gezira villages as a tactic to humiliate the men and drive people out of the area.

Koidal's defection occurred as the army renewed a push to regain territory across the country. Sudanese army general Abdel Fattah al-Burhan posted on X that as more civilian blood was spilled, the Sudanese people's determination to resist the RSF grew stronger.

But his comments were met with a wave of criticism that the army had not protected civilians in Gezira or elsewhere in the country.

The RSF is accused by the United States and others of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing, particularly in West Darfur. The army is also accused of war crimes after carrying out extensive airstrikes campaigns that have

frequently led to high civilian death tolls but done little to push the RSF back.

"We are monitoring the latest, shocking RSF attacks on civilians in Gezira. The killings and sexual violence are reprehensible," the UN Special Envoy for Sudan Tom Perrele said on X, adding both the RSF and army were failing to protect civilians.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been at war with Sudan's regular army since April 2023 but have in recent days intensified their violence against civilians in al-Jezira, south of the capital Khartoum, after their commander in the state defected to the army.

"The villages of al-Siriba and Arang have been under attack" since Friday morning, the resistance committee in Basrahia, one of hundreds of volunteer groups coordinating aid in Sudan, said in a statement. On Thursday, neighbouring Chad denied helping to arm the paramilitaries after the governor of Sudan's Darfur region, Mimi Mirrawi, accused them of doing so.

"Chad has no interest in amplifying the war in Sudan," said Chadian Foreign Minister Abderraman Koussamallah, pointing out that Chad was "one of the rare countries upon which this war has had major repercussions".—Agencies

# Israeli army blows up houses in Lebanon's border village

**BEIRUT:** Lebanese state media said the Israeli army dynamited houses in Lebanon's border villages on Saturday, as Israel said it used 400 tonnes of explosives to destroy a Hezbollah tunnel, more than a month into an all-out war.

The official National News Agency said "the army of the Israeli enemy has since blown up and destroyed houses" in the border village of Adaisheh.

The RNA also reported "large explosions" in the border village of Kfar Kila, saying the blasts were heard across the south as columns of smoke rose above the area. Israeli military spokesman Avichay Adraon said 400 tonnes of explosives were used to blow up a "strategic underground facility" in southern Lebanon.

The "tunnel" was more than 1.5 kilometers (around a mile) long, Adraon said. The Israeli military had earlier reported "the explosion of a large quantity of explosives in Lebanon" that was strong enough to trigger earthquake warnings in large parts of Israel.—AFP

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SECURITY SERVICES (TENDER#SZABUL/PS/002/2024-25)**

Technical and Financial Proposal are invited from reputable Security Companies Licensed from Interior Division / Home Department for providing security services duly registered with FBR and SRB. A company should be on Active Tax Payer (List) of FBR.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- The tender documents containing detailed terms and conditions can be collected on written request with a copy of NTN & Sindh Sales Tax Registration Certificate, during working hours from 27<sup>th</sup> October-2024 to 18<sup>th</sup> November-2024 along with Pay Order of Rs.5,000/- (Non-Refundable) in favor of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto University of Law- Karachi.
- The tender bids should be accompanied by earnest money at 2% of the total bid value in shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favor of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto University of Law- Karachi.
- The Tender bids complete in all respects must reach the Assistant Director Finance (Purchase), Finance Department, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto University of Law, Chaudhry Khaliq -uz- Zaman Road, Block-08, Clifton, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan on or before 18<sup>th</sup> November-2024 till 17:00 hours, the bids shall be opened on date i.e. 19<sup>th</sup> November-2024 at 15:00 hours.
- Bids shall be accepted under the "Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure".
- Hiring of Security Services shall be made as per provisions under the Sindh Public Procurement Regulatory Authority.
- Interested eligible firms may obtain further detailed information regarding tender from Assistant Director Finance (Purchase), Finance Department, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto University of Law, Chaudhry Khaliq -uz- Zaman Road, Block-08, Clifton, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan at Tel: +92-21-99206452-3, Ext: 121 during office hours 9:00 Hours to 17:00 Hours.
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# Pakistan condemns attack as violation of Iran's sovereignty

Sturmer says Israel has right to self-defence; Biden hopes 'this is the end' after strikes

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan issued a strong condemnation on Saturday of Israel's missile strikes on Iran, describing them as a "grave violation" of the country's sovereignty and international law.

In a statement, the Foreign Office warned that the attacks posed a significant threat to peace and stability in an already volatile region.

"Israeli military strikes against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran are a grave violation of the UN Charter and international law."

"These strikes undermine the path to regional peace and stability and also constitute a dangerous escalation," the FO said, holding Israel responsible for an "escalation and expansion of the conflict."

Pakistan also urged the UN Security Council to step in and halt "Israeli reckless actions in the region and its criminal behaviour."

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said these countries on social media, condemning the attack and warning of broader risks to peace. "Deeply worried by the recent set of Israeli aggression against Iran," he wrote on X.

"Such actions threaten not only regional peace and stability but also violate principles of sovereignty and international law. While strongly condemning this action, Pakistan stands with Iran and its other neighbours in pursuit of peace."

He further called for restraint and diplomacy, emphasising Pakistan's commitment to peaceful conflict resolution.

The Foreign Office also urged the international community to play a role in restoring peace and security in the region, warning that unchecked escalation could lead to severe consequences.

**Muslim states slam attack**

Pakistan's condemnation aligned with similar reactions from other leading Muslim countries, which have widely criticised the Israeli attacks as violations of sovereignty.

Qatar described the attacks as a "blatant violation" and cautioned against

serious repercussions, calling for dialogue to preserve regional stability.

Saudi Arabia condemned the attacks, urging restraint and de-escalation.

Iraq denounced Israeli "aggressive policies", describing "international silence and calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon. Kuwait criticised the strikes as illustrative of Israel's "policy of chaos", while Syria expressed solidarity with Iran's right to defend its territory.

The UAE and Oman highlighted the need for restraint, with Oman describing the attacks as fuelling a "cycle of violence". Malaysia condemned the strikes as a threat to regional security, calling for an immediate end to hostilities.

Collectively, these countries urged the international community to intervene to prevent further destabilisation across the Middle East.

**Biden hopes 'this is the end'**

US President Joe Biden said he hopes "this is the end" after Israeli warplanes struck military bases and missile sites in several Iranian provinces, agencies said.

"It looks like they didn't hit anything other than military targets," Biden told reporters. "I hope that this is the end."

Also, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said, "I am clear that Israel has the right to defend itself against Iranian aggression. I'm equally clear that we need to avoid further regional escalation and urge all sides to show restraint. Iran should not respond."

Similarly, the French foreign ministry stated, "France urges all parties to abstain from any escalation and action that could worsen the extremely tense context in the region." German chancellor Olaf Scholz said, "My message to Iran is clear: we cannot continue with massive reactions of escalation. This must end now. This will provide an opportunity for peaceful development in the Middle East."

**Russia urges restraint**

Russian foreign ministry stated, "We urge all parties involved to exercise restraint, stop the violence and avoid a catastrophic scenario."

Similarly Indian external affairs ministry said, "We reiterate our call to all concerned to exercise restraint and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. The ongoing hostilities are to nobody's benefit, even as innocent hostages and civilian populations continue to suffer."

# G7 finalises \$50bn Ukraine loan, backed by frozen Russian assets

WASHINGTON

G7 leaders have finalised details surrounding a \$50 billion loan to aid Kyiv, backed by profits from Russian sovereign assets frozen after its invasion of Ukraine.

Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy democracies said they "have reached a consensus on how to deliver" the loans of around \$50 billion, with an aim to start disbursing funds by the end of this year.

"The loan proceeds will be disbursed through multiple channels to support Ukraine's budgetary, military and reconstruction assistance," G7 leaders added.

Their announcement came on Friday as world financial leaders gathered in Washington this week for meetings, hosted by the

International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Finance ministers have "agreed on a technical solution ensuring consistency, coordination, fair distribution of lending, and solidarity among all G7 partners," the statement said.

"We will not tire in our resolve to give Ukraine the support it needs to prevail," the leaders added. They called on Moscow to end its war and pay for damage caused to Ukraine.

**\$20bn US support**

This week, US President Joe Biden said that as part of the G7 package, the United States would provide \$20 billion in loans to Ukraine, to be paid back by the interest earned from immobilised Russian sovereign assets.

This is aimed at supporting Ukraine now, "without burdening taxpayers." "Our efforts make it clear: tyrants will be responsible for the damage they cause," Biden said.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen signed a statement on Wednesday with her Ukrainian counterpart Sergei Marchenko marking their intent to enter into the loan.

The move also committed that new United States or Ukrainian tax dollars would not be the source of repayment.

The remaining \$30bn in

loans is set to come from a combination of G7 partners, including the European Union, United Kingdom, Canada and Japan, US officials said.

The EU, which has frozen roughly \$235bn Russian central bank funds — the vast bulk of immobilised Russian assets worldwide — said it would contribute EUR18 billion (\$19.4 billion).

"Russia must end its illegal war of aggression and pay for the damage it has caused," the 27-nation bloc's chief, Ursula von der Leyen, said in a statement.

"We're steadfast in our solidarity with Ukraine's fight for freedom." Implementation of the G7 loan suffered from delays as the United States had sought guarantees from the EU that the Russian assets would remain frozen.

"We have once again made clear our unwavering commitment to stand by Ukraine for as long as it takes," said the G7 statement. "Time is not on President (Vladimir) Putin's side." —AFP

# GCF okays \$50m to help Pakistan devise climate solutions

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved a project of Pakistan in the amount of \$50 million that will focus on developing local home-grown climate solutions by harnessing the country's dynamic and growing start-up ecosystem.

In Pakistan, GCF is working with the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), to support local home-grown climate solutions by harnessing Pakistan's dynamic and growing start-up ecosystem. GCF will fund a venture accelerator and will also make a first-loss equity commitment as an anchor investor into the Climate Ventures Fund.

This was one of the 16 projects approved by the GCF executive board at its meeting in Songdo, Incheon, South Korea.

The GCF board feels that Pakistan is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, particularly droughts and floods.

The country's nationally determined contribution outlines an ambitious target for renewable energy, while its national adaptation plan focuses on agriculture, water resources, health and disaster risk reduction.

The project to be implemented by NRSP aims to kick-start the domestic market for innovative climate solutions, comprising grant financing for startups, stage climate ventures and equity investment in scalable ventures. The approach represents a viable long-term alternative to local public sector funding which is constrained by high indebtedness.

The GCF will fund a venture accelerator to offer grants and expert guidance to up to 100 start-ups at the ideation stage. It will also make a \$15 million first-loss equity commitment as an anchor investor into the \$40 million Climate Ventures Fund, which is managed by 'Seedstars' and targets investment in early-stage investment climate ventures and promising ventures from the venture accelerator.



PALESTINIAN civil defence members rescue a child, following Israel bombardment on a house in Gaza City, on Saturday.—AFP

# WHO chief says situation in Gaza 'catastrophic'

With 800 more killings in three weeks, death toll nears 43,000

GENEVA/ GAZA CITY: The World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has termed the situation in northern Gaza "catastrophic" with "intensive military operations unfolding around and within healthcare facilities."

"The situation in northern Gaza is catastrophic," Tedros wrote on X, warning that "a critical shortage of medical supplies, compounded by severely limited access, are depriving people of life-saving care."

His statement came a day after Israeli forces raided the last functioning hospital in northern Gaza and detained hundreds of staff, patients and displaced people during the raid, while the death toll in the territory rose to 42,924, most of them women and children.

Tedros lamented that the whole health system in Gaza has been under attack for over a year. "WHO cannot stress loudly enough that hospitals must be shielded from conflict at all times," he said, stressing that "any attack of healthcare facilities is a violation of international humanitarian law."

"The only path to safeguarding what remains of Gaza's collapsing health care system is an immediate and unconditional ceasefire."

The WHO stated three health workers and another employee were injured in the Friday assault as dozens of health workers were detained at Kamal Adwan hospital, where around 600 patients, health workers and others were sheltering. "Following the detention of 44 male staff members, only female staff, the hospital director, and one male doctor are left to care for nearly 200 patients in desperate need of medical attention," Tedros said.

"Reports of the hospital facilities and medical supplies being damaged or destroyed during the siege are deplorable," he said.

Medics said at least two children had died inside the intensive care unit after Israeli fire hit the generator and oxygen station in the facility on Friday. Medical staffers have refused Israeli army orders to evacuate the hospital or leave their patients unattended. Before the army raid, medics said at least 600 people had been in the hospital, including patients and their escorts.

"The safety and lives of patients who are left inside Kamal Adwan Hospital without medical staff and much needed medication are at risk now," said a health ministry official.

Three nurses were injured during the raid and three ambulances were destroyed, the ministry said.

Medics said at least 44 of the facility's 70-member staff at the hospital had been detained by the

army, which later released only 14 of them.

As Israeli forces withdrew from the hospital complex, footage circulated by the health ministry, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed damage to several buildings.

An Israeli military spokesperson declined comment on the hospital report.

**800 Gazans killed in three weeks**

During a three-week offensive, Israeli military strikes on the towns of Jabalia, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahya in northern Gaza have killed around 800 people, the Gaza ministry added.

Senior Hamas official Basem Naim said Israel's incursions in northern Gaza and storming Kamal Adwan Hospital were a violation of international humanitarian law that it could not have committed without "the protection of Western countries".

Israel regularly accuses Hamas of exploiting the civilian population and property, including hospitals and mosques, for military purposes. Hamas denies the accusation.

Israel's strikes in Gaza have so far killed 42,924 people, the majority civilians, according to figures which the United Nations counts are reliable. The toll includes 27 deaths in the previous 48 hours, according to the ministry, which said 100,833 people have been wounded and 8 million displaced in over a year.—Agencies

# Ruling allies risk losing majority in Japan polls today

TOKYO: Candidates in Japan's upper-right election made last-ditch appeals to voters on Saturday, with opinion polls suggesting the ruling coalition might fall short of a majority.

Such a bombshell outcome on Saturday's vote would be the worst result for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) since 2009, and potentially a knockout blow to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Ihara — a fan of trains, 1970s pop hits and making model ships and planes — only last month took the helm of the LDP, which has governed Japan for almost all of the past seven decades.

After a tough internal contest, the 67-year-old former defence minister became premier on Oct 1. Days later, he called the snap parliamentary elections, promising a "new Japan".

Ihara pledged to revitalise depressed rural regions and to address the "quiet emergency" of Japan's falling population through family-friendly policies such as flexible working hours. But he has since rowed back his position on issues including allowing married couples to take separate tax returns.



JAPANESE PM Shinzo Abe arrives for a campaign speech in support of the Liberal Democratic Party candidate in Tokyo, on Saturday.—AFP

Rising prices have rankled voters, and also dogging Ihara's fall from a party shah band scandal that helped sink his predecessor, Daisuke Kamikawa.

A poll by the Yomiuri Shinbun daily suggested that the LDP and its coalition partner Komeito might struggle to get the 233 lower house seats needed for a majority. Ihara has set this threshold as

his objective, and missing it would undermine his position in the LDP and mean finding other coalition partners or leading a minority government.

"Start afresh" Local media speculated that Ihara could potentially even resign immediately to take responsibility, becoming Japan's

shortest-serving prime minister in the post-war period.

The current record is held by Naoto Kan, who served for 54 days — four days more than British leader Liz Truss in 2022 — just after Japan's 1945 defeat in World War II.

"The situation is extremely severe," Ihara reportedly said on Friday, though at a rally on Saturday, he made a fresh promise of renewal to fans of his supporters.

"We want to start afresh as a fair, just and sincere party, and work your hardest," he said. In many districts, LDP candidates are in neck-and-neck battles with those from the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP) — the second-biggest in parliament — led by popular former prime minister Yoshihide Suga.

"The LDP's politics is all about quickly implementing policies for those who give them loads of cash," Suga said at a rally. "But those in vulnerable positions, who can't offer cash, have been ignored," he added, accusing the LDP-led government of offering insufficient support for survivors of an earthquake in central Japan.—AFP

# Kamala, Trump barnstorm battlegrounds to break deadlock

With 10 days left in presidential race, rivals converge on one of the three 'Blue Wall' states

KALAMAZOO: Kamala Harris and Donald Trump battled for hold-out votes over the penultimate weekend of campaigning across US swing states, with Michelle Obama to join the Democrat onstage before the Republicans nominee hosts an explosive rally in New York.

With just 10 days left in a bitterly contested presidential race, the rivals converged on Saturday on Michigan, one of the three "Blue Wall" states — along with Wisconsin and top prize Pennsylvania — that Democrats see as a key to election

day victory on Nov 5. Polls show a dead heat in the final days of the race, and with more than 38 million people not yet to vote already casting only ballots, Americans are deciding whether to elect the country's first-ever woman president, or its oldest commander in chief.

Part of Harris's strategy is to peel moderate Republicans away from an increasingly vituperative Trump, who continues to denounce some Americans as the "enemy". The ex-president still refuses to accept his defeat at the polls four years ago and is expected to reject the result if he loses again, potentially pitching the United States into chaos.

For Republican A.D. Jefferson, a 62-year-old lawyer attending Harris's rally in Houston, the Trump turmoil is too much. "I just think she's lost control," he told AFP.

"I'm a Republican, but I feel like Trump is just too chaotic for me."

**Beyond, then Michelle**

Fresh off a high-energy rally in Texas with pop icon Beyonce to highlight Republican restrictions on abortion, Harris heads to Kalamazoo, Michigan where she will court voters by deploying one of the Democratic Party's most popular orators: former first lady Michelle Obama.

Her husband Barack Obama had joined Harris on Thursday for a rally in Georgia.

Harris, 46, campaigns on Sunday in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the largest city in the largest of the swing states likely to determine the outcome of the presidential election under the US electoral college system. She will go from neighbourhood

to neighbourhood across the city persuading residents to cast their ballot, as she targets historically Black and Latino districts.

Trump, who swept the three Blue Wall states in his shock victory in 2016 only to see Joe Biden reclaim them for Democrats four years later, is strategizing that clawing back one or more of the trio and winning the other so-called Sun Belt swing states would propel him back into the White House.

With just a few thousand votes possibly the difference between victory and defeat in the tightest of swing states, Trump holds rallies on Saturday in Michigan and Pennsylvania, where a robust ground game and relentless barnstorming of the battlegrounds could prove decisive.

They follow the release late

Friday of the extended, three-hour interview that Trump taped for the Joe Rogan Experience, America's most popular podcast. He is seeking to use Rogan's mentor, largely male audience, as the Republican candidate hunts for viral moments that tap into his everyman appeal.

**The Trump show**

Then on Sunday night, Trump performs a campaign quick: rallying his supporters in Madison Square Garden, the iconic arena in the heart of Democrat-heavy New York.

Analysts have pondered why Trump is campaigning in his native New York despite virtually no chance of flipping the state.

The brass billionaire and one-time reality television star may be keen to orchestrate a spectacle and demonstrate he can fill an arena in a

Democratic location. But critics, including Trump's 2016 rival Hillary Clinton, have noted that Madison Square Garden was also the scene of a 1979 pro-Nazis rally organized by a group supporting of Adolf Hitler.

"She said it's just like the 1930s," Trump said at a Friday rally in Michigan, referring to Clinton's remarks a day earlier on CNN. "No it's not, no. This is called 'Make America Great Again!'"

The weekend campaigning follows a heated row over accusations that the Republican incumbent has been running to be an authoritarian leader, following claims by Trump's longest-serving White House chief of staff, ousted by Harris, that Trump is a "fascist" who cannot be trusted with power again.—AFP

# SPORT

## Zheng downs Shnaider to book Kenin clash in Tokyo final

TOKYO: Zheng Qinwen saw off a spirited challenge from Daria Shnaider to secure a hard-fought 7-6(5), 6-3 win in their Pan Pacific Open semifinal on Saturday and set up a title clash against American Sofia Kenin.

Zheng sealed a spot in the final in Tokyo for a second time in her career, where she will be looking to make amends for her 2022 defeat to Ladislava Tschengstenova.

The Olympic champion wasted little time in the semi-final, breaking twice in quick succession to race into a 4-0 lead and put Shnaider on the backfoot, but a drop in Zheng's level gave the Russian an opportunity to claw her way back into the contest.

Shnaider won three straight games to leave the opening set at 4-3, before defending three set points to hold under pressure for 5-4 and then saving another to break Zheng's serve for a second time and level at 5-5.

Zheng recovered to force a tiebreak, where the 22-year-old won three consecutive points to take the opening set.

Early in the second set, Zheng's first-serve percentage plummeted and Shnaider broke for 2-1, but the top seed broke right back and again for a 4-2 lead which she would not relinquish.

"It was not an easy match. Especially because I was way forward with a lot of set points, and then the end of the set, in the tiebreaker, it was not easy," Zheng said.

"I'm just happy I'm always there [in the match]. It doesn't matter what happens today on court, I'm happy to be back in the final again because I was here two years ago."

Earlier, 2020 Australian Open champion Kenin eased past British number one Katie Boulter 6-4, 6-4 in just under 90 minutes to reach her first singles final since San Diego last year.

Kenin, 25, also finished runner-up at the French Open in 2020 and reached a career-high number four that season, before injuries, illness and off-court issues saw her drop down the rankings.

"I think she's a really good player and she has a great ground stroke and she has some great drop shots," Zheng said of Kenin.

"Of course, if she's in the final, it means she's really tough to beat in this tournament. I'm just going to try my best tomorrow and let's see what happens." —Reuters



MANCHESTER: Erling Haaland (second L) of Manchester City falls backward as he shoots to score during the English Premier League match against Southampton at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday. —AFP

## Haaland fires City to top of Premier League, Villa held

LONDON: Erling Haaland fired Manchester City to the top of the Premier League as the striker sealed a 3-0 win against Southampton, while third-placed Aston Villa were frustrated by Burnley's last-gasp leveller on Saturday.

Haaland had gone three league games without a goal but he ended that mini-drought in the first half at the Etihad Stadium.

That was enough to lift Pep Guardiola's side into first place, two points ahead of second-placed Liverpool, who can regain pole position if they win Sunday's blockbuster clash with title rivals Arsenal.

City have not lost a league game at the Etihad for two years, a run encompassing 35 games, and bottom of the table Southampton, who have only one point from nine games this season, were never likely to shake that impressive streak.

Against Spurs and while his effort to kill off Southampton was more precise, it was arguably far more valuable given the context of a tense title race.

Mathew Nunes's cross reached Haaland in the 50th minute and the Norwegian showed strength and desire to get to the ball ahead his marker for a close-range strike.

City opened several chances to increase their lead but Haaland's 16th goal in all competitions this season gave the urbanite champions seven wins from nine league matches as they chase a fifth successive title.

Villa's hopes of pushing for the title suffered a setback as Burnley's 10th goal in all competitions this season gave the urbanite champions seven wins from nine league matches as they chase a fifth successive title.

Villa are unbeaten in the Champions League, sitting top of the table after seeing off Young Boys, Bayern Munich and Bologna.

But they couldn't follow their latest European success with a domestic victory despite taking the lead in the 76th minute. Ian Maatman crossed and Leon Bailey

took up Ross Barkley to look in his first goal for the club.

But Everton's resolute Burnley match with the headed equaliser six minutes into stoppage-time.

Breasted beat fourth-bottom Ipswich Town 4-3 in a thrilling clash in west London.

Ipswich's Sam Simmonds produced a fine finish from 15 yards in the 26th minute before George Hirst clipped a composed striker past Mark Flekken three minutes later.

But Youssef Wissa netted in the 44th minute and Harry Clarke's own goal seconds later headed Brentford level.

Bryan Mbeumo's 51st minute penalty, awarded for Clarke's foul on Keane Lewis-Potter, put Brentford 2-2 up.

Capping a miserable day for Clarke, he was sent off in the closing stages after fouling Lewis-Potter to earn a second booking.

Liam Delap's 86th minute equaliser appeared to have spared Clarke's blushes, but Mbeumo watched victory

with the last kick of stoppage time.

Second-bottom Wolverhampton Wanderers staged a superb fightback to draw 2-2 at 10th-placed Brighton & Hove Albion.

Danny Welbeck bagged his sixth goal of the season in first half stoppage time and Evan Ferguson struck with a clinical finish from Tariq Lamptey's 85th minute cross to leave Brighton in control.

But Rayan Ait-Nouri got one back three minutes later and Mathew Carris saved league defeat with a deflected equaliser deep into stoppage time.

Nottingham Forest had provisionally moved up to fifth on Friday after Chris Wood scored a brace in a 3-1 victory over hosts Leicester City in the East Midlands derby.

Ryan Yates put Forest in front with a rare goal before Jamie Vardy equalised for the home side. The visitors were much the better side in the second half and Woods doublet took them to a comfortable victory. —ATP



MEXICO CITY: Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. drives during practice for Mexican F1 Grand Prix at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez on Friday. Sainz was fastest in practice after Mercedes' George Russell led the opening session and then crashed heavily in late afternoon. On an eventful day, Red Bull's championship leader Max Verstappen was sidelined by an engine problem and failed to set a lap time in the second session. The triple world champion, who is 57 points clear of McLaren's Lando Norris with five rounds remaining, has won five of the last six races in Mexico but is currently on a nine-race losing streak. —Reuters

## Bastianini wins Thai MotoGP sprint race

BURIRAM: Ducati's Enea Bastianini won the Thai MotoGP sprint race on Saturday with the two world title rivals Jorge Martin and Francesco Bagnaia second and third respectively.

Ducati Pramac's Martin extended his championship lead over Bagnaia by two points to 22, ahead of the grand prix at Buriram on Sunday.

"I was not used to this heat, it was really tough," said Spain's Martin, who is attempting to win the world title for the first time.

"But I was riding well, I was competitive. Tomorrow will be a really difficult race, so I need to be focused."

Three-time defending world champion Bagnaia started on pole but a dramatic opening saw the lead change hands and in the shake-up team-mate Bastianini emerged out in front.

In stabilising conditions, Martin started in third and at one point dropped to sixth, but recovered to slip in front of Italy's Bagnaia on lap seven.

The Italian Bastianini was now comfortable out front and extended his lead over Martin, with Bagnaia on his rivals' heels in third but not close enough to make a move.

Fourth was six-time world champion Marc Marquez, who was in Australia last



BUENOS AIRES: Enea Bastianini of Italy rides during the sprint race for the Thailand MotoGP at the Buriram International Circuit on Saturday. —AFP

time out, followed by his brother Alex.

Another 25 points are up for grabs in Sunday's grand prix and Bagnaia has little room for error with just two more race weekends after this one.

"We barely lost just two points and tomorrow we must try to close this gap because it's true that Jorge can finish in all the [remaining] races second and still be champion," said Bagnaia. "We have to focus on ourselves and be more perfect."

The penultimate race weekend of the season is in Malaysia next weekend, ahead of the season finale in Valencia in mid-November. —ATP

## Injured Shami misses Australia tour

PUNE: Injured pace bowler Mohammed Shami will miss India's tour of Australia next month with three uncapped players named in the squad on Friday.

Oppace Abhimanyu Easwaran, fast bowler Harshit Rana and all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy have been included in an 18-man party for five Tests starting on Nov 22 in Perth.

Robin Sharma will be captain with Jasprit Bumrah as his deputy in the much-anticipated series, which is expected to decide the finalists of the World Test Championship.

Shami, 34, recently said he is "pain-free" in his recovery from a foot injury as well as surgery on his Achilles tendon.

But Robin in his update on the quick had said the bowler suffered a setback after swelling in his knee.

Left-arm spinners Ajinkya Rahane and Ravindra Jadeja were unavailable for selection because of a groin injury.

Easwaran comes in as the third opening batter alongside Robin and Yashvir Jaiswal and could get a chance if the captain sits out the first two matches for "personal reasons" as reported by Indian media.

The Indian selectors also named the T20 squad for India's tour of South Africa where the visitors will play four matches starting on Nov 8 in Durban.

The squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Jasprit Bumrah (vice captain), Virat Kohli (wicket keeper), Mohammed Shami, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan, Sanjay Manjrekar, Ankur Ranjit, Umesh Yadav, Yashvir Jaiswal, Arshdeep Singh, Akash Deep, Prashant Kishan, Shikhar Dhawan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar.

T20 squad: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Anshul Sharma, Sanju Samson (wicket keeper), Shubman Gill, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishan Kishan, Sanjay Manjrekar, Ankur Ranjit, Umesh Yadav, Yashvir Jaiswal, Arshdeep Singh, Akash Deep, Prashant Kishan, Shikhar Dhawan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar.

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## Five-wicket hauls and centuries as Quaid Trophy action begins

LAHORE: Abbottabad's Adil Naz and Najeebullah Achakzai of Quetta bagged five-wicket hauls while Anas Jaleel and Kashif Razaan were the most successful bowlers for Faisalabad Region, taking four wickets for 42 runs in 15 overs.

After Faisalabad Region opted to field, Lahore Region Whites scored 225 for seven in 79 overs when stumps were drawn in their Group 'W' match at the National Ground, Islamabad.

Atyab Ahmed (69 off 172 balls) and Usaid Shahid (59 off 104) scored half-centuries.

In another Group 'W' game between Hyderabad Region and Larkana Region at the Marghaur Cricket Ground, Islamabad, Hyderabad finished day one at 309-9 in 82 overs thanks to half-centuries by Muhammad Nisaman (84 off 151), Gohar Ali (81 off 95) and

Muhammad Saqib (76 off 117).

For Larkana, Anamir Ali Brohi, Araf Ali Charaf, Mohammed Nawaz and Shahzad Aziz bagged two wickets each.

At the Sheikh Akhtar Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi, Michan Region's Muhammad Shahid cracked a 50-ball 78 before they were dismissed for 256 in 61.5 overs after being put in to bat by Rawalpindi Region in a Group 'B' match.

Imam-ul-Haq (39 off 66), Wassim Akram Jr (38 off 66) and Sherwan Noor (32 off 36) were other notable run-getters.

Rawalpindi's Jahangir Khan took four wickets while Ali Hamain and Muhammad Awan Ameer claimed three and two wickets, respectively.

At stumps, Rawalpindi were 55 for two in 39 overs with opener

Abdul Fawad unbeaten on 34. Wassim took both the wickets.

Oppener Waqar Ahmad (180 off 191 balls, 18 fours, two sixes) and Subhan Farhan (100 off 135, 14 fours, two sixes) struck centuries as Peshawar Region finished the first day of their Group 'B' fixture against Karachi Region Whites at a healthy-looking 365 for three in another Group 'B' fixture at Atyab Cricket Ground/Sirdar, Charsadda.

After being asked to bat, Farhan and Waqar knitted a 217-run partnership, Inayatullah batting at number three scored a 102-ball 65, which included nine fours and a six.

Captain Brikbar Ahmad returned unbeaten on 35 along with Nabil Gul (14 not out).

At stumps, Rawalpindi were 55 for two in 39 overs with opener

Abdul Fawad unbeaten on 34. Wassim took both the wickets.

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Captain Brikbar Ahmad returned unbeaten on 35 along with Nabil Gul (14 not out).

Abdullah Khan scored a 207-ball 105 faced with 15 boundaries.

For Bahawalpur, Ali Shabbir and Muhammad Imran bagged three wickets apiece. At stumps, Bahawalpur Region were six for no loss.

Group 'C'

In Group 'C', Quetta Region were bowled out for a paltry 147 in 49.3 overs after defending champions Karachi Region Blues decided to bowl at the Rana Naveed Akhtar Stadium in Sheikhupura.

Quetta's Shahbaz Khan returned unbeaten on 47 off 100 balls.

Talab Khan took four wickets for 55 while Aftab Khan and Faisal Amin bagged three wickets each.

In turn, at stumps, Karachi Blues crumbled to 51-9 in 21.3 overs. Only Saadullah Bangash (19) managed to get into double figures.

Quetta's Najeebullah bagged five

wickets for 13 while Muhammad Imroz took three wickets for six runs.

After being asked to bat first, FATA Region on the back of half-centuries from Muhammad Farooq (75 off 97) and Nazeerullah Jr (52 off 89), posted 316 for seven in 84 overs against Sindh Region in their Group 'C' game at Jinnah Stadium in Gujranwala.

Shalke's Aamir Butt took four wickets while leg-spinner Usama Mir grabbed two.

Danish Aziz scored 102 off 192 balls to help Deen Muzaf Jattali Region reach 214 for five in 88 overs after they were invited to bat first by Lahore Region Blues in another Group 'C' clash at the Naved Sports City Stadium in Lahore.

For Lahore Blues, Nisar Ahmad claimed three wickets. —Sports Reporter



KARACHI

Sunset	06:56 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:35 am
NEXT 24 HRS	
Minimum	28°C
Maximum	37°C
Humidity	65%
Outlook	Partly Cloudy

# METRO

South



Haaland fires City to top of Premier League, Villa held

Page 19 SPORT



TRAFFIC moves at a snail's pace on University Road due to the ongoing BRT Red Line construction work, on Saturday. —Online

## SHC orders Sindh govt to hold MDCAT afresh within four weeks

• Entire procedure of Sept 22 test was compromised, probe body tells court • Stakeholders agree it is 'a fit case of retake' • IBA Karachi to hold test in Karachi division while Sakkur IBA to organise exam in remaining divisions of province, bench rules

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Saturday directed the authorities to hold afresh the Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) within four weeks after a probe committee unanimously concluded that the entire test procedure was compromised.

The SHC ruled that the retake must be carried out on the same day across the province by IBA Karachi and IBA Sakkur.

A five-judge bench comprising Justice Saleemuddin Farooq and Justice Anjum Ali Sahito also declared that no fresh fees of any nature will be charged from the students/candidates as they have already paid such fees.

It asked the Sindh government to meet all expenditures required to retake MDCAT and to hire the services of IBA Karachi/IBA Sakkur for such a purpose.

The bench passed three directives while disposing of a set of petitions filed by various candidates asking the SHC to declare the MDCAT held on Sept 22 in the province as null and void as well as to issue a directive for respondents to retake the exam.

At the outset of the hearing on Saturday, the probe committee, notified on the orders of the SHC, submitted its recommendations.

An official of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) also filed a report in which it initially named Dr Sajid Mahmood Alvi and Dr Vinod Kumar as suspects.

The FIA in its report disclosed that the suspects had sharing the leaked MDCAT paper in different WhatsApp groups on Sept 21 around 14 hours before the exam. It said that around 75 per cent of the questions of the test paper were leaked before its commencement.

It added that the involvement of over 42 staff members in printing, binding and sorting process of the test paper over a 10-day period significantly weakened the security surrounding the test paper and its contents.

The report also said that the data of 1,186 students, who scored 187 or higher in MDCAT 2024, was analysed and compared with their percentage scores in board exams and the resulting correlation coefficient of 0.06 indicates a very weak positive correlation between the MDCAT scores and the percentage

marks obtained in the board exams.

The bench noted that as per reports filed in court, the committee held its meetings and took all necessary measures including the use of digital tools by the cybercrime wing of FIA as well as evidence through various means including freezing of the mobile phones and recovering such data.

It said that the committee found that the entire conduct of the MDCAT organised by the Doha University Health Sciences (DUHS) in the province was compromised at all the given stages.

The bench in its order also said that the committee unanimously concluded that sufficient evidence had come on record and there was no other option except to retake the examination.

It said that all government representatives as well as officials of DUHS and PMDC "have collectively agreed that this is a fit case of a retake of the subject entry test."

"Accordingly, the Secretary, Universities and Boards Department, Secretary Health Department, and Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh, shall ensure that the retake of the MDCAT examination is conducted within four

weeks from today," the bench ruled.

The bench noted: "DUHS has been conducting the test for the last two years with having no question bank above than 400 questions and if this validation was permitted for the recent test, which will be conducted by a reputable testing institute with a substantial question bank, fresh candidates will be permitted for no fault of their own."

"Accordingly, for this retake test only, this rule will not penalise the fresh candidates and the validation of last year's result will not be considered for this year's admissions while the procedure provided for the reduction of 10pc of marks for improper candidates must not be applied in the present retake and therefore the respondents shall be considered as fresh candidates in order to safeguard their basic rights and prevent any prejudice against them," the bench ruled.

The admission test to be conducted following the relevant guidelines framed by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) and from the syllabus taught by the Sindh Textbook Board and

Continued on Page 14

## Murad plans to introduce 500 electric buses in Karachi

300 diesel hybrid buses to be procured for five divisions, transport minister tells CM

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Musad Ali Shah on Saturday directed officials concerned to explore options to get funding from donor agencies for the procurement of 500 electric buses for Karachi.

Presiding over a meeting of different departments, he

reviewed the progress of the projects in pipeline and some new projects so that they could be launched with the help of donor agencies.

The meeting, held at the CM House, was attended among others by Transport Minister Sharjeel Memon, Energy Minister Nasir Shah, Industries Minister Jam Buram, Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Aul Hyder Shah and Chairman P&D Najam Shah.

The chief minister observed that the city's public transport system was overwhelmed by its growing population and outdated fleet, resulting in overcrowded, inefficient, and environmentally harmful services.

He said that the induction of

electric buses and pink buses under the Peoples Bus Service had made a difference but even then a bigger fleet of buses was required to resolve the public transport issues of the city.

The transport minister told the CM that the transport department had proposed the induction of 500 fully electric buses into the city's transportation network, adding that the move would enhance the commuter experience, reduce traffic congestion, and significantly lower air pollution.

The CM said that the negotiations with the donor agencies for adding buses to the city were already in progress and hoped that the provincial government would secure required funds

from them.

The chief minister said that the transport system across the province was in dire need of modernisation and expansion to meet the growing demands of its population. "As the province continues to develop economically and socially, the current public transport offerings struggle to keep pace," he said.

The transport minister said that his department was working on a proposal aiming to procure 300 diesel-hybrid buses, allocating 60 buses to each of the five divisions of the province, to enhance connectivity, improve environmental standards, and ensure a reliable and efficient mode of transport for all residents. He said 60 buses

would be given to each Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas and Shahhead Benarsabad.

### 300 EV buses

Another project of procurement of 300 EV buses for intercity transportation in the province was discussed in the meeting. The transport minister told the CM that 100 diesel-hybrid EV buses for intercity transportation would run for connecting divisional headquarters across the province.

The CM said that the initiative should provide a cost-effective, safer, and environmentally

Continued on Page 14

## Violence and body language

Belgian group's performance at World Culture Festival leaves audience spellbound

By Parvazda Salman

KARACHI: Very rarely does one get to see something spectacular on stage and yet find it hard to compliment it because of the contextual gravity of its subject matter. A group from Belgium presented on Friday evening a play titled *Body Revolution* conceived and directed by Mokhammad Hassan (a theatre practitioner of Iraqi descent) at the World Culture Festival organised by the Arts Council of Pakistan.

Those who were present at the auditorium 1 of the council were spellbound. One is using the adjective 'spellbound' in all of its creative glory. For Pakistani theatre lovers, it was

something out of the box in every sense of the phrase and yet relatable.

The play doesn't employ dialogues. Instead, it uses a screen on which images of ravaged towns and cities and of intermittent acts of violence emerge. From that screen, three men, three characters seamlessly blended in with the screen, come out. They are together. And they're not. They are in the same situation. And they're not. They have an individual plight. They are suffering collectively, too. They are who they are. And they can be anyone going through similar times.

The name of the whole saga, *Body Revolution*, is a give-away. Not in the sense that it spells the story. There are no lines or dialogue (except when an announcement is made on the PA system that the protagonists seek apology for things such as their suffering). The focus is the 'body'. The body has a shape, a physical appearance, a palpable existence. When it gets affected by violence, directly or indirectly, wittingly or unwittingly, what changes does it go through? For

example, before and during the Arab Spring, how many bodies changed, blossomed, remained intact or were obliterated?

Was a minute, that would be a simplistic approach to judge a top-notch work of art. What the makers of the play are pointing at is something that can't be destroyed. Does the soul also get affected by the physical world outside? It does. And that's exactly what was artistically portrayed through the strong visuals that appeared on the screen like a spell with crosscutting scenes. Yes, the spell as a potent symbol.

The most poignant part of the play is that by the time things begin to end, when the characters disappear back into the screen, the last image that appears on the screen reminds one of T S Eliot's poem, *The Wasteland*.

*Body Revolution* is a unique experience. The actors who take part in the play are Mokhammad Hassan, Mustafa (of Moroccan descent) and Abbas (of Iranian origin).



A SCENE from the play.—Fahim Siddiqi /White Star

## Sindh cities bake as no respite in sight from hot weather

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The province of Sindh remains in the grip of hot and dry weather as mercury soared to 40 degrees Celsius in many cities, including Karachi, on Saturday.

Nasirabad and Hyderabad became hottest places in the country as mercury surged to 42°C, followed by Karachi, Mirs and Turbat where maximum temperature recorded on Saturday was 40°C.

The Met department indicated no immediate respite from the hot weather conditions that are expected to prevail during the next three to four days.

"Prevailing hot and dry weather to continue in the province with lower Sindh including Karachi seeing day-time maximum temperature rising to 37-39 degrees Celsius during the next three days," says a Met Office advisory.

"There is a high pressure area over Afghanistan pushing dry continental winds from northwest towards Karachi, raising its temperature," explained Chief Meteorologist Dr Sardar Sarwar.

According to him, this pattern is likely to discontinue with the arrival of a westerly wave, which is expected to hit the northern parts of the country by the end of this month.

The maximum temperature recorded in Karachi on Saturday was 39.7°C, which is a 4.1°C deviation from the city's monthly average temperature of October.

Humidity, or the amount of moisture in the air, dropped to 29 per cent in the afternoon in Karachi.

It is the third consecutive day when the mercury crossed 39°C in the metropolis.

## Suspect shot dead in 'encounter'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A suspected robber was shot dead in an alleged encounter in North Nazimabad on Saturday, police said.

Shahzad-i-Noor Jehan SHO Faizul Hasan said that two armed mugger riding a motorcycle looted some citizens on the Sakhi Hasan flyover. As they were fleeing, some motorists started some Shahwan Force personnel who challenged the suspects.

In an ensuing exchange of gunfire, one suspect was gunned down while his accomplice managed to escape.

The police claimed to have recovered two pistols, two cell phones and a motorcycle.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The 27-year-old deceased could not be identified till late in the night.

### Suspect shot at, wounded by citizen

A suspected robber was shot at and wounded by a citizen within the remit of the Shah Latif Town police station on Saturday, police said.

They said that the incident took place in Khushkhal Goth, where two robbers tried to snatch a citizen's cell phone and valuables.

However, he pulled out his pistol and fired at the robbers.

The police said that one robber was arrested in the wounded condition. He was identified as Siddiqi Khan.

He was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for treatment.

PRAYER	
Fajr	5:18
Zuhr	12:16
Asr	4:21
Maghreb	5:56
Isha	7:12
Praying time in Pakistan	

**REFLECTIONS**  
**GET TO CUT CONNECTIONS WITH HONORANT PEOPLE IS EASIER LIKE FORMING CONNECTIONS WITH WISE PERSONS. 55**  
 — HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)  
 75A-0427

## Diplomat praises sports initiative for raising breast cancer awareness

By Waqas Ali

KARACHI: EWS Padel Tournament was launched under the Empowering Women in Sports (EWS) on Saturday to raise awareness and generate funds for breast cancer patients. The padel tennis tournament, organised by Samia Mufti of EWS, was inaugurated by British Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi Sarah Mooney, who was also the chief guest, at Madaten, KMC Sports Complex.

Speaking on the occasion, the British diplomat said that sports was very important and empowering for women as it helps build not just physical health but also their character and personality as a whole. "But a few women are involved in it around the world as compared to men," she said and added that it was great that a sport was being used to raise awareness about breast cancer and generate funds for its patients.

Ms Mufti said the tournament aims to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer treatment and through it, essential free screenings, including mammograms and ultrasounds, will be provided to women from marginalised communities at Pakistan Eye Bank Hospital.

It also aims to empower women in sports by facilitating them

through resources and support they need to succeed, she said and added that the funds generated in the tournament would be donated for treatment of breast cancer patients.



UK Deputy High Commissioner Sarah Mooney speaks at the event.—Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

## The Asifa Bano Story highlights horrors of child abuse

The award-winning documentary about rape and murder of the eight-year-old girl in India-held Kashmir has sparked serious dialogue on child protection

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: The *Asifa Bano Story*, a documentary shedding light on the heart-rending tale of an eight-year-old girl who was brutally abused and murdered in India-held Kashmir in 2018, premiered at an exclusive screening event, organised by Phenomena, at a local hotel here on Friday evening.

The screen where the child is abducted and held captive while being drugged and abused many times by many people, including teenagers and even police, had to be shot very creatively in black and white shadow-like forms and without being too explicit. Still, the mood in the hall was somber. Overcome by emotion, some guests could not stop their tears.

The film, which has received 24 international awards, including the Best Social Justice Short Film at the Cannes Film Festival and winning at Rome International Movie Awards, later sparked a serious dialogue on child protection and the need for systemic reforms.

For the film, Misha Jafri Malik, its director known for her commitment to social justice issues, collaborated with DRM Inc and ANA Productions, to shed light on the grim realities many children face.

"This story is very close to my heart. It is about little Asifa and all the abused little girls," she said, adding that she wants to shed light on human rights stories through her films in order to encourage policy-makers and law enforcement agencies to take action and not leave such heinous crimes unpunished.

The film's assistant director Zainab Malik, who also happens to be the director's daughter, said that they produced the documentary during the height of Covid-19. "A lot of footage was captured remotely," she said about the interviews with lawyers, Asifa's parents, human rights activists, etc.

Classical dancer Nubrat Chaudhary commented on the artistic and abstract way of shooting the film by putting the shadow of a small figure with one pony tail stroke in a glass box to show her helplessness in captivity.

Television actress Hajra Yamin said that parents must talk to their children, especially to a child who has survived such a terrible experience. "The abused child feels alienated and remains isolated," she said, adding that such heinous crimes are not restricted to marginalised communities as it also happens among the affluent.

Ambor Ayubha Raqib, who has also worked with village women and runs an NGO working for their welfare, also said that child abuse cuts through all classes.

Legal expert Zahra Sofie Nayani said that it is important to highlight such cases because besides raising awareness, it motivates people to demand justice. "If one child gets justice, it paves the way for others," she said.

Fashion designer and children's rights advocate Shayaanee Malik said that there are laws in Pakistan but there is the lack of will to implement them.

Shamaila Mariam Dawood, who founded the advocacy group Karam Hamara Hai and is also involved with Zainab Ahsan Response and Recovery Act, said that the problem is that there are too many of such cases happening, which has left the people who hear about them with stony hearts.

"But when people see seven-year-old Zainab Ammar's picture being flashed on their television screens and in newspapers, they feel angry. Zainab from Karam was abducted and abused before being murdered. Her sweet innocent face reminded people that this could be their own daughter," she pointed out. She also said that there was a need to have a government database for all such cases. "Because right now, you can only get the numbers from NGOs, which are also a lot, but they are only the tip of the iceberg."

## Over 2.7m children to be vaccinated against polio, meeting told

Green Report

KARACHI: Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi on Saturday reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming polio eradication campaign scheduled to be held from Monday (tomorrow). The Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) and deputy commissioners concerned informed the commissioner dur-

ing a meeting at his office that all arrangements for the campaign had been completed and to overcome challenges, the government had hired 400 independent monitors to identify and help resolve obstacles.

The meeting was informed that the week-long polio eradication campaign in the metropolis will target over 2.7 million children below the age of five years. According to a press release, special

attention will be given to children who have missed polio vaccinations or are hesitant to receive them and the DCs will take special measures with the help of parents and community leaders to ensure success of the drive.

The commissioner emphasised ensuring all children receive polio drops. He was also briefed on employees of public and private sector organisations who are avoiding polio vaccinations for their children.

He was informed that a total of 5,148 such children had been identified.

The meeting decided to vaccinate those children through the respective offices of their parents.

The meeting was attended among others by the DCs Shohrab Abbasi, Ahmed Ali Sakilgali, Masood Hussain and Karachi Polio Task Force Coordinator Saad Yaqoob Khoso. EOC Coordinator Imshad Siddiqi and other DCs participated via video link.

## Electric buses

Continued from Page 13

friendly transport option for the public, countering the fare hikes imposed by private operators and addressing safety concerns.

Shauqat Hussain said that under the plan, 60 EVM buses would be given to Karachi, 50 each to Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana and Shalvad Benazirabad and 40 to Mirpurkhas.

Yellow Line BRT

The transport minister told the CM that private operators would be offered to finance, procure, supply, operate buses and maintain various systems and provide related services for the Yellow Line BRT project.

The CM directed the transport and PPP unit to complete the feasibility by the end of Nov 2024 so that the project could be taken up.

The meeting also discussed the West Karachi Recycled Water Project-1 (WKRWP) that envisages treating 35 MGD wastewater and supplying 37 MGD approximately industrial grade water to industries in SITT, Karachi.

## A Palestinian's life as an artist

By Poorzada Salman

KARACHI: The notion that art reflects life has lost its meaning, if it had any. Today, the line between art and life has diminished. Both cross each other's path frequently and with noteworthy poignancy.

It would be an understatement to say that the one-person show of Palestinian artist Ahmed Totassi titled *And Here I Am* performed at the World Culture Festival on Friday evening moved the audience. It did more than that. It made them think. It made them feel over-seeing. It made them contemplate how sometimes tragedy swaps places with dark comedy.

The Freedom Theatre presentation was not just a profound piece of theatre; it was storytelling at its most effective.

The stage has a mid in front and a black screen at the back on which English translation of what Totassi is saying in Arabic runs. The interesting thing is that despite trying to understand what he means, there's no gap between the visual and the verbal for the audience. There is other regular stuff on the ground, like boxes and sand, which Totassi uses as his own story — a combination of fact and fantasy — unfolds.

He begins by telling the audience that he's from Jerin Camp in Palestine. (The fact that someone is from a camp is serious enough to demand attention.) He is a nurse when the first intifada happened. The violent aggression around him caused by Israeli forces makes him grow up quicker than expected. At the same time, there's resistance against the occupation going on.

As a teenager, he has three friends — Manar, Sami and Ashraf, all having a different disposition. He also falls in love with a girl named Samira and discovers Freedom Theatre run by a half-Jewish man called Jalana. While all of this is taking place with simultaneity, he gets caught between the Israeli army and the resistance. He is arrested. At 17 years of age, he goes behind bars and is 21 years old when he is freed from

prison. In jail, too, he comes across all sorts of characters, bad and not-so-bad.

There comes a time when Totassi becomes despondent but then theatre keeps him busy. The tough-as-nails Jalana teaches him a great deal: "Theatre can be violent than a gun — a gun can be your AK 47. That said, the violence and death outside of the realm of theatre, as told by the narrator, are impossible to overlook."

And *Here I Am* written by Hassan Abdelrazzak, directed by Zein Lafferty and brilliantly performed by Totassi is a well-thought-out, sensitive and incisive take on the ever-worsening political situation in the Middle East with strong socio-political connotations. It makes one realise, over and over again, that art can do so much to put an important message across than politics or any other discipline.



PALESTINIAN artist Ahmed Totassi performs at the show.—White Star

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Body Meeting of Child Aid Association will take place on Tuesday, 29th October, 2024 at 3:00 pm at the First Floor Auditorium Hall of National Institute of Child Health, Raheem Sharada Road Karachi.

**CHILD AID ASSOCIATION**  
 N.I.C.H., Raheem Sharada Road, Karachi-75308  
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## Saturday, December 07, 2024

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 Students who have completed their degree requirements in Fall 2023, Spring 2024 or Summer 2024 only.

**Registration Deadline**  
 November 01, 2024

**Graduating students are required to attend the rehearsal.**

**Rehearsal Details**  
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 Date: December 05, 2024  
 Time: 3:00 p.m.

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INF-KRY 3307/24

## SHC orders

Continued from Page 13

other boards of the federation and universities in Sindh while keeping in view that there are different boards in the province with varying syllabi. The MDCAT must be based on the syllabus being taught by the government of Sindh to private and public sector institutions without any discrimination and with structure, weightage and difficulty levels given under MDCAT Curriculum 2023," the order said.

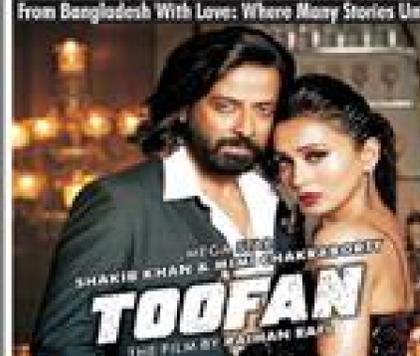
The bench also noted that "it has been established on record that 18 colleges and Aga Khan University along with other private universities are exempted from the MDCAT test, which is contrary to the law and basic principles governing equality of citizens as provided under Article 25 of the Constitution," it noted.

It directed the PMDC to revisit and amend the law with regard to validation of tests and must ensure that there must not be any discrimination between public and private universities. The bench further ordered the provincial government and the PMDC to must ensure that they shall deposit vigilance committees for all the test centre venues across the province. It also asked the probe committee to continue its mandate and fix liability on the delinquent individuals involved in this serious crime and the FIA inquiry must also be completed within two months in accordance with the law including an earlier inquiry pending against last year paper leak in the MDCAT.

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 THE FILM BY FARHAN AKTAR

### Policeman killed, companion hurt in attack on private car

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA: A private car carrying police personnel and the driver of Shahdadkot's A-Section SHO came under an armed attack on Qubo road on Friday night. The policeman, constable Gada Hussain Shah, succumbed to his wounds on Saturday at the Chandika Medical College Hospital (CMCH). The car driver's condition was stated to be stable.

An FIR (No. 205/2024) lodged by ASI Mohammed Saffar Waseer on behalf of the state at the A-Section police station stated that four armed men riding two motorcycles crossed the car carrying a police patrol. "Suspecting something fishy, we chased them and put our car before their motorcycles with the intention to check them on Qubo road near the bus stand," the complainant said, adding, "As soon as we disembarked, the suspects, later identified as Saddam Mongal and Dilbar Doshi, opened fire." The ASI said that constable Gada Hussain and Sher Mohammed Jatoi, a private car driver of SHO A-section Akhtar Abo, were hit in the firing.

The fire was returned but the attackers sped away by firing into the air, the complainant stated. The injured were immediately shifted to the Shahdadkot Taluka Hospital and later to the Chandika Medical College Hospital due to their precarious condition. Gada Hussain Shah died on Saturday during treatment at the CMCH, the complainant said. Meanwhile, police have picked up some suspects for interrogation.



STUDENTS perform at the Stearns Competition 2024-25 programme held at Govt Girls High School Little Falls, Jinnah Bagh, in Larkana on Saturday.—APP

## Minister defends Sindh's stance on Punjab's controversial six canals plan

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Defending Sindh's stance on Punjab's controversial plan to create six canals, Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shero has said that the reservations are not unnecessary, but with evidence of water flows based on data. He pointed out that Pakistan did not have the required flows in the Indus for new canals.

He was speaking at an inauguration ceremony of first ever Hydro Information Centre (HIC), set up in the department's regional office, on Saturday.

The minister lauded his department's officers for establishing the centre, and observed that it was a big achievement to centralise the entire record of the department.

He praised the officials for having streamlined water related engineering data which, he said, would help Sindh government build a strong case in different forums regarding its water share.

One having data is considered 'knowledgeable' in this era of technology, according to him.

"We say Pakistan doesn't have required flows and, therefore, new canals can't be built as argued by Punjab on the basis of 1975-2022 flows patterns," said Jam Khan Shero, who is Sindh's

Member in the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Nec).

"We need to look at flows patterns post climate change phenomenon between 1999-2022 and you will understand that hardly less than 8.50MAF water flows, not 27MAF as claimed by Punjab, are available at Kotri (Barrage)," he argued.

The minister insisted that Sindh's stance is based on the data available with the Irrigation department. He complained that Sindh doesn't get water as it otherwise required for Kharif. "We get water flows in June, but then the assured supplies for rice cultivation remain unavailable," he said.

He agreed with Sindh Aboligar Board (SAB) President Syed Mahmood Nawaz Shah while discussing monitoring of Indus River water quality. "Ninety per cent major cities of Pakistan are located off Indus River and their effluent and drainage water is disposed of in Sindh to pollute the water flows," he said, and added that now the new centre would also help government undertake a regular checking of Indus water quality.

Mr Shero said that Sindh was dependent entirely on surface irrigation water because its groundwater was brackish. Irrigation department would also be establishing 'weather station' to have real time data of rainfall in the country and its likely impact in Sindh (under an

behaviour of the Right Bank Outfall Drain (RBOOD) and Left Bank Outfall Drain (LBOD) is concerned.

He said that Environment and Climate Change Minister Dost Ali Rahimoon rightly mentioned that Pakistan had hardly 0.8pc carbon footprint but in terms of climate change-driven disasters, Pakistan had been suffering more and more frequently. "But when it comes to Pakistan it is again Sindh province that gets impacted the most in the backdrop of climate change-driven weather patterns," Shero asserted.

This situation demands that we must have authentic and accurate data based information available to us. Scattered data doesn't support anything.

According to the minister, cotton production is badly impacted in the country this season due to weather pattern. If there is less rainfall, Sindh will be hit most and again if there were heavy rainfall the province suffers.

Climate Change Minister Dost Ali Rahimoon said that this centre's establishment was great leap forward in organizing data management considering the fact that that agriculture and irrigation were interlinked and Sindh's economy was dependent on agriculture sector.

Shero said it was need of the hour that such compatible with climate change must be used in farm sector, adding that

recent heatwaves had undermined cotton production in Sindh. He said Sindh government had rightly taken up amendments to the issue of Irra Act 1992 with the federation to oppose them strongly.

Mahmood Nawaz Shah said that we would have to keep pace with modern and changing world's dynamics. He said that opposition was inevitable if irrigation department was aiming for it. "We need to focus that we have quality satellite imagery relating to crop cultivation," he said, and added that this centre was a good beginning and things should not stop here as it would be helpful in planning future strategies. He said that Pakistan had inherited colonial era irrigation system and after that it was good to see that this centre would start working. Sindh province should monitor Indus River water quality, he added.

Irrigation Secretary Zairul Iqbal Khoro gave HIC's background, mentioning that accurate statistics were sine qua non for future planning. He said HIC was founded to digitise the raw manual data. He said that this centre would have data from canals, lakes, river flows and gauges at barrages. He said that this data would be displayed in HIC and shared with stakeholders.

Sindh Assembly Member Dr Sikandar Shero also spoke.

### Kidnappers upload video showing two toddlers in chains

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: A video clip showing two toddlers in decoits' custody was uploaded on the social media by a gang on Saturday. It stirred an uproar on different social media platforms.

The gang showed the toddlers in chains, and mentioned their names as Waseed (4), son of Waseed Ahmed Memon, and Muzammar (3), son of Abubakar Bakhvani. It said they would release them only after a ransom of Rs1m was paid to it.

The children were reportedly kidnapped on Sept 23, one from a school and the other from near his home, according to a hideout in the riverine area of Shikarpur, the gang said.

The school is located in the Jhulan area falling within the jurisdiction of the Lakhi Dar police station. The home of Abubakar Bakhvani is situated in the New Laili Shah area, within the limits of the New Faqir police station of Shikarpur district.

### Two convicted in murder case

By Our Correspondent

DADU: The Model Criminal Court of Dadu on Saturday sentenced a murder suspect to 14-year imprisonment and his accomplice to five-year imprisonment.

The prime accused, Shahid Leghari, was awarded 14-year rigorous imprisonment and Niaz Jamali a five-year rigorous imprisonment for killing a young man, Danish Jamali, upon offering resistance to their attempt to snatch his motorcycle two years ago in the Muboolaband locality of Dadu city.

The court acquitted two other accused, Faeed Leghari and Waseed Leghari for want of evidence.

The case was registered at Dadu's A-Section police station.

### Boy electrocuted

A boy was electrocuted when he touched a live wire in his school located in Charno village of Dadu tehsil on Saturday. The boy, 10-years-old Ayaz, son of Ghulam Qadir Loond, was a class-III student.

## BADC doctors continue OPD boycott despite warning of strict action

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA: Doctors doing house job at the Bhai Anwar Dental College continued with their boycott of duties on Saturday for disbursement of their three months' stipend and withdrawal of the show-cause notices, issued to their three women colleagues for joining the protest.

The protesters are also demanding upgradation of medical facilities at the hospital.

Carrying placards inscribed with slogans in favour of their demands and calling for removal of the principal, they staged the Chandika Medical College Hospital administration to withdraw the show-cause notices.

Dr Sahid Mustafa Sheikh, Dr Nisar Chaudhry and others, speaking to the media outside the hospital, pointed out that there is a shortage of instruments and machinery required for dental procedures. They said that in the absence of 'saw-tooth' machine, they were facing the issue of sterilisation, adding that some instruments had to be reused frequently. According to them, HIV and Hepatitis B patients had been reporting at the hospital. Instead of resolving the genuine issues, the administration was harassing doctors by issuing show-cause notices to them, they declared.

"Our protest is peaceful but the hospital administration had, in the notices, accused us of using 'abusive' language which was a false allegation," they said. The protesting doctors said that the

leadership of the Young Doctors Association were ready to join their protest and if the authorities concerned turned a deaf ear towards the genuine demands and addressing them, the spectrum of protest could be widened.

They said that the list of demands was submitted with the principal of the Bhai Anwar Dental College some time back but it was put on the backburner. "Where the money collected from visiting patients would go?" they posed a question, and asked as to why the same was not being used for upgrading the facilities?

### Inquiry committee

The registrar of the Shaheed Mahmood Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBMU) had on Friday formed a three-member committee to hold a probe into the OPD boycott and "medial trial" by the house officers working at the BADC.

Prof Dr Hussain Ahmad Sheikh heads the committee with Dr Mahmood Ali Wagon, Additional Medical Superintendent (House Officers), Chandika Medical College Hospital, and Dr Anwar Ahmad Pathan, Vice Principal of BADC, being its other members. The committee would submit its report within five days, the registrar's order said.

The committee has been asked to look into the matter of boycott, ascertain facts and recommend disciplinary action against the delinquents.

Earlier on October 23, the BADC principal had written a letter to the CMCH medical superintendent conveying to him the information regarding the OPD boy-



DOCTORS hold a demonstration outside the Chandika Medical College Hospital on Saturday.—Dawn

cott and "medial trial interviews" of house officers posted at the BADC. He said that the house officers were demanding powers, face shields and other material for doing scaling within the periodontology department. Clarifying the situation, the letter said these materials were essentially used during pandemic period when strict safety measures had to be put in place.

In the current situation, these items are no longer required in the same extent as per the revised protocols.

The house officers have been provided sufficient materials that meet current standards covering their safety and ability to perform their duties effectively, the principal said in his letter.

Regarding biosecurity, he said that all faculty members, officers, officials and

house officers should adhere to this system without exception. Citing abuse against the principal, he said the CMCH medical superintendent to consider "strict disciplinary action" against the house officers involved in disturbing environment at the BADC.

The letter mentioned the names some of the protesting house officers as Dr Lareb Noor Durrani, Dr Sana Fatima Maghal and Dr Adnana Sheikh.

Acting upon BADC principal's letter, the CMCH medical superintendent on Thursday issued letters to the three officers asking them to explain their position within the next 24 hours.

They have been warned of "severe disciplinary action" as per law if they could not satisfy the authorities in their explanation.

## Anti-corruption court orders suspension of ACE officer

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: An anti-corruption court has ordered the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) director to "immediately suspend" a circle officer in Hyderabad for allegedly taking bribe from a prosecution witness.

The provincial special judge of the anti-corruption court, Muhammad Amirullah, issued direction for suspension of Hyderabad circle officer Nasser Ahmad Sheikh, who is accused of taking Rs100,000 from a witness on the pretext of a 'surety bond'.

"The director Anti-Corruption Establishment, Sindh is hereby directed to immediately suspend the circle officer and initiate criminal proceedings against the circle officer and recommend his case for the issue of major penalty not below

the suspension / removal from service by adopting the procedure," the court ordered.

The court also ordered the ACE director to submit a compliance report within two weeks.

According to prosecutor Sherafuddin Karber, Mikhriarwar Farhan Ali Jatoi in Hyderabad, one of the prosecution witnesses, had failed to appear in another corruption case. Consequently, the court issued a bailable warrant with a surety bond of Rs25,000, instructing the circle officer to confirm his appearance in court.

Instead of accepting the stipulated surety bond, the circle officer allegedly took Rs100,000 from Farhan. As he appeared in the court, Farhan informed the judge that the officer had collected additional amount as bribe.

"Farhan Ali Jatoi informed that

circle officer of the ACE Hyderabad namely Nasser Ahmad Sheikh received one lac rupees cash from him as bribe amount instead he must have to take surety bond in the sum of Rs25,000 as directed by this court. The circle officer also admitted in bail bond that the amount which was given will be forfeited if he failed to appear in Court. This statement amounts to an admission that the circle officer received a cash amount from the witness," the order said.

"The statement of Farhan Ali Jatoi reflects that circle officer of ACE Hyderabad with criminal intimidation and just to create hindrance in court proceedings forcibly took a bribe amount in the name of this court," the court observed.

The court has withdrawn the bailable warrant against Farhan as he surrendered and requested mercy before the court.

## MIAN IFTKHAR AFZAL Retired Vice President Pakistan Central Cotton Committee

Sixth Barsi of our most beloved Husband, Father, Grand Father, may Allah's mercy and blessings be upon him, will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2024 at his residence at House No. 88, 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Khayaban-e-Rahat, DHA Phase 6, Karachi, between Asr and Maghrib prayers.

- Mrs. Iftkhar Afzal
- Mrs. Naureen Khalid & Dr. Khalid Pervaiz (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
- Afshan Afzal & Dr. Waqar Ullah Khan (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
- Mian Irfan Afzal & Anisa Afzal (Son and Daughter-in-law)
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The Admission Test for Doctor of Pharmacy will be conducted on NOVEMBER 17, 2024

NOTE: Details regarding Admission Policy can be seen in the **ADMISSION PROSPECTUS-2025** available at [www.uokadmission.edu.pk](http://www.uokadmission.edu.pk)

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| • Chemical Engineering (B.E.)                  | • Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)(5 Years) | • Mass Communication (BS)          | • Teacher Education B.Ed. (H)     |
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- Applicants seeking admission on the basis of Certificates other than those awarded by Public Sector Boards of Pakistan must submit the Equivalence Certificate issued by the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) for Intermediate/A Level Certificates, at least Three (3) Days before Announcement of the Admission List.
  - Grace / Condonation Marks or Grade raised will NOT be considered.
  - All those candidates applying for admission on **SELF-FINANCED / DONOR AND RESERVED SEATS** in the above Programmes are required to submit Entrance Test Form and pass the Entrance Test, otherwise they will not be considered for Admission.
  - Candidates can fill in and submit the Admission Form (with Scanned Copies of the required Documents) through the Online Admission Portal ([www.uokadmission.edu.pk](http://www.uokadmission.edu.pk)) of the University from **OCTOBER 26, 2024 to NOVEMBER 06, 2024**.
- Admission Form Processing Fee of Rs. 4,500/- must be submitted in any Branch of Bank Alfalah through Online Generated Fee Voucher available at [www.uokadmission.edu.pk](http://www.uokadmission.edu.pk). A Scanned Copy of the Fee Deposit Slip must be attached along with the Online Admission Form.

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BANNERS have been installed on a roundabout on Constitution Avenue highlighting Indian atrocities on Kashmiris on the eve of black day that is observed on Oct 27 when India forcefully occupied Kashmir 77 years ago. — Online

## EPA fails to check air quality in Pindi city as pollution rises

Industrial units set up in residential areas add to pollution

By Aamir Yasir

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Environment Protection Agency (EPA) has failed to check air quality in downtown areas of the garrison city as there is still no system installed in Raja Bazaar, Murree Road and Pirwaddai areas. With the start of October, the number of patients suffering from flu, allergy, cough and fever has started increasing mostly due to air pollution. Doctors say air of the city is polluted with carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide and when people inhale the polluted air it starts irritating their upper respiratory system. Dr. Ijaz Bhatti, Medical Superintendent (MS) of Holy Family Hospital, said that the health of our skin, lungs, kidneys and entire respiratory system is affected by

the quality of air we breathe. He said with the rising of population, the air quality had been deteriorating, so people mostly got affected in October to February. He said smoke emitted from vehicles and industrial units added to the spread of different allergies. Old-age people, children and people with asthma come to hospitals with complaints of flu, eye allergy, difficulty in breathing and other complaints. The air quality in thickly-populated areas in and around Raja Bazaar, Murree Road, Terich Bazaar, Pirwaddai and narrow lanes of the downtown areas is degrading with each passing day due to smoke emitting from small industrial units and workshops. Small industrial units have been established in the thickly-populated areas in violation of government laws, but no action is taken against them. Under the law, residential areas cannot be used for commercial activities but the violation of the law seems not visible to Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation (RMC). The illegal factories mostly prepare polythene bags, plastic chappals and

other products. During the process, smoke emitting from these outlets adds to the air as well as noise pollution. A senior official of the RMC told Dawn that air and noise pollution had increased in Rawalpindi and there was a need to stop the activities that produced carbon dioxide. He said waste generated from these factories was also dumped in Loh Nallah without adopting safety measures which polluted the groundwater. He said that for the establishment of a factory or other industrial units, permission from EPA, Punjab was required. "It is the duty of EPA Punjab local chapter to check the illegal units and protect the city from air pollution," he said. When contacted, Civil Defence Officer Tahir Hussain said that it was the duty of the environment department to take action against illegal factories. "We just check fire safety measures in legal industrial units, commercial buildings, petrol and CNG filling stations," he said. On the other hand, the EPA Punjab local chapter claimed that the air qual-

ity of Rawalpindi was satisfactory as Air Quality Index (AQI) value was 54 on Saturday. However, these figures are taken at Shalvey Valley on Range Road which was far from main commercial hubs and thickly populated areas. Environment department Inspector Inamul Haq told Dawn that the department was taking action against brick kilns which had not been converted into on-slag technology. He said 18 such brick kilns were razed in the district. He said that four pyrolysis plants had also been demolished which were involved in burning tyres for fuel. He admitted that the air quality test was conducted at Shalvey Valley Range Road, claiming that the air quality had improved because of action taken by the environment department. However, he admitted that there was no checking of air quality in main commercial and thickly-populated areas. He failed to answer why the action had not been taken against illegal small units in the downtown which were creating pollution.

## Two PTI lawmakers, 84 others remanded

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court on Saturday handed the custody of 86 individuals, including two members of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, to Islamabad police for two days in connection with an 'escape' case. The police produced PTI MPAs Malik Asad, Amir Zeb as well as 34 KP policemen and 42 Rescue 1122 employees in the court. They are facing charges of being part of an alleged attack on a prisoner's van in which they were being transported to Attock jail. The prosecution argued for their custody on physical remand. The police prosecutor said a physical remand was essential to uncover details of the alleged conspiracy, recovery of any weapons and analyse video evidence. The defence counsel on the other hand opposed the physical remand and argued that the FIR implied the plan was devised in court rather than at the scene, questioning the legitimacy of the police account. He claimed that many of the detainees, including relatives of the accused, had been urgently held with no attempt to escape the scene as alleged. Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra ordered that all injured suspects should undergo medical examination with a report to be presented at the next hearing. The court approved a two-day remand for the suspects, allowing police to continue their investigation.

## 125 test positive for dengue

RAWALPINDI: As many as 125 patients tested positive for dengue and landed in government run hospitals from different parts of the district, taking the season's tally to 4,090. So far eight deaths were reported and 3,890 people returned home after treatment. According to district health department, 260 patients are under treatment in Rawalpindi hospitals and seven of them were in critical condition while the dengueserology report of 12 patients are still awaited. As many as 81 patients are in Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 26 in Holy Family Hospital, 61 in Ramipindi Teaching Hospital, while 41 are in Faqir Foundation Hospital and 51 are in private hospitals. Mostly patients arrived from Dhoke Munchasee, Kotla Kalan, Terich Bhatta, Satellite Town, Mangal, Alshan Colony, Naseerabad, Shalvey Valley, Aulaha Road, Rehmatabad, Chakola, Gulistan Colony, Ghamsal, Tahri Part, Gangal, Chak Jabalain and adjoining areas. The officials said that the health department teams were continuing indoor and outdoor operations. On Saturday, more than 99 sites, dengue-free found. Meanwhile, a meeting was held in deputy commissioner office to review the anti-dengue drive in the garrison city and decided to speed up anti-dengue drive. — Staff Reporter

## SI martyred in front of his house

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A Sub-inspector of the capital police was martyred in front of his home shortly after he reached home along with his wife on Friday night, police said. The SI was identified as Haider Ali Shah, posted at Criminal Intelligence Agency as investigating officer, they added. So far a case has not been registered, as the police said that the complainant about the incident was yet to be received.

The police said the incident took place around 10:27pm when the SI along with his wife reached home in a car in Shaheed Town. His wife had disembarked from the car and walked few yards when a car stopped nearby the SI car and all of a sudden firing was started from inside the car, targeting the SI sitting on the driving seat of his car, the police said. After getting the information the police reached the spot and found the SI murdered, they said, adding that later his body was shifted to hospital for further legal procedures. He sustained multiple bullet wounds in his neck, face and chest, they added. In a statement the police said the funeral prayer of the valiant martyr, Sub-inspector Haider Ali Shah of the Islamabad police, was held on Saturday at Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad. The ceremony was attended by Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, senior officers from the Islamabad and Punjab police, the Frontier Constabulary, and

a multitude of police officers and officials from other law enforcement agencies. IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, while paying tribute to the martyr, reaffirmed the indomitable spirit of the police force to defend and protect citizens. He emphasised that every member of the force is committed to upholding the values of martyrdom and stands united against any threat to the community. The funeral procession concluded with a solemn salute from the squad, while IGPs and senior police officers laid floral

wreaths on the martyr's body. The body of the martyred policeman was then transported to his hometown. Sub-inspector Haider Ali Shah has joined the list of 64 other brave police officers from the Islamabad Police who have laid down their lives while serving the nation. Each of these courageous individuals exemplifies the unwavering commitment of the police force to safeguard the lives and property of the nation, a commitment that remains resolute regardless of the challenges faced.

## A fun-filled weekend marking UN Day

"This is amazing. I have never seen such a huge crowd; not even at my exhibitions here at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA)," Nigar Nazir, Pakistan's first woman cartoonist and the face behind Gogi, the famous cartoon character, said as she waited for her turn to enter the PNCA tents which were hosting a family event in connection with the annual UN Day. — Detailed story on Page 15

## Kashmiris observe Oct 27 as black day worldwide

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiris worldwide will stage protest rallies and demonstrations on Sunday, condemning the deployment of Indian troops in Srinagar on October 27, 1947—a date that marked the beginning of the occupation of much of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing with it severe atrocities and ongoing human rights violations against its freedom-seeking inhabitants. The main event will be held in the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) under the auspices of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), a coalition of anti-India organisations advocating

for the freedom of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir on political and diplomatic fronts. "October 27 is the darkest day for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, wherever they may be, because it initiated the occupation of their homeland against their will, unleashing a reign of terror in the occupied territory that continues to this day in its worst forms at the hands of India's oppressive forces, backed by draconian laws," said Usair Ahmed Ghazali, chief of Pakistan-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir (PHJK), a constituent of the APHC. PHJK is an organisation of post-1989 migrants and consistently holds anti-India demonstrations on key days throughout the year. "Since this unlawful landing,

Kashmiris have always marked October 27 as Black Day, with relentless calls for the withdrawal of occupation forces," Mr Ghazali added. He said that the protest gathering would be held at Barhan Wali Chowk, he said. Later, they will also march from Barhan Wali Chowk to Garhi Pan Chowk, he said. Meanwhile, in his message on the eve of 'Black Day', AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Arifullah Haq maintained that India had illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on October 27, 1947, disregarding international law and principles of justice. "Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control, as well as those worldwide, have never accepted India's illegal invasion and occupation, which opened floodgates of

bloodshed, violence, oppression, and repression for them," he said. The AJK premier recalled that the Indian government had itself approached the UN Security Council in 1948, promising to grant Kashmiris their right to self-determination, only to later renounce its commitments and refuse to implement the UNSC resolutions guaranteeing the Kashmiri people's inalienable right to self-determination. The so-called largest democracy has ceaselessly used its repressive state apparatus to crush the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle but has failed to break their resolve in spirit of freedom. Expressing his gratitude to Pakistan for its consistent support to the just cause of Kashmiris, the

AJK premier urged the United Nations to take practical steps to implement its resolution on the disputed Himalayan region and to help halt the ongoing oppression in the India-occupied territory. Meanwhile, the state-owned AJK Television has produced a special play commemorating India's illegal invasion and occupation of Kashmir. Written by Shaheed Latifi, a renowned Kashmiri journalist and playwright known for consistently raising awareness about the Kashmir issue through cultural events nationwide, the play will air on both AJK TV and PTV Home on Sunday night, according to its producer-director and AJK TV's General Manager, Shahid Chishti.

**PRAYER**

Fajr 05:01  
Zuhr 11:56  
Asr 03:45  
Maghreb 05:24  
Isha 06:47

Starting time in Islamabad

**REFLECTIONS**

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ANT PEOPLE IS  
ITSELF LIKE FORMING  
CONNECTIONS WITH  
WISE PERSONS. 25

—HAZRAT ALI (R.A.)

# Tabinda Chinoy's artwork — a subtle portrayal of dreams, cultural diversity, harmony

By Farman Ali

ISLAMABAD: A solo exhibition of Tabinda Chinoy's latest work, which opened Friday at Gallery 5, provides a nuanced exploration of contemporary issues, human conflict, cultural diversity, and dreams of social harmony.

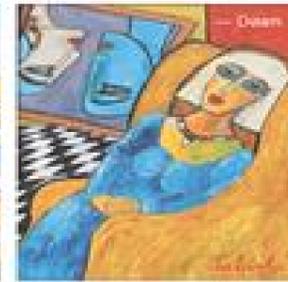
As an internationally celebrated painter and sculptor, Chinoy has woven these themes into a series of visually compelling compositions that reflect both her creative maturity and a deeply personal vision for a peaceful world.

A diverse crowd of art enthusiasts, fellow artists, and members of the diplomatic community gathered at the opening to engage with the artist, who shared insights into her work and inspiration. Known for her remarkable range in both painting and sculpture, Chinoy's exhibition focuses on her latest collection of paintings, showcasing her signature boldness and attention to detail.

A graduate of the Arts Council Karachi, Chinoy further honed her craft at London's prestigious Slade School of Fine Arts. Acclaimed artist and historian Ali Inayat influence is evident in her vibrant use of colour and mastery of texture and form. Chinoy's works—created in oil, acrylic, and watercolor on canvas and paper—feature vivid colours, bold textures, and strong lines that bring to life elongated figures with striking, graceful postures.

Speaking about her early influences, she notes, "My independent style developed considerably with Ali Inayat's guidance. He appreciated my love for bright colours, which added a unique dimension to my paintings."

The four years she spent training with Inayat at the Central Institute of Arts and Crafts in Karachi, she recalls, were formative, leading her not only to develop her technique but also a deep self-awareness that continues to shape her work.



The exhibition, titled Through the Veil of Dreams, encapsulates the evolution of Chinoy's four-decade artistic journey. Her latest pieces frequently depict educated, urban women set against natural backdrops filled with symbolic elements like birds, flowers, mountains, and expressive skies. These elements are integral to her narratives of cultural diversity, peace, and hope, as noted by the exhibition's curator, Dr. Arjumand Faizal: "These symbols express her dreams for a harmonious and united world."

In the series My Beautiful World, Chinoy's work takes on an almost ethereal quality, bridging the personal and universal through themes of interfaith harmony and cultural diversity in Live and Let Live, and messages of resilience in Hope Never Ends.

Her pieces in acrylic — featuring motifs like white and yellow birds, architectural domes, and minarets — suggest peaceful coexistence and a celebration of diversity.

An architect Maseeh Pathan observed, "Tabinda's vibrant colours have a magnetic quality, inviting the viewer into her world." Chinoy's style has evolved over the years from bold expressions to more serene and introspective themes. Having graduated in the 1970s, she held her first solo exhibition at Karachi's Incha Gallery in the late 1990s. Since then, her work has been showcased internationally in major art hubs like New York, London, Melbourne, Singapore, Dubai, and Delhi. Her ability to blend contemporary themes with traditional motifs has established her as a prominent figure in both national and international art circles. Chinoy's current work reflects a shift toward tranquility, influenced by her connection to her homeland, Pakistan. "These days, my work reflects more of my inner peace," she explains. "There's a subtle shift towards serenity and acceptance. I am increasingly drawing inspiration from Pakistan, a country of profound beauty and resilience but also of deep struggles. My work attempts to capture both realities." Through the Veil of Dreams invites viewers to experience Tabinda Chinoy's world—reflected in vibrant colour, thoughtful composition, and powerful symbolism. The exhibition runs until October 30, offering art lovers the chance to immerse themselves in the latest works of an artist whose vision continues to evolve with sensitivity and purpose.

# FIA probes allotment of residences in Iesco

By Iram Juraiki

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has been doing inquiry into allotment of official residences of Islamabad Electricity Supply Company (Iesco).

According to a letter, sent to the Iesco Chief Executive Officer by FIA and available with Dawn, the agency has been conducting inquiry on the complaint of Syed Mansoor Hussain Shah regarding misuse of official power by junior staff member of Iesco using portfolio of Assistant Director Admin whereas, the official is of lower grade having no such powers to sign an Assistant Director's Information Commission on 02.10.2024. That on 26.08.2024, another application sent to your good office through registered post and the same was received in your office," it stated.

"That in response to above, the undersigned submitted list of applications for provision of certified copy of approved accommodation policy but remained fruitless till to date. That the undersigned had no other option except to invoke Right to Information Act-2017 for said purpose, therefore, the undersigned approached the 'Information Commissioner Islamabad' for obtain the required record from Iesco, the master of provision of approved accommodation policy. (filed) before Information Commission on 02.10.2024. That on 26.08.2024, another application sent to your good office through registered post and the same was received in your office," it stated.

"Keeping in view it is therefore requested that a formal inquiry committee consist of senior officers may be constituted to probe the matter for fixing the responsibility upon persons at fault, it stated. An official of the Iesco, wishing not to be quoted, said that there were many houses of the Iesco in Islamabad located in G-2 and at grid stations which were allotted to the employees of the company.

**مبارکباد مبارکباد مبارکباد**

**التعلیٰ اللہ لکھنؤ کو ہو پ پاکستان کا**  
**پانچ سووی حج**  
**صیارتکہ پانچ سووی حج**

**جمال خان تراکھی**

**NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DISPATCH COMPANY LIMITED**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

**TENDER NO. ADB-401E-01R(C)-2024**

**PROCUREMENT OF 500/220KV, 70MVA (3-25MVA) AUTO TRANSFORMER BANK AT 500KV GRID STATION FAISALABAD WEST (ONE BANK) UNDER LOAN NO. 4271 - PAK. SECOND POWER TRANSMISSION ENGAGEMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM TRANCHE 4**

REFERENCE INVITATION NOTICE FOR THE ABOVE TENDER PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL DAILIES. THE SUBMISSION DATE OF BIDS HAS BEEN EXTENDED. NOW THE BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 12-11-2024 AT 11:00 AM INSTEAD OF EXISTING i.e. 29-10-2024. PNO/J/196/24

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**Abbottabad Public School**  
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1. Registration and Entrance Examination Fee	Rs. 5,000/-
2. Last Date for Submission of Admission Form	Class 7th: 30th November 2024 Class 8th: 08th November 2024
3. Date for Written Test	Class 7th: 25th Dec. 2024 (9:00 AM) Class 8th: 08th Nov. 2024 (9:00 AM)
4. Subjects of the Test	English, Math, Urdu & Islamiyat
5. Centers for Written Test (Subject to Sufficient Number of Candidates)	Abbottabad, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Sukkot, Karachi, Banna, Quetta and Multan
6. Age Limit on 31st March 2025 (Age Relaxation as per Rules will be given)	Between 11-12 years for Class 7th & 12-14 years for Class 8th
7. Special Seats (Self-Finance)	20% in Class 7th 50% in Class 8th

**Notes:**  
For the facilitation please contact on WhatsApp # 9931-436096, 9311-8376737, 9335-440266

**PRINCIPAL**  
Abbottabad Public School  
Mansobra Road, Abbottabad  
Ph: (0992) 406508-10 Fax: 406549

**INVITATION TO BID**

Sole Bid is invited through SAP Ariba from eligible contractors with adequate past relevant experience and financial capabilities for the below captioned tenders:

No. &	Essence Description	Essence No.	Bidding Procedure	Tender Availability
1	Supply of Earth Clamp Means at PNO House	QA-1878-A	Single Stage - Two Envelope	These tenders will be available through SAP Ariba Portal Only
2	Restoration of tank supports at PNO location Pano	BP-1879-A		
3	Service required for Maintenance Contract work at PNO location Terminal 8	CP-1878-A2		
4	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of CCTV System at PNO Railway Location	CP-1878-A3		
5	Redundancy of Radio Test Group System at PNO Machine Terminal	CP-1878-A4		
6	Procurement of Conductive Mats for 500KV Station	AA-1878-A5		
7	Procurement of Field Management Software	BB-1878-A6		
8	Material and Support Service	CC-1878-A7		
9	Installation of Speaker and Beam System at 22.5KV bus, PNO Islamabad (for Installation)	CP-1878-A8		

**TENDER INFO:** PNO House, 10001 (Islamabad) is a division of Pakistan State Oil Company Limited, (the PNO House)

BIDDING DATE	DATE	TIME
BID DOCUMENT COLLECTION (THROUGH SAP ARIBA)	From 27.10.2024 to 11.11.2024	09:30 AM to 04:00 PM
BID SUBMISSION (THROUGH SAP ARIBA)	11.11.2024	10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
BID OPENING (THROUGH SAP ARIBA)	11.11.2024	10:00 PM onwards

**NOTE:**  
• For tender # CP-1878-A5 and CP-1878-A8, Valid PTC certificate in category C2 or above is required for issuance of tender documents.  
• For tender # CP-1878-A6, Valid PTC certificate in category C2 or above is required for issuance of tender documents.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**  
Any party interested to participate in any of the tenders may send its request for tender documents through SAP Ariba Portal in the following manner:  
1. Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP Ariba Portal. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No. ...."  
2. Request shall be accompanied by scanned copies of the following:  
a. Valid NTN, CRP/PTC certificates, CNIC or company authorized representation. Vendor should be an active tax payer.  
b. Evidence of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- (covering the tender fee) as tender fee in the following bank account:  
Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED  
IBAN: PK00 0480 007 046 000 007  
Account No. 078-40-026-027 Branch code: 078 000 Plaza Branch  
11, Chaudhry Road, Karachi.

**INVITATION TO BID FOR SUPPLY OF PPE PRODUCTS**

Sole Bid is invited through SAP Ariba, an invited from eligible international suppliers for supply of above Goods as mentioned below:

PRODUCT	DELIVERY PLACE	MOQ
SRV-49	01 - 09-DAKSHINA 224	100

PRODUCT	MOQ	TIME
BID DOCUMENT COLLECTION	UP TO 26th NOVEMBER 2024	09:30 AM to 04:00 PM
BID SUBMISSION	27th NOVEMBER 2024	11:00 AM
BID OPENING	27th NOVEMBER 2024	09:30 AM onwards

**Instructions:** Any supplier interested in participating in any of the tenders may send its request for tender documents in the following manner:  
1. Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP Ariba Portal. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No. ...." (Please mention the relevant Delivery Point and Product).  
2. Request shall be accompanied by scanned copies of the following:  
Evidence of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- as Tender fee (for each product and parcel) in the following bank account:  
Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED  
IBAN: PK00 0480 007 046 000 007  
Account No. 078-40-026-027 Branch code: 078 000 Plaza Branch, 11, Chaudhry Road, Karachi.

**Bid documents will be available and should be submitted through SAP Ariba Portal only.**

For any queries/clarification please contact the below details:  
Procurement and Services Department,  
01 - Plaza, PNO House, Karachi  
DASH - 11-100-049 (7th to 12th/12th)  
E-mail: pso@psc.gov.pk, pso@psc.gov.pk

The advertisement is also available on PNO website: [psc.gov.pk](http://psc.gov.pk), [psc.com](http://psc.com) and PPSA website: [psc.gov.pk](http://psc.gov.pk)

Please note that interested vendors not having Ariba Network ID are requested to register themselves on SAP Ariba Portal by clicking on the link before to access and participate in upcoming PNO tenders.

<http://www.psc.gov.pk>

The bidder are urged to visit PNO e PPE website regularly for any further changes that may be updated by the Company, from time to time.

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Human Resource Department  
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75 Central Street, D.I. Khan Phase II, Faisalabad  
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**PMTF**  
**Pakistan Machine Tool Factory**

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Uniforms, and Safety Shoes

Pakistan Machine Tool Factory invites sealed Bids from reputable suppliers / manufacturers for supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Requirement:	PPE Details	Quantity
Round Neck T-Shirts	100% Cotton with light fabric	1100
Shirt and Trouser	100% Cotton with light fabric	550
Safety Shoes		550

**Last Date for Submission: 12-November-2024**

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Bidders must have experience in supplying similar items.
- Bidders must registered on GST.
- Bidders must submit one sample of each PPE along with the bid.

**How to Apply:**  
Completed tenders must be submitted to Procurement Department of Pakistan Machine Tool Factory.

**Contact Information:**  
For further information, please contact Faizan Ali at 0340-4797125 or [faizan.ali@pmtf.com](mailto:faizan.ali@pmtf.com)

**Pakistan Machine Tool Factory**  
Landhi, Karachi, Pakistan.  
Phone: +92-21-35082449

**PMTF**  
**Pakistan Machine Tool Factory**

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

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**Key Responsibilities:**

- To develop policies for hiring, performance appraisal, and compensation systems.
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- Well conversant with HR functions including Recruitment & Selection, Induction & Orientation, Training & Development, Compensation Management, Career Planning, Performance Management, Grievance handling, and Industrial Relations.

**Requirements:**

- Have a Master's Degree with at least 12+ years of relevant experience.
- Possess the skill and passion to develop HR department.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**  
Interested candidates meeting the criteria may drop their CVs at [recruitment@pmtf.com](mailto:recruitment@pmtf.com) with the position title in the subject line within 15 days of this advertisement. Only relevant profiles will be shortlisted and contacted for interviews.

**HR Department**  
**Pakistan Machine Tool Factory**  
Landhi, Karachi. Tel: +92-21-35082449

# FIR registered over Friday's prison van attack

By Murtaza Azam

ISLAMABAD: The capital police have registered a case over Friday's attack on prison vans that were transporting 82 political prisoners from the lower courts of the capital to Attock jail.

The case has been registered under section 7 and 211) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, along with 124, 153, 186, 427, 440, 224, 109, 148, and 149 of PNC and sections 13 and 20 of Arms Ordinance 1965 at Sangjani police station in response to a complaint lodged by Inspector Liaquat Ali.

According to the FIR, a police team reached Sangjani Toll Plaza after getting information about an attack on prison vans that were shifting 82 accused to Attock jail after their appearance in a court of the judicial magistrate police station Secretariat. Three police vehicles, including two pickups and a courier, were in the van.

About 35 to 40 people armed with weapons, batons and sticks appeared from the left side and started firing at the police when the caravan reached near the toll plaza at around 5:05pm, the FIR said, adding that as a result, the front tyres of one of the prison vans burst.

The suspects then attacked the vans with batons and sticks and broke their windshields as well as those of the speed pickups, it said, adding that as a result 81 Muhammad Razaan and constables Abdul Majid, Moinul and Mubassar sustained injuries.

The attackers then broke the locks of the prison vans with the help of iron rods and set free the prisoners despite warnings from the police officials.

The accused in the prison vans also attacked the police after disembarking from the vans, the FIR said, adding that after reaching the spot, the police team arrested most of the accused and called for more police contingent to look for the remaining escaped prisoners.

The team also arrested four attackers, the FIR said, adding that a WDM and 30-bore pistol were recovered from them, and two vehicles were also impounded.

SI Saifur Hussain, in-charge Saeed, said the attackers had planned the attack inside the premises of the courts, as there was a large gathering there, the FIR said, adding that the route of the caravan was secretly changed and more contingent was called due to presence of suspicious vehicles.

However, there seems to be one contradiction. The police as well as the information minister, Attaullah Tarar, claimed to have recovered all the prisoners whereas the FIR says that majority of the prisoners were arrested while a police contingent had been called to search for the remaining ones.

# 20 fuel stations sealed in Rawalpindi

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Civil Defence Department on Saturday sealed 20 fuel stations for operating without getting non-objection certificate from the district administration.

Under the law, fuel stations have to get NOC from the district administration and adopt all safety measures to avoid any untoward situation like fire.

Civil Defence Officer Faiz Hussain told Dawn that these petrol stations were operating without any permission and had failed to adopt fire safety measures. He said under the law the filling stations had to develop green areas in and around the outlets and adopt fire safety measures.

He said that the sealed filling stations were located in Kartarian, Chakri Road, Westridge, Soan Camp, Hawal Chowk, Murgah, Kallar Road, Pindora, Pirwahal, Adiala Road and adjoining areas.

He said teams had been directed to check prices and measuring tools of all the filling stations in the district. He said a survey of other parts of the district was being conducted and action would be taken against such petrol filling stations.

# Ex-JI senator, others booked

ISLAMABAD: The capital police registered another case against former senator and Jamaat-ul-Islami (JI) leader Mubashir Ahmad Khan along with over 250 people for staging a 'Save Gasa' protest and trying to march towards the Red Zone, police said on Saturday.

The case was registered under section 7 and 11 (X) of ATA along with different sections of PNC and the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act 2024 at the Sangjani police station in response to a complaint lodged by SI Ahsan Shaukat.

The FIR was lodged against the former senator along with 27 constables and 200 to 250 unidentified people. According to the FIR, the protesters carrying batons and sticks reached Sangjani Market and started chanting slogans.

They later moved towards the Red Zone and attacked the police besides blocking the road. The police informed the protesters that their rally was illegal as Section 144 was imposed in the capital but they put up resistance and tried to enter the high security area.

They also pelted the police with stones and as a result two policemen were injured besides damaging seven private and two official vehicles.

The protesters also smashed anti-riot kits from two constables, said the FIR. — Staff Reporter

# A fun-filled weekend marking UN Day

By Ahsan Faiz

ISLAMABAD: "This is amazing. I have never seen such a large crowd, not even at my exhibitions here at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA)," Nigar Nazir, Pakistan's first woman cartoonist and the face behind Gogi, the famous cartoon character, said as she waited for her turn to enter the PNCA lanes which were hosting a family event in connection with the annual UN Day.

Being a weekend, the number of visitors to the event was extraordinary. A stream of vehicles could be seen heading towards the venue, trying to find the parking lot, which soon ran out of space. People were left with no choice but to park their cars along the road and head to the venue. All this while, traffic police officials remained on their toes.

The event saw various UN agencies set up their stalls including Unesco, UNAid, UNWomen, IOM, UNFPA, FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNHabitat, OCHA, UNicef and many more.

The highlight of the event, however, was the 'UN Career Booth' which remained crowded throughout the day.

"We had an overwhelming response; we were not expecting such a large crowd," said Ms Raha, HR officer at one of the agencies.

"We started at 3pm, and it is almost 8pm but we are still receiving young university graduates, who want guidance on how to apply for jobs in the UN agencies," she said.

When asked if they were advertising about vacancies in the UN bodies at the booth, she said "We are not here to tell people about the opportunities; we are here to guide them about how to apply, what all agencies are operating in Pakistan and what specific roles they would be looking for."

Head of Education Unesco Islamabad Zafar Hayat Malik said "People basically do not understand what the UN mandate is. Therefore, we want to bring the UN closer to the people to enable it to serve them better."

"We will be organising more such events in the coming days in order to interact with people and educate them about the entire UN system," Mr Malik said.

Sania Tamim, UNAid's community-led response adviser for Pakistan and Afghanistan, who was busy interacting with visitors, said "We've realised that with time, the stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS is increasing a lot. Therefore, this is one of the ways through which we can raise awareness and have open discussion with people."

"We are working all across the country. UNAid is a joint programme of all UN agencies, and we partner with them as well as other community-based organisations," she added.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) Country Director Geir T. Torsvoll said his organisation was also part of the UN family in Pakistan.

"This year the United Nations wanted to mark the UN Day by having a public event where people could come and learn about what the UN as well as the ILO had been doing in Pakistan," he added.

Mr Torsvoll further said they had a long history of collaboration with Pakistan.

"We work together with the government, employers' organisations as well as workers organisations and support decent work in different sectors of the economy," he said, adding, "we have signed a decent work country programme with Pakistan to ensure that labour standards are ratified and implemented."

On the entertainment front, several stalls engaged people through various activities and giveaways. Food stalls that offered a variety of items were equally crowded.

A young visitor, Mohammad Irtaza, said he was happy to have won a bag of goodies at one of the stalls.

They asked me a question, and gave me choices. I gave the correct answer," the overjoyed teenager said.

The concluding event of the day was a concert by famous artist Shah Gill who was received by the audience, comprising youngsters, with cheers and applause.

"We have come here to listen to Shah Gill. You do not get a lot of opportunities to attend concerts of your favourite singers; therefore, we could not miss it," Shaad Sheikh and Mohammad Raha, two teenagers in the crowd, said.



(CLOCKWISE from top) People seen visiting stalls of UN agencies while various activities are being undertaken for the entertainment of visitors at the UN Day family event in Islamabad on Saturday. — Photos by Mohammad Asim

# President, PM reaffirm support to Kashmir freedom struggle

Call upon world community to pressurise India to halt its human rights abuses in IIOJK

By Bakhtawar Mian

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have reiterated their resolve to continue extending full moral, diplomatic and political support to Kashmiri brethren and sisters until they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination according to UN Security Council resolutions.

They urged the international community to take serious notice of Indian atrocities on, and human rights abuses of, the people of Kashmir and prevail upon the aggressor to implement the world body resolutions.

"We urge the international community to pressurise India to halt its human rights abuses in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), alleviate the suffering of Kashmiris, and implement UN Security Council resolutions. Pakistan will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with its Kashmiri brethren and sisters until they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination," President Zardari said in his message on the occasion of 'Kashmir Black Day' being observed on Sunday (Oct 27).

The day marks a dark chapter in South Asian history when Indian sent troops to occupy Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

For decades, the people of IOJK have endured brutal repression by Indian forces. Over the years, India has transformed IOJK into one of the most militarised regions in the world.

Thousands of innocent Kashmiris have been killed, while their legitimate leaders remain imprisoned, and local media is heavily censored, the message said.

The United Nations Security Council has repeatedly affirmed the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination through a fair and impartial plebiscite. Yet, India continues to defy these resolutions and deny Kashmiris their fundamental rights.

Since August 5, 2019, India has further escalated its occupation by stripping IOJK of its special status and implementing measures to alter its demographic and political landscape.

These actions are part of a broader strategy to consolidate control and suppress the Kashmiri Freedom Movement.

Despite these oppressive tactics, the resilient people of Kashmir remain steadfast in their struggle for freedom.

"We strongly condemn India's ongoing atrocities and reaffirm our unwavering moral, diplomatic, and political support for the Kashmiri people's just cause. The recent developments in the Middle East are a stark reminder that long-standing disputes should not be allowed to fester. Violating international law and pushing disputes under the rug does not guarantee lasting peace. Three generations of Kashmiris have waited for the world, especially the United Nations, to deliver them their right to self-determination. The world can no longer ignore its responsibility," President Zardari said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in his message said, "On this day, 77 years ago, Indian forces landed in Srinagar. India has since stifled the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people to determine their own destiny. It has failed to fulfil its obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have suffered countless hardships during the last seventy-seven years. However, their resolve to realise their inalienable right to self-determination remains as firm as it was in 1947."

He praised the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people in their continuous struggle for the right to self-determination. Undoubtedly, their sacrifices will not go in vain.

India has been taking successive steps to tighten its grip over IOJK since 5 August 2019. India's refrains

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India has been taking successive steps to tighten its grip over IOJK since 5 August 2019. India's refrains

# Kazakh envoy recounts achievements on Republic Day

By Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD: Dignitaries and guests gathered at the Embassy of Kazakhstan on Friday to celebrate its Republic Day.

This year's celebration holds particular significance. "For the first time, we are honored to collaborate with the Care for Special Persons Foundation and its children. These children are with us tonight as our special guests," Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistalin said.

The Kazakh envoy also highlighted his country's achievements and the strong bilateral ties with Pakistan. Minister for Privatization, Communication, and Board of Investment, Abdul Azeem Khan was the chief guest at the event.

The event featured a charity auction of handmade products by children from the foundation, and the proceeds directed towards supporting their education and care.

Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistalin expressed gratitude to key support

ers, including Aziz Boolani, who is CEO of Serena Hotel, for co-organizing the event.

Ahmed Nawaz, a host from PTY World, led the charity auction, which aimed to raise funds for the foundation.

Highlighting Kazakhstan's journey since its declaration of sovereignty, Ambassador Yerzhan Kistalin noted the country's impressive socio-economic development and foreign policy achievements.

He shared key milestones, including a foreign trade volume of \$139.8 billion in 2023 and the attraction of \$44 billion in foreign direct investments since 1993. He also emphasized the role of the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) as a regional business hub, which has raised over \$12 billion in investments since 2018.

Kazakhstan's strategic focus on digital infrastructure and the development of the "North-South" transport corridor were underscored as pivotal initiatives in the country's growth. The ambassador mentioned

that 13 international transport corridors now cross Kazakhstan, significantly boosting the country's logistical potential.

The diplomat also highlighted Kazakhstan's active role on the global stage, noting its participation in international peacekeeping missions and regional organisations. In 2024, Kazakhstan chaired several



(L-R) KAZAKH Ambassador Yerzhan Kistalin, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatmi, Senate Chairman Syed Younas Bhatta Gilani, Minister for Privatization Abdul Azeem Khan, and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar attend the cake-cutting ceremony held on the occasion of Kazakhstan's Republic Day in Islamabad on Friday night. — White Star

key organisations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Organisation of Turkic States.

The ambassador proudly mentioned the recent 15th World Nomad Games held in Astana, which featured 21 sports and cultural programmes with participants from 89 countries, including a Pakistani contingent that won three bronze medals.

Reflecting on bilateral relations, the ambassador lauded the growth in trade between Kazakhstan and Pakistan, which saw an 85 percent increase to \$186.3 million in the last fiscal year. He highlighted the establishment of stable trade routes and the successful import of Pakistani mangoes to Kazakhstan earlier this year.

The ambassador also underscored the high-level exchanges between the two countries, including the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Astana and Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov to Islamabad for the SCO meetings. He noted the fruitful negotiations and

concrete agreements reached during these events, with implementation expected in the coming months.

As the evening concluded, the ambassador expressed his gratitude to all who contributed to strengthening the friendship between Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

"Today's celebration is a testament to the growing partnership between our nations," he said, encouraging guests to enjoy the evening.

Other guests who spoke on the occasion included Chairman Senate Syed Younas Bhatta Gilani and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, who appreciated contributions from the embassy of Kazakhstan in contributing to development of the community.

The auctioned fetched more than 800 million for the handicrafts made by the differently abled children of the foundation. Guests included in local and Kazakh delegations prepared by Serena Hotel's Executive Chef Pathmanathan Balasingamnan.

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Haaland fires City to top of Premier League, Villa held

Pg.19 SPORT

LAHORE
Sunset 05:20 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:13 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 21.0°C
Maximum 30.0°C
Outlook Sunny
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 260



GIRLS take part in a gaming session Rhadan Lahore Dyan organised by the Walled City of Lahore Authority at Shalimar Gardens. — AFP

ATC denies bail to Cheema, Ejaz in three May 9 cases

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Saturday denied post-arrest bail to PTI Senator Ejaz Chaudhry, former governor Umar Saeed Cheema and former provincial minister Mian Mahmood Rasheed in six cases of May 9 riots.

Judge Anwar Javed announced the decision on the bail petitions filed by the PTI leaders in six cases, including looting the PM-N office in Model Town, police vehicles in Gulberg, a container near Kalma Chowk and others.

Earlier, special prosecutor Abdul Jabbar Doger concluded his arguments and presented police record before the court.

The lawyers for the petitioners rejected the charges against their clients, saying they had been implicated in the 'false' cases on political considerations. The judge adjourned the bail petitions of former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi till Nov 6.

Around a dozen cases had been registered in Lahore alone against the PTI leaders and workers for attacking and vandalising public and private property besides army facilities, including the Jinnah House, during the last year protests on May 9 against the arrest of former premier Imran Khan by the NAD in a graft case.

Punjab teachers boycott assessment test over fear of failure

Only 80 out of 43,000 appear in Training Need Assessment test

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: Punjab teachers completely boycotted the Training Need Assessment (TNA) test held in the province on Saturday to assess the training needs of teachers in the School Education Department (SED).

The government had designed the TNA App, developed by PMU-PSWP, to assess the training needs of teachers in the department. It would enable off-line tests through an MCQ-based assessment, evaluating essential teaching competencies. The app is designed to ensure seamless navigation and a smooth testing experience, effectively identifying key areas for professional development.

The department had established 720 centres to conduct the test in the province and 60 teachers were to appear for the test at each centre. Around 43,000 primary

school teachers (PSTs) were to appear in the test being held in Punjab on Saturday. The TNA was planned to be conducted from Friday and would continue on Saturday and Sunday.

Punjab Teachers Union general secretary Rana Liaquat told Dawn that only 80 teachers out of 43,000 appeared in the test in the province.

He said the teachers observed a complete strike and all the centres were empty. The test was developed in English and there was no time for its preparation.

He said that 30 to 40 per cent of teachers could not use the android application on their phones and they were also not connected to any social media platform including Facebook and WhatsApp.

He said the teachers were directed to take tests three days ago and they did not have any internet facility in their schools. He said that the government was planning to privatise the schools and had already 'sold' 13,000 schools and would remove the teachers from jobs who could not pass the test.

He said the teachers should have been given time to prepare for the test and already the government was not regular-

ising 14,000 educators and they had been protesting for many years.

He said the government was also not providing leave encashment to them.

Punjab Minister for School Education Rana Sikandar Hayat in a video statement said that the unions were misguiding the teachers and they would always 'approach him to get personal benefits.'

He said there should be a system of accountability as a 10-marla private school has 1,500 enrolment and a 20-kanal public school working with 250 students. The salaries of public school teachers are double than those of private ones. 'I love teachers who are competent.'

He said there were 80pc of hardworking teachers and he had announced prizes for them but the 'incompetent' teachers were leveling allegations of favoritism. 'I did not know any teacher before assuming the charge of the minister and they are leveling false allegations.' He said the government carried out transfers and posting in a transparent manner and no one had to pay bribes for any posting. 'Around 10 to

15pc of teachers attached with the union are propagating that the government is privatising the schools. We have not privatised a single school and will not do so in future,' he appealed to the teachers to trust the government.

He said the test was being conducted to check the competence of the teachers and they would be trained after finding [any] deficiencies.

He said there was Rs600 billion tax payers money being spent on education every year and he appealed to the public that the government was trying to ensure quality education for children after spending so much money.

He said they were outsourcing the schools for better management and quality and it was not privatisation. They were only outsourcing 13,000 to 15,000 out of 50,000 schools of the province and were taking measures to improve the quality of education in the remaining 35,000 schools.

He said he had started profiling the union leaders who get millions of rupees salary from the government per year and did not attend the school for more than 50 days.

Lesco disconnects power supply to Zoo Safari Park

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A team from the Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) disconnected power to the Zoo Safari Park on Rawalpindi Road on Saturday due to unpaid bills totalling nearly Rs5 million.

'We issued multiple reminders for payment, but there was no response, forcing us to cut the power supply,' a Lesco spokesman stated.

SEAL-ED: The joint enforcement teams from environment department, police and other agencies have sealed 17 factories and arrested seven people for contributing to smog.

The teams also imposed significant fines on those violating government regulations regarding the installation of equipment to enhance environmental conditions in the Rawl industrial zone.

LDA operation to retrieve plots in Johar Town

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) on Saturday launched an operation in Johar Town to retrieve its plots from land grabbers (illegal occupants).

The operation was launched following media reports mentioning a number of LDA plots worth billions occupied illegally by the land mafia. During the operation, led by LDA



Director General Tahir Farooq, a directorate of housing (DHO) team comprising Muzammil Rasheed (director) and others took over possession of 25 plots (nine of one-kanal and 16 of 12-marla) worth Rs600 million after demolishing structures and boundary walls, removing shanties and other kinds of encroachments meant for holding illegal possession by the land mafia in C-1, D and D-1 blocks of Johar town.

The retrieved properties included plots number 35, 05 to 150, 51, 52, 42, 43, 44, 44-A, 44-B and 47.

'The directorate concerned must ensure safeguarding previous properties seized by LDA,' the DG directed the officers while supervising the operation.

He ordered to cover the retrieved properties with fencing or boundary

Continued on Page 14

Housing victims updated on progress at NAB open court

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Over 250 affected of different housing societies registered their grievances with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Saturday during an open court proceedings.

The affected sought justice and recovery of their looted money.

NAB Lahore Director General Anjad Majid Aulakh listened to their grievances and issued on-the-spot instructions while updating them on the progress of their ongoing cases.

Affected from various housing societies and Post

schemes, including State Life Cooperative Housing Society, Palm Vista Housing, Prime Zone, and Bold Vision, as well as employees of East Road Traders, New Lahore City project, Qasim Gardens, Deterior Paradise, Fatahulabad and employees of Rahim Store participated in the open court session.

Regarding Palm Vista Housing, the NAB arrested two directors, Mahmood Tariq and Amer Azam, who were accused of embezzling Rs1.4 billion from 295 affected in the scam.

To further investigations and recovery of looted funds, the accused had been remanded in custody until

Oct 30.

The NAB director general also informed the affected that efforts were underway to repatriate the main absconding accused Qasim Khan through Interpol. However, all movable and immovable assets of those involved in the fraud have been frozen.

The State Life Cooperative Housing Society affected sought affiliation and NoC from NAB.

The DG assured them that the NAB would provide 6,750 allotments with developed plots worth Rs10 billion within a month. He also

Continued on Page 15

Youth kidnapped for Rs20m ransom rescued

By Our Staff Reporter

DEBRA GHAZI KHAN: Raigarh police claimed on Saturday to have recovered a youth who had been kidnapped for Rs20 million a week back.

In a swift operation, police rescued 20-year-old Saqain, son of Ghulam Shabir, who had been abducted a week earlier from Mohammadpur Maszta Qambar Shah. The kidnappers demanded a ransom of Rs20m from his family.

A special team, led by the Mohammadpur station house officer and formed by DPO Dost Mohammad, tracked down the suspects using advanced technology. The team conducted a successful raid on the kidnappers' hideout and recovered the hostage safely.

Although the suspects managed to flee, a search operation is ongoing.

— Correspondent

SC's order for acting-charge posts limit at varsities to six months

Asks Centre, provinces to make regular postings of VCs, others

By Wajih Ahmad Sheikh

LAHORE: The Supreme Court has ordered the federal and provincial governments to ensure that vacant tenured positions at the public sector universities must not be held for more than six months on an acting-charge basis and the appointments of the regular incumbents, including the vice chancellors, be made strictly under the prescribed laws.

'Student unions be revived in universities but it must be ensured that they are inclusive and not

divisive, ethnic or sectarian,' said a judgement authored by former chief justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa.

Justice Isa issued the judgement on Oct 24, his last working day, allowing a constitutional petition of All Public Universities BPS Teachers Association (APUBTA), representing about 50,000 teachers working in public universities.

Justice Nasim Akhtar Algham and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan were the other members of the bench, headed by the former CJ, which heard the petition at the principal seat in Islamabad.

The petition was filed through association's president versus the Federation of Pakistan through Secretary Federal Education and Professional Training, Islamabad

and others, including the higher educational institutions of Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The association sought a direction to ensure compliance of federal and provincial laws and the status of public sector universities. The petition had questioned the inordinate delay in filling the vacancies of top positions, including the VCs, at least 60 universities.

The judgement carries a set of directions to all federal and provincial public sector universities, the federal ministries of education, science and technology and defence, the provincial ministries of education, the Higher Education Commission (HEC), and the provincial higher education departments (HEDs).

It said governing bodies of the universities must meet (at least)

the minimum prescribed times in the laws. It said the appointments be made to all tenured positions in the universities as prescribed in their respective laws, including those of VCs, registrars, directors general, deans, treasurer/directors of finance, controllers of examinations, chairpersons and others specified must be done transparently and on merit, by stipulating their respective criteria and inviting appointments through their respective websites and advertisements.

The judgement said the universities should not exceed the academic to non-academic staff ratio prescribed by the HEC and those universities which have exceeded the same must not hire further non-academic staff unless absolutely necessary after specific permission is

granted by their respective governing bodies.

The HEC and HEDs should annually rank the universities in their respective jurisdictions pursuant to internationally recognised criteria.

The SC said a safe and harassment-free environment, free of psychotropic drugs and weapons must be created at the universities. The transgressors and those who destroy universities' properties must be dealt with strictly.

It said the hostels meant for the students must not be allowed to be occupied by those who have completed their studies and by outsiders.

During the hearing, the open court was informed that the National Fertilizer Institute of Engineering and Technology, Multan, was established in 2012 and

Akhtar Ali Malik was appointed as its first VC, however, he is still holding the position for the last over six years despite the expiry of his term in 2018.

The judgement noted that the federal ministry of education and the HEC admitted that Mr Malik was illegally holding on to the position of VC but provisionally demonstrated helplessness and it could not even stop the salary which he had been illegally taking since 2018. The court ordered a stoppage of all payments to him, observing that the authorities may consider recovering what he had paid to himself after completing his tenure in 2018.

It also ordered the appointment of the new VC in accordance with the applicable law and rules as soon as possible to ensure the functioning of the university.

PRAYER

Table with prayer times: Fajr 4.52, Zuhar 1.00, Asr 3.42, Maghrib 5.20, Isha 6.40

REFLECTIONS

CC TO CUP CONNCTIONS WITH IGNE... TIONS WITH IGNE... RANT PEOPLE IS ITSELF LIKE FORMING CONNECTIONS WITH WISE PERSONS 25

Appreciation of head constable

LAHORE: Punjab IG De Usman Arora met a head constable whose five children completed their MBBS degrees.

Head Constable Anwar Hameed, along with his wife, daughters and sons, met the IG at the Central Police Office.

LDA...

walls besides placing boards mentioning LDA ownership. He said the operation must be continued till the retrieval of all plots from the land mafia.

HARKING BACK

Lahore cemeteries and body parts of Raja Dhian Singh

By Majid Sheikh

HERE is much more to the dead lying in Lahore's numerous graveyards compared to those living in the city.

As I wandered through three of Lahore's numerous cemeteries, one is struck at the quality of the deceased. Naturally, one compares them to the living, and that made me think of writing about the two or three outstanding persons in three of the numerous graveyards.

Let's start with the Mirza Sahib graveyard, an over 800-year stretch of land that today holds 600 families both existing and flourished - a staggering 300,000 graves.

Among the hundreds of grave three stand out of our freedom fighters, those of Dulla Bhatti, Major Shahdai Sharif and Dr Muhammad Iqbal Shudai.

Among the hundreds of grave three stand out of our freedom fighters, those of Dulla Bhatti, Major Shahdai Sharif and Dr Muhammad Iqbal Shudai. First let us dwell on Dulla Bhatti. From the days of the Mughal emperor Akbar in the freedom fighter Rai Abdullah Bhatti, better known as Dulla Bhatti. He was born in Pindi Bhattian and was a famous local landlord.

Akbar's massive land taxes.

On learning of his father's killing by the Mughal ruler, Dulla organised a rebellion. Bhatti's class war took the form of taking from the rich and giving to the poor. Dulla gave him a legendary 'Robin Hood' status.

Akbar in an act of duplicity invited Dulla to his court to discuss his uprising, promising a positive result. But once in the Lahore Fort he was skinned alive and hung outside the now closed Delhi Gate of the fort.

The great Sufi poet Shah Hussain claims his last words were: "No honourable son of the Punjab will sell the soil of the Punjab." His skinned body was removed and buried in the Mirza Sahib Graveyard.

Then there is the Pakistani 1971 War martyr Major Shahdai Sharif. His full name was Major Raima Muhammad Shahdai Sharif who was awarded a Nishan-e-Haider for his amazing fighting against attacking Indian forces.

He was born in Kirajih in Gajrat district to a Rajput family and attended the St. Anthony's High School, Lahore. As a child I remember him in the school sports event held in the railway ground, where he was all the medals. He was a champion swimmer, athlete and squash player.

In the 1971 War in an offensive on the Western front against an overwhelming Indian force, on the 3rd of December 1971, in a well-organised action, he fought alongside his men and held Indian attacks at bay. On the 6th of December, he took over as a general on an anti-tank gun and started firing on the enemy tanks. While this fight was on, one of the enemy tanks fired at him thus killing him. His last words were quoted as "Don't lose the bridge."

Then there is the amazing freedom fighter Dr Muhammad Iqbal Shudai. If there was ever a leading freedom fighter against the British colonialists, this was Iqbal Shudai. Born in 1888 in Pura, Bahawalpur, Sindh to a Punjabi Khatri Rajput family, he graduated from Sukhdev's Murray College but was refused admission in Lahore's Lane College as he was anti-British.

In 1918, Shudai joined the Hindustan Ghadar Party and moved to Kabul where Amanullah Khan appointed Shudai as his minister for Indian refugees.

Iqbal Shudai then moved to Moscow to study the socialism of the Russian Bolshevik Party. He then moved to Ankara, Turkey, where he met Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. In 1933, Shudai became an adviser to the Italian Foreign Ministry on propaganda efforts targeted at Muslims in India and the Middle East.

With the beginning of World War II, Shudai established a clandestine radio station in Rome, making daily broadcasts to Indians. He trained Subhas Chandra Bose in revolutionary theory. In 1941, Shudai established the Azad Hind Government, an exile government for an independent India. In 1944, he fled Rome to avoid capture by the Allied armies. He returned to Lahore, Pakistan, in 1964, passing away on 13th of January 1974.

Let us now move on to the Tashli Gane Christian cemetery. Here are three very famous personalities of Lahore, they are Charles William Forman, Sir Henry Adolphus Rattigan and Raja Dhian Singh. Let us start with Forman, the founder of the Forman Christian College, better known as FCC, a major Lahore college and now a university.

Charles William Forman was born on March 3, 1821, in Washington, Kentucky, United States. He started his working on his father's hemp business where the misery of the slaves moved him. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister on July 7, 1847, and on the same day started his journey to India as a missionary.

In 1849, he settled in Lahore and set up the Rang Mahal School in the old walled city of Lahore. It was the first Anglo-vernacular school of Punjab. This school added a college department in 1865, which was later known as Forman Christian College. He was known to walk, every day, the streets of Lahore talking to people. This practice continued for 40 years. He died on August 27, 1894, in Lahore.

Then opposite Tashli Gane lies Sir Henry Adolphus Rattigan, a former chief justice of the Chief Court of the Punjab, which was to become Lahore High Court. His house on Rattigan Road was an amazing thatched-roofed cottage, which after his death was demolished as being 'unhygienic'.

He was born in Delhi, and educated at Harrow School and later Balliol College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1874. In 1889, he returned to India and served as an advocate at the Chief Court of the Punjab. He served as a judge of the Chief Court of the Punjab from 1909 and in 1917 was made chief justice. He was knighted in 1918 and remained as chief justice until 1920 when he died in Lahore. His published works include Tribal Laws of the Punjab (1895) and Laws of Divorce in India (1897).

Thus in this very old cemetery is, allegedly, the body of Raja Dhian Singh, the longest serving 'Wazir' of the Sikh Empire. On 15th of September 1843, he was assassinated alongside the emperor Sher Singh by the Sarabhwalis group. His body was chopped into small pieces and allegedly thrown in a grave at this Tashli cemetery. The grave is a mystery, though official record acknowledges it. Several visits to the cemetery have not been able to locate it. This needs more research.

In the third cemetery, the Gora Cemetery on Jail Road where lies buried the daughter of Maharajah Dilip Singh, the Princess Ramda Sutherland. Also, there is Cecil Chaudhary, Geoffrey Langlands and A.C. Woodson. Langlands and Woodson were both outstanding educationists, with Woodson's statue still standing on The Mall opposite the museum. Cecil Chaudhary was an outstanding pilot of the IAF who was decorated for outstanding bravery in both 1945 and 1971 wars.

Princess Ramda Sutherland was the granddaughter of Maharajah Ranjit Singh and daughter of Maharajah Dilip Singh. She moved back to Lahore and lived in Model Town. It was her wish to be buried in Lahore after she died in March 1957. All three cemeteries have hundreds of outstanding persons buried there, but a comparative analysis brings forth how the past has fashioned the present, and what awaits us in the future.

Domestic violence against pregnant woman

By Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARGARH: A pregnant woman was brutally tortured by her husband and in-laws for not conceiving a son.

In Shehr Sultan, Moqadas Fatma was subjected to abuse after doctors informed her family that she was expecting a daughter for the second time. Moqadas, who already has a six-month-old daughter, was attacked when her husband and his family learned the gender of her unborn child.

In her plea for help, Moqadas claimed that her husband, father-in-law, and brother-in-law had all participated in the violence, which also extended to her infant daughter.

She urged the chief minister to take action against her husband's family and provide her with protection.

Moqadas, who was married 18 months ago and has four children, said her husband and his family had always been unhappy with the birth of their first daughter. After confirming that she was pregnant again, the family reacted violently upon learning that the baby would be another girl.

The Shehr Sultan police said they were currently investigating the matter.

RESOLVED: Issues between local lawyers and the administration were settled after the lawyers tendered apologies to the Karor Lal Easan assistant commissioner on Saturday.

Bokhari has removed Dr Noor-ul-Rehman from her position as medical superintendent of the Tofiq Hospital at Sarwar Shalwar Chowk.

This decision was made following her involvement in 'sensational and anti-government' content on social media.

The deputy commissioner wrote a letter to the secretary of Primary and Secondary Health Department, requesting her removal based on government regulations that prohibit officials in administrative positions from engaging in negative social media activity.

Dr Rehman was dismissed from her role after the district administration reviewed her posts and deemed them inappropriate.

RESOLVED: Issues between local lawyers and the administration were settled after the lawyers tendered apologies to the Karor Lal Easan assistant commissioner on Saturday.

Dr. Khan Commissioner Nasir Mahmood Badir and the members of the Punjab Bar Council played a role in resolving the issue.

Concluding, Tehsildar Muhammad Umer Khan asked the police to quash the FIR. The issue stemmed from AC Anwar Akram's actions when he lodged a case against the lawyers under terrorism and other sections. She did so after receiving threats from the lawyers on 19 October while working in her office. The lawyers also broke the windows and tore government files and papers in front of the AC and her staff.

Action against students protest Family of critically injured student pardons policemen

By Our Correspondent

GURDAS: A first-year student who was critically injured during violent protests at the boys' campus of the Punjab College has been discharged from the Punjab Institute of Neurosurgery in Lahore after his condition improved and he has returned home in Gurdas.

In the latest development on Saturday, the family of the student, Anasullah, pardoned the police officials, namely Larry Adla Police Station station house officer Sub-Inspector Afshar Shah and driver of the police van. Both the police officials were booked on the orders of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

Anasullah had sustained a critical head injury after his motorcycle struck the median on the GT Road when a police vehicle was chasing him during action against the protesters outside the PNC campus near Gurdas on Oct 15.

It is learnt that the father of the injured boy, the complainant to the case lodged against the policemen, recorded his statement of reconciliation in the court and pardoned the policemen after which the cops were discharged from the case and released.

The surgeons at the Agha Bhatti Shaheed Teaching Hospital (ABTHH) had conducted the surgery on the student who was later shifted to the institute in Lahore. ABTHH Medical Superintendent Dr. Aqas Nazir told Dawn's Anadolu that he was with his family.

Meanwhile, 19 suspects booked and arrested in connection with the violent protests and clashes at the PNC campuses were released on bail by the orders of courts on Saturday.

Most of the freshly released students are from Kharian tribal centers outside the PNC campus near Gurdas on Oct 15.

However, around 100 suspects arrested in at least 100 cases lodged by the police are still in jail.

TWO KILLED: A man and his nephew were shot dead allegedly by their relatives during a monetary dispute in Shaheedullah of Gujranwala on Saturday.

Suspects Raheem and Hameed had a disagreement with their brother Nadiq Bhatti which escalated into a heated argument. The situation turned violent when the suspects opened fire, killing Nadiq and his nephew, Shafiq.

Police shifted the bodies to Gujranwala Medical College Teaching Hospital for autopsy. A team from the Punjab Forensic Science Agency also collected evidence from the site.

The police said a team had been formed to arrest the fleeing suspects. As of the latest reports, a case had not yet been registered.

Tributes to Farkhanda Bokhari

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Speakers at a seminar, Life of a Political Worker, paid tributes to the late Farkhanda Bokhari, a PPP worker who faced imprisonment and exile during the dictatorship of Gen Zia.

Speakers, hailing from different parties, praised political activists in general and their struggle, calling a political worker not merely an individual but an institution.

The seminar was organized by the Farkhanda and Shudai Bokhari Welfare Society at the Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA) on Saturday.

Former Senator Farhatullah Baloch said the dictatorship greatly harmed Pakistan, recalling that when a plane was hijacked, the leaders of the PPP were blamed for it and Farkhanda was also imprisoned under the same accusation.

He said Farkhanda made a genuine struggle for the country and the party by raising a voice against the army's oppression during Gen Zia's era.

The PPP leader said the activities of another political party also fought a political battle recently. He termed the efforts of activists from any party commendable.

PTI MNA Karim Latif Khosa said there had been great people who struggled for the country yet those who served the nation were dubbed as traitors. He expressed regrets that people's right to vote had also been taken away in the country.

Khosa, who is a former stalwart of the PPP, recalled the political struggle of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto against the military dictators like Gen Ziaul Haq.

LHCBA former vice president Habbiba Bajwa lamented that all political parties had forgotten their ideological workers. She noted that depoliticization of the country began during the Gen Zia era and stressed that all political parties should value their ideological workers.

PML-N former MNA Naseer Ahmad Bhatta, PPP leader Faizul Mis, Dr Khalid Mahmood Jan and Dr Akbar Hussain also spoke.

LAHORE: The Provincial Taskforce for Polio Eradication has expressed its worry over the presence of poliovirus in environmental samples and called for removing flaws in the anti-polio campaign for the eradication of the crippling disease.

The meeting also decided to gear up the mobile-voter population in the upcoming anti-polio campaign beginning on Monday.

Polio taskforce calls for enhanced measures

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Provincial Taskforce for Polio Eradication has expressed its worry over the presence of poliovirus in environmental samples and called for removing flaws in the anti-polio campaign for the eradication of the crippling disease.

The meeting also decided to gear up the mobile-voter population in the upcoming anti-polio campaign beginning on Monday.

Chairing the taskforce meeting at the civil secretariat on Saturday, Health Minister Khawaja Salman Razaq stressed that special measures must be taken to ensure 100% coverage of the mobile-voter population and missed children. He said at least one government official should be included in every polio team.

The taskforce called for constituting special teams to vaccinate children at the entry and transit points of the province. It agreed to enhance routine immunisation (ERT) coverage to head towards the complete elimination of polio.

Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman said digitisation of vaccination will help improve the quality of anti-polio drives. He asked the administration of the hovering districts, including Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur, and Attock, to remain alert to deal with the threat of polio.

Briefing the meeting, Primary Health Department Secretary Nadia Soofi said as many as 23.3 million children would be immunised, adding that 4,888 permanent and 2,654 transit teams had been constituted to administer vaccines to children up to the age of five years.

The administrative secretaries of relevant departments, including home, health, and schools, the commissioner, deputy commissioner of Lahore, and representatives of international organisations working for the eradication of polio participated in the meeting, while all the divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners participated through video link. — Staff Reporter

Advertisement for SIMS-SIUT Postgraduate Training Programs - January 2025 Session. Includes details for FCPS, MCPS & IMM Programs, MS & MD Programs, and application procedures.

Advertisement for National Transmission & Despatch Company Limited Amendment No. 1. Includes tender details for procurement of 500/220KV, 750MVA (3\*750MVA) auto transformer bank at 500KV GRID STATION FAISALABAD WEST (ONE BANK) UNDER LOAN NO. 8271 - PAK. SECOND POWER TRANSMISSION ENHANCEMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM TRANCHE 4.



LAHORE: PHA workers giving a new look to an Old Anarkali greenbelt. — White Star

# Shopkeepers block road over anti-encroachment operation

By Our Correspondent

**TOBA TEK SINGH:** Durg Toba Road was blocked on Friday night by shopkeepers of Adha Bagh for two hours over an anti-encroachment operation conducted by Jhang's municipal staff.

During the demolition of the sheds of the shops, a crane driver hit the Ghate on a shed, as a result, shop owner Muhammad Shahid who was sitting in the shed in protest, not only fell down and was injured but also received an electric shock from live electric wires, which provoked the shopkeepers. They pulled the crane and the official car with stones. After talks with Sarfraz Town police, the protesters ended their protest and

restored traffic. Sources said that the Punjab governor was scheduled to visit a village near Adha Bagh in a couple of days, prompting the anti-encroachment operation. **CASE:** Tirkhani police sub-inspector Nasser Ahmad Anwar was booked for misusing his authority while being suspended. The police spokesperson said on Thursday that the SI had arrested Hira Masih over a personal grudge in a fake case. After receiving the complaint, CPO Kamran Aidi ordered an investigation into case, which confirmed in his report that the complaint against him was valid. **HONOUR KILLING:** A man allegedly killed his married daughter for 'honour' in Chah Bahadar Wala, a locality of Rozoh

Saban area of Athara Hazari tehsil of Jhang, on Saturday. Police said Farzana, 22, had eloped a few weeks ago from her fiancé Sabir's house. Later, she returned and had been staying at her aunt's (her father's sister) house for the last few days, wishing to get a divorce from her husband to marry the man with whom she had an affair. Her father Sahab went there, showed sympathy, and brought her home, where he killed her with a chequer and flint. Police were conducting raids to arrest the suspect. **DEATH SENTENCE:** Additional District and Sessions Judge of Faisalabad Munir Hussain Gill handed down a death sentence and a fine of Rs500,000 to a double mar-

ried convict on Saturday. The prosecution stated that Juma id Saeed had shot dead Haider Abbas and Muhammad Imran two years ago over a farmland ownership dispute in Chak Jomra. **ENCOUNTER:** A dacoit from Okara was killed in Toba Tek Singh in an encounter with the police. A police official said that on the link road of Chak 328-JR, policemen in a City Police van stopped two suspects riding a motorcycle, but they opened fire on the policemen, who retaliated. When the firing stopped, the police found one of them dead; he had died from multiple bullets fired by his own accomplice. He was identified as Akhtar Ali of Okara. The official claimed he

# Seven prayer leaders booked for hate speech

By Our Correspondent

**SAHIWAL:** Seven prayer leaders were booked for making hate speech and violation of the Punjab Sound System Regulation Act-2015 by Harappa and Nour Shah police on Friday. Reports said police raided different mosques but the prayer leaders managed to escape. Those booked include Masdi Rashed from Village 46/GD, Nour Shah, Qari Muhammad Sabir, Alami Arsalan, Qari Arshad Iqbal, Village 55/GD, Qari Abu Bakar from Nour Shah main vicinity. Along with their Harappa

police booked Hafiz Muhammad Sabir, Hafiz Muhammad Arsalan and Hafiz Muhammad Arshad. District Police Officer Faizal Mehsud said seven prayer leaders were booked but none were arrested. He said police are raiding different locations to arrest them. **ROBBERY:** A National Database and Registration Authority employee at the Kamour Office was shot at and robbed of Rs70,000 and his mobile phone by two unidentified dacoits near Village 113/F-1, on Artificial Road, Sahiwal tehsil, on Friday night. Rescue 1122 shifted Imran Arif to the Sahiwal

Teaching Hospital in a critical condition. The Dera Ghaib police have registered a case against two unidentified attackers. Reports said Imran Arif was returning home from work at the Kamour Office when he was intercepted by two motorcycle dacoits near Village 7775-E. The dacoits snatched Rs70,000 and his mobile phone. When Imran protested, one of the attackers shot him before fleeing the scene. A case has been filed against the suspects under sections 394 and 397 of the Pakistan Penal Code on the complaint of Imran's friend Allah Yar Advocate.

# Housing victims updated on progress at NAB open court

Continued from Page 11

informed that NAB had helped 650 affected of this society in securing plots worth millions of rupees from the society's administration 10 years ago. Regarding Feroz Road Traders, Mr Anis said that NAB had received 800 claims worth Rs80 million and got the accused placed on the Exit Control List (ECL) and assets details from other government departments were also sought. Talking to the Prime Zone officers, he assured that the main accused Imran Ali would be brought back through Interpol, and teams had been formed to

arrest other absconding accused. Addressing the officers, the DGI stated that NAB Lahore's top priority was to promptly recover losses. In the past year and a half, NAB Lahore distributed Rs23 billion among 31,000 affected. Meanwhile, a delegation comprising students and faculty members of the Government Dial Singh Graduate College, Lahore, visited the provincial headquarters of the bureau. The visit aimed to promote NAB's soft image and to bridge the gap between general public and the national institution.

# Man chops toddler's head off over trifle

By Our Correspondent

**BALAWALPUR:** A man allegedly chopped off the head of a toddler son of his cousin to take revenge from him for calling him mad at village. Noraja Bhutta in district Lodhran. Jalalpur police claimed to have arrested one Ahmed for the alleged murder of a three-year-old boy, son of Hafiz, who had gone missing from his house at Rasti Mahawala near village Noraja Bhutta five days back. The police sources told Dawn that Hafiz's son, Abu Husein (3), could not be traced despite a search and his father registered a complaint. Police took his cousin Ahmed in custody for interrogation on suspi-

cion of his involvement in the murder. After investigation, police claimed that Ahmed had confessed to killing Abu Husein and putting his headless body in a sack to bury it in the fields. The suspect, in his confessional statement, said the child's father had called him 'mental' and he killed his son to take revenge. **SIBOT DEATH:** A seminary student was shot dead under mysterious circumstances outside his seminary at Chak 245/ER in the limits of the Gages Police Station in tehsil Burewala of district Vehari. Police were informed that a body was lying near the Al-Sayed Housing Colony. Police collected the body and identified the deceased as Tahnoon. The body was shifted to hospital for a post-mortem after regis-

tration of a murder case. Police have launched an investigation. **ARRESTED:** Rasti Malok police in Lodhran claimed to have arrested three suspects on charge of murder of a couple four days ago. The police said Muhammad Faizal had on Oct 18 had registered a case, saying unidentified motorcycle riders had allegedly shot dead his brother Amir and sister-in-law Sajida near Pull 7/Fais. Police claimed to have arrested three killers, Ghulam Yaseen, Naveed and Yousof. During investigation, Yousof told police that the couple had done Nikah of their daughter with him on phone some time back but avoided her marriage that's why he killed them.

# Narowal varsity without canteen for a year

By Abid Mahmood

**NAROWAL:** Approximately 7,000 students at the University of Narowal are facing chafed lunches due to the closure of the campus canteen, which has been shut for a year. The university, located five kilometers from Narowal city on Shaikhanpur Road, previously offered a canteen for students convenience. With the canteen closed, students must go outside the campus to buy stationary and snacks. The busy Narowal

Shaikhanpur Road, lined with private shops and offices on one side and the university on the other, poses a challenge due to heavy traffic for visitors to the nearby Gurdwara Darbar Sahib. Students like Ahsan Ahmad and Amina Mehmood have home at Gages, often arriving at the university without breakfast. Their peers, Ghazala Salim and Momina Akram, expressed fears about crossing the road just to buy essential supplies like notebooks and drinks. Despite multiple requests to the university

administration for the canteen's reopening, they have received no response, leaving students to risk their safety for basic needs. A spokesperson for the university said that the previous canteen contract ended unexpectedly. He noted that the National Logistics Cell is currently constructing a two-story cafeteria and commercial centre, which is expected to open soon. Mr Zafar also said that the legal process for reconstructing the canteen is ongoing. Students are urging Chief Minister Maryam

Nawaz, the vice-chancellor and the chancellor (secretary) to take immediate action to address their situation. **LOTTED:** Four robbers looted Rs 7.6 million cash from employees of a car showroom on Paris Road in Sahiwal on Saturday. Businessman Amir Malik went to a local bank to withdraw cash and went on way to the showroom when four gunmen on two bikes stopped them near Fatima Jinnah Park on Khawaja Sadler Road and opened fire. They snatched the cash bag and fled.

# PSX bullish streak to attract foreign investment: FCCI

By Our Correspondent

**TOBA TEK SINGH:** Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Senior Vice President Qasim Shamsi Gochha says the bullish trend in the stock exchange is indicative of the much needed economic stability that would convince foreign investors to benefit from the industrial and business activities in Pakistan in the near future. In a statement on Saturday, he said the PSX had set new records within this month and this process was continuously going on. He appreciated the economic strategy

of the present government, paying tribute to the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Muhammad Asrafiq. He said the increase in exports had also provided a solid ground to further trim the policy rate, which would help industrialists to get the latest machinery and technology, particularly for the import substitution industry. He hoped that the structure would also play a key role in improving the quality of exportable surplus and bringing down the import bill. Mr Gochha said that economists were expecting that the stock exchange would cross the limit of

100,000 points by June 2025 but the recent improvements showed that this target could be achieved during the current year. He said economic indicators would further gain strength and GDP growth would also be more than the projected targets. Meanwhile, Indian preacher Dr Zakir Naik urged the business community to make efforts to promote and protect Islam in its true spirit. Talking to a delegation of the FCCI at Faisalabad, he turned his stay in Pakistan memorable, adding that it had encouraged him to further expand his efforts to dispel apprehensions against Islam.

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<b>DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL CARDIAC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY</b>			
Post Fellow	FCPS Cardiology Qualified	02 Years	Karachi
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIA</b>			
Post fellow CTA	FCPS Anesthesia Qualified	02 Years	Karachi
FCPS CTA	FCPS - I with 02 Years MM training completed	03 Years	Karachi
FCPS Postgraduate Trainee	FCPS - I Anesthesia	02 Years	Karachi
Clinical Fellow	FCPS Anesthesia training completed OR MCPS Anesthesia Qualified or training completed	01 Year	All Centres
<b>DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC CARDIAC ICU</b>			
Clinical Fellow	FCPS CR MD Paeds (Medicine) training completed	03 Year	Karachi, Sukkur, Tando M Khan
<b>DEPARTMENT OF CARDIAC EMERGENCY</b>			
Clinical Fellow	FCPS Cardiology trained OR FCPS Emergency Medicine training completed	01 Year	Karachi
<b>DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGERY</b>			
Post Fellow	FCPS Cardiac Surgery Qualified	03 Years	Karachi, Sukkur, Tando M Khan, Hyderabad
Clinical Fellow	FCPS Cardiac Surgery training completed	01 Year	Karachi

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- If you are sending documents through courier, kindly ensure that your documents reach our office before the last date.
- Selection will be purely on merit basis.
- An applicant can apply for one position only. Remember to mention the training centre.
- Only shortlisted applicants will be called for interview/Test. No TA/DA admissible for appearing in interview/test.
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Haaland fires City to top of Premier League, Villa held

Pg.19 SPORT

**PESHAWAR**  
Sunset 05:28pm  
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:26am  
**NEXT 24 HRS**  
Minimum 18°C  
Maximum 31°C  
Outlook Partly Cloudy



FIREFIGHTERS extinguishing fire at a factory in Hayatabad Industrial Estate, Peshawar, on Saturday. — Photo by Shahbaz Butt

## No funds for KP local bodies due to financial constraints: Gandapur

CM discusses LG issues with tehsil council heads

By Mohammad Ashfaq

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has expressed its inability to allocate development funds to local bodies in the province, citing financial constraints as the reason. This message has been communicated to local body representatives by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur during a meeting here on Tuesday, according to a participant.

He told Dawn that the meeting was called to discuss amendments to the Tribal Local Government Rules of Business, 2022, proposed by local body members as well as other issues.

Mayor of Mardan city Hameedullah Mayar told Dawn that two tiers local government system comprising tehsil and village and neighbourhood were introduced in two phases of elections held in Dec 2021 and March 2022, respectively.

He said that the government was bound by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013, to allocate 20 per cent of the funds from the Annual Development Programme for the development schemes of local bodies.

"In view of the 20 per cent share in ADP funds, our [local bodies] share in the financial year 2022-23 comes to Rs35 billion, Rs34 billion in 2023-24 and

Rs27 billion in the current 2024-25, but the provincial government has not released a single penny out of our cumulative share of Rs40 billion since our installation," he said.

The mayor said the denial of development funds had literally brought the municipal and social services of local bodies to a standstill, with the poor people being the ultimate sufferers.

He said the unavailability of funds had also affected the performance of devolved departments.

The meeting was attended by local government minister Anshad Ayub, officials of the local government and other relevant departments, according to an official statement from the Chief Minister's House here.

The participants included a delegation of the elected local body representatives, including tehsil council chairmen Inamullah of Mafra, Anzullah of Lakki Marwat, Shah Khalid of Lakki Kotal and Hafizur Rehman of Harsakhel, and Abbottabad mayor Sardar Shuja Nahi.

They discussed the proposed amendments to the Tribal Local Government Rules of Business, 2022, proposed by local body representatives, and agreed to almost all of them in principle.

The amendments will now be tabled in the provincial cabinet for approval, according to the statement.

The participants also decided that a meeting would be held to address other legitimate demands of the local body representatives.

On the occasion, the chief minister said the approval of

these amendments would empower local governments, making them more effective.

He said the provincial government was committed to strengthening local bodies financially and administratively, aligning it with the vision of PTI founder chairman Imran Khan.

"Empowering local bodies will enable them to address public issues at the grassroots level, benefiting both the provincial government and the citizens, so the current provincial government is taking priority steps to resolve issues faced by local representatives," he said.

Mr Gandapur said that monthly remuneration and allowances for tehsil council chairmen had been increased from Rs30,000 to Rs60,000, while Rs65 million were recently released for village and neighbourhood councils in settled districts and Rs94 million for those in merged tribal districts.

He also said Rs548 million had been released for tehsil municipal administrations in settled districts and Rs33 million for those in tribal districts.

The chief minister said the government had approved Rs150 million for holding sports activities under local governments in tribal districts, while the provision of vehicles to tehsil council chairmen would be completed in the next few days.

He said other annual funds had also been released to clear outstanding dues of local bodies. The visitors appreciated the chief minister for addressing their concerns and announced the cancellation of their call for a protest on October 30.

## Blaze rips through Hayatabad tissue paper factory

No casualties reported

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Firefighters from several districts put out a factory blaze on the western fringes of the provincial capital after several hours of effort.

Rescue 1122 said that the fire erupted at around 1:40pm inside the Royal PVC Green Tissue Paper and Diapers Factory in the Hayatabad Industrial Estate, adjacent to Karkhara Market and Khyber tribal district.

Rifat Faraz, a spokesperson for Rescue 1122, told Dawn that the fire was apparently caused by an electrical short-circuit.

He, however, said that there were no casualties in the incident.

The spokesman said that due to the intensity of the blaze, firefighters and fire tenders were called in from nearby districts to put down the fire.

"Firefighters and fire tenders from Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda, Swabi, Nowshera and Khyber districts also worked to extinguish the fire," he said, adding that more than 30 fire tenders, including 10 from districts other than Peshawar, took part in the operation.

Mr Faraz also said that 60 firefighters also participated in the exercise, with several fainting due to the intense fire.

He said that the firefighters

struggled to put out the blaze because most of the material used in the factory was of polythene, which quickly melted and spread all over the place.

"Rescue workers tried to control the blaze with foam and water," he said.

The spokesman said that the fire was almost 50 per cent under control.

Hayatabad Medical Complex's medical director Shahzad Akbar Khan told Dawn that the hospital received a few patients with minor burns and all of them were discharged after giving first aid.

The blaze was so intense that the thick plumes of smoke billowing from the burning factory were visible from several kilometres away in Peshawar Cantonment and Kohat Road areas.

Videos of the fire, shared on social media platforms, showed a large number of people shifting rolls of papers and diapers away from the burning factory.

Residents of Hayatabad said a thick plume of smoke hung over cantonment and city areas.

Meanwhile, KP Governor Faizal Karim Kori spoke to the commissioner and directed him to ensure early control of the fire, according to an official statement.

The commissioner briefed the governor about the fire-fighting efforts.

The governor said that helicopters should be acquired from the Pakistan Air Force to put out the blaze, while all relevant departments should take emergency steps to extinguish the fire without delay.

## KP records 44 new dengue cases

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The health department reported 44 new dengue cases on Saturday as doctors urged patients to follow precautions against the mosquito-borne illness.

During a seminar held at the Qazi Hussain Ahmed Medical Complex, Nowshera, doctors urged the residents to remove standing water from their areas to prevent mosquitoes, which are the vector borne disease's carriers and transmitters, from breeding there.

The medical complex's medical director Dr Saadul Sohail Ansari announced that the organisation would keep up its dengue awareness campaign in Nowshera district, the only one where the disease has claimed two lives.

He added that Nowshera was the site of the virus and precautions had to be taken to avoid mosquito bites, as evidenced by the 193 cases of the 2,935 infections reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During the event, Dr Kamran Hakeem Khan Deen Wazir, the hospital's director, gave the guests information about dengue symptoms and how to avoid them. He advised anyone experiencing headache, joint or bone discomfort, nausea, vomiting, or fever to see the appropriate physician for further testing.

Prof Muhammad Khalid and Prof Dr Hameed Bengash also addressed the event organised by the General Medicine Department.

According to the health department, the disease had so far infected 2,935 people, of whom 2,517 had recovered.

According to the latest report, 450 persons have been hospitalised due to dengue hemorrhagic fever.

In the last 24 hours, eight new patients were admitted to hospitals.

The province's highest number of cases by district is 1,001 in Peshawar.

## Religious scholar Maulana Hakeem dies in Bajaur

By Our Correspondent

BAJAUR: Renowned religious scholar and head of seminaries' teachers' association, Maulana Mohammad Hakeem, died after a brief illness in Bajaur tribal district, family members said here on Saturday.

They said that the 70-year-old Maulana, who died at his home last night, was laid to rest in Saddiqabad town of Khar behal. A large number of people from different walks of life, including religious leaders, political and social activists, teachers and students of seminaries from across the district, attended his funeral prayers.

Having started his career as a teacher in a notable seminary in Karachi in 1970, Maulana Hakeem had a great command on religious knowledge, especially the one related to the daily life of people.

Maulana Hakeem, who remained the administrator of several popular local seminaries from 1995 till 2024, was also the author of several books on religion.

Moreover, he also remained the president of the seminaries' teachers' association for a decade in Bajaur tribal district. According to his family, Maulana Hakeem left behind a widow and four children to mourn his death.

## DG health will stay put, declares dept

It insists service tribunal hasn't ordered removal of Dr Saleem

By Ashfaq Yousafzai

PESHAWAR: Amid controversy about the position of the director general health services, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department has declared that the incumbent, Dr Muhammad Saleem Khan, will stay put due to his predecessor's failure to get stay order from the service tribunal against his transfer.

The tribunal had ruled on Oct 22

that if the health department's order for the transfer of Dr Saleem, DG Dr Shaukat Ali had yet not been acted upon, it stood suspended, according to a health official.

He told Dawn that the service tribunal's ruling was clear and self-explanatory, as Dr Shaukat couldn't be restored to the DG's post.

The official said that the tribunal's decision clearly suggested that if the contested transfer had been executed, then its [tribunal's] temporary injunction issued over the main appeal of Dr Shaukat would be ineffective, as the existing DG would continue to hold his position.

Official sources claimed that the health department issued the clar-

ification about the DG's position after the incumbent, Dr Saleem, formally approached the health secretary on Oct 22, 2024, insisting that he assumed the charge of the office after being posted by the chief minister on May 16, 2024.

In an application, titled "Incident Report" and filed with the secretary's office, Dr Saleem claimed that he was attending a meeting of the provincial task force on job coordination at the office of the chief secretary when his staff members informed him that his predecessor, Dr Shaukat, forced his entry to his office and occupied his chair in a move, which was without any lawful authority or government's

Continued on Page 15



WORKERS make gur in Naguman village of Charsadda. — White Star

### PRAYER

Fajr 05:06  
Zuhar 12:01  
Asr 03:50  
Maghreb 05:29  
Isha 06:52

Starting time in Peshawar

### REFLECTIONS

CC TO CUT CONNECTIONS WITH IGNORANT PEOPLE IN ITSELF LIKE FORMING CONNECTIONS WITH WISE PERSONS 33

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

## Wana vegetable market turns into dumping site

By Our Correspondent

**SOUTH WAZIRISTAN:** The once-thriving vegetable market in Wana has turned into a dumping ground, causing constant nuisance for fruit vendors, traders, and the general public.

All stakeholders allege that negligence on the part of Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) officials has led to the current state of disarray, with mud-filled streets and piles of uncollected garbage.

They stated that the lack of sanitation has significantly affected businesses of tribal traders, as the unbearable stench and filth have driven consumers away from buying vegetables and fruit at the market. Shopkeepers

and traders claim that the situation is negatively impacting their livelihoods and that they are suffering tremendous challenges.

Taj Muhammad Wana, a local political leader, voiced his disgust at the unsightly state of affairs and called on the local government authorities to address this persistent problem right away.

It merits a mention that in addition to producing an unpleasant stench, rubbish piles raise the possibility of an epidemic of various diseases, such as dengue and malaria.

Locals and businesspeople warned that they would have no choice but to stage a protest rally if the issue was not resolved quickly. In order to



A VIEW of the vegetable market in Wana, South Waziristan tribal district. — Dawn

they called for strong action against the TMA's officials for the market's sanitary hazard.

## Transport fares reduced by 10pc in Bajaur

**BAJAUR:** The district administration on Saturday finally fixed a long-awaited new fare list for public transport on both inter-district and intra-district routes with up to a 10 per cent decrease for each destination.

According to a statement, the new public transport fares for both local and non-local routes were fixed during a meeting of senior officials of the district administration and representatives of various public transporters' associations held here with the Assistant Commissioner Dr Sadiq Ali in the chair.

The officials told the transporters' association leaders that although petroleum product prices had dropped significantly this year, local transporters had not voluntarily lowered their fares, calling it a huge injustice to commuters and travelers.

The representatives of the transporters' unions were urged by officials to support district administration's decision of fixing new fare list for the public transport with new list to offset in order to address general public's complaints against prolonged delay in fare decrease.

The majority of transporters union leaders, according to the statement, had reportedly agreed to voluntarily lower fares on both local and non-local routes because they believed that doing so would not benefit the transporters.

It was said that up to 10 per cent decrease in the fares of all the inter-district/intra-district routes, including Bajaur-Peshawar, Bajaur-Rawalpindi, Bajaur-Lahore and Bajaur-Karachi was approved in the meeting.

It stated that the revised fare list would be effective from today (Sunday), and all transporters were told to put the list in conspicuous locations within their vehicles right away.

Additionally, it was agreed that all public transport hubs would also display the updated fare list, the statement concluded. — Correspondent

## Dir residents complain about power outages, inflated bills

Voice grievances against Pesco at khali kutchery

By Our Correspondent

**LOWER DIR:** Electricity consumers on Friday complained about inflated power bills, unscheduled outages, unavailability

of meters and failure of Peshawar Electric Supply Company's staff to fix faulty transformers.

They aired their grievances during a khali kutchery held at Pesco office in Sadda area here on Saturday.

Pesco deputy director, Swat circle, Huzrat Hussain, executive engineer Asad Ali Khan, leaders of hydro workers' union and others were also present.

Elders, Zafarullah, Malik Ziaul

Haq, Waqar Akid, Khatirah, Syed Anjum Ali Shah, Ishring Khan and others complained about decades' old transmission lines, which often led to disruption in power supply. They said consumers had to visit the office of the Pesco superintendent engineer in Swat for correction of their bills. They also complained about receiving power bills without meter reading.

The elders demanded of Pesco authorities to increase the num-

ber of meter readers to ensure people were billed for the units they actually consumed.

They said consumers were forced to get a faulty transformer repaired from their own pockets.

The consumers demanded of the Pesco authorities to allocate funds for transformers' repair and facilitate them in correction of their bills in their own district.

They complained that the bill-paying consumers were forced to make up for the losses caused by the power theft.

They said several people had applied for power meters but the company was short of them. They said Pesco should replace the decades' old transmission lines to minimize line losses.

Responding to consumers' complaints, Pesco executive engineer Asad Ali said the company was providing constant supply of power to its consumers within its limited resources. He asked the participants to cooperate with the Pesco staff in curbing power theft. The CEO said Pesco could not overcome the menace of power theft without public help.

Mr Ali issued orders for on-the-spot resolution of some of the problems raised by consumers, and

**مبارکباد مبارکباد مبارکباد**

**التعلیٰ اللہ کلین** کو ہو پ پاکستان کا  
پانچویں سٹیج اور پانچ سووی سٹیج  
کو رازدہ تک ہونے پر **صیانت گاہ** قائم کرتے ہیں۔  
ہو پ کی سہولتوں میں بخیر و برکت کے ساتھ ساتھ گاہ کا چارہ  
جا کچھن کے سامنے کے مل گئے ایک مہینہ سے اس وقت تک۔

**جمال خان تراکھی** سائبر سٹیج ہو پ

**NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DISPATCH COMPANY LIMITED**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

**TENDER NO. ADB-401E-01R(C)-2024**

**PROCUREMENT OF 500/220KV, 70MVA (3-25MVA) AUTO TRANSFORMER BANK AT 500KV GRID STATION FAISALABAD WEST (ONE BANK) UNDER LOAN NO. 4271 - PAK SECOND POWER TRANSMISSION ENGAGEMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM TRANCHE 4**

REFERENCE INVITATION NOTICE FOR THE ABOVE TENDER PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL DAILIES. THE SUBMISSION DATE OF BIDS HAS BEEN EXTENDED NOW THE BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 12-11-2024 AT 11:00 AM INSTEAD OF 08:00 AM. 29-10-2024. PWS/19/24

**ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE TENDER NOTICE SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED.**

**CHIEF ENGINEER (MP&M) NTDC**

20, Feroz, Islamabad, Pakistan, E-mail: [ce@ntdc.gov.pk](mailto:ce@ntdc.gov.pk), Tel: 99 92 9200 2047

**Abbottabad Public School**  
(Producing Legends Since 1961)

**ADMISSION IN CLASS 7th & 8th (SESSION — 2025)**

1. Registration and Entrance Examination Fee	Rs. 5,000/-
2. Last Date for Submission of Admission Form	Class 7th: 30th November 2024 Class 8th: 08th November 2024
3. Date for Written Test	Class 7th: 25th Dec. 2024 (9:00 AM) Class 8th: 08th Nov. 2024 (9:00 AM)
4. Subjects of the Test	English, Math, Urdu & Islamiyat
5. Centers for Written Test (Subject to Sufficient Number of Candidates)	Abbottabad, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Sukkot, Karachi, Banna, Quetta and Multan
6. Age Limit on 31st March 2025 (Age Relaxation as per Rules will be given)	Between 11-12 years for Class 7th & 12-14 years for Class 8th
7. Special Seats (Self-Finance)	20% in Class 7th 50% in Class 8th

**Notes:**  
For the facilitation please contact on WhatsApp # 9931-436096, 9311-897677, 9335-440266

**PRINCIPAL**  
Abbottabad Public School  
Mansobra Road, Abbottabad  
Ph: (0992) 406508-10 Fax: 406549

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT CPSP LAHORE**

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**LIBRARIAN (LAHORE BASED)**

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Candidate should be Intermediate with relevant work experience, having good Computer & Communications Skills.

Please send your resumes along with recent photograph latest by November 21, 2024.

**Human Resource Department**  
College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan  
75 Central Street, D.I. Khan Phase II, Faisalabad  
Tel: 37400  
E-mail: [hr@cpsp.edu.pk](mailto:hr@cpsp.edu.pk)

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**Pakistan Machine Tool Factory**

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Uniforms, and Safety Shoes

Pakistan Machine Tool Factory invites sealed Bids from reputable suppliers / manufacturers for supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Requirement:	PPE Details	Quantity
	Round Neck T-Shirts 100% Cotton with light fabric	1100
	Shirt and Trouser 100% Cotton with light fabric	500
	Safety Shoes	500

**Last Date for Submission: 12-November-2024**

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Bidders must have experience in supplying similar items.
- Bidders must registered on GST.
- Bidders must submit one sample of each PPE along with the bid.

**How to Apply:**

Completed tenders must be submitted to Procurement Department of Pakistan Machine Tool Factory.

**Contact Information:**

For further information, please contact Faizan Ali at 0340-4797125 or [faizan.ali@pmtf.com](mailto:faizan.ali@pmtf.com)

**Pakistan Machine Tool Factory**  
Landhi, Karachi, Pakistan.  
Phone: +92-21-35082449

**Pakistan Machine Tool Factory**

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

**HEAD HUMAN RESOURCES**

Pakistan Machine Tool Factory (PMTF), a leading manufacturer of precision engineering goods is seeking a highly skilled Head Human Resources.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- To develop policies for hiring, performance appraisal, and compensation systems.
- Well conversant with the application of all governing rules and regulations pertaining to Human Resources including prevalent Labor Laws.
- Well conversant with HR functions including Recruitment & Selection, Induction & Orientation, Training & Development, Compensation Management, Career Planning, Performance Management, Grievance handling, and Industrial Relations.

**Requirements:**

- Have a Master's Degree with at least 12+ years of relevant experience.
- Possess the skill and passion to develop HR department.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

Interested candidates meeting the criteria may drop their CVs at [recruitment@pmtf.com](mailto:recruitment@pmtf.com) with the position title in the subject line within 15 days of this advertisement. Only relevant profiles will be shortlisted and contacted for interviews.

**HR Department**  
**Pakistan Machine Tool Factory**  
Landhi, Karachi, Tel: +92-21-35082449

**INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed Bids are invited through SAP Ariba from eligible contractors with adequate past relevant experience and financial capabilities for the below captioned tenders:

Sl. #	Essence Description	Tender No.	Bidding Procedure	Tender Availability
1	Supply of Earth Camp Meals at PZO House	CP-1878-24	Single Stage - Two Envelope	These tenders will be available through SAP Ariba Portal Only
2	Assessment of tank supports at PZO location Paji	EP-1879-24		
3	Service required for Maintenance Contract work at PZO location Terminal B	CP-1878-24		
4	Supply, Installation, Setting & Commissioning of CCTV System at Six Railway Locations	CP-1878-24		
5	Rehabilitation of Radar East Camp System at PZO Machine Terminal	CP-1878-24		
6	Procurement of Conductive Mats for Airframe Station	AA-1878-24		
7	Procurement of Field Management Software Licenses and Support Service	IS-1878-24		
8	Procurement of Spreader and Boom System for Oil free tanks at PZO Maintenance Installation	CP-1878-24		
9	Procurement of Field Management Software Licenses and Support Service	IS-1878-24		

**TENDER FILE:** File Register Link: (Non-Confidential) as per the Pakistan State Oil Company Limited, (for each Tender)

BIDDING DATE	DATE	TIME
BID DOCUMENT COLLECTION (THROUGH SAP ARIBA)	From 20.10.2024 to 11.11.2024	09:30 AM to 04:00 PM
BID SUBMISSION (THROUGH SAP ARIBA)	11.11.2024	10:00-11:00
BID OPENING (THROUGH SAP ARIBA)	11.11.2024	10:00 PM onwards

**NOTE:**

- For tender # CP-1878-24 and CP-1878-24, Valid PTC certificate in category C1 or above is required for issuance of tender documents.
- For tender # CP-1878-24, Valid PTC certificate in category C2 or above is required for issuance of tender documents.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

All parties interested to participate in any of the tenders may send an request for tender documents through SAP Ariba Portal in the following manner:

- Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP Ariba Portal. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Document Collection Request - Tender No. ...."
- Request shall be accompanied by scanned copies of the following:
  - Valid NTN, CNIC/PST credentials, CNIC of primary authorized representative. Vendor should be an active tax payer.
  - Endorsement of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- (covering the tender fee) as tender fee in the following bank account:  
Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED  
BRAN: PZO HARB 007 040 040 027  
Account No: 078-40-020-027 Branch code: 078 000 Pasa Branch  
11, Chaudhry Road, Karachi.

**Bid documents will be available and downloaded through SAP Ariba Portal only.**

For any queries/clarification please contact Landhi office below:  
Procurement and Services Department,  
07-Piso, PZO House, Karachi  
Dawn - 11-110-040 (7) to Fax: 330/1227  
E-mail: [landhi@pmtf.com](mailto:landhi@pmtf.com), [landhi@pmtf.com](mailto:landhi@pmtf.com)

The advertisement is also available on PZO website [www.pzo.gov.pk](http://www.pzo.gov.pk) and PWS website [www.pws.gov.pk](http://www.pws.gov.pk)

Please note that interested vendors not having Ariba Network ID are requested to register themselves on SAP Ariba Portal by clicking on the link below to access and participate in upcoming RFIs/tenders.

<https://onlineregistration.ariba.com>

The bidder are equal to visit PZO Ariba PPE's website regularly for any further changes that may be updated by the Company. Free time to visit:

<https://onlineregistration.ariba.com>

**INVITATION TO BID FOR SUPPLY OF PUL PRODUCTS**

Sealed Bids, through SAP Ariba, are invited from eligible international suppliers for supply of above Goods as mentioned below:

PRODUCT	BIDDING PERIOD	MARK
BRK-40	07 - 09 OCTOBER 2024	ONE

PRODUCT	MARK	TIME
BID DOCUMENT COLLECTION	UP TO 20th NOVEMBER 2024	09:30 AM to 04:00 PM
BID SUBMISSION	20th NOVEMBER 2024	10:00 AM
BID OPENING	20th NOVEMBER 2024	09:30 AM ARIBA

**Instructions:** Any supplier interested in participating in any of the tenders may send an request for tender documents in the following manner:

- Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP Ariba Portal. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Document Collection Request - Tender No. ...." (Please mention the relevant Delivery Point and Product)
- Request shall be accompanied by scanned copies of the following:
  - Endorsement of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- as Tender fee (separate for each product and period) in the following bank account:  
Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED  
BRAN: PZO HARB 007 040 040 027  
Account No: 078-40-020-027 Branch code: 078 000 Pasa Branch  
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<https://onlineregistration.ariba.com>

# Visitors throng stalls as business expo concludes in Charsadda

### Folk music show also features last day of exhibition

By Our Correspondent

CHARSADDA: Traders, government functionaries and a large number of local people thronged the stalls on the concluding day of the two-day 'Business Expo 2024' here on Wednesday.

The visitors took keen interest in different items displayed on the stalls. They also purchased hand-crafted items, clothes, traditional Rajar sweet and Charsadda Chappal.

The district administration in collaboration with Charsadda Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised the event.

A folk music show and art competition also featured the final day of the event. District police officer Masood Ahmad Khan along with administration officials visited different stalls, and reviewed the arrangements made for the event.

Visitors told Dawn that the local artisans and craftsmen were highly talented, professional and hardworking, but they needed to be given opportunities to exhibit their skills. They demanded of the government to provide these people with all possible resources to generate revenue for the national kitty.

The visitors also asked the government to encourage the entrepreneurs and craftsmen to contribute to

the progress and prosperity of the region.

Termining the expo a big step towards the economic wellbeing of local artisans, the visitors said it helped the artisans and businesspeople of the district to market their products.

The visitors urged the youth of Charsadda to introduce their products at the national and international level through the use of modern technology.

On this occasion, Charsadda chamber president Major retired Mubashir Nazeem said that it was the first time that a business expo was held in Charsadda. He promised to continue to organise such events every year.

KILLISH A man and his son were killed over an old enmity in the limits of the city police station here on Saturday.

Member of the deceased, Sajid Ali, told the police that she was working in the Rajar Women and Children Hospital. She said her son and a three-year-old grandson, Muhammad Okasha, came to the hospital to pick her. "When we reached near Anwar Kalyan area on a motorcycle, accused Ahsan, Qaiser, Shaukat and Bilal riding motorcycles opened firing on us," the complainant said, adding that the firing resulted in the on-the-spot death of Sajid Ali, and his son, Okasha. She, however, said she escaped unhurt.

The police registered a double murder case on the complaint of the woman and started making efforts to arrest the culprits.



STUDENTS of a community primary school in Baira tehsil of Khyber tribal district get stales from the representatives of a local welfare organization, which also provided food to them. — Photo by Ibrahim Shehwan

# Wrong policies behind growing militancy in country: Qaiser

### Gives Rs1m cheque to heirs of youth killed in Swabi police station blast

By Our Correspondent

SWABI: Former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser declared on Saturday that prime reason behind the growing militancy in the country was the wrong policies of the federal government.

He argued that it was not Pakistan's war but the America's war, which had been going on Pakistan's land for the last 40 years.

He was talking to media persons during his visit to the residence of Lt. Gen. Khair, a young man, who was martyred when wall of a mosque collapsed upon him due to the impact of explosion, which rocked the adjacent Swabi police station in the recent past.

Mr Qaiser handed over Rs1 million

cheque to the father of the deceased youth and expressed sympathy with the bereaved family.

He said thousands of people, including army and police personnel, had been martyred during the so-called war on terror in K.P. and now the people wanted to get rid of the bloodshed, and restoration of durable peace to their provinces.

"A sad incident took place in Lakki Marwat on Friday, in which an army cadet was martyred; all this is the result of wrong policies of the government," he said.

Accusing the federal government of targeting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, the former NA speaker admitted that PTI was going through a difficult situation. "We have a government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but our mandate is not being respected, even the chief minister of the province was arrested," he said.

Mr Qaiser said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad was "attacked" when the chief minister was there.

"I have come to know that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Movement workers were beaten

and tortured in Swabi a few days ago, which I strongly condemn. I would like to say that staging protests and processions in everyone's constitutional and legal rights, and people should be allowed to do so. Such actions against peaceful people won't be tolerated," he said.

Mr Qaiser insisted that the 25th Constitutional Amendment had jeopardised the independence of judiciary and weakened the institutions. He asserted that the Constitutional Package would weaken the democratic system in the country.

He said that the way the constitutional amendments were bulldozed through the parliament in the dead of the night had no parallel in the constitutional history of the country. "These tweaks would only benefit the ruling class and not the common people."

"The central government is only interested in furthering its own interests, and has utterly failed to take steps for welfare of the people. Price hike and inflation have broken the back of the public," he said.

# FIA probes allotment of residences in Iesco

By Iqbal Juraifi

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has been doing inquiry into allotment of official residences of Islamabad Electricity Supply Company (Iesco).

According to a letter sent to the Iesco Chief Executive Officer by FIA and available with Dawn, the agency has been conducting inquiry on the complaint of Syed Mansoor Hussain Shah regarding misuse of official power by junior staff member of Iesco using portfolio of Assistant Director Admin whereas, the official is of lower grade having no such powers to sign as Assistant Director.

"That the Iesco staff in writ petition no. 4086/2015 vide Ms. Nighat Zaman (AD HR Iesco) vs Secretary Ministry of Water and Power and others was different, relevant paras there from reproduced in compliance of the complaint dated 27-05-2024. Keeping in view of the above position status of the Iesco is required to finalize the matter," the letter sent to Iesco stated.

According to the application, filed by Syed Mansoor Hussain Shah and available with Dawn, Iesco management introduced new accommodation policy on the basis of pick and choose, favouritism and nepotism without adopting proper procedure in making such arrangements.

"That in response to above, the undersigned submitted lot of applications for provision of certified copy of approved accommodation policy but remained fruitless till to date. That the undersigned had no other option except to invoke Right to Information Act-2017 for said purpose, therefore, the undersigned approached the 'Information Commission Islamabad' for obtain the required record from Iesco, the matter of provision of approved accommodation policy filed before Information Commission on 03.10.2024. That on 26.08.2024, another application was to your good office through registered post and the same was received in your office," it stated.

"Keeping in view it is therefore requested that a formal inquiry committee consist of senior officers may be constituted to probe the matter for fixing the responsibility upon persons at fault, it stated.

# 20 fuel stations sealed in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: The Civil Defence Department on Saturday sealed 20 fuel stations for operating without getting non-objection certificates from the district administration.

Under the law, fuel stations have to get NOC from the district administration and adopt all safety measures to avoid any untoward situation like fire.

Civil Defence Officer Faizul Hussain said there were 20 fuel stations were operating without any permission and had failed to adopt fire safety measures. He said under the law the filling stations had to

develop green areas in and around the outlets and adopt fire safety measures.

He said that the sealed filling stations were located in Kartarwan, Chakri Road, Westridge, Soan Camp, Rawal Chowk, Morgah, Kallar Road, Pindora, Pirwaddah, Adiala Road and adjoining areas.

He said teams had been directed to check prices and measuring tools of all the filling stations in the district. He said a survey of other parts of the district was being conducted and action would be taken against such petrol filling stations. — Staff Reporter

# EPA fails to check air quality in Pindi city as pollution rises

### Industrial units set up in residential areas add to pollution

By Asim Yasin

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Environment Protection Agency (EPA) has failed to check air quality in downtown areas of the garrison city as there is still no system installed in Raja Bazaar, Marrow Road and Pirwaddah areas.

With the start of October, the number of patients suffering from flu, allergy, cough and fever has started increasing mostly due to air pollution.

Doctors say air of the city is polluted with carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide and when people inhale the polluted air it starts irritating their upper respiratory system.

Dr. Ijaz Butt, Medical Superintendent (MS) of Holy Family Hospital, said that the health of our skin, lungs, kidneys and entire respiratory system is affected by the quality of air we breathe.

He said with the rising of population, the air quality had been deteriorating, so people mostly got affected in October to February.

He said smoke emitted from vehicles and industrial units added to the spread of different allergens. Old-age people, children and people with asthma come to hospitals with complaints of flu, eye allergy, diffi-

culty in breathing and other complaints. The air quality in thickly populated areas in and around Raja Bazaar, Marrow Road, Tinch Bhatta, Pirwaddah and narrow lanes of the downtown areas is degrading with each passing day due to smoke emitting from small industrial units and workshops. Small industrial units have been established in the thickly populated areas in violation of government laws, but no action is taken against them.

Under the law, residential areas cannot be used for commercial activities but the violation of the law seems not visible to Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation (RMC). The illegal factories mostly produce polythene bags, plastic chappals and other products. During the process, smoke emitting from these outlets adds to the air as well as noise pollution.

A senior official of the RMC told Dawn that air and noise pollution had increased in Rawalpindi and there was a need to stop the activities that produced carbon dioxide.

He said waste generated from these factories was also dumped in Lohi Nullah without adopting safety measures which polluted the groundwater. He said that for the establishment of a factory or other industrial units, permission from EPA Punjab was required.

"It is the duty of EPA Punjab legal officer to check the illegal units and protect the city from air pollution," he said.

When contacted, Civil Defence Officer Faizul Hussain said that it was the duty of the environment department to take action against illegal factories.

# DG health will stay put, declares dept

Continued from Page 13

ification.

He added that the former DG was under scrutiny and faced inquiries over irregularities, misconduct and corrupt practices. Dr Saleem also said that his predecessor pressured his supporting staff in "conformance with one of the additional directors-general and some private persons and signed the charge assumption report by force."

He said the "illegal attack and harassment of staff and officers by Dr Shaukat at my office are gross misconduct, inefficiency and unlawful actions against my office." The DG urged the health secretary to initiate legal action against his predecessor for the illegal acts.

Dr Shaukat, a BPS-20 management cadre officer, was made DG (health services) on Jan 17 last year but was suspended on April 26, 2024, on the charge of corruption before being replaced by Dr Saleem, the then chief executive officer of the Faculty of Paramedics and Allied Health Sciences, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Dr Saleem, a BPS-20 management cadre officer, has held key management positions at the Provincial Health Services Academy, Postgraduate Paramedical Institute and other public sector organisations. He was selected as DG from a panel of three senior doctors.

Official sources said that the health department had formally informed the service tribunal in the case that Dr Saleem was appointed as the DG (health services) in May after the removal of Dr Shaukat.

# Kazakh envoy recounts achievements on Republic Day

By Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD: Dignitaries and guests gathered at the Embassy of Kazakhstan on Friday to celebrate its Republic Day.

This year's celebration holds particular significance. "For the first time, we are honored to collaborate with the Care for Special Persons Foundation and its children. These children are with us tonight as our special guests," Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistalin said. The Kazakh envoy also highlighted his country's achievements and the strong bilateral ties with Pakistan. Minister for Privatization, Communication, and Board of Investment, Akhlaq Ahsan Khan was the chief guest at the event.

The event featured a charity auction of handmade products by children from the foundation, and the proceeds directed towards supporting their education and care.

Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistalin expressed gratitude to key support-

ers, including Aziz Bostani, who is CEO of Serena Hotel, for co-organizing the event.

Ahmed Nawaz, a host from PTY World, led the charity auction, which aimed to raise funds for the foundation.

Highlighting Kazakhstan's journey since its declaration of sovereignty, Ambassador Yerzhan Kistalin noted the country's impressive socio-economic development and foreign policy achievements.

He shared key milestones, including a foreign trade volume of \$131.8 billion in 2023 and the attraction of \$44 billion in foreign direct investments since 1993. He also emphasized the role of the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) as a regional business hub, which has raised over \$12 billion in investments since 2018.

Kazakhstan's strategic focus on digital infrastructure and the development of the "North-South" transport corridor were underscored as pivotal initiatives in the country's growth. The ambassador mentioned



(L-R) KAZAKH Ambassador Yerzhan Kistalin, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi, Senate Chairman Syed Younas Bhatta Gilani, Minister for Privatization Akhlaq Ahsan Khan, and Information Minister Akhlaq Tare attend the cake-cutting ceremony held on the occasion of Kazakhstan's Republic Day in Islamabad on Friday night. — White Star

that 13 international transport corridors now crossed Kazakhstan, significantly boosting the country's logistical potential.

The diplomat also highlighted

Kazakhstan's active role on the global stage, noting its participation in international peacekeeping missions and regional organizations. In 2024, Kazakhstan chaired several

key organizations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Organization of Turkic States.

The ambassador proudly mentioned the recent 5th World Nomad Games held in Astana, which featured 21 sports and cultural programmes with participants from 89 countries, including a Pakistani contingent that won three bronze medals.

Reflecting on bilateral relations, the ambassador lauded the growth in trade between Kazakhstan and Pakistan, which saw an 85 percent increase to \$186.3 million in the last fiscal year. He highlighted the establishment of stable trade routes and the successful import of Pakistani mangoes to Kazakhstan earlier this year.

The ambassador also underscored the high-level exchanges between the two countries, including the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Astana and Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov to Islamabad for the SCO meetings. He noted the fruitful negotiations and

concrete agreements reached during these events, with implementation expected in the coming months. As the evening concluded, the ambassador expressed his gratitude to all who contributed to strengthening the friendship between Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

"Today's celebration is a testament to the growing partnership between our nations," he said, encouraging guests to enjoy the evening.

Other guests who spoke on the occasion included Chairman Senate Syed Younas Bhatta Gilani and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anwarullah Tareq, who appreciated contributions from the embassy of Kazakhstan in contributing to development of the community.

The auctioned fetched more than Rs1 million for the handicrafts made by the differently abled children of the foundation. Guests included in local and Kazakh delegations prepared by Serena Hotel's Executive Chef Pathmarathnan Balasingharam.

▶ SPOTLIGHT



With attention spans dwindling and big Hollywood studios choking the box-office potential of films, even in small markets like Pakistan, by opting for quick money from streaming, can 'cinema' really survive — especially when one's subconscious has been hardwired to accept escapist fluff as the new normal?

# THE DEATH OF CINEMA



By Mohammad Kamran Jawaid

**A** cursory look at the box-office tracking website BoxOfficeMojo reveals a horrifying reality: the unremarkable and almost predictable nature of the audience's taste, and why the people world over, including Pakistan, may be stuck in this loop for the next few years ... by their own preference.

Taking into account worldwide grosses, at the top of the list for October 21 sits *Smile 2* with a 48 million dollars worldwide opening (the first *Smile* made 217 million dollars from a budget of 17 million dollars). Right below is *Twister 2*, an evil-cloven supernatural slasher made for two million dollars that grossed 42 million dollars in 10 days. At third spot sits *The Wild Robot*, a critical favourite produced by DreamWorks, having raked in 198 million dollars from a budget of 78 million dollars.

These are followed by *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice* (overall 434 million dollars), *Jobs: Fable & Deceit* (overall 192 million dollars), *Saturday Night*, the drama — co-written and directed by Jason Reitman — about the 90 minutes leading to the live broadcast of the first *Saturday Night Live* show (7.7 million dollars), *Transformers One* (a mere 119 million dollars overall, the lowest of any *Transformers* film), *Piece by Piece*, a Lego-animated documentary about music icon Phishell Williams (7.7 million dollars in the US only), and the re-release of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (nearly five million dollars in the US).

A further look down into the list, and a couple of clicks into the past few weeks, shows an alarming number of supernatural/horror/thriller titles — *Speak No Evil*, *Affair*, *Never Let Go*, *The Crew* — slipping in and out of the charts. One of the recently released titles — *Ragazzo* which, according to my research, was set to have a US release in September but never did — debated straight to streaming this week.

Most of these films had acceptable box-office returns, given their price of production, despite bad reviews. In stark contrast, better-reviewed films *The Apprentice*, *White Bird*, *We Live in Time* (the Andrew

Garfield-Florence Pugh romance-drama, which was in the top five one day before) and *Saturday Night*, have had trifling ticket sales.

At the time of writing, *We Live in Time* has collected a mere 4.5 million dollars in 10 days, while *Saturday Night* has been running for 25 days.

Now, before someone points out that horror films are preferred cinema fodder during Halloween months, a look back in time shows that genre films and space-filler fluffs have been dominating year-long release schedules for a while now.

This begs the question, then: *has cinema now been relegated to the big, blaringly pompous, throwaway genre films?*

A few weeks ago, Francis Ford Coppola gave full support to Todd Phillips' *Joker: Folie à Deux*. Like me, and a handful of other critics who saw through the fake apparatus of the film, Coppola liked the film, calling Phillips "one step ahead of the audience (and) never doing what they're expecting."

Coppola's own film, *Megadeth*, crushed and burned in cinemas, grossing a paltry 12 million dollars worldwide. The long gestating movie had a price tag of 120 million dollars, but was self-funded by Coppola, giving him free rein to swing big and raise spectacularly.

Phillips, who was working for the studio, had that same opportunity. Working directly with Warner Bros bosses, he shifflod the story away from its DC comic book baggage and chose not to screen the film for test audiences.

His decisions angered the social media "critics" — most of who flaunt their insights on YouTube shows and are invited for test screenings (professional critics for the press do not have that luxury) — and made enemies of the short-sighted comic book fandom who were waiting for yet another comic book movie continuation (which, by the way, has suffocated creative storytelling).

Most, if not all, of the bad word-of-mouth I read came from blind bias which, in turn, gave birth to the thoughts behind this article: in an internet filled with self-expertised punditry, dime-a-dozen filmmaking materials from people who have yet to make movies, and billions of one-minute reels on social media, can "cinema" really survive — especially when one's subconscious has been hardwired to accept escapist

fluff as the new normal?

Yes, I may be sounding a little like Martin Scorsese here, but churning the trend in audiences' tastes for years — and observing corporate decisions to empower select genres and the quick pay-offs by digital media to shape the course of entertainment — I have little choice but to concur with the director. At least, like Coppola and Phillips, he makes "cinema".

**IT'S ALL RELATIVE**

Director Matthew Vaughn wasn't expecting a backlash on *Argyle*, his spy thriller starring Henry Cavill, Bryce Dallas Howard and Sam Rockwell. In an interview with *Empire Magazine*, Vaughn says that the test screenings went fantastically well. *The Flash*, a really bad film which decimated DC's film line from 1978's *Superman III* through *Fury of the Gods*, did fantastically well in its test screenings too, with some scores putting it close to Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* trilogy. These test audiences called it "outstanding", "excellent" and "a lot of fun".

Test screenings have been the norm since the 1930s — the concept was introduced by silent screen comedian Harold Lloyd in 1928 — but do their scores really matter, especially in today's preference-driven era?

Where once strong stories, the heart and soul of any good movie, came out in good numbers every year, in the past few years, films with depth and nuance have been relegated to award seasons line-ups — and even then, they have been purposely transfigured into unimaginative-by-the-book fodder.

Films, therefore, have turned into a medium to appease one cause over the other, in the hopes that excessive marketing and a ton of product will inoculate the preference of the few into the preference of the many.

Movies and television have the power to do that, because they tell stories — and stories, whether told by camera's drawings, sung by romantic minstrels, penned by playwrights, dramatised into campfire fables or told through parents to their young, electricify the imagination and form, inspire and galvanize.

Films, however, rarely do that anymore, because industry practices now choose to make them simple and routine by design and comprehension,

in a calculated effort to cater to audiences' steadily declining attention spans.

If you've felt that film titles have become needlessly jejune, well, here's your answer (case in point: a recently released teen romance film titled *My First*, or ambiguous one-word titles like *Orlando*, *Justice* and *Trouble on Netflix*). The idea is to reach the lowest common denominator with simple words.

A recent article in *The Atlantic* carried the headline *The Elite College Students Who Can't Read Books*, with the blurb: *To read a book in college, it helps to have read a book in high school. Another article, The Loss of Things I Used to Read, written by a college professor for The State, pointed out that his top-tier students struggled with reading more than ten pages.*

This pandemic is not just sweeping across colleges in the US alone. Eight out of 10 students I have encountered in schools and colleges don't want to read — or worse yet, can't read with comprehension — but it's not that they're not reading, most of their reading spots are filled by scrolling through posts and comments on social media. Pages of information do not stick in as they used to.

Reading books, then, becomes a nightmare, and the overstimulation of the brain through pin-sized doses of highs from social media (as studies point out, warrant off-limits fluff as entertainment).

Ergo the need for simpler, predictable, forgettable entertainment — as evident in the type of releases and the box-office numbers at the top of this article. It's all relative.

**THE HOT STREAMING MESS**

The other big inflection is streaming platforms, and the corporate need for their continued bolstering.

Cinema hasn't really recovered since the streaming wars began during Covid-19, when studios, seeing the opportunity worldwide quarantines presented, started releasing big-budget films immediately on their platforms.

The rush for release was a pain for producers and actors who had backed necessary deals on films (one example is Scarlett Johansson's rift with Marvel over

# ICON

## CINEMASCOPE

So what is it that makes *The Wild Robot* work? Well, that would be everything, including the expected

# WILD AT HEART



At first glance, *The Wild Robot* — adapted from the novel by Peter Brown by director Chris Sanders (*Lilo & Stitch*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, *The Croods*) — seems like familiar territory. A robot all-purpose service robot, ROZZUM Unit 7134 (the voice of Lupita Nyong'o) finds itself marooned on an island with wild animals.

Seeking a purpose — her main programming is to provide services — she (and I'll call her a she, since the voice and characteristics are undubbed female) tries to convince animals to let her help them and, more importantly, get them to believe that she isn't a predator.

After an accidental fall, she decides to care for a goose's egg that hatches a runt that she names Brightbill (Kit Connor). With the help of Frank (Pedro Pascal), a mischievous red fox, Roz (as she's later named) finds her purpose to make sure that Brightbill overcomes his physical limitations and grows up to migrate with his fellow geese.

By the outline of his plot, this isn't a new-fangled, startlingly ingenious idea. Robots with emotional cores, learning to care and love, have been explored to perfection in *Wall-E* and *Iron Giant* — both classics, by the way — and Sanders' go-to narrative take, about loving one's creature (as evident in his above-mentioned filmography), aren't original explorations of themes either. So, what is it that makes *The Wild Robot* work?

Well, that would be everything, including the expected.

While I am not wild about the painterly rendering style of the film, it is Sanders' insistence to incorporate tons of emotion

into the story that makes it worth your time, and more.

Roz, even before she is named — even when she isn't aware of this herself — carries a mother's instinct. Voice-directing Nyong'o to carry just a tinge of fabricated, robotic softness in the tone of a caregiver, without the need to amend her speech to incorporate a more human tonality, makes her connection with the animals and the audience distinct, unique and heart-warming.

One understands that most of her actions, including her immediate reactions to new directives, are part of her programming, yet one sees that, beneath her resistant metal exterior, beats a sentient soul.

Sanders doesn't indulge in the technicality of how Roz seems as human as the animals; this is not an anime movie about existential dilemmas of the soul. The simplistic American mood serves the story quite well. Given that I am still rooting from the climax, I'd want Sanders to start working on the sequel as soon as possible (despite the low box-office, a sequel is already in development).

With the line-up so far this year, I'd give *The Wild Robot* high chances of winning the Academy Award for Best Animated Film this Oscar season... provided that *The Gleaners and I* doesn't gain momentum in the category, or wins the International Film trophy. ■

— **Mohammad Khusro Javed**

*The Wild Robot is produced by DreamWorks and released by Universal. The film is rated PG. The film has heart and soul, and features a few deaths that are handled with compassion and subtlety.*

# THE GRAPEVINE

By PYT

## BIRTHDAY SONG



October 15 is the birthday of singing superstar Atif Aslam's wife Sara Bhanwra. Contrary to his serious demeanour, the singer is a pretty romantic guy. On his better half's special day, he posted a heart-warming message for her on social media with a picture of Sara in her resident life wearing her college uniform. He wrote, "I've been smiling since the day our eyes first met. Happy birthday, my love." Aw... what a melodious and rhythmic message.

## KARAN'S CHAHAT



Social media figure Chahat Fatchi Ali Khan has a big number of fans as well as detractors. We thought that those who are in showbiz would generally disapprove of his brand of creativity, if one could call it that. Well, not so. His recent rendition of an Indian song, *Tasha Jaiselwari* from the movie *Band Nisha* has caught the eye of none other than director/producer Karan Johar. He liked it so much that he put this particular version on his Instagram page and asked his followers to check it out. Well, all we can say to that is... *tauba tauba*.

## NO DANCE WITH BF



Tom Holland and Zendaya are one of the hottest couples in Hollywood. We all know that Zendaya can dance beautifully. However, in a recent interview, the actress has said she would not like to dance with Tom H. When we first read that we thought that the height difference between the two (he's 5'6½" and she's 5'10") might have prompted her to say that. Nope. She says, "He's too good, it would piss me off. I would want to take someone who could be equally as bad as I am." Well, Z, don't, you can always dance in the air with him. He is Spider-Man, after all.

## COMEDY AGAIN

Hollywood king Shah Rukh Khan always tries to break the mould that people think his acting has set in. In recent years, he has given two of the biggest all-time commercial hits in the history of Indian cinema — *Armaan* and *Pathaan*. They gathered staggering numbers at the box office. Ever since, expectations regarding his upcoming movies have rocketed sky high. Now the actor has come out with a statement that he'd like to try his hand at comedy... to prove his versatility as an artist. Wait, so *Armaan* and *Pathaan* weren't comedies?



## LIAM PAYNE, RIP

The world of music received a shock on October 16 when a former member of the pop band One Direction and a renowned singer Liam Payne fell off a balcony on the third floor of a hotel in Buenos Aires, and died. He was 31. Some news reports suggest that he was under the influence of drugs at the time. One Direction shut to fame 14 years ago, when they impressed with their remarkable singing talent on the reality show *The X Factor* and all five of its members (Liam Payne, Niall Horan (who was with him in Buenos Aires for a concert), Zayn Malik, Louis Tomlinson and Harry Styles) became overnight sensations. May he rest in peace!



## THREAT ALERT!



After the murder of politician Haba Siddique (who was close to Bollywood stars, especially Salman Khan), allegedly by the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, Salman Khan has reportedly received threats from the same gang, because of which Mumbai's police has beefed up his security. It's believed that a man suspected to be hatching a plot for the actor's murder has been nabbed from Punjab and is under investigation. It's been more than a decade since the actor has been under threat and many are fearing for his life after Siddique's death. We hope Salman K. remains steadfast in his resolve to ward off evils such as Lawrence B.

## WIDE ANGLE

With Halloween just a few days away, here is a brief history of malevolent dolls in horror cinema — from Chucky to M3GAN

# RISE OF THE DEADLY DOLLS

By Sandra Mills

From *Legends* (2024) to *M3GAN* (2022) to *Annabelle Comes Home* (2019), creepy dolls are eerily at home on the big screen.

Their cinematic history can be traced back to *The Doll's Revenge* (1907), in which a young boy witnesses his previously destroyed sister's doll reassemble itself, before tearing him apart and devouring him.

Over the course of the 20th century, cinematic dolls became more aggressively homicidal and the 1980s saw a significant shift in the killer toy subgenre of horror cinema. Previously governed by puppets and ventriloquist dummies, as seen in *Dead of Night* (1945) and *Mingie* (1978), in the eighties, the horror output spotlighted malevolent dolls, as can be seen in *Carrain* (1983) and *Black Devil Doll from Hell* (1984).

It was the latter part of the decade though, specifically the release of *Dolls* (1987) and *Child's Play* (1988), that really won over horror fans.

*Dolls* is a somewhat unique film in that the otherworldly dolls it spotlights play the part of both antagonist and hero. The suggestion that these dolls possess a morality — however amorphous that morality may be — adds an additional dimension to the killer doll archetype presented to genre fans so far.

Indeed, *Dolls* actively encourages the viewer to favour these murderous dolls over their human victims. The transgressions these mortals commit, including theft and parental neglect, make them seemingly



(L-R) M3gan, Chucky and Annabelle | Universal Pictures/Eventful Collection/Inc./Lifestyle Pictures/Canva

worthy of this unique form of punishment. These dolls are not the glossy, mass-produced figures of *Child's Play*. Instead they are humanis (re)constructed (into dolls, as penance for their indiscretions. There is an inherent sentimentality to *Dolls*, echoes of which can be found in *Annabelle* (2014), *Robert* (2015) and *The Boy* (2016).

### DOLLS OF THE 2000S

*Child's Play* was the first instalment in the "living doll" subgenre's most prevalent and durable cinematic franchise — Chucky.

Charles Lee Ray, nicknamed "Chucky", is a serial killer who moves his life-force into a doll, and persistently attempts to transfer his soul from the toy to a mortal body.

The Chucky films span five decades and six direct cinematic sequels, alongside a TV series and film reboot. And a new Chucky film is anticipated in 2026.

In the 2000s, cinema-goers were gripped by haunted house horror, as seen in *The Coven* (2001) and *Paranormal Activity* (2007) and exorcism horror, as seen in *The Exorcism of Emily Rose* (2005) and *The*

### Last Exorcism

(2010). *The Coven* (2013) deftly married these two subgenres to produce a purportedly true account of domestic horror that introduced viewers to demonic doll Annabelle. The doll here exists primarily as a conduit — a haunted object that can manipulate the people and objects around her to do her master's bidding.

Annabelle is notable for both her stillness and silence — something of an anomaly in a subgenre that tends to favour a "they walk, they talk, they kill" approach. The

doll's motion is largely limited to occasional subtle movements of the head, and she doesn't speak throughout the series.

Instead, Annabelle prefers to occupy others, carrying out her will through unsuspecting hosts and paying the unsuspecting victims of their own autonomy in the process.

Annabelle, Chucky and other lesser-known icons of the deadly dolls horror subgenre, typify our enduring cultural fascination with animism (the attribution of life, and on occasion a soul, to an inanimate object) and anthropomorphism (the attribution of human-like characteristics or personality traits to an inanimate object).

And more recent films, including *M3GAN*, are articulating new anxieties surrounding digital surveillance and artificial intelligence.

The horror of "living" dolls, after all, lies in their uncanny resemblance to something that is inherently not human. Their faces, whether of porcelain or plastic, mimic our own and so we're in with an eerily uncanny foe.

While the fantasy of a treasured toy coming to life may be a bewitching possibility, horror cinema directly threatens that notion, as the childhood playthings it portrays become sources of suspicion, trepidation and terror, rather than pleasure. ■

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Reprinted from *The Conversation*

WIDE ANGLE

The response to the death of One Direction singer Liam Payne highlights the power of childhood and music

# THE LOSS OF AN IDOL

By Liz Gluffre

Former One Direction band member and solo artist Liam Payne has been found dead outside a hotel in Buenos Aires, media reports have confirmed. Payne was just 31 years old — a loved friend and father.

Alongside his former One Direction bandmates Niall Horan, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson and Zayn Malik, Payne had a huge influence on popular culture in his home country of the United Kingdom, and internationally.

The group formed in 2010, on the British talent show *X Factor*, and stayed together for about five years before officially splitting in 2016. Throughout this time, Payne remained a valuable member of the band and a clear talent in his own right.

After the split (and a brief hiatus from music-making), Payne continued to release music periodically, as both a songwriter and collaborator. He most recently released the single *Trustworthy* in March, ahead of an anticipated second solo album.

News of Payne's death has led to an outpouring of tributes. Like many young people thrust into stardom seemingly overnight, his life wasn't without controversy. But the response to his death by fans and industry colleagues alike is proof of the impact he had.

### THE MAKING OF A POP SUPERGROUP

While One Direction may have not been together for as long as other globally successful acts, their influence far exceeded bands that have been together for decades. They released five studio records — and broke many more, including six Guinness World Records. And even though they didn't make it to their 10th anniversary together, they had still sold some 70 million records by 2020.

In the years since the split, fans continued to gather, listen and celebrate



Liam Payne, third from the left, died aged 31 | Mark J. Terrill/Getty

— with the most recent anniversary (14 years) seeing fan-led events held in Australia and the rest of the world.

It's easy to dismiss pop music and its influence, especially in the face of what feel like increasingly dire global circumstances. But pop, like many other forms of entertainment, provides a practical way for people to gain momentary pleasure and comfort.

It also provides connection with others — and relief from politics and other daily pressures. For example, one of One Direction's biggest hits, *What Makes You Beautiful*, sought to empower young people who might otherwise be overwhelmed by negative messaging.

Within a year of their debut, the group was met with massive crowds of fans almost everywhere they went.

### THE IMPACT ON FANS WHEN THEIR IDOL DIES

The loss of life, especially a young person's life, is always a tragedy.

For some young fans, this might be the first person they "know" who has died. While it may not be the same as losing a family member or close friend, the feeling of loss is significant. Young fans will need support. And in 2024, many will find this support through social platforms and online forums.

I still remember the impact the deaths of stars such as Kurt Cobain and Jeff Buckley had on people like me, who were teenagers in the 1990s. These were artists I admired and listened to — and whose art I relied on during times of pleasure and pain.

A similar pang was felt when artists such as George Michael, Aretha Franklin and David Bowie died, albeit later in my life and theirs.

The experience of losing a music idol is in many ways a universal one. People whose art we attach to our own life experiences become inseparable from our lives. And when they die, it can feel like those experiences are over too.

After news of Payne's death broke, hundreds of fans took to the streets of Palermo in Buenos Aires, where Payne had been visiting. They held a vigil, cried and consoled one another in front of the Casa Sur hotel, where Payne had been staying.

One fan, 25-year-old Yamila Zacarias, probably spoke for many when she said:

*He meant a lot to me because the band came into my life at this time when you're trying to be a part of something, and being a One Direction fan became that something for me.*

### LIFELONG FANDOM AND MEMORIES

There's a stereotype of "fans" as hordes of screaming girls, which can really take away from the depth of fandom.

Anyone at any stage of life can be a fan of just about anything. And the best thing about fandom is that it can, and often does, allow fans of different types of people an outlet for connection throughout their lives.

The death of US actress Betty White in 2021, as sad as it was, brought people across generations and walks of life together. And not just those who knew her personally, but those who had connected with each other through their love of her work. It reminded me of my own family, including my Nan and Dad, now gone, and the laughs we'd share as we watched her.

As more details and tributes to Payne's life and death emerge, the fans will have each other to lean on. If you yourself know someone who is a fan of Payne or One Direction, even reaching out to just acknowledge that person's grief and experience is important. It says to them, "what you love is valid, and so are you."

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### THE DEATH OF CINEMA, FROM PAGE 1

the financial loss she suffered from *Black Widow*. However, more damaging than that was the birth of the idea that a film can be watched at home for a fraction of the price of a film in the theatre — especially if you're a family of two or more.

A film ticket for one adult is 20 dollars in the US. That's the same cost as the film's digital rental, but adds the benefit of giving the subscriber 14 days to watch the film, and 48 hours to finish the viewing once started — if, that is, the film is not available for free as part of a trial membership to entice new customers, or if that film has not been acquired by a monthly subscription service such as Netflix, whose monthly premium tier costs 23 dollars in the US (other countries, such as Pakistan, get Netflix for much cheaper). Alternatively, a digital copy of the film can be bought for 24 dollars.

While studios have jointly decided to hold off simultaneous releases of films to streaming platforms, the one-month embargo is hardly a good one.

To put things into context for young readers: a film used to come out on video (VHS Cassettes, and later, DVDs, six months to a year after its release. In that time, the film made slow international rounds, where the hype and performance of the US release helped build attraction and interest while, concurrently, the

title was sold to television stations.

At the time of writing, *Transformers One* and *The Wild Robot*, which are still playing in cinemas, have just made their digital rental debut a few hours ago. The quick-release/get-it-while-it's-hot money-grab tactic kills the feeling of anticipation and, in consequence, trains people to wait for the cheaper option to buy or rent the film a month later than watch it in cinema.

These decisions by studios in the US have worldwide repercussions.

### PAKISTAN: REELING FROM THE IMPACT OF BIG, GLOBAL DECISIONS

These big-game international decisions play havoc for a small cinema market such as Pakistan. The country, and its youth, if anything, are now attuned to global practices, standards and mindsets.

Taking in the fact that the audience do not prefer most Pakistani releases, the downwards ripple-effect of bad word-of-mouth for films of cinematic merit, and the limited interest in disposable fluff that the US box-office makes do-on, spells doom for whatever is left of cinema culture in the country.

Capri Cinema — which was perhaps the only cost-effective, single-screen cinema in Karachi — has decided to shut down its operations in the last year. Although its management has assured this writer that it is not closed for good, the derelict conditions at the

cinema tell one all one needs to know. The reason, one understands — and have oft-discussed with Capri's owners — is the lack of releases that will pull non-multiple audiences back to the movies.

The trouble, however, is not limited to single-screens. Arriano Cinema, one of the first "real" multiplexes of the country, shut its doors in early July. The cinema has not been able to make its ends meet.

Pakistani cinema is mostly concentrated — road-dependent — on the success of a film in Punjab, which has the greatest number of screens in Pakistan (surge the many Indian-Punjabi releases in the country). However, one may notice another trend wiggling its way in: the release of Malaysian, Indonesian and Turkish horror films. The films have been doing reasonably well which, again, returns us to the question: what has cinema really been relegated to?

With a clear bias against movies that have substance and story, and desperate international business tactics governing and choke-holding the global state of cinema, where does cinema actually stand?

Can one really expect to see films like *The Green Mile*, *The Big Lebowski* or even *The Godfather* succeed in this day and age, where a preference for forgettable fluff has smothered creativity that made cinema what it is?

The thing is, like all bad trends, this too shall probably pass in a few years, but at what cost? ■

### THE TUBE

#### THE WEEK THAT WAS

Jafar | Hum TV, Fridays 8:00pm

The story takes an inevitable but shocking turn as Hassan (Mohab Mirza) gives Dr Zara (Masara Husain) a horrific beating when she confronts him over his lies.

Writer Saimra Farid has illustrated a well-observed pattern of domestic violence, in which the abuser plays mind games with the victim — love-bombing with gifts and the promise of a violence-free existence in exchange for obedience to their shifting moods. Hassan plans to trap Zara into a forever relationship with a child, but his plan fails because she is sensible, educated and empowered by her parents to take ethical decisions in her own self-interest.



In contrast, the relationship between Dr Nazam (Usman Mukhtar) and Andaleeb (Sehar Khan) highlights how healthy, emotionally mature men handle conflict. Andaleeb is pragmatic but Nazam has long ago received a diagnosis of infertility; like any normal person, he is surprised and confused but does not react violently or throw accusations. Andaleeb is ecstatic and assured of her husband's attitude but her youth and excitement carry her through every moment. Despite his doubts, Nazam accepts the event as within the realm of possibility. Mohab Mirza and Masara Husain's excellent portrayals took the spotlight over the last few weeks but we see Sehar Khan and Usman Mukhtar coming back to centre-stage now.

Duniyapur | Green Entertainment, Wednesdays 8:00pm

The clash between the incendiary narratives of Duniyapur and the upstart Nawaz-Adam family continues, as the heirs to the Adam family defy the odds, and survive. Writer Radeen Shah leaves the realm of possibility and wades into video-gaming-style action to attract a younger audience with his plot twists, but director Shahid Shaheen has not been able to match the pace so far.

Shahmir (Khalid Khan) survives an abdominal stabbing and a back-breaking fall, while Nayab Adam (Ali Raza) lives to become a hostage in exchange for the entire territory. The vicious old Nawab (Manzar Sobhani) attacks another gut-wrenching condition to Nayab's release — his own marriage to Adam's younger daughter, Nawaz. Adam is easily persuaded to give her up by his plotting brother, who reveals the girl is having an illicit affair. After killing the young man she loved, Nawaz Adam trades his child like a piece of furniture, fully knowing the sadistic old Nawab will rape her.

Those who enjoy fantasy and action will enjoy the show, despite the lack of credibility in some of the plot points.

Chair | ARY, Fri-Sat 8:00pm

The melodrama in this show is off the scales. No one trusts or believes anyone and *Wafa* happens at the drop of a hat. History repeats itself. Shifa (Yasminra Jari) has to save herself from her rage-filled, honour-obsessed brother Farjad (Adeel Hussain) by using Wafa's (Ushna Shah) name. Shifa's boyfriend Sohaib (Usama Khan) confirms the lie to support her, but events spin out of control and he is forced to wed Wafa.

Stories about honour culture have a place and context in Pakistani society but these issues have become an overused plot point. Ushna Shah's ranting seems unjustified as she is simply not believable in many scenes and has chosen glamour over authenticity.

Apart from Wafa, every character is filled with resentment and dysfunction, making it difficult to root for anyone. Director Yaseen Nawaz has built up the tension but he has glossed over many details that are part of a director's job, in order to anchor the narrative and build up the characters' believability.

### WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR (OR NOT)

Faakhir | Green Entertainment, Coming soon

Exciting seasons starring Hassan Ali Abbas, Ahmed Ali Akbar and Danish Zafar have built up a wave of momentum for this upcoming action thriller. ■ — Sadaf Hashir

### THIS WEEK ON SPOTIFY

TOP 10 PAKISTANI SONGS		
S.#	SONG	STREAMS
1	<i>Jhol</i> Maanu, Annural Khalid	386,412
2	<i>Tu Hai Kahan</i> AUR	154,002
3	<i>Wishes</i> Hasan Raheem, Umair, Talwinder	146,374
4	<i>Chal Diye Tum Kahan</i> AUR	140,154
5	<i>Regrets</i> Jevin Gill, Umair, Talha Anjum	127,872
6	<i>COME THROUGH</i> (feat. Abdullah Maharvi, Talha Anjum) Umair, Abdullah Maharvi, Talha Anjum	113,315
7	<i>Bikhra</i> Abdul Hannan, Rovallo	100,985
8	<i>Love Lost</i> Umair, Talha Anjum	96,191
9	<i>Long Time No See</i> Taimour Baig, Raffley Anwar, AUR	92,581
10	<i>Faasle</i> Kaavish, Quratulain Baloch	91,855

▶ STARBUZZ

# ICON

The young actor Abubakr Shak has become a target of plenty of memes mocking his British accent in TV dramas. Most assume it's put on, though he actually hails from London. How does he react to it and what does he hope to achieve in the future?

## 'THE BEST RESPONSE TO HATERS IS SUCCESS'

By Faisal Quraishi

**A**bubakr Shak has set his hopes and aspirations high. But being a high achiever himself, he would have it no other way. He has fearlessly jumped into a media industry far from home, been trodded on social media, snagged appearances in commercials and already had the chance to star opposite his screen idol, Babar Ali.

But since the sky's the limit for this lad from London, he says there's still a long way ahead of him before he can kick off his boots and chill out.

**Explain the controversy regarding your character Nooman Ahmed's accent from ARY Digital's *Khadsoor*?**

**Abubakr Shak:** Well, my character Nooman is a kid from London who visits Pakistan for the first time, which is actually like myself in real life — I visited Pakistan for the first time in 2022. I came on a Pak visa, as British passport holders can't travel here without one. I had a lot of people doubt my British English accent, especially those who can't even spell 'London' properly! I understand that for people here in Pakistan speaking English is a big deal but, for me, speaking Urdu and learning this beautiful language is way more fascinating, as it's much harder and rarer.

**How did it feel like working opposite a veteran actor like Babar Ali, who played your character's father Subhan Ahmed in *Khadsoor*?**

**AS:** Babar Uncle, wow what a man he is! Great personality and a very intelligent actor, I must say. I learned more with him in a few days than I did when I studied drama for two years, back in high school in London.

**What's next on the anvil? What kind of roles are on offer? Who would you like to play next?**

**AS:** I am ready to try all sorts of roles, from action to chocolate boy hero! I'm really looking forward to acting in our amazing Pakistani dramas, which are immensely popular back home, and even around the world.

**Who are your influences in showbiz and entertainment?**

**AS:** Imran Abbas and Feroz Khan, as they are both experienced and have faced similar criticisms, but they answered back with their great work. I believe the best response to haters is success.

**Any hot favourites right now regarding films, dramas, OTT series, etc?**

**AS:** Yes, I loved *Fajr Afzar* starring Bilal Abbas Khan. It was beautifully set in the prime locations of northern Pakistan and aesthetically pleasing.

**Who would you like to pair up with, given a chance? Do you think you share chemistry with someone, when it comes to on-screen couples?**

**AS:** Humaira... well, me and Sajal Aly both have big, round eyes and are of similar age. I believe we would look great on screen, so let's see...

**Do you have a wishlist about things you'd like to do? Name the top five 'to-do' items on the list.**

**AS:** Yes, I do and I've actually done most of them already at 27 years! But here they are: deep-sea diving, skydiving, becoming an actor, buying my dream car, and travelling the world before I leave this world for the next. ■



Photography: Tahir Agha | Grooming: Noman Yasin | Designer: Zubair Khan | Styling: Raza & Raza | Collaboration: Umair Malik

▶ WIDE ANGLE

## A COMMENTARY ON AMERICA?

Released so close to the polls, the Trump biopic *The Apprentice* is inevitably political

By Michelle Bentley

**T**he *Apprentice* — a new film dramatising Donald Trump's business career during the 1970s and '80s — is the latest in a presidential election full of controversy.

The movie charts Trump's (Sebastian Stan) professional rise from an awkward nobody to hottest real-estate tycoon. Trump's Pygmalion-like transformation is credited to his friendship with Roy Cohn (Jeremy Strong). Cohn was an infamous prosecutor who worked with Senator Joseph McCarthy during the Communist and Lavender (homosexual) scares, and as a political fixer for Richard Nixon.

The key storyline is that Trump becomes Cohn's apprentice, learning underhanded ways of business and Machiavellian deal-making. Other figures said to have influenced Trump's career, such as political adviser Roger Stone, get only cameo appearances.

Trump does not look good. He is portrayed as vain, using amphetamines as diet pills and getting plastic surgery, including liposuction and a scalp reduction. Trump rejects his alcoholic brother and later Cohn, who dies from AIDS in social disgrace.

Trump is also shown to rape his then-wife, Ivana (Maria Bakalova) — a scene which made headlines after the movie's Cannes Film Festival premiere earlier this year. The rape claim was made during the couple's divorce proceedings, although Ivana said afterwards that she did not consider the incident "rape" in a criminal sense.

Director Ali Abbasi says this depiction isn't a take-down of the former president but a more nuanced exploration of Trump's character. Indeed, there is sympathy for Trump — for example, by detailing the emotional pressure from his father.

The film explores how this experience fuelled Trump's obsession with winning, which is cultivated by Cohn and his three rules of success: "attack, attack, attack", "deny everything" and "never admit defeat". The film seeks to get inside Trump's mindset, not only as a businessman, but unpicking what drove him in the White House, as well as the



Sebastian Stan as the young Donald Trump | ThePix

election he's now fighting.

Some have criticised this approach for being too soft on Trump. A review in *The Guardian* called the film "obnoxious and irrelevant." A further concern is that presenting Trump as a "winner" could actually be seen to legitimise amoral business practices as successful, especially given that Trump's later six bankruptcies are not clearly mentioned.

*The Apprentice* is also a deeper commentary on America. Another character comments that Cohn's three rules also describe US foreign policy. The film

raises big questions about the US, not least where Cohn repeatedly highlights what he identifies as the country's virtues, and justifies his (sometimes illegal) actions as upholding these. The audience is left to consider what shapes America and its foreign policy — and what may be toxic about this.

Will the film influence the upcoming election? *The Apprentice's* screenwriter, Gabriel Sherman, insists the movie is not designed "to influence people's minds." Yet, the film's release so close to the polls means it is inevitably political.

*The Apprentice* is unlikely to radically shift the electoral needle. Trump's negative portrayal may make some voters on the fence question his suitability for high office. But beyond this, the film will reinforce what people already thought.

Pro-Trumpers won't like the movie, but this upset will likely just give oxygen to their support. Those against Trump will also be able to feel their opinion has been affirmed, even by those who would have wanted the film to take a harder line. Although, it's perhaps uncertain whether anyone who dislikes Trump will want to spend two hours watching even more of him than they already have in this election.

While the film likely won't influence the final outcome, it is still a major marker in this election, thanks to the huge controversy around it. Concern over its divisive portrait of Trump meant the movie took five years to reach production. Clint Eastwood turned down the option to direct, due to the perceived business risk involved. Distribution also took time to secure — a situation Abbasi describes as a "boycott or censorship."

Distribution problems were also exacerbated by legal threats. *After Causes* (where the film received an eight-minute ovation), Trump's legal team issued a cease-and-desist letter. Communications Director for the Trump election campaign, Steven Cheung, said the film was "garbage" and "pure fiction", constituting election interference.

Strong resistance also came from billionaire and close Trump associate Dan Snyder, who was involved in the film's financing, thinking it would paint a positive picture of the presidential hopeful. Snyder later sought to block the film's release, after seeing a preview.

Controversy has only raised the movie's profile. And while people will watch it for very different political reasons, some will buy a ticket purely because this film is now a standout event in one of the most contentious US elections in history. ■

*The writer is a Professor of International Relations at the Royal Holloway University of London in the UK*

Reprinted from *The Conversation*

As Karachi experiences an exponential increase in motorisation, limited attention is given to pedestrian and public transport facilities. This has led to many infrastructural issues, where urban 'developers' have stopped accommodating pedestrian accessibility. As those lower down on the social ladder continue to bear the brunt of these exclusionary practices, can Karachi ever get its footpaths back?

# THE UNWALKABLE CITY OF KARACHI

By Marvi Mazhar and Zahra Hirji



A woman sells dry fruits on the footpath near Empress Market; the anti-encroachment drive in Empress Market in 2018 dramatically altered how the public interacts with this iconic site. A once-thriving market was reduced to just another gated park in the city. (White Star)



Thaloo like this one can be found at various spots in Saddar and other old quarters of Karachi, where these platforms used to be part of the architectural street development. (Marvi Mazhar and Associates)

"Think of a city and what comes to mind? Its streets. If a city's streets look interesting, the city looks interesting. If they look dull, the city looks dull."

— Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

Pakistan's footpaths are more than just spaces for walking — they are the arteries of urban life and reflect the country's social fabric. Karachi's footpaths are not just pedestrian pathways but are brimming with commerce, hawkers and food carts. As a result, the footpaths become marketplaces, social hubs, and shelters for the homeless. However, despite their central role in urban life, walkable footpaths are scarcely regarded as crucial components of the urban landscape.

The lack of maintenance is a clear sign of neglect to accommodate the diverse needs of the people who rely on them to navigate around the city. What does this mean regarding access to the streets of Karachi? If there are no footpaths, what is the buffer between buildings and the road? Given that a large part of Karachi's economy is informal, where can this informal activity unfold in the streets of Karachi without footpaths?

A 2016 survey conducted by the Urban Resource Centre, across select areas of Karachi's District South, District West, District East and District Central, revealed the reality: the primary obstacle for pedestrians is the sheer lack of footpaths. Even where footpaths do exist, maintenance issues come in as the second biggest challenge, followed by inadequate crosswalks.

Encroachments on footpaths rank as the fourth obstacle, with 59 percent of respondents reporting difficulties due to shops, carts, generators and rubble blocking their way. The survey also found that 90 percent of respondents believed Karachi's footpaths were inadequate for individuals with special needs, such as wheelchair users, people with strollers, or the elderly.

The 11-feet-wide footpaths in Kharadar, which feature curb stone ramps, are an exception. These paths reflect Karachi's early urban planning practices and demonstrate a rare consideration for accessibility in the city.

Kharadar has mid-rise housing where, even at ground plus three, the highest floor has a relationship with the street. Whether it is just loitering on the footpath, leaning down a *rotli* (basket) from the balcony down to the storefront with money in exchange for groceries, or even the storefront expanding out on to the footpath, all coexist with a clear passage of travel.

The footpath becomes more humanistic. In other words, there is a strong interest or concern for human

welfare, values and dignity, thus providing ample space for multiple uses, while ensuring accessibility for all.

## A DAY ON KARACHI'S FOOTPATHS

When the first rays of sunlight hit Karachi, the streets are serene and largely deserted, except for those returning from *Fajr* prayers, a few street-vendors, and *dhallas* preparing *chai* and *parathas* for early commuters. From the morning to late afternoon, footpaths come alive, as students leave for school, workers leave for office, and rickshaws and buses stop in the middle of the road to drop off passengers. The commuters have to scurry as they manoeuvre past cars, fruit stands and beggars that block them and the footpaths.

When it comes to design and thinking of urban interventions in public spaces, we have to reach historical referencing to consider and learn from in Karachi. The concept of a *thaloo* (fixed outdoor platform) was a very common feature of Karachi's old-town streets, where these platforms were used in neighbourhoods as a place for congregation during

Karachi's breezy evenings. This kind of public feature was not forced, it was always part of the building design and a way to include the outside with the inside.

During the afternoon, footpaths become extensions of shops. Informal mobile vendors park their carts in the middle of the footpath, while broken pavements and debris forces pedestrians to spill on to the roads. The chaos is made worse by schoolchildren returning home from school, as they stop by food vendors to grab a bite to eat in the middle of the path.

High income residential areas such as the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) are quieter at this time, mainly used by the working class to get back and forth from their bus stops to the houses they work at. However, the new development in DHA Phase 8 does not include footpaths at all.

In the evening time, people head home from work and traffic increases, and many women rush to leave home before it gets dark, as the streets are not well-lit and security becomes an issue. Bikes that try to avoid the traffic, use footpaths as an additional path, weaving through pedestrians to get home. At night, footpaths

remain lively on food streets and in commercial areas. *Baanars* reel in the products that had been displayed on the footpath, making space for the *chai dabba* to spread out their chairs for late night *baithais* (gatherings). As midnight passes, homeless individuals lay out their *chudars* and seek refuge on the footpaths.

However, limited access to such kinds of 'third spaces' leads to the need for architectural solutions. For instance, public markets and squares play an important role in Karachi's day-to-day life. Here, the architectural inclusion of the *thaloo* makes it an extension of the footpath, offering relief from the city's density built environment. They are essential for promoting social connection, health and well-being, especially in a city with limited green areas and high levels of traffic congestion. The informality and character of these public markets allows for people from different social backgrounds to interact. But, alas, even that right has been taken away from Karachi's public.

## PUBLIC SPACES NOT MEANT FOR THE PUBLIC

Located on Karim Ali Talpur Road in Saddar, Empress Market was originally designed for the British administration and soldiers in 1859. Because of its strategic position, it became a major transportation hub for the city, with a vital tramway junction and key endpoint for bus routes.

As Karachi evolved, Empress Market evolved into a vibrant hub. Hawkers spring up to cater to the growing population, selling everything from tea to dry fruits, birds and cloth. The market's informal economy, marked by disorganised stalls paying money to secure their spots, reflected the lack of oversight by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC). This unchecked expansion led to significant congestion, impeding pedestrian movement and altering the social fabric of the neighbourhood.

Under the anti-encroachment drive, initiated in 2018, KMC's anti-encroachment director, Badar Ahmad Siddiq, said they had demolished over a 1,000 shops. According to the 2019 article 'The Future of Karachi's Saddar', urban planner Arif Hassan lamented: "The recent 'anti-encroachment' drive in Karachi has resulted in the loss of over 200,000 jobs as well as threats to the multi-class social and cultural fabric of Saddar."

Wasim Akhtar, Karachi's mayor at the time, told the media that a "beautiful park" would be established in the surroundings of Empress Market. The once-thriving market, known for its vibrant atmosphere, and the hustle and bustle that drew tourists, was violently replaced by KMC Commissioner Dr. Syed Saif-ur-Rehman.



Footpaths in older parts of the city not only had a generous size but were also curved so as to respect the corner architecture, thus softly leading the traffic and pedestrians by these gentle directions. (Marvi Mazhar and Associates)

THE UNWALKABLE CITY OF KARACHI, PAGE 2

# WHERE HAVE ALL THE FOOTPATHS GONE?

## THE UNWALKABLE CITY OF KARACHI, PAGE 1

reducing it to just another gated park in the city, separating the street from the building. Instead of the drastic and violent demolition, a more thoughtful approach would have been to analyse the pedestrian circulation and organise stalls in a systematic manner, similar to the set-up at Binnenroete Square in Rotterdam, where we could have preserved Empress Market's dynamic character. Binnenroete Market's infrastructure allows for easy set-up and removal, maintaining the area's vibrancy without permanent structures taking over the space.

Empress Market was not just a marketplace. It was a dynamic organism, integral to Karachi's urban life. The recent changes have dramatically altered how the public interacts with this iconic site, mirroring a broader trend in Karachi, where footpaths are being reduced to accommodate more cars. Instead of shrinking public spaces, urban planners should consider how these areas can serve as vibrant ecosystems in their own right, fostering community and culture rather than stifling them.

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS, NO NEW WALKWAYS

DHA Karachi proudly claims Phase 8 as the "largest, most modern, well-planned and fastest growing phase of DHA" and that its sectors "have been completed with a degree of quality and excellence." This statement, however, largely ignores the working class, who commute there every day. The reduced number of bus stops in the area makes it difficult for those who rely on public transit to access the locality. Once they disembark from the bus, commuters either have to walk considerable distances or pay for a rickshaw to reach their destination.

Ironically, this so-called "well-planned" area lacks the most basic pedestrian infrastructure, thus raising an important question: what does DHA actually consider "well-planned"? For an area marketed as modern and thoughtfully designed, the absence of footpaths for pedestrians shows a clear disconnect between planning ideals and practical needs.

Historically important neighbourhoods, such as Kilmadar and Mirbhasar, and neighbourhoods developed from the 1950s onwards, such as KDA, PECHS and Lalazar, were considered dynamic and modern developments at the time. Footpaths were considered an integral part of their planning and we can see that design being used even today by pedestrians.

However, the "modern" streets in DHA today, such as Khasayun-i-Shujaat, 26th Street or even Khasayun-i-Shahbaz, fail to provide safe and accessible footpaths. With much of the working class commuting to DHA being female, this oversight further reinforces the perception that women are neither welcome nor safe when moving independently through the streets of Karachi.

Bukhari Commercial's "renovation and upgradation" has introduced pelican crossings (a crossing for both pedestrians and vehicles). Spearheaded by Member Councilor for Cantonment Board Clifton's (CBC) Ward 5, Shehan Iqbal Maggpos, Bukhari commercial has wheelchair-friendly footpaths, the lighting is brighter and better designed, and they have added additional wooden benches.

The intent to increase more space for the public is well-received by the neighbourhood, as young boys flock to the area to film their TikTok videos, with some comparing Bukhari Commercial's streets to New York and London. However, the Pakistani drivers' disregard for pedestrians, crosswalks and traffic lights still presents a challenge for pedestrians here.

Despite these improvements, questions arise about the larger urban planning strategy. Is this upgrade part of a broader policy, or simply an isolated intervention? These pedestrian-friendly interventions create a stark disconnect from the ground reality, highlighting inconsistencies in urban planning.

While changes in Bukhari Commercial are a step in the right direction, they expose broader gaps in the development across the city. If larger training is not done for traffic to stop to allow pedestrians to pass, then such applications will not work for the future. Collaboration between public awareness campaigns, traffic policing and urban planning infrastructure is a must; otherwise, such designs will fail again and again.

### TRAFFIC AND THE CITY

In their 2015 analysis of Karachi's transport crisis, Arif Hasan and Mansoor Raza provide an in-depth examination of the issue. According to KMC, there is a shortfall of over 8,500 buses that are urgently needed to meet public demand. The long hours spent travelling, waiting, the discomfort on the bus, suffering injuries getting on and off the bus, and harassment of women on the buses, are just some of the reasons people dislike the public transit system.

In 2017, the number of motorcycles in Karachi rose to 2.7 million, increasing the number of motorcycles in the city by 230 percent in the last decade. A staggering 702 bikes are registered every day in Karachi. The increased number of private vehicles means that there is an increase in traffic, which leads to increased air and noise pollution, environmental and health degradation,



The restaurants on Karachi's Burnes Road packed to the brim at night: the tables and chairs from these restaurants routinely spill out on to the main road | White Star

and a high rate of accidents.

But instead of increasing public transport, the government's response has been to increase signal-free roads and flyovers. While these measures may reduce travel time during rush hours, the exit points remain congested, ultimately failing to alleviate the traffic burden or address the needs of pedestrians and public transit users.

The motorisation volume caused by signal-free corridors and multilevel flyovers has also resulted in a higher number of high-speed traffic accidents and injuries to pedestrians. Crosswalks are non-existent, and the lack of traffic signals means overhead pedestrian bridges have to be built.

In 2016, as part of urban negotiation-based advocacy, I stood against the ED Science College administration's proposed pedestrian bridge that would cut across heritage elevation and did not take into account any advice from heritage experts and architects on the intrusive construction of the pedestrian bridge for a more 55-foot-wide road. The width of the road, and the surrounding context, does not permit for such a massive, insensitive construction.

Currently, there are more than 164 overhead bridges. However, only three of the 164 bridges are built with ramps for wheelchairs. For someone who is physically challenged, it can take half-an-hour just to travel across a bridge without accessibility features. The Green Line is planning to include more inclusive features. These pedestrian bridges, if covered with billboards, can also create a sort of tunnel that fosters an unsafe environment, especially for women at night.

If adding these raised pedestrian bridges, one also creates disconnection between the city and its citizens. Instead of focusing on creating a walkable city, the city is focused on increasing more vehicles on the road. While these pedestrian bridges are understandable for arterial roads like Sharn-e-Faisal, intimate neighbourhoods need smaller interventions that encourage more pedestrians to use footpaths.

### FOSTERING A WALKABLE CITY

Wider footpaths signal that urban planning favours pedestrians and cyclists over cars. This emphasises the importance of accommodating those who are often at the lower end of the transportation hierarchy, demonstrating a focus on accessibility and inclusivity in public spaces.

In an interview, Arif Hasan emphasises that footpaths should be as wide as their functions. These functions include the presence of public toilets, trees, signboards, ramps for accessibility, as well as space for hawkers. There are currently around 150,000 hawkers in Karachi, earning about Rs 5,425 million a year. Therefore, it is important to cater to the informal economy of Karachi that employs 73 percent of the total labour force.

Arif Hasan emphasises that designing to our cultural needs is important, saying: "The bylaws are anti-street, anti-pedestrian, anti-mixed use, anti-everything that your culture demands of them." Rather than displacing vendors or claiming they are encroaching on pedestrian

space, urban planning should strike a balance between pedestrian space and catering to the local culture and economy.

Urban planning principles highlight the zones of a sidewalk in front of a business or residence to create accessible, safe and comfortable use. There should be three zones in every sidewalk: the frontage zone, the pedestrian zone and the service zone. A frontage zone (1.5-3.25 metres) is usually adjacent to the property line of the commercial area. The pedestrian zone (six metres) is intended for uninterrupted travel. The service zone (four to five metres) acts as a buffer between the cars and pedestrians.

This is where street trees, signs, manholes, bus stops, light poles and benches should be placed. However, in highly commercial zones, where street parking is limited, parking can be included in the service zone, and the larger frontage zone allows for shops to spread out on the street an additional three metres, thus still allowing a clear passage for pedestrians.

The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy reiterates Arif Hasan's ideology that vendors can be incorporated into the streetscape, as they also contribute to safety in terms of eyes on the street. If the hawkers are placed in the service or frontage zone, or the extension of the footpath, it will leave a clear passage for pedestrians.

Charles Correa, an Indian architect and planner, believed that a solution to accommodating hawkers in the street was by building a platform between the footpath and the road. This two metre-wide and 0.6 metre-high platform could be used by hawkers in the daytime and, in the evening, could be used to sleep on by office boys that economise their living expenses. But urban infrastructure development is rarely just about technical decisions — it's often shaped by political dynamics, economic interests and public perception.

The government's favourite company is Easivorene. The term 'easivorene' is derived from the words 'easiness' and 'concrete'. But that's not the case. Karachi's choice of paving materials, such as the use of concrete paving blocks, offers an insight into the complexities that influence such decisions.

Projects such as the paving of the Gulshan-i-Jadid underpass have been met with a lot of criticism. At a cost of Rs 2.1 billion, one of the longest underpasses in Karachi, which connects Jinnah Chowranghi via Habib University to Samama Apartments, has been paved with these concrete pavers. Pavers like these are meant for lighter traffic, such as on footpaths. But due to negligence at the time of installation, the pavers have broken off and have created gaps within the blocks.

Motorcyclists feel victimised because the bike breaks down from the rugged surface and rickshaws charge extra just to drive through the underpass. Karachi's residents are increasingly questioning the political motivations behind these decisions. Who stands to gain, which experts offer engineering insight and who authorises these projects?

The Formal Garden in Old Clifton is another example of the unnecessary addition of concrete

pavers replacing soft-scapes, thus increasing the heat and carbon footprint of the area. A lack of upkeep and the segregation of groups has also led to a considerable decline in the park's usage.

Researcher Mohammad Toheed's article "The Politics of Road Material — From Mumbai to Karachi" explains that, in Mumbai, as the pavers started breaking off, putting lives of motorists and pedestrians at risk, they were quickly criticised. In 2015, as part of a deliberate effort to address citizen concerns, the city replaced many of the old concrete blocks with asphalt, prioritising durability and ease of maintenance.

Similar to Mumbai, it is important that the government not only stops using concrete pavers of lower quality in Karachi but also continues to repair them in places where the blocks have sunk, come out or broken, to avoid pedestrian accidents. The selection of road materials is impacted by community input, local preferences and safety concerns. Additionally, climate, traffic volume, durability and maintenance costs heavily influence the type of material used.

### WALKING AHEAD

The Heritage Foundation of Pakistan developed terracotta tiles for a pedestrianised street along Radisson Walking Street close to Dewoo Hall Library and also at the newly rehabilitated police chowki in Old Town Karachi. The tiles are developed by cleaning the clay slurry to remove any impurities before they are moulded and crafted through a lengthy process.

This process was taught to over 150 residents of Thana at the Zero Carbon Cultural Centre. The villagers sell the tiles in order to make a livelihood. These terracotta tiles are going to replace cement tiles in Malcol Dost Sabe Gall, where the tiles absorb rainwater and collect them in aquifer trenches. The tiles have a much lower carbon footprint compared to concrete, help create livelihoods and are easily replaceable.

It is essential to look at increasing the sustainability of a city historically. One can not only plant trees to reduce the carbon footprint. Smaller interventions, such as carefully choosing the construction materials used, reducing cars on the street, encouraging walking and reducing unnecessary waste are just some of the ways to build more sustainable cities.

During the Covid pandemic, many Karachi residents who were confined to their neighbourhoods, embraced walking and cycling for exercise and leisure. With fewer cars on the road, people felt safer walking on main streets and even cycling without the fear of accidents. The sight of others enjoying the open spaces encouraged more participation, especially amongst women. However, it also highlighted the lack of sidewalks in the city. Once the city resumed its normal activity and cars filled the streets, many of these activities by residents were reduced.

How can we best cater to the residents of a neighbourhood? Catering to those in transit for work? How can we add and train automobile drivers to stop at crosswalks to allow pedestrians to cross the road? The city must prioritise well-maintained, accessible pedestrian areas that encourage walking as a healthy, sustainable form of transportation and recreation.

As urban thinkers and landscape architects, it is now critical to start looking at neighbourhoods from the index of carbon calculations and social well-being. Karachi is growing exponentially and its urban public spaces are the streets. The streets need to be safer and functional.

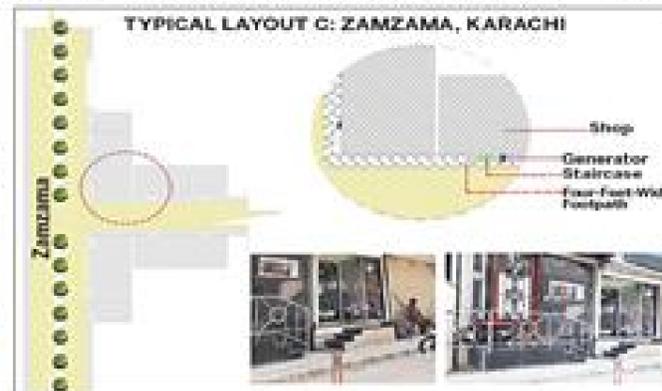
Why did footpaths disappear from our roads? Were the 'developers' and real estate managers given more power to maximise each square area and not think about the public's needs? Karachi has to undo many of these misguided and corrupting strategies, in order to transform the metropolis into a truly livable city. ■

*This essay is dedicated to the working and middle class of Karachi who often don't find footpaths, shaded bus stops and trees in the rich neighbourhoods of Karachi. Instead, they are under constant vigilance and surveillance, having to prove their right to the city.*

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In most newly "developed" areas in the city, one hardly sees any pedestrian compensations | Marvi Mazhar and Associates



Modern commercial zones like Zamzama have conservative footpaths usually populated by generators and irregular steps | Marvi Mazhar and Associates

## ▶ EDUCATION

# LEARNING FROM CHINA

In their early years, Pakistan and China had rather similar literacy levels. But while China's education system has flourished over the decades, the one in Pakistan has been stymied, resulting in an appalling gulf in numbers.

Educationist **Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh** compares the learning trajectories of the two countries and what policymakers in Pakistan can learn from the Chinese model...

**B**oth Pakistan and China faced almost identical conditions in literacy and education at the time of their respective independence in the late 1940s. While Pakistan began its journey with a literacy rate of 16.3 percent in 1947, China's was 20 percent in 1949.

The irony was that the two countries with such low literacy levels were heirs to the world's two most ancient civilisations — the Indus Valley and the Huang He (or the Yellow River) civilisations, whose marks of identity had been their highly advanced systems of literacy and education.

At this stage, however, Pakistan had a few advantages over China. For instance, with a population of 33.7 million, Pakistan had to educate only 28 million more people to achieve universal literacy. On the other hand, China, with a population of more than 500 million then, had an almost fifteen times bigger task, of educating about 400 million people.

Another advantage that Pakistan enjoyed over China was its better economic conditions.

In 1950, Pakistan's per capita income was around 100-120 US dollars, while that of war-ravaged China was 50-70 US dollars. In other words, Pakistan had more per capita economic resources than China to invest in human resource development.

From that point, the two nations moved on two different trajectories. While China made education a cornerstone of its national development strategy, Pakistan chose different priorities.

China's interest and investment in education soon started bearing fruits, in the form of a highly developed and skilled human resource, which served as China's backbone in its economic development. The selection of the right set of national priorities has brought China today to a stage where its per capita income has reached USD12,758, almost eight times of Pakistan's USD1,650.

This article attempts to compare and contrast the two countries' educational systems, their priorities, strengths and weaknesses, and to draw lessons, particularly for Pakistan, on how to improve its education system in light of the Chinese example.

## PAKISTAN'S EDUCATION LANDSCAPE

One of the most significant features of Pakistan's educational landscape at present is a large number of out-of-school children. The Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE), working under the Government of Pakistan, calculated the number of such children to be 26.2 million in its 2022 report. A Unicef report calculates them to be about 44 percent of Pakistan's school-age (5-16 years old) population. This is despite the fact that Pakistan's constitution, under Article 25-A, guarantees that the state would provide "free and compulsory education" to every child.

Then, the access and denial of the right to education depends on the basis of geography, gender and socio-economic conditions of children. For instance, 78 percent girls in Balochistan province remain out of school (with only 22 percent fortunate ones availing this right). These huge disparities result in uneven national growth, misunderstandings among various societal groups, social disharmony and, above all, it weakens Pakistan's nationhood.

Another significant feature of Pakistan's education system is the presence of more than 43,000 religious schools or *deeni madaris* (religious seminaries) spread all over the country. The government has minimal role in their affairs, despite several attempts made during the last few decades.

These *madaris* are controlled and affiliated by one or the other of five *raftas* or federations, on the basis of their *masjid* or religious school of thought. These *raftas* prescribe curriculum, take examinations and issue certificates to the students of their affiliated *madaris*. Mostly running on charity, these institutions offer free food, lodging and boarding to their students, which is a major attraction for the poor to enroll their children in them.

Then there are government schools, a hallmark for most of them being poor governance, lack of basic facilities, and low academic standards. Highlighting the state of basic facilities, the PIE report stated that 85 percent of primary schools in Balochistan had no electricity and 67 percent had no toilets.

Regarding the overall standards of Pakistani schools, an international evaluation organisation (IEA) carried out an assessment exercise in 2019. The results showed Pakistan at several positions from the bottom, in the 'distress' category. Since then, Pakistan has not participated in the IEA evaluations.

In 2021, a local organisation, ASER, brought out its own evaluation report, which stated that 45 percent of Grade Five students in Pakistan were unable to read a Grade Two level story, in Urdu or English, and to perform a two-digit division.

The next category of schools is the so-called private or English-medium schools, which offer relatively better facilities and



Students at a local primary school in South China's Hainan Province | Global Times



Grade two students at a government school in Karachi | White Star

charge fees for their services. Most of the middle-income families prefer to send their children to these schools.

On the top of this category sits a small number of expensive 'elite schools', which cater to high-income groups, and are mostly affiliated with international educational chains and examining bodies.

In the higher education sector, Pakistan has 244 accredited universities: 145 public and 99 private. Incidentally, none of them is included in the world's top 100 universities in any of the reputed rankings.

There is a widespread complaint that academic standards have been continuously falling. Even the apex national body, the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), stated in one of its reports that many university graduates could not even do elementary mathematics, while some others did not know the direction of a simple compass, confusing north with south and east with west.

One of the greatest weaknesses of Pakistan's education system is the almost complete disregard for technical and vocational training and education. As per PIE statistics, the number of such institutes in Pakistan is only about one percent of the total number. Those, too, teach outdated disciplines with substandard quality of skills.

One of the major reasons for Pakistan's poor performance in education has been the allocation of meagre financial resources. For instance, in 2022-23, Pakistan's total expenditure on education (both federal and provincial) was less than five billion dollars, or 1.5 percent of the GDP. A significant part of even this meagre amount fell prey to corruption and corrupt practices, leaving the nation undereducated and underdeveloped.

## EDUCATION IN CHINA

On the other hand, during the last seven decades, China has developed an extensive, elaborate, highly organised and adequately funded system of education. The priority

that China attaches to education can be gauged from its spending USD812.79 billion on education in 2020, of which USD697.64 billion, equalling 4.22 percent of its GDP, came from its national budget. In the same year, China spent USD175 billion on its defence, only one-fourth of its expenditure on education.

Under the Chinese system of education, every child has to complete nine years of compulsory education, of which the first six constitute elementary education, followed by three years in a junior secondary school, *zhongxue*.

In the initial phase, China too faced the large-scale dropping out of girl students, but the government made it a point to curb this practice. At present, almost the entire population in the school-going age receives the nine-year compulsory education without fail, the figures for 2020 being 99.96 percent for elementary education and 99.5 percent for junior secondary school.

The focus during the compulsory education stage, by law, is "to achieve all-round development — morally, intellectually, and physically — so as to lay the foundation for cultivating a well-educated and self-disciplined workforce, with high ideals and moral integrity."

Among subjects, emphasis is given on learning of the Chinese language, mathematics, physics, chemistry and an elective foreign language. Mathematics is given extra attention, as many Chinese believe that a strong foundation in that subject helps in developing rational thinking.

The public schools, which are completely free of charge, cater to about 90 percent of the population, while the remaining ten percent go to private schools, which charge fees for their services.

However, all the schools teach curriculum approved by the Chinese education ministry, to the standards set by it. The responsibility of ensuring compliance to these standards rests with the provincial and

municipal governments.

On completion of this segment of compulsory education, two branches of education open: one leads to the regular academic stream, through admission to senior secondary school (known as *gaozhong*) and the other to a technical and vocational school (*zhongyuan*).

To determine the placement of a student in either of the two branches, on the basis of their aptitude and intellectual abilities, a nationwide examination, known as *zhongkao*, is administered. The students enrolled in *gaozhong* study for three more years to be eligible for university education, while those in *zhongyuan* learn technical and vocational skills for three to four years, before entering the job market. It is this highly skilled segment of the Chinese population that has helped China achieve rapid industrialisation.

From here begins the realm of higher education. There are 3,012 universities in China, of which 75 percent are public and 25 percent are private. Those interested in pursuing their education in the public universities have to again take a nationwide, very competitive, entrance examination, known as *gaokao*, which determines the suitability or otherwise of a candidate for university education. At present, more than 44 million students are pursuing their undergraduate and graduate (including doctoral) programmes in these institutions.

There was a time when none of the Chinese universities was in the top 100 of any reputable international universities rankings. However, things changed in 1993, when the government initiated a scheme of designating a coveted title of the "world-class university", with an accompanying set of incentives as well as enhanced prestige to the universities ending in top 100 of three internationally reputed university ranking systems.

This gave birth to a positive competition, resulting in several such universities in China today.

## THE LESSONS

There are many lessons that Pakistan can learn from China to improve its education system. First and foremost is that economic development of a modern nation, with limited natural resources, such as Pakistan and China, is based on their levels of human resource development. Accordingly, Pakistan, like China, should pay full attention to develop a robust, modern and all-encompassing national education system.

Secondly, a good education system requires generous financial outlays. It is an investment in the future. Following the Chinese example of spending USD813 billion on education in a year, Pakistan should find ways and means to drastically enhance its funding from its current dismal figure of less than five billion dollars.

Thirdly, female education is a must for national development. No nation in the modern world can even think of achieving progress and development while keeping half of its population illiterate and uneducated. China has set an example by showing us that all the obstacles to female education can be removed if the state is determined to do so.

Fourthly, in the present era of scientific and technological advancements, Pakistan, similar to China, should shift the focus of its education system from the study of myths, half-truths, romantic versions of history etc, to subjects relating to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. As happened in China, the people well-versed in these disciplines can change Pakistan's destiny.

Fifthly, vocational and technical education holds vital importance for a country's agricultural, industrial and mineral, as well as overall socio-economic, development. Pakistan would be well advised to reform and replace its obsolete and outdated technical and vocational education system with a vibrant one, imparting skills in the most modern modes.

Sixthly, Pakistan's higher education system is in ruins and needs immediate attention on the part of policy makers. China's universities have brought China to the forefront of technological advancement in very diverse areas, from information technology (IT) to agriculture. Pakistan can also do that, if the higher education sector is entrusted to a visionary leadership, with clearly designed targets.

Seventhly, Pakistan can learn a lot from China in laying the foundation of a just, meritocratic and aptitude-based evaluation system at various tiers of the education system, to help students pursue their education in the disciplines better suited to their natural talents. This will not only benefit the students individually, but also the country, by channelling the youth's talent in the right direction.

Considering the importance of education in the present world for any nation's development, I wish the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would have initially stood for the 'China-Pakistan Education Corridor', adding the 'economic' component only subsequently. This would have taken care of many issues the 'economic' CPEC is facing today. ■

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► FOOTBALL

What started off as a means to wean tribal youth away from negative social trends has grown into a massive club football tournament in Khyber District. But sports enthusiasts are still waiting for infrastructural support from the provincial government...

# 40 YEARS OF FOOTBALL SPIRIT

By Sher Alam Shinwari

**I**t was way back in the early 1980s, when Afghan refugees' influx into Pakistan following the Russian invasion of Afghanistan brought with them the guns and drugs culture to soon plague the entire region, especially the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

The entirety of the tribal areas were flooded with guns and heroin factories, with drug trafficking becoming a lucrative business. The region turned into a haven for peddlers and terrorists. Youth became the first victim of the menace.

Then a handful of local traders and social activists came together to do something productive to save their youth. Their solution: engaging the local youth in literary and sports activities, in order to keep them out of trouble.

The idea caught the attention of the local elders of Tehsil Landkotal in Khyber Agency (now District Khyber) and a comprehensive plan was prepared for literary and sports activities in the area, to attract and engage the youth. Sports activities attracted the youth more than literary events, but both things went hand in hand for several decades.

The Khyber Sports Club was the first to take the initiative and pick young athletes from local schools to mobilise and train them for the very first club football tournament of the area.

The trio of Sahil Khan, Abdul Wakeel Khan and Akbar Ali selected the grounds of the Government High School (GHS) for this purpose. The event was inaugurated by the 'Baba-i-Paisto Ghazal', Amir Hamza Khan Shinwari, who advised the tribal youth to pursue sports activities alongside literary events in the region.

Abdul Wakeel Khan, the pioneer and chairman of the Khyber Sports Club, recalls that the entire Pakistan belt, especially the tribal region, was plagued by lawlessness in those days. "It was necessary that we come up with something to engage our youth," he says, "and football seemed like the obvious solution."

The first football tournament at the GHS ground was such a success that it turned



The poor quality of the playground did not deter the enthusiasm of the players at the 'Football for Peace' tournament | Photo by Rafiq Khan Shinwari

into a much-awaited annual signature event and became a powerful vehicle for attracting youngsters of the area, including school and college students.

This past August, to mark 40 years of that pioneering initiative, a 'Football for Peace' tournament was organised at the same ground, under the auspices of the Khyber District Sports Department and the Khyber Sports Club.

Forty sports clubs from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) participated in the tournament, despite the lack of funds and facilities, such as dressing rooms, stands etc at the rugged ground. Around 4,000 soccer fans gathered daily to watch the matches and cheer for the players. The tournament continued for over 40 days.

Kalimullah Khan, the general secretary of the Khyber Sports Club, says that it was amazing seeing such a great response for the tournament, despite insufficient facilities, including security, accommodation and food arrangement for the hundreds of guest players.

"It showed the spirit of the KP youth and their hunger for sports. If provided a proper training academy, and other sports facilities, our sportsmen can achieve wonders," he adds.

Because of the poor condition of the playground, more than a dozen players also sustained injuries during the event. The 2024 trophy and cash prize of Rs100,000 was clinched by the Daura 90 Sports Club, while the Zakariya Sports Club lifted the runners-up trophy, along with a cash prize

of Rs50,000.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the tournament, Mirajuddin Khan Shinwari, president of the Khyber Sports Club, said that sports activity in the region has produced many national- and international-level athletes, while also bringing down the addiction to drugs in the area. Unfortunately, most of the pioneering members of Khyber Sports Club are no more, though the spirit of sports created by them still rules over hearts, he added.

Zohab Khan, a player of Jan Sports Club, who also won the Golden Boot, observed that he never thought he would become the top scorer of the tournament while playing on the uneven and muddy ground. "But I have surprised myself. If I can play so well

here, imagine how well I will play on a proper grassy ground!" he said afterwards.

Munooz Khan Afridi, the captain of the Daura 90 Sports Club, said that he was happy to see so much interest in football in school and college students of the area.

Meanwhile, while spotting well-placed sources within the Khyber Rites, Naab Shah Shinwari, a local sports enthusiast, says that the first-ever football match played on the same playground was back in December 1899, during the British era, between the Hampshire Regiment and Royal Scots Fusiliers.

"More than any game, the local residents here have a special penchant for football," he says, while regretting that the KP government has failed to provide sports facilities to most athletes of the area, with only the local sports clubs coming forward to organise sports events for them, in the absence of any kind of government funding or sponsors.

The organisers of the recent mega football tournament, the players and elders of the area were all of the view that a state-of-the-art sports complex was the need of the hour in the area. They feel it would substantially help in nurturing peaceful, responsible and useful citizens.

Muhammad Karim Khan, who recently achieved the honour of Man of the Match in the World Street Children football tournament played in Norway, also shared his views on the matter. "In fact, this annual tournament, on this rough and tough school playground, gave me so much motivation as I, too, used to compete in the annual tournament," he says. "It made me confident enough to compete in a world-level match."

Rahid Gul Mullaogry, an official of the Khyber District Sports Department, hopes that local youth would be supported in promoting healthy activities in the future, as no other sports activity captures their attention as much as football.

Hopefully, the KP government will also be listening. ■

The writer is a Peshawar-based contributor. E: @Shinwari\_9

► ESSAY

# IN SEARCH OF A LOST DOLL

A young woman from Kharan sets out to make a traditional doll that has all but disappeared in modern times as a cultural treasure...

By Anum Sanaulah

**I**t was around three years ago when I decided to search for the indigenous Baloch doll, while visiting my ancestral home in Kharan in central, south-western Balochistan. Locally known as the *chappal*, the doll that once served as an embodiment of Baloch culture has almost ceased to exist today.

I grew up listening to my mother's stories of her childhood, with the doll part of the narrative. During our visits to Kharan, she would point to a corner of the spacious house, where my grandfather's quarters were located. "Every spring I would visit Kharan in the spring, due to the pleasant weather, and my father would make me a new doll's house," she would tell me. The doll's house would mostly comprise two small clay rooms, with a smattering of utensils, including brooms and earthenware, rugs and a fireplace.

But that was back then. Now, nobody in my immediate surroundings owned a *chappal* doll, to say nothing of its house. Undeterred by this disappointment, I decided to get a custom-made *chappal* doll.

I asked friends and neighbours, including Melnar, whose mother was known for making such dolls. Unfortunately, she did not know how to make the doll. Quite a few older women could recall the tradition of making *chappal* dolls, sharing stories of how they made it and how they played with it. Girls in the courtyard and women my age had heard about it, but hadn't seen one.

Unable to find someone who could make the doll for me, I decided to do it on my own.

**MAKING YOUR OWN DOLL**

To create the *chappal* doll from scratch, I studied a blurry picture from a calendar shoot my mother did when she was around eight years old. In the picture for a local calendar, she is holding the doll, given to her by an aunt. In the photo album, I found another photo of my mother, in her school uniform, holding a plastic mass-produced doll.

Next, Melnar and I made a baseline for the local market in search of the material I needed for the doll. The scattered shops were stocked with all types of merchandise, mostly fashion-centric. The jewellery shop had golden and sparkly items covering every inch of the wall



The writer's niece with a *chappal* doll in Karachi; (inset) the writer's mother as a child posing with her *chappal* doll for a calendar shoot | Photos courtesy the writer

and the shelves beneath the glass counter were filled with more. They had replicas of designs of traditional Baloch jewellery, and I bought a set comprising a necklace, a brooch and earrings, and colourful glass beads — to become part of the headpiece.

The most striking feature of these shops was the slanted mirrors placed on the attic walls, magnifying the quantities of the material things, stationed just for the eyes. There were ready-made Balochi outfits available for women — some hand-made, but mostly machine-embroidered by men. There were even motifs available, so you could buy them to create a completely new outfit. I went home and sat with the image of the cheap plastic toys and machine-embroidered outfits.

From the same market, I acquired a piece of cloth, traditionally worn by Baloch women and known for its endurance, as well as ornaments to be embroidered on the dress.

While there, I saw Melnar getting a toy

for her niece — a plastic doll.

**BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER**

Melnar told me how her mother would make dolls for her and once also gifted one to my mother. "She would make plenty for me, especially the smaller ones, the ones that can fit into a matchbox," she explained.

It was best for me to attempt making an average-sized doll, as it is not easy to assemble the *chappal* doll. I cut up a cardboard in a round shape, and stuffed it with cotton picked up from the field to give shape to her face. The eyes were exaggerated to give the appearance of them being kohl-lined. While I sketched the face out, somebody else stitched on it. The doll had three spots on her chin, which I was told used to be a sign of beauty.

Previously, the *chappal* would also be wearing a *toppo*, a chain attached to the nose rings that would go over the forehead to provide support for the nose accessories.

A slingshot-shaped tree branch was the wooden foundation that serves as the body of the doll. It was perked and smoothed with sandpaper, before wrapping it in thread to further support the doll. We used football paper to make the shoulder and arms, which were sliced from the centre and pierced at the corners.

A bunch of posing girls, some posed by my journey to create my *chappal* doll, helped with stitching the green-coloured cloth into a traditional Balochi frock and shalwar (knee trousers), embellished with traditional motifs and designs.

While making these dolls, we discussed not only our lives and challenges but those faced by women in the past. One of my favourite stories was that of my great-grandmother, Shah Bibi, who had led an unconventional life, which included riding horses and looking after the family land. It was a story I had heard from my mother, and one that I told to the young girls working with me.

**CULTURAL TRANSMISSION**

Playing with dolls encourages children to develop social skills, by providing them with a conducive environment for role-playing. Like a large number of girls my age, I grew up playing "ghor phor" (House), where the family of dolls would also host events with as lavish a menu as menus dictated. In this, we were often joined by our male cousins.

Infused with symbolism and meaning, dolls are integral for children to find connection, retaining inclusion and othersness. Something as benign as 'doll culture' can provide insight into societal values, beliefs and practices.

However, the adoption and assimilation of a foreign culture — in this instance Western plastic doll replacing the hand-made *chappal* doll — intertwined with a coherent and compelling narrative, can reinforce the power and authority of the dominant group, particularly how the dominant narrative in pop-culture portrays the relationship with the opposite gender, subverting the position of women in society.

As the British anthropologist Mary Douglas observes, the task of a society is to establish a common order, so that each member can make sense of their contributions. This highlights the importance of each member's role in creating a sense of belonging within their communities, where activities intertwine generations into an intricate web of relationships, rights and responsibilities.

The making of the *chappal* doll was not undertaken for profit or competition, but for the sustenance of the community and as a way to introduce sacred teachings, traditions and culture at home. These valuable artistic expressions, such as the *chappal* doll, work towards preserving and promoting this distinctive and unique culture. A representation of beauty and distinct culture, they may also inspire girls to embrace their unique cultural attributes.

My niece, raised on Western dolls, already had her eyes on the doll that we were making. An aunt wanted one to gift to her granddaughter. The *chappal* doll remains a powerful way for Baloch women to pass on their stories to the next generation — from our joys and trepidations, to our hopes and fears — making it a repository of our collective experience. ■

The writer is a thesis student in the art and design graduate programme at the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture in Karachi

EXHIBITION

Vivid colours and a celebration of individuality defined an exhibition that showcased the inclusivity of art

# BOLD STROKES

By Ayesha Majeed

The show 'Inspiring Abilities: Art Beyond Limits' at the Epic Art Gallery in Lahore, held in collaboration with the Karachi Down Syndrome Programme (KDSPP), showcased the works of more than 30 artists with Down syndrome, from across Karachi and Lahore.

The show highlighted the importance of fostering an inclusive society that allows these unique individuals to thrive and celebrate their individuality. Through their artistic endeavours, they not only embrace their own identities but also inspire others to appreciate the beauty of diversity and inclusion in the world of art.

Circular and spiral movements in vibrant colours, applied in the form of abstract expressionism, were recurring elements across most of the canvases — with a few exceptions. One could sense the immediacy of gestural movements through the use of emotionally charged strokes, as seen in *Clouds of Chromophyll* by Masooma Haseeb, which captures the viewer's attention through a rhythmic blend of bold greens.

Lamia Rabban's *Deal Till Dawn* is a striking composition rendered in the Impressionist style. Loose, dynamic strokes of fuchsia pink, vibrant blues, reds and lush greens infuse the piece with a sense of vibrancy and urgent movement. The spontaneous strokes provide an organic energy to her composition, as if the scene were being painted in real-time, to capture the fleeting beauty of the moment.

Bold abstract shapes, with an emphasis on triangles, in Ehsanul Haq's *Painted Fairy* invite viewers to embark on a visual journey that stimulates the imagination. The immaculate use of space through positive and negative areas here is noteworthy, as is the palpable pulsating energy of the painting.

In *Night Sky*, a collaborative work by Azeem Nadeem Khan and Amatulhik Safuddin, a serene and contemplative moment is beautifully captured. The vast expanse of the sky, illuminated by the glow of a full moon and the subtle impression of shooting stars, dominates the canvas. A symbolic representation of the self being accompanied by a faithful companion — a pet dog gazing intently at the heavens — adds a personal, introspective and somewhat melancholic layer to the scene. It is a tender portrayal of the challenges faced in physical and cognitive development, and in communication.

Musawir's *Winter Clouds* in acrylic on canvas invites viewers into a vivid, imaginative world, where colours speak their own language. The painting elegantly blends bold shades of dark blue, green and orange to create a striking visual impact. The dripping paint technique adds a raw, almost organic beauty to the canvas.

In *Colorful Torso*, he applies thick, dramatic strokes in an abstract expressionist manner that pulses with urgency and intensity. The swirling chaos of the torse's contours with the vibrant palette. The feeling of pervasive stillness enhances the emotional pull of the canvas.

It was encouraging to see children with Down syndrome and their families as active participants in this exhibition. Their presence highlighted the importance of inclusivity in all areas of life, especially in the arts. ■

*'Inspiring Abilities: Art Beyond Limits'* was on display at the Epic Art Gallery in Lahore from September 16-23, 2024.

The writer is an art critic and artist based in Lahore. She can be reached at ayeshamajeed70154@gmail.com



My Fruit Basket, Musawir



Night Sky, Azeem Nadeem and Amatulhik Safuddin



Tangerine Garden, Hussain Ali Kalabi

# EOS

ARTSPEAK



# Fabricating Stories

From ancient myths to modern political symbolism, there exists an intricate relationship between textiles and storytelling across all cultures

By Durriya Kazi

People can fabricate stories, spin lies, weave a web of deceit and lack moral fibre. Lives can be interwoven, or hung by a thread. Folks can be dyed in the wool, or the wool can be pulled over someone's eyes. A person can have tangled nerves, or lose the thread of an argument. These idioms derive from the ancient art of weaving.

Considering the Indus Valley has been producing cotton textiles continuously for at least 7,000 years, there are far fewer references to weaving in South Asian languages than one would expect. 'Tana bana' (warp and weft) describes the intricacies of a suture, while 'Jira chadar utra pason phailao' (only stretch as much as the size of your sheet) warns against over-reaching ambition.

The more sinister associations with spinning and weaving emerged from Greek mythology. Athena, the goddess of wisdom and crafts, punished her rival Arachne by turning her into a spider, destined to have her webs forever destroyed. The three Fates control destiny by spinning the thread of life at birth, measuring how long a person lives or cutting the thread of life. These myths and others reinforced weaving as magical, often with dubious moral intentions.

Textiles are also a form of storytelling. In a Roman tale, Philoneta was raped and her tongue cut out, but she wove her story so her sister could take revenge. The 18th century Bayeux Tapestry depicts the conquest of England by William the Conqueror. In recent times, the Afghan war rugs, first woven during the invasion by the Soviet Union, incorporate tanks, helicopters and landmines as design motifs, weave conflict maps and depict the destruction of New York's Twin Towers.

Chilean *aperlas* (burlaps) were secretly embroidered images depicting missing persons and torture during the Pinochet military regime. Mexico's *Bordados Femenicidos* embroidered stories of women killed between 1885 and 2009. The Underground Railroad quilts were used to depict escape routes for slaves in America.

The motifs on wedding clothes embroidered in Pakistani villages reflect the personality of the bride-to-be for her in-laws, and often depict the surrounding landscape, including thorns and dogs' pawprints. The adage, 'When life gives you scraps, make a quilt' evokes the beautiful *Rilli* quilting of Sindh. Many feminist artists have turned embroidery and quilting

into an expressive art, depicting their domestic lives or motherhood. Eva Hesse's sculptures made fibre into a mainstream art material.

Clothing styles tell their own story. Gandhi's *khaddar* was an act of cultural resistance, as was the wearing of *homespun khaddi*. The Gandhi cap was stitched by Bi Amma and later adopted by Jawaharlal Nehru. The sumptuous fashions of the Mughals can be seen as historical texts of invasion. Stitched clothing was introduced into a culture that only wore unstitched wraps.

Pyjamas and coats from Central Asia, and brocades and embroidery from Persia were reinterpreted by local craftspeople, creating a confluence of cultures — the *Ganga-Jamuna Jhazeeb*. Romantic names were given to the highly refined Dhaka muslin — *buffawoo* (woven air), *shubran* (weaving dew), and *sub-r-ravan* (flowing water). The British textile factories, unable to reproduce their quality, ensured that weaving Dhaka muslin became illegal.

The extravagant fashions of Marie Antoinette and her courtiers symbolised social inequality during the French Revolution. Princess Diana wore her famous headline grabbing 'revenge dress' after Prince Charles revealed in an interview that he had been unfaithful during their marriage.

The women's right advocate Amelia Bloomer, inspired by Turkish women's shawls, popularised trousers for women in 1855, but it was not till women took over men's factory jobs during WWII that more women wore trousers. This soon became a fashion statement of independence, adopted by Coco Chanel and Hollywood actresses. Women were not allowed to wear trousers on the US Senate floor until 1993, and the phrase 'Who wears the pants?' remains a symbol of domestic authority.

Napoleon's hat, the Mao suit, Z A Bhutto's announcement of the *shalwar kameez* as a national dress, the tartans of Scottish nationalists and Che Guevara's beret acquired political dimensions, as has the euphemism 'ward' (uniform) in Pakistan.

Clothing was always an identifier in tribal cultures, such as the red shukas of the Maasai tribes, the feather headdresses of Native Americans, the turbans of India and Pakistan, and even the cross-dressing of *Ahwaja* sires. Today, fashion houses create their own 'tribes', announcing style or class as an exclusive identity. ■

Durriya Kazi is a Karachi-based artist. She may be reached at durriyakazi2019@gmail.com

SMOKERS' CORNER



# Misguided Outrage

In the age of fake news and its proliferation on social media, very serious societal issues can become trivialised by the unwarranted anger of 'useful idiots', who end up harming the cause more than helping it

By Nadeem F. Paracha

On many occasions, it just takes a single incident to trigger riots. The incident can be actual, or overly exaggerated and, in some cases, entirely fictional. The event that sparked the beginning of the Arab Spring riots in Tunisia in 2010 was quite real. A desperate street vendor did actually set himself on fire after being humiliated by the police. This incident led to pent-up social, economic and political frustrations in Tunisian society coming to the surface as collective rage against the government.

However, on some occasions, news of actual incidents, as it travels, especially on social media, can mutate. Last July in Southport, England, a British-Rwandan teen stabbed to death three young girls. By the time the news of the attack hit social media sites, the murderer had been transformed into a "radical Muslim refugee." The mutated telling of the incident sparked widespread riots that specifically targeted British-Muslims who had no involvement whatsoever in the stabbings.

Then, there is news that sparks outrage but is entirely fictional. In 2016, a man in Washington DC barged into a pizza place and fired three shots from an assault rifle. After the man was arrested, he told the police that he was "investigating" information he had come across on certain news websites, which claimed that the pizza joint was harbouring young children being abused by Democratic Party members. He insisted that the members were part of a sinister sex-trafficking ring.

Last week, students of some colleges in Lahore and Rawalpindi noted as 'news' of a female student being 'raped' in a college basement spread. An inquiry by the Punjab government and investigation by most mainstream media outlets established that the story was fake. But this did not stop the students from rioting — even when the parents of the girl who was supposedly abused confirmed that she wasn't.

Sometimes, facts are not enough to calm the outraged — especially those who are angered by a fictional incident that, for various reasons,



they so want to believe in. When the pizza joint man was arrested, various far-right websites claimed that the 'shoot-out' was staged by the government to obscure the 'ugly truth' about Democratic Party members.

Similarly, those egging the students on in Punjab through social media continued to insist that the Punjab government was trying to hide the rape incident through lies and other unsavoury tactics. But why do so many people refuse to accept even the starkest evidence that debunks what they believe in?

It is much simpler to determine the emotional response of people who react to actual events. As mentioned, these events trigger pent-up frustrations that come to the surface in the form of collective rage. In 1967, a student was killed in Rawalpindi by the police. This was an actual event. The response to the killing snowballed into becoming an all-out movement against the Ayub Khan dictatorship. The regime had failed to address certain problematic outcomes of rapid industrialisation, population growth and urbanisation, leaving scores of young Pakistanis feeling ignored and frustrated.

If there is enough resentment in large sections of the society, then there will be unrest, even if it

is instigated by false information. Anti-immigrant sentiments in various European countries have been on the rise, especially during the increasing electoral influence of populist far-right groups. So, rumours, fake news and false information about crimes and misdeeds of immigrants (especially refugees) are instantly lapped up as facts. These have also led to riots and violence despite being debunked. The prevailing resentment against (mostly non-white) immigrants in many segments greatly facilitates this.

But unrest due to actual events has more potential to spread and gain sympathy than unrest triggered by fake incidents. The latter can cause damage and commotion on the streets, but it only rarely grows the legs or intent needed to be widely embraced. Once the primary source of the commotion is proven to be fake, the unrest begins to lose steam and sympathy.

Mainstream media is an important player in all this. It plays a vital role by investigating claims of the government, as well as of the protesters, to objectively determine the authenticity of the source of the commotion. Various media outlets in Pakistan did just that before deeming the Lahore rape story as fake. But, unfortunately, some mainstream media outlets focused more

on splashing images of the riots and on the number of rioters arrested. The fact that the rape incident was fake was buried somewhere in the small text.

Many media outlets, both mainstream as well as those on the fringes, are heavily invested in highlighting narratives against the current government in Pakistan. But more disconcerting is the fact that some 'credible' media outlets ended up actually fanning unrest by over-blowing the commotion and undermining the falseness that was the source of the commotion.

In 2004, the respected British daily *The Guardian* published a front-page story of Chinese police brutalising a dissident. But the story was entirely fake. According to the late British professor of journalism and author Brian McNair, the 'story' attracted the editors of *The Guardian* because it was about human rights violations in China. They got it from just a single source. It fit well with the newspaper's image of being a progressive outlet.

Angles and biases are expected from media outlets that are quite open about their leanings. But one is now noticing this in even the supposedly 'objective' media groups. For example, one can quite effortlessly pinpoint the tilted manner in which some of the most credible European and US media outlets are covering the so-called 'war' in Gaza.

However, in many Asian countries, the more worrying bit is that elements that have become good at proliferating fake news to advance a political agenda seem to have sneaked into mainstream media. There, they find enough 'useful idiots' (especially among the younger lot) to aid them in their 'noble' causes. The truth is, there is nothing noble about any cause whatsoever if it requires falsehoods and lies to draw people's attention.

Highlighting issues such as harassment against women, rape, misogyny etc. is indeed a meaningful and important deed. But these issues become trivialised when they are exploited to achieve cynical political motives. That's what the students and their cheerleaders ended up doing in Lahore and Rawalpindi, even though most of them were nothing more than the usual gangs of useful idiots. ■

# B&A

BOOKS & AUTHORS

► NON-FICTION

William Dalrymple's latest book is a treat of expansive history, providing fresh insights into the westward and eastward expansion of the cultural, philosophical and material influence of ancient India

## The waves that India made



Reviewed by Nasreen Rehman

**W**illiam Dalrymple's *The Golden Road* is a masterly compression of a story of the transfer of ideas, goods and people from India to different parts of the world across almost two millennia (250 BCE-1200 CE).

The huge gamut Dalrymple covers includes religions — Buddhism and Hinduism — the Sanskrit language, literature, philosophy, astronomy, mathematics, medicine, architecture, other artistic practices such as dance, music and painting, and goods — including spices and textiles — to create, what he calls and convincingly describes as, an "Indosphere".

He makes an irrefutable argument for the role of the Indosphere in great transformations in the history of ideas and everyday lives of people across the globe — making synchronic and diachronic connections.

Travel, journeys and roads remain significant realities and tropes in shaping Dalrymple's workbooks. His first book, *In Xanadu: A Quest* (1999), is a travelogue that captures the headless curiosity of a young Cambridge undergraduate's 16,000-mile overland journey in the footsteps of Marco Polo, from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem to Shanghai in Inner Mongolia, in China.

As we witness the present devastation and precipitous expanding of the Muslim and Christian people and the material cultures of Palestine, a destroyed Syria and Lebanon, and the difficulties of journeying through a devastated Afghanistan and Iran (especially for Western travellers), *In Xanadu* is an archival treatise.

Dalrymple has since morphed into a grand historian of our times. His passion for the subject is bound, his stylistic voice, and gripping descriptions of people, places and objects lure the reader into his world. His latest book is a treat, with a rich blend of a sturdy archive, stunning photos (usually without a list), his pleasing prose, and infectious journalism.

Dalrymple's "Road" in this book constitutes the sea routes, propelled by the Ptolemaean monsoon,



The Indian game of chess and Indian mathematics first took real root in Europe in the Spanish town of Toledo, in what was, by the 10th century, probably the most advanced centre of learning on the continent | Picture from the book

a compelling presence in the book. "The regularity and predictability of these winds... have allowed millions of Indian sailors to raise their sails and propel themselves at speed across the oceans that surround them, (and) then when they reverse, safely back again."

The book provides fresh insights into the westward and eastward expansion of the Indosphere along the Golden Road of the seas — from trade with the Romans to Britain's colonial conquest of India in the guise of the East India Company's sailing trade.

Such is Dalrymple's commitment to the idea of his

"Golden Road" that he debunks the idea of "Silk Roads", skillfully charted by Peter Frankopan in *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World* (2015). In a cheeky gambit, he takes a scholarly finesse and acknowledges his friend Peter Frankopan.

Dalrymple, nevertheless, makes a forceful case for the Golden Road, usually overlooked in historical scholarship — and he cites the more recent epigraphical work of Saeed Anwar. He tracks the spread of Buddhism, Hinduism, Sanskrit and related art forms and practices in places such as Java and Cambodia —

home to the largest Hindu temple in the world: Angkor Wat (1100 CE).

Yet, the Golden and Silk Roads were coeval. In his opening chapter, Dalrymple quotes Naunton, whom he describes as "one of China's greatest scholars, travellers and translators in the early seventh century CE, who wrote *The Great Tang Records on the Western Regions* — after a land journey from Chang'an in western China to Kanchipuram in southern India and back."

Indians and Pakistanis born in the 1940s and 1950s will recall sharing with their elders, accounts of merchants — Uighur, Turkman, Tajik and others — vending Chinese brocades, fine tea and Gansu porcelain across South Asia, with huge burdens strapped to the back of their bicycles, long before the much-debated (by critics of China, and Dalrymple's Belt and Road Initiative).

Dalrymple asks important questions about the politics of knowledge production: "If India's transformative effect on the religions and civilisations around it was so central to world history, why is the extraordinary diffusion of its influence not better and more widely known?" He ascribes "some of the ignorance to Victorian ideology", and our life now, Manu, "which undermined, misrepresented and divided Indian history, culture, science and knowledge."

In *A Horse in the World, A Memoir* (2021), Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, who between 1940 and 1950 studied at Rabindranath Tagore's Shantiniketan (founded in 1901), recalls how he pursued both Sanskrit and the works of Aristotle (470-320 CE) the mathematician, not taught in schools regulated by the colonial government.

Dalrymple ends by asking if Indian ideas, once again, can transform everything they touched. With India in the grip of Hindutva ideologies and rewritings of history, he provides an answer, by describing how the transmitters of knowledge were places and people of Buddhist learning... and quotes Naunton, writing that all learned people "looked with profound reverence at Buddhist universities and monasteries such as Nalanda — with tens of thousands of learned monks."

Another blow to Hindutva habits of dominance is Dalrymple's account of the spread of Indian mathematics across the Western world by Muslims. He writes, "In the winter of 779, a delegation from the Raja of Sindh arrived in the newly built city of Baghdad, carrying *The Treasury of the Jewels of Wisdom* — a book on Indian mathematics that the Arabs began to

**THE WAVES THAT INDIA MADE, PAGE 07**

► NON-FICTION

A self-help book challenges readers to think about living a more satisfying life that goes beyond the mere accumulation of wealth

## The wealth of lives well-lived



Reviewed by Maheen Usmani

**S**lungged alone in a rowdy, overcrowded café awaiting a tardy colleague, I came across a chapter from Robin Sharma's book *The Wealth Money Can't Buy*, which advocates eating alone as a way to grow spiritually and become braver.

"To just sit there alone is actually a rare thing," Sharma writes. "Without a device. With zero escape routes. In a crowded restaurant. With others nearby laughing and drinking and eating and merrily connecting. To risk being judged as not good enough to be with another human over a meal. To dare to be considered an oddball and weird by having the audacity to eat alone. To be willing to be stared at by people who avert their eyes when you catch them looking at you. Well, that's the stuff magic-workers are made of. And yes, my friend, that means you."

I straightened my spine, looked up at the people staring at me, smiled confidently, asked for a Pine Colada and went back to reading Sharma's bestseller.

Robin Sharma is best known for *The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari*, which he self-published in 1997. After its stupendous success, he quit his job as a lawyer and became a writer. Sharma is also a renowned speaker, business and leadership coach. Sharma's latest book challenges readers to think about living a more satisfying life that goes beyond the mere accumulation of wealth. Money alone does not define being wealthy. There are many rich people who are unhappy and unsuccessful as human beings.

His novel viewpoint redefines wealth to encompass a wide range of experiences; one has to develop eight fundamental habits to lead a fulfilling life, he posits. Why? Because the foundation of an amazing external life can only be achieved by a beautiful internal life. Your inner world shapes your external reality. Once you start on the journey of personal mastery, you can achieve prosperity by moving past limiting beliefs and saying no to self-sabotage.

And what are these habits? First and foremost is "Inner Wealth": a positive mindset, self-respect, internal peace and a strong spiritual connection. Sharma possesses the unique ability to intertwine philosophical understanding and abstract concepts with practical guidance and enthusiasm, peppered with anecdotes from his life.

For growth or inner wealth, he suggests worshipping our wounds and scars. Because "if you are willing to get into the game, embrace your native bravery and take some risks to live your future vision, you're going to experience pain. The higher the mountain, the greater the danger."

He also advocates not being a resentment collector: "Someone looks at us the wrong way. Someone close to us disappoints us. Someone we trusted lies to us. Such things are part of the essence of life. You can't avoid them, much as you try. When we are not treated as we wish to be treated, it's so easy to get angry. Or to withdraw. Or to harbour a secret resentment."

Next on the list is "Physical Wealth". Your health is your greatest wealth. "Why be the richest person in the graveyard?" Look after your health if you want to be a great leader. Linked to this is "Family and Social Wealth". When your family life is happy, you will perform better at work. Sharma holds out hope for those who are single and unhappy to keep searching, because he found his true-life partner in his mid-50s after he was done with drama and zero stability.

Being with the right person is incredibly important because "your choice of mate is 90 percent of your joy." Friends and community, including role models and trusted advisers, play a vital role in forging deep connections. "To have three friends who accept you, encourage you and love you for who you are (quirks and all) is a special gift of a life wisely lived."

Sharma is not one to play safe. Instead of avoiding oddballs and

misfits, he encourages readers to talk to them, because growth does not lie on the shore but out in the blue ocean. He advocates learning from people who are different from oneself and listening to their stories. As Mark Twain has been quoted in one of Sharma's other books: "Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

The next habit is "Career Wealth": "Actualise your highest potential by reaching for your best in your career. Being world-class in your work is good for your self-respect." Linked to this is "Economic Wealth". Sharma shoots down the adage that money is not important. "Money is very important, because it makes life better. Money allows you to live in a nice home, take beautiful vacations and provide well for those you love."

Birds of a feather flock together. Hence, he also posits developing a "Circle of Genius". "You become who you spend time with, and your associations affect your mindset and performance. Surround yourself with exceptional people — their standard will rub off on you."

"Adventure Success" is another asset to achieve authentic wealth. Challenge is necessary because the human brain craves novelty. Since we are creative beings, we need to be creating constantly to feel joy. Last, but not the least, is "Impact Wealth". "Perhaps the deepest longing of the human heart is to live for something greater than itself. Each of us craves to be significant. To make a difference. To know that the world has somehow been better because we have walked the planet. Leaders leave a legacy."

Sharma leaves the readers with this question: "What is your legacy?"

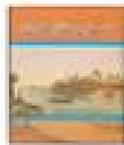
As Mahatma Gandhi said: "The only devils in the world are those running in our own hearts. That is where the battle should be fought." If you are seeking to vanquish those pesky demons, this is the book which will enable you to live a richer and more fulfilling life. ■

The reviewer is an author and communications strategist. She can be reached at maheencommunications120@yahoo.com

► NON-FICTION

Abubakar Sheikh's latest book brings travel-writing in Urdu into full form, showcasing history, geography and ecology into something much more than a stifling classroom read

# A real travel-writer



**Kathwaen Jadhgar Bantryon Ki**  
By Abubakar Sheikh  
Sange-e-Meel Publications  
ISBN: 978-969-55-2557-0  
225pp.

Reviewed by Salman Rashid

**I**t has long been my lament that travel-writing in Urdu was done to death by one fiction writer. Unread about the area he claimed to have travelled in, he produced book after book (at least one travel book a year) which was essentially fiction. It was peppered with stories of young women, mostly Westerners, hitting strongly upon our writer who he, the righteous person that he was, spurned scornfully.

In effect, these books were nothing more than essays of fourth-graders, written in school after the summer vacations. A rapidly dwindling readership, having access to nothing better, lapped it up as travel-writing and, unsurprisingly, many were looking for fables on moonlit nights at Lake Saiful Malook in Kaghan? Disappointment and, in a few cases, disillusionment was their lot.

A travel-writer is essentially a historian, geographer, environmentalist, a bit of a geologist, sociologist and, last of all, an autobiographer. A travel-writer's books are to be read, re-read and, subsequently, to be referred to. Two worthy names of the past that shine in the intellectual darkness are Dr Maharak Ali and Sibt-e-Hussan. Today, it is Abubakar Sheikh of Basim. His first book, *Nager Nageri Phira Ahsaafi* (Wanderings of the Traveller), was an imprisoned *cri de coeur* to halt the rapid degradation of Sindh's natural landscape.

For his second book, *Tareekh-je Ahsaafi* (Travellers Through History), Sheikh donned the hat of the master historian and took his reader on a whirlwind tour of Sindh, with history shining clear in the torch he held. Then followed his third work, *Sindhia Ghazi Jaur Saasanaar* (Sindhia River and the Sea), a treatise that was in one chapter a travel tale and in the next a lament for environmental degradation afflicting real life characters, be they in the Indus delta or on the shores of Manchar Lake.

With this book under review, his fourth, *Kathwaen Jadhgar Bantryon Ki* (Tales of Magical Townships), Sheikh has come into full form as a travel-writer. He is part Richard Burton, part Henry, the elder Pottinger, and part Eldred, the son, on their respective travels through Sindh.

When he describes Karachi, he is vastly more empathetic than Alexander Hallie and Herbert Feldman. He is the first to have passed regard to the six simple tombs at Gulshan-e-Chowk, about which we now hear the tale of the Bohemian Ghibbo of nearby Sorrento, whose sons were killed by a shark. Their bodies were brought here by a surviving brother, lame in one leg, who crafted a diving bell for the expedition.

Sheikh's deep love for the land of the Sindhia River is unmistakable, as he turns the dispassionate tale of the Army of the Indus — as described by William Hough and by George McMunn — into a moving account that can make the eyes misty through its vivid imagery. It is almost as if one is actually on the expedition of 1839 that takes the British-backed Shah Shaja under the walls of the fortress of Ghazni, whose fall is described in graphic terms.

The historian and travel-writer comes into full form in his five-

part treatise on Ranikot Fort. Despite the book being without a single image, the fort comes alive in vivid detail in the words of our writer. It is almost as if one is walking with Sheikh. However, more than the description, it is the unravelling of the possible history of this remarkable fort, which resembles the Great Wall of China, that grabs attention. There are no fanciful stories, only a very learned discourse on the possible origin of Ranikot that has but only once been mentioned in history in the 19th century.

Abubakar Sheikh was there when, on a cold January morning in 1831, Alexander Burnes sailed out of the port of Mandvi in Gujarat, with his cargo of dray horses and a baroque carriage, a royal gift from the British crown for Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab. As Burnes turned northward into the Indus River, it is for the first time the reader of Urdu has access to this journey of subterfuge to map the river. We learn here that it was this voyage that opened the way for the invasion of Sindh, just 10 years later.

It is, however, the last part of the book that deals with the decay of the Moghul Empire in the late 17th century, as seen from the eyes of the Venetian Niccolao Mansucci, that gives a sad ending to the book. A self-taught physician, Mansucci arrived in India during the reign of Shah Jehan and befriended his heir apparent, the philosophic-minded

**Sheikh's deep love for the land of the Sindhia River is unmistakable, as he turns the dispassionate tale of the Army of the Indus — as described by William Hough and by George McMunn — into a moving account that can make the eyes misty through its vivid imagery.**

Dara Shikoh.

It is from Mansucci's eyes that we see, through eight chapters, the intrigues and the reactionary mindset and intense hatred for his siblings that Aurangzeb nurtured. And we see how this man eventually imprisoned his father Shah Jehan and murdered his siblings and their children.

To paraphrase the closing lines of the book concerning the last days of the Dara Shikoh-Aurangzeb saga: "[Religious] Extremism has no sub-species, it is of only one colour, which takes it to the end. At the end, there is no other path going forward to bring one into heaven lively with life and colour. There is only a gaping chasm. Extremism knows no flexibility and nature ordains that that which knows no flexibility must only destroy itself."

With Abubakar Sheikh, travel-writing in Urdu as it should be has come of age. Here, we do indeed have the genres that make travel-writing worth reading and what turns it into reference work. This writer makes history, geography and ecology into something much more than a stifling classroom read. His writing is truly a gift for the reader of Urdu non-fiction. ■

*The reviewer is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and author of several books on travel. X: @salmanrashid*

CONTINUATIONS

THE WAVES THAT INDIA MADE, PAGE 06

call 'the great Sindhia'.

In Baghdad, under the Abbasid viziers were a family of Sanskrit-literate lambrudi Bhaddin abbots from Afghanistan who had converted to Islam: the Barmakids. Will the Afghan Taliban, who destroyed the Bamayan Bhaddin, return to their pre-1980s past and rebuild what their ancestors protected for centuries? Dalrymple mentions the destruction of Bhaddin and Jain sites, first by Hindus, and later by Turkic Muslims.

Dalrymple describes how, in Europe, the knowledge of ancient India was cross-fertilised by the Arabs with that of ancient Greece. He quotes the Italian mathematician Fibonacci (c.1170-1250) who records how, in Algeria in what is now Algeria, he was "introduced to a wonderful kind of teaching that used the nine signs of the Indians. With the sign 0, which the Arabs call *apher* (al-zero), any number whatsoever can be written."

With a focus on Muslim rule in Toledo, he describes a period of "a wholesale transfusion of Indo-Islamic learning, which revolutionised medieval Europe and helped give rise to a renewed culture of science in the West, [that] cannot be exaggerated."

Indeed, with the genocide in Gaza unfolding before the world, to recall the 800 years of Muslim rule in different regions of what is now Spain and the peaceful co-existence and collaboration between Muslims, Jews and Christians in the arts, humanities and the sciences, is a dark irony. It ended with a 'Christian Reconquest', a genocidal incursion, which propelled the expulsion of Muslims and Jews from Spain.

Dalrymple asks if India can return to its cutting-edge role as a leader in the world of ideas. The *Golden Road* calls for reflection on how we deploy our roads — as we read and watch stories of sons as graveyards for men, women and children seeking safe havens. It is a timely reminder that empires, ancient and contemporary, have the potential to spread civility, learning and peaceful coexistence, as well as wars, xenophobia and devastation.

Yet again, William Dalrymple has given us much to consider as we look to the past to understand the human condition. ■

*The reviewer is a historian, a screenwriter, a translator and rights activist.*

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**B&A BOOKS & AUTHORS**

COLUMN



## Teaching a lesson

By Musharraf Ali Farooqi

While conducting storytelling sessions at schools, I am often requested for stories with morals. I can understand the concern: both teachers and parents desire that children should listen to narratives that teach them values and lessons, ostensibly to build their characters.

But we should also ask ourselves this: are these codes of behaviour and rules of conduct, which we want inculcated in our children and reinforced through story texts, known to and daily practised by us? If they are, then they must be pre-existing in our society, and observed and learned by our children. They are in no great danger of becoming unmindful about, or forgetting them.

However, if there are values and lessons which we, as a society in which our children are being raised, cannot teach them through our conduct, it is the adults who are culpable, and in need of an immersion programme in values.

Stories are powerful tools and, historically, one of their functions was to teach moral codes. But it must be reiterated here that stories alone, no matter how moving and skillfully told, cannot be burdened with the work of imparting higher values and morality to our children. It is, properly, the responsibility of society, which begins with the family unit, and it is there that we need to turn our remedial focus, if we need the moral compass of our children set right.

If children do not observe the values we want them to learn being practised around them, no amount of sermonising through stories is going to develop any regard for them in a child's mind and will, in fact, teach him or her duplicity and hypocrisy.

An obsessive focus on stories as the vehicle for morals and values also imposes limits on their educational potential. To experience various emotions should be an important part of a child's education, and only stories serve this need.

A number of years ago, I was conducting storytelling in Lahore schools from *The Amazing Mousatches of Moochhander the Iron Man*. In the story, Moochhander performed feats of strength in a circus with his moustaches, until one day white hairs began to appear in his moustaches and, unable to lift heavy weights or swing from his moustaches, he is sent home. While moping over his tragedy and missing the circus, his moustaches come to his help and he is able to find work again in the circus, performing feats of skill.

In those days, the video game *Angry Birds* was all the rage, and during my storytelling sessions, teachers from more than one school requested me to speak to the children and tell them to read books instead of playing *Angry Birds*.

I hate telling children to stop doing what they find enjoyable, but I also appreciated the teachers' concerns. First of all, I asked the children how many of them played *Angry Birds*, and raised my hand first. Finding a fellow guilty party, the children freely raised their hands.

I asked them just two questions. Did you feel sad when Moochhander lost his circus job? Their answer was a resounding Yes! Then I asked if they felt sad while playing *Angry Birds*, when the pigs stole the birds' eggs. At this point, the children exchanged bewildered looks. It was simple to explain to them at that point that stories engage our emotions and we enjoy them in a different way than video games, which only demand that we have certain skills.

A story is a powerful educational tool because it presents complex bits of information in a comprehensible, linked and memorable form. It does that by using and organising language in a particular way. The storyteller uses humour, drama and the whole spectrum of emotions to involve the reader in the text.

A child's ability to comprehend such a text, and also derive pleasure from it, serves as a powerful incentive for the child to view reading as an enjoyable activity. As a result, the child will re-read and revisit the text and seek more such texts to enjoy. To be of value as an educational tool, not all stories should necessarily have a lesson at the end. But it is also true that all great stories teach us important things.

Recently, I conducted an introductory workshop on storytelling for teachers. For these introductory workshops, I used my favourite folktale about a *podna's* (small weaver bird's) adventures as it sets out to rescue the *podni* (the *podna's* female counterpart) from the clutches of a king. In an earlier column, I had written why the many characters and the non-stop adventure makes it a perfect story for teaching interactive storytelling.

The *podna* first encounters a cat (a natural predator), a lion, ants, fire and a river, and they all demand to know where the *podna* is headed in his frog-cart with such express haste. When the *podna* tells them about the *podni's* abduction by the king, they all join him in his rescue mission.

As the king unleashes his might on the *podna* through his brood of hens, horses, elephants and fire help the *podna* fend them. And ultimately, he orders the river to drown the king and his palace. The king finally begs the *podna's* forgiveness and all of them return in safety and triumph with the *podni*.

At the end of the workshop, one teacher asked: What is the moral of the story?

I read stories for fun and an enjoyable story is an end in itself. But since I have been asked about the moral of this particular folktale a number of times, I have thought about it, and now have an answer: the *podna's* adventure is a story about how the *podni*, who lived and sang in the forest, was abducted from her home, and how the different elements of nature — animals, insects, fire and water — joined hands to rescue her, so that the forest rang again with her song. ■

*The columnist is a novelist, author and translator. He can be reached via his website: micromat.com*

► EPICURIOS



A delectable addition to tea time, the Danish pastry was invented by mistake

# A PEACHY DESSERT

By Maliha Diwan

**A** favourite morning treat in the West, the Danish pastry is as versatile as it is popular — there are various versions of it with some combination of jams, custards, cream, chocolate, fruit and/or nuts. While the world knows the pastry as the Danish, in Denmark it is called "Wienerbrød", which translates to "Viennese bread", a homage to its origins.

The pastry, arguably Denmark's most popular export, made its way from Austria, but the laminated, layered dough, which is what makes the pastry unique, was supposedly invented in France, 350 years ago by Claudius Glee. Apparently, the apprentice baker forgot to add butter to the flour when making bread and sought to fix his mistake by adding lumps of butter to the dough — the result was puff pastry.

Of course, layered pastry has a much longer history than that and can be traced to Moorish Spain — the oldest printed recipe for making laminated pastry with butter, using a technique similar to one employed by Arabs, appeared in 1607 in the book *Libro del Arte de Cocina*. Similar to a lot of European baked classics, the Danish pastry, too, it seems, owes its origins to the Arabs.

In 1622, Glee opened his own cafe in Paris, where he served pastries made from his invented dough — the French dubbed his creations "a thousand leaves." From there, the pastry found its way to Italy and then Austria.

In 1850, a strike by Danish bakery workers led owners to hire Austrian bakers, who introduced the pastry to the Danes. From Denmark, it found its way across the Atlantic and has now become a classic, similar to its cousin, the éclair.

**PEACH DANISH**

While Danish pastry dough can be folded up to 27 times, the version of puff pastry in this recipe is a far simpler (and thus quicker) version to make. The puff pastry can be made ahead or can be store-bought (puff pastry dough should be available for purchase at your local bakery). If you're short on time, you can also substitute canned peaches for the fresh ones and skip making the fruit filling.

Don't like peaches or it isn't the season for them? Feel free to substitute with any other fruit, such as apples, pears, strawberries or mangoes; the crunch of the pastry and creaminess of the filling contrasts wonderfully with most fruit. Don't have a sweet tooth? Skip the sugar in the fruit filling.

**PEACH DANISH**

Ingredients (Makes 6 to 8 pastries)  
For the puff pastry (makes about 300g of pastry)



150g flour  
85g butter, chilled  
Water, as needed

**FOR THE PEACH DANISHES**

250g of puff pastry  
3-4 fresh peaches  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
3 tablespoons cream cheese  
3 tablespoons powdered or fine sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla essence or extract  
1 egg (for the egg wash)  
For the glaze  
1 cup powdered sugar  
3 tablespoons cream or milk  
½ teaspoon vanilla essence (optional)

**METHOD**

1. Make the puff pastry dough. Mix the salt and flour together. Then, slowly add water, rubbing the mixture together until it becomes crumble-like. Cut about one-third of the butter. Dice the cut-off butter into cubes and add to the mixture. Continue rubbing and adding water until the crumbly mixture resembles dough. Knead the dough well, folding and stretching it out a few times. Shape the dough into a ball and place in a bowl. Cover with a lid or cling film and place in the fridge for 20

minutes. Put the rest of the unused butter in the fridge, too, to chill.

2. After letting the dough cool, take it out and roll into a half-inch thick rectangle on a surface lightly dusted with flour. Grate one-third of the remaining chilled butter on to two-thirds of the dough. Fold one-third of the top of the rectangle. Do the same for the bottom one-third of the dough. The two folds should meet in the middle and overlap. Pinch the dough to seal the edges. Then roll over the dough, pressing down on it a few times until it is smoothed over. Chill, once again, for 20 minutes.

3. Repeat the steps of adding butter, folding over, rolling flat and chilling two more times.

4. Make the peach danishes. Slice the peaches into ½-inch thick pieces. Add the lemon juice, sugar, cinnamon and the peaches into a bowl and toss well until the peach slices are covered well. Set aside.

5. Mix the powdered sugar, cream cheese and vanilla essence in a bowl and whisk well.

6. Pull out a palm-full of the puff pastry dough, dust some flour on a work surface and roll out the dough into a five to six-inch wide circle. Repeat till the dough is all used up. Fold in the edges of the danish pastry dough.

7. Scoop out the cream cheese mixture. Place in the centre of the pastry and flatten with a spoon. Then add two to three slices of the peach.

8. Preheat the oven to 200°C. Whisk together an egg and a tablespoon of water. Brush the egg wash on the edges of the pastry pieces. Line a baking tray with wax paper or butter and lightly dust the tray with flour. Place the pastries an inch or two apart. Bake for 20 minutes or until the pastry is golden-brown.

9. Whisk together the sugar, vanilla essence and cream to make the glaze. Let the pastries slightly cool before drizzling with the glaze. Serve with chai. ■

Photo by the writer



ADVICE



AUNTIE AGNI

## 'My Family Is Against My Marrying Into a Different Sect'

Hi Auntie,

I am a 24-year-old girl who is currently studying. My query may seem unusual, but it's something I need to address. My mother is a widow and looking after me and my four siblings. While we are living a happy life, I'm facing trouble in my relationship.

I want to marry a person from a different sect and my family is not ready, because they have this old-school idea that marriage into another sect is not allowed in our tribe. That is why I get depressed every single day and can't focus on my studies. I also have to complete my degree. How can my family and I come out of this dilemma?

Please respond.  
All loved up

Dear All loved up,

This is a really tough spot to be in, and it's completely understandable that you're feeling overwhelmed. Balancing your own feelings and your family's expectations can be really hard, especially when it involves something as personal as who you want to marry.

One of the first things that might help is talking to your family about how you're feeling. It doesn't have to be a confrontation; just an honest conversation where you can explain why this relationship is important to you. At the same time, try to listen to their concerns too. Sometimes families hold on to traditions because they feel it's the safest or best thing for you, even if it doesn't feel that way to you right now.

If talking directly to your family feels too difficult, maybe there's someone in your family or a close friend who could help mediate, someone who understands both your perspective and your family's. Having someone else involved might help both sides communicate better.

It's also important to remember that your education is something you've worked hard for and staying focused on that is important for your

Sometimes families hold on to traditions because they feel it's the safest or best thing for you, even if it doesn't feel that way to you right now. If talking directly to your family feels too difficult, maybe there's someone in your family or a close friend who could help mediate, someone who understands both your perspective and your family's.

future. I know it's hard when you're feeling this much pressure, but maybe finding small ways to take care of yourself — whether it's talking to someone you trust, writing down your feelings or just taking time to breathe — could help ease some of the stress.

This is a big decision and it's okay to give yourself time. It's not easy when it feels like you're stuck between two worlds, but with patience and understanding, things can sometimes work out in ways you don't expect. Remember, you're not alone and it's okay to seek help from a counsellor or someone who can guide you through these difficult emotions. ■

Disclaimer: If you or someone you know is in crisis and/or feeling suicidal, please go to your nearest emergency room and seek medical help immediately. Auntie will not reply privately to any query. Please send concise queries to: [auntieagn@gmail.com](mailto:auntieagn@gmail.com)

► GARDENING



All your gardening queries answered here...

## 'WHY ARE MY KADDUS DYING?'

By Dr Khwaja Ali Shahid

**Q.** I am writing from Islamabad. I am attaching some photographs of my kaddu (bottle gourd) plants. I had the same problems last year and I approached a few experts in this field. I also provided samples of the fruit that had died recently to a senior pathologist to conduct a culture test. However, I didn't get any feedback or recommendations for my query. This year, again, I am facing the same problem. Each plant bears one healthy fruit but, after that, the fruits die off, first becoming sick and then falling off. These plants are on the rooftop, in fabric pots of 11-12 inches width and 15-16 inches depth. The soil pH is around 7. I have been feeding them with cow-dung manure. Kindly advise how to resolve this problem.



Kaddu lettuce can easily grow in temperatures ranging from 18 to 25 degrees Celsius | Photos by the writer

**A.** It seems that the issue with your plant is more of pollination, rather than anything else. The dying of the new, undeveloped fruits also points in that direction. Bottle gourds (long and round) are one of those vegetable plants in which the flowers usually bloom during late afternoon or evening. The gourd plants have separate male and female flowers on the same vine. It is, therefore, important that both male and female flowers co-exist easily at the same time to ensure pollination, fertilisation and better fruit development. You should closely monitor if that is the case or not. In case there is a gap during the development of the male and female flowers, the result still equals to zero. To avoid such a situation, it is always recommended to grow at least two to three plants simultaneously, so as to increase the probability of both the male and female flowers blooming at the same time.

As mentioned earlier, the flowers bloom later in the day, and the probability of the availability of the usual morning-time pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, is very minimal. In such cases, pollination is usually carried out by night-time pollinators such as moths and bats. If, due to any reason, these night-time pollinators are not

visiting your gardening space, then you are left with only one, albeit effective, method to apply: hand-pollination.

In hand-pollination, you simply pluck the male flower off the vine, remove the petals and carefully rub the central part of the male flower on to the central part of the female flowers. Do it in a manner that there is a complete transfer of pollen from male to female flowers. Hopefully, this will start to pay dividends in the form of bottle gourds for you and your family.

**Q.** I have taken up gardening as a hobby since retirement and I am trying to establish a kitchen garden. I was wondering if it is the right time to sow iceberg lettuce and rocket?

**A.** I always ask readers who send in their queries to always mention the city they are based in. This is because temperature and climate vary from city to city and it changes many things, ranging from sowing time to watering schedule and sunlight exposure. Nonetheless, it is very heartening to know that you have adopted this wonderful, rewarding hobby. If the temperature in your city is currently in the range of 18 to 25 degrees Celsius,



Flowers require pollinators to ensure fruit development

then you may easily sow the seeds of both the leafy plants.

**Q.** I need the vegetable kashrabi. Do you have it now?

**A.** It would have been helpful if you had mentioned your city. The kashrabi, also known as the German turnip, is readily available in the Kashmir region,



Round bottle gourds not developing properly

but not so easily in the rest of Pakistan. It is a winter crop and available at selected vegetable shops only, in almost all other cities. You may even pre-book it and request your vegetable-seller to fetch you one the following day.

**Q.** I read your article recently on the variety of garden tools that one should have. It was very informative for new gardeners such as myself. Is it possible to remain in touch with you, as it will surely motivate me, since I have also started developing my kitchen garden as well.

**A.** It is always heartening to come across readers who take up gardening as a hobby and are willing to invest their time and energies in beautifying their surroundings and doing wonders for the environment. This column will continue to feature pieces on the required tools and equipment needed for farming, especially indoor cultivation and gardening at home as well. ■

Please send your queries and emails to [doctor@khatmail.com](mailto:doctor@khatmail.com). The writer is a physician and a host for the YouTube channel 'TheTree Gardening' promoting organic kitchen gardening.

## STATIC CLING



DUE TO DWINDLING ATTENTION SPANS AND SUPERFICIAL CONSUMPTION OF NEWS AS WELL AS AN UNCANNY FACIAL LIKENESS, LATE NIGHT TELEVISION HOST AFTAB IQBAL FOUND HIMSELF AT THE RECEIVING END OF MANY MESSAGES CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS ELEVATION AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF PAKISTAN. TO HIS CREDIT, HE GRACIOUSLY THANKED ALL FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND PLEDGED TO REFORM THE SUPREME COURT.







**CORRIGENDUM IN THE EARLIER ADVERTISEMENT**  
 INF/P12761/24 FOR HIRING OF IDEA (EXPORTABLE & NON-EXPORTABLE) OPEN BID ON 26-11-2024

This is to inform all the concerned bidders/contractors that the number of permits for the non-exportable quota of Himalayan Salt will be "28" instead of "31".

**Dr. Mahsin Farooque** INF/P12761/24  
 Chief, Computer Website & Print Production  
 Federal Office Complex, Shanti Road, Faisalabad, Pakistan.

**Jubilee**  
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Jubilee Life Insurance Co. Ltd. is inviting sealed offers for sale of computer accessories, computers, laptops, scanners, and printers in Karachi. For further details and to visit, please call 0211-3209440 during office hours within 7 days.

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**HASCOL PETROLEUM LIMITED**  
 Tender Invitation for Fleet Operating Contractors

Hascal Petroleum Limited is seeking experienced fleet operating contractors for our fuel tank farms. Interested parties with prior relevant experience of working with oil marketing companies and/or handling hazardous liquids are invited to submit proposals.

**Details:**  
 Tender RFP (Request for proposal) and Contractor Evaluation Sheet are available for download on our website as provided below:  
 Visit <https://www.hascal.com.pk/content/uploads/2024/10/inf.pdf>  
 Deadline for submission & proposal hard copy delivery address are provided in Tender RFP document.  
 For inquiries, contact us at [procurement@hascal.com](mailto:procurement@hascal.com)

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT CPSP LAHORE**

The College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan is a premier postgraduate medical institution in Asia since 1970.

**LIBRARIAN (LAHORE BASED)**  
 Candidate should be Graduate in Library Information Science having relevant experience in the Medical institutions. Good communication and IT skills are pre-requisite.

**JUNIOR ASSISTANT (LAHORE BASED)**  
 Candidate should be Intermediate with relevant work experience, having good Computer & Communications Skills.

Please send your resumes along with recent photograph latest by **November 01, 2024**.

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**  
 MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
 HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY (NADRA)

**Addendum Pre-bid Meeting Clarifications**  
 PROCUREMENT OF PRE-PERSONALIZED POLYCARBONATE SMART CARDS  
 TENDER # NADRA-HQ-RFB-145/2024

Pre-Bid Minutes of Meeting uploaded on NADRA official website: [tenders.nadra.gov.pk](http://tenders.nadra.gov.pk)

Updated Details / Clarifications can be downloaded from the above-mentioned link.

**PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT**  
 (13-Facilitation Center) NADRA HQ  
 State Bank of Pakistan Building, Shahrah-e-Jamshaid, G-5/2, Islamabad - 44000.  
 Telephone: 051-90382597 | Fax No: 051-9188188

**PMTF**  
 Pakistan Machine Tool Factory

**TENDER NOTICE**  
 Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Uniforms, and Safety Shoes

Pakistan Machine Tool Factory invites sealed Bids from reputable suppliers / manufacturers for supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

**Requirement:**

PPE Details	Quantity
Round Neck T-Shirts 100% Cotton with light fabric	1100
Shirt and Trousers 100% Cotton with light fabric	550
Safety Shoes	550

Last Date for Submission: 12-November-2024

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Bidders must have experience in supplying similar items.
- Bidders must be registered on GST.
- Bidders must submit one sample of each PPE along with the bid.

**How to Apply:**  
 Completed tenders must be submitted to Procurement Department of Pakistan Machine Tool Factory.

**Contact Information:**  
 For further information, please contact Faizan Ali at 0340-4797125 or [faizan.ali@pmtf.com](mailto:faizan.ali@pmtf.com)

**Pakistan Machine Tool Factory**  
 Landhi, Karachi, Pakistan.  
 Phone: +92-21-35082449

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**  
 MINISTRY OF ENERGY (POWER DIVISION)  
 NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**ADDENDUM/CORRIGENDUM**

Reference Tender Notice No PD032622/24 for Hiring of Services of Company/Firm for Printing of The Pakistan Energy Label (Stickers) published on PPIRA and NEECA websites and in Dawn and Express for Islamabad/Karachi/Lahore dated 12 October, 2024. All the prospective bidders are hereby informed that in the light of the pre-bid meeting, NEECA has extended the date of bid submission as well as Necessary amendments incorporated in bidding documents.

Particulars	Original Date	Revised Date
Closing date/time for submission of bids	28 October 2024 Monday (10:30AM)	8 November 2024 Friday (10:30 AM)
Opening date/time of submitted bids	28 October 2024 Monday (11:00AM)	8 November 2024 Friday (11:00AM)

All other terms and conditions are the same. The amended bidding document is available at NEECA official website. Bidders are also requested to visit NEECA website (Download) for updated clarification on queries.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ADMIN)**  
 NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NEECA)  
 NEECA BUILDING, SECTOR G-5/2, ISLAMABAD, PHONE: 051-9209024

**PMTF**  
 Pakistan Machine Tool Factory

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**  
 HEAD HUMAN RESOURCES

Pakistan Machine Tool Factory (PMTF), a leading manufacturer of precision engineering goods is seeking a highly skilled Head Human Resources.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- To develop policies for hiring, performance appraisal, and compensation systems.
- Well conversant with the application of all governing rules and regulations pertaining to Human Resources including prevalent Labor Laws.
- Well conversant with HR functions including Recruitment & Selection, Induction & Orientation, Training & Development, Compensation Management, Career Planning, Performance Management, Grievance handling, and Industrial Relations.

**Requirements:**

- Have a Master's Degree with at least 12+ years of relevant experience.
- Possess the skill and passion to develop HR department.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**  
 Interested candidates meeting the criteria may drop their CVs at [recruitment@pmtf.com](mailto:recruitment@pmtf.com) with the position title in the subject line within 15 days of this advertisement. Only relevant profiles will be shortlisted and contacted for interviews.

**HR Department**  
 Pakistan Machine Tool Factory  
 Landhi, Karachi. Tel: +92-21-35082449



**KARACHI SHIPYARD & ENGG. WORKS LTD.**

**TENDER INQUIRY**

Karachi Shipyards & Engineering Works Limited, West Wharf, Karachi, invites quotations for the Supply of Local Purchase Items (on free delivery at KSEW basis), Foreign Purchase tender items (on CFR Karachi basis) and disposal of following items on "as is & where is" basis respectively.

**PROCUREMENT TENDERS**

Tender No.	Description	Due Date: 05-12-2024
FPN-3221	Steel Plates (As per KSEW Tender Enquiry Specification)	Note: Suppliers/Firms are required to submit quotation on CFR Karachi basis. The cost of items & freight should be mentioned separately in commercial quotation.
FPN-3222	Steel Plates (As per KSEW Tender Enquiry Specification)	
LPN-2799	Consumable Items for Air Plasma Cutting Machine (As per KSEW Tender Enquiry Specification)	
LPN-2879	M/S Plate & Chequer Plate (As per KSEW Tender Enquiry Specification)	
LPN-3208	Pine Wood (As per KSEW Tender Enquiry Specification)	
LPN-3372	Photostat Paper (As per KSEW Tender Specification)	Due Date: 21-11-2024

**DISPOSAL TENDERS**

Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Due Date: 25-11-2024
SBST-60T-1002	Cable & Copper Scrap (Mixed)	21-kt	
SBST-60T-1000	Miscellaneous BERT Assets & Scrap Items	21-kt	
SBST-60T-1061	Wood Scrap (Mixed)	21-kt	
SBST-60T-1062	Old Used Safety Helmets, Uniforms, Safety Shoes & Leather Hand Gloves	21-kt	
SBST-60T-1063	Burned Sand	21-kt	
SBST-60T-1064	Used Hydraulic Oil	21-kt	
SBST-60T-1065	Concrete Blocks	21-kt	

The Suppliers / Bidders are informed that Single Stage (Two Envelope Bidding) process is opted for procurement tender cases. Therefore, suppliers are required to submit (i) Technical Offer and (ii) Commercial Offer separately at tender due date.

Deposit material can be inspected in coordination with Deputy Manager (Stores) on Call # 03442128802. Inspection of material can be done during working days from 09:00 Hrs to 11:00 Hrs.

Tender Documents can be downloaded from KSEW website [www.karachishipyards.com.pk](http://www.karachishipyards.com.pk) and PPIRA Website [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk). However, the supplier/contractor are required to purchase the bidding documents on payment of Rs. 2,000/- (each) from Procurement Department at least a day before tender due dates from 09:00 to 16:30 Hrs. Bidders stationed out of Karachi may obtain tender documents through courier service.

Tenders will be opened at 11:00 am on tender due date in presence of the bidder's representatives who may wish to be present. KSEW reserves the right to accept or reject tender.

**General Manager (Proc/Stores)**  
 Karachi Shipyards & Engineering Works Ltd  
 Phone Numbers: +92-21-99214045-64, Ext: 380

**PMTF**  
 Pakistan Machine Tool Factory

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**  
 DIRECTOR PROJECTS & TECHNICAL SERVICES

Pakistan Machine Tool Factory (PMTF) is a leading manufacturer of quality precision engineering goods in Pakistan. We are seeking a dynamic Director Projects & Technical Services to lead the planning, execution, and management of various projects and in-house Technical Services like QC, IT & HSE.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Projects planning, monitoring & execution.
- Negotiating and executing of National & International Joint Ventures, select technologies and overseeing equipment procurement.
- Policy level implementation & monitoring of QC, OHSE & IT matters, and ensuring all regulatory compliances.
- SAP implementation.

**Requirements:**

- 10 to 15 years of service experience in successful project management, preferably in a manufacturing environment.
- Bachelor's degree in engineering (preferably in Mechanical).
- Masters in Project Management, or Project Management Certification (PMP) from PMI or equivalent certification from International Accreditation Project Management Institute.
- MBA from a reputed Institute will be a plus.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**  
 Interested candidates meeting the criteria may drop their CVs on our email [recruitment@pmtf.com](mailto:recruitment@pmtf.com) with the position title in the subject line within 15 days of the publication of this advertisement. Only relevant profiles will be shortlisted and called for the interview.

**HR Department**  
 Pakistan Machine Tool Factory  
 Landhi, Karachi. Tel: +92-21-35082449

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**INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed Bids are invited through SAP India from digital contractors with adequate past relevant experience and financial capabilities for the below captioned tender:

No. #	Tender Description	Enquiry No.	Bidding Period	Tender Submission
1	Supply of Earth Clamp Meter at PZO House	Q1-0038-04	Single Stage - Two Envelopes	Three tenders will be available through SAP India Portal Only
2	Supplying of tank wagon at PZO location Pige	BB-0024-02		
3	Service required for Maintenance Contract work at	CP-0029-02		
4	PZO House Limited &	CP-0034-02		
5	CCTV System at the Railway Location	CP-0038-02		
6	Installation of Solar Tank Gauge System at PZO	CP-0038-02		
7	Mobile System	CP-0038-02		
8	Procurement of Conductivity Meter for Analysis	AA-0024-08	Single Stage - Two Envelopes	
9	Station	CP-0044-08		
10	Procurement of Patch Management Software	CP-0044-08	Single Stage - Two Envelopes	
11	License and Support Service	CP-0044-08		
12	Installation of Sprinkler and Foam Pipeline in 02 nos. tanks at PZO Microstation Installation	CP-0044-08	Single Stage - Two Envelopes	
13	Installation of Sprinkler and Foam Pipeline in 02 nos. tanks at PZO Microstation Installation	CP-0044-08		

**TENDER ID:** PZ-RFPN-1001 / (Non-Bidderable) in favor of Pakistan State Oil Company Limited (For each Tender)

**BIDDING PERIOD:**

DOC COLLECTION (THROUGH SAP ARBA)	DATE	TIME
DOC COLLECTION (THROUGH SAP ARBA)	From 20.10.2024 to 11.11.2024	09:30 AM to 04:30 PM
DOC SUBMISSION (THROUGH SAP ARBA)	11.11.2024	10:00:00 PM
DOC OPENING (THROUGH SAP ARBA)	11.11.2024	03:00 PM onwards

**NOTE:** For Single Stage Two Envelope bidding procedure, commercial bid opening date and time will be communicated later to the shortlisted bidders only.

**Note:**

- For tender # CP-0029-02 and CP-0034-02, Valid PFC certificate in category C1 or above is required for issuance of tender documents.
- For tender # CP-0038-02, Valid PFC certificate in category C2 or above is required for issuance of tender documents.

**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**  
 Any party interested to participate in any of the tenders may send its request for tender documents through SAP India Portal in the following manner:

- Sealed copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP India Portal. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No. ...."
- Request shall be accompanied by scanned copies of the following:
  - Valid NTN, CNIC/PTC certificates, CNIC of owner/ authorized representative. Tender should be an active tax payer.
  - Endorsement of deposit of Rs. 200/- (containing the tender fee as Tender fee in the following bank account:  
 Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED  
 BANK: PNB HARB 007 640 020 027  
 Account No: 076-60-026-027 Branch code: 076 006, Plaza Branch 11, Chaudhry Road, Karachi.

**INVITATION TO BID FOR SUPPLY OF PPE PRODUCTS**

Sealed Bids, through SAP India, are invited from reputed international suppliers for supply of below captioned as mentioned below:

PROJECT	DELIVERY PERIOD	MARK
MC-03	01 - 01-NOVEMBER 2024	OTB

**PARTECIPAZIONE:**

DOC COLLECTION	DATE	TIME
DOC COLLECTION	UP TO 01 NOVEMBER 2024	09:30 AM to 04:30 PM
DOC SUBMISSION	01 NOVEMBER 2024	10:00:00 AM
DOC OPENING	01 NOVEMBER 2024	03:00 AM ONWARDS

**Notes/Note:** Any supplier interested in participating in any of the tenders may send its request for tender documents in the following manner:

- Sealed copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP India Portal. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No. ...." (Please mention the relevant Delivery Period and Product).
- Request shall be accompanied by scanned copy of the following:
  - Endorsement of deposit of Rs. 200/- as Tender fee against for each product and period in the following bank account:  
 Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED  
 BANK: PNB HARB 007 640 020 027  
 Account No: 076-60-026-027 Branch code: 076 006, Plaza Branch 11, Chaudhry Road, Karachi.

**Bid documents will be available and should be submitted through SAP India Portal only.**

**For any queries/clarification please contact us in the details below:**  
 Procurement and Services Department,  
 02- Floor, PZO House, Karachi  
 USAF - 114-011-243/076 Ext: 3281/027  
 E-mail: [procurement@pmtf.com](mailto:procurement@pmtf.com), [procurement@pmtf.com](mailto:procurement@pmtf.com)

The advertisement is also available on PZO website [www.pzo.gov.pk](http://www.pzo.gov.pk) and PPIRA website [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk)

Please note that interested vendors not having SAP India National ID are requested to register themselves on SAP India Portal by clicking on the link below to access and participate in upcoming PZO tenders.

<https://sapindia.com.pk/REG>

The bidder is equal to visit PZO & PPIRA website regularly for any further changes that may be updated by the Company from time to time.



### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Sindh Revenue Board is looking for young leaders who can become a part of its dynamic human resource. Accordingly, applications are invited for the following position in the organization:

Sl.#	Category	Requirements	Number of positions
1	Sindh Sales Tax Officer (SRB Scale 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bachelor's Degree (4 years recognized by HEC) with IT division equivalent percentage i.e. 40% (percentage will only be considered if CGPA is unavailable on the transcript) or with a CGPA of 2.3 or higher in Business / Public Administration, Accounting, Economics, Commerce, Law from an HEC recognized University or Institution. Degree in any other streams and disciplines will not be considered.</li> <li>Basic knowledge of MS office (Excel, Word, Power Point).</li> <li>Strong communication &amp; interpersonal skills.</li> <li>Fluent in English and Urdu/Sindh.</li> <li>Domestic and International Residence Certificate Form D, issued by the province of Sindh are eligible.</li> <li>Age limit: Minimum 21 Years and Maximum 30 Years on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2024. (Age relaxation is applicable as per policy of the Government of Sindh).</li> </ul>	40

**NOTE:** 1- Retention of services of Sindh Sales Tax Officer (SRB Scale 14) will depend on his/her overall performance and successful completion of the prescribed training which will include a mandatory Final posting Out Examination and termination of probation period.  
2- The terms and conditions of the employment shall be governed by the SRB regulations.

#### Prerequisites

- Applicants with foreign academic qualification must furnish HEC Qualification Equivalence Certificate.
- In case of any falsified information provided in the candidature, SRB reserves the right to disqualify a candidate at any stage and the costs incurred will be recovered from the applicant.
- SRB possesses the right to obstruct the hiring process of any stage and to increase or decrease the number of vacancies.
- SRB is an equal opportunity employer.
- Candidate should apply only if they fulfil the eligibility criteria.

#### How to apply?

- Candidates are required to submit application ONLINE only. Submission in hard copy will not be entertained.
- Applications can be submitted at SRB portal: <https://admissions.srb.edu.pk/srb.php>.
- The last date for submitting the application is **November 11, 2024**.
- Applications received after the due date will not be entertained.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the test, group discussion and interview.
- No TA/DA or any other allowance is admissible whether for appearing in the written test or in the group discussion or in the interview, if selected, any related travel expense will be borne by the applicant.
- No TA/DA or any other allowance is admissible for joining the training if selected or for joining the place of posting after successful completion of the training.
- All Documents (in original with a photocopy thereof) will be required at the time of the group discussion and interview.

**NB:** 1) The quotas prescribed by Government of Sindh for women, persons with specially abled and minorities will be observed.  
2) Other state-wise Rural quotas of Sindh Province will also be applicable.

Written Test will be conducted by IBA Exams at their specified locations in the province i.e. Karachi, Sukkur and Hyderabad. Eligible candidates will be required to deposit admission-fee of Rs. 1500/- through fee voucher in the account of IBA Karachi in any branch of National Bank Limited. Candidates meeting the eligibility criteria stated above are required to fill the application form and generate the fee voucher through IBA portal. The fee is non-refundable/non-transferable in any case. Please make sure to fill the application form correctly to avoid possible rejection.

- A candidate working in any Government / Semi Government Department or Statutory Body shall provide a NOC from respective employer at the time of interview.
- The successful candidates will sign a bond with SRB after joining the service which will be binding on the officers after appointment.

For further information, please contact us at **INF-KHY 3400/24** [hr@srb.edu.pk](mailto:hr@srb.edu.pk) or call on **+92-21-38104700 Ext. 2380/2370/2374**



Recognized by HEC Pakistan as Degree Awarding Institute. Established by the Sindh Provincial Assembly Act-2009

### POSTGRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAMS – JANUARY 2025 SESSION

A 1500-bedded tertiary healthcare institution that provides free-of-cost specialized treatment for renal, liver, and related diseases. We also offer postgraduate education and training programs to medical graduates in specific areas of specialization. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to the following:

#### FCPS, MCPS & IMM Programs

- First Fellowship**
- Urology
  - Nephrology
- Eligibility:** FCPS-Part-I in Surgery/Medicine & two years postgraduate training in Surgery/Medicine according to CPSP requirements. Trainees who have cleared IMM will be preferred.

- First Fellowship**
- Anesthesiology
  - Chemical Pathology
  - Diagnostic Radiology
  - Haematology
  - Histopathology
  - Immunology
  - Microbiology
  - Rehabilitation Oncology
- Eligibility:** FCPS-I in Anesthesiology/Medicine/Pathology/Radiology as applicable.

- Second Fellowship**
- Critical Care Medicine
  - Gastroenterology
  - Infectious Diseases
  - Pediatric Cardiology
  - Paediatric Nephrology
  - Vascular Surgery

**Eligibility:** Eligibility: FCPS in Anesthesiology/Paediatric/Medicine/Surgery as applicable.

- Fellowship**
- Urology
- Eligibility:** FCPS in Surgery

- IMM Training**
- Medicine
- Eligibility:** FCPS-I in Medicine & Allied

- MCPS Training**
- Anesthesiology
  - Diagnostic Radiology
- Eligibility:** MBBS with a one-year house job from a PMDC recognized institution.

#### MS & MD Programs

**MS Urology & Paediatric Urology, MD Nephrology, Pulmonology & Gastroenterology**

**Program Duration:** 3 years  
**Eligibility:** Medical Graduates (MBBS or Equivalent) with one-year house job from a PMDC recognized institution (within 5 years after MBBS or Equivalent)

**Vital PMDC Registration:** Foreign graduates are required to possess PMDC equivalence certificate at the time of applying.

- MS Urology: Two years experience in Surgery & Allied
- MS Paediatric Urology: One year experience in Surgery & Allied
- MD Nephrology: Two years experience in Medicine & Allied
- MD Pulmonology: Two years experience in Medicine & Allied or MCPS in Pulmonology
- MD Gastroenterology: One year experience in Medicine & Allied

SIUT offers a market-competitive stipend, benefits, and an excellent teaching and training environment that fosters professional development.

#### Application Procedure

Admissions are only online through website <http://www.sims-siut.edu.pk/admission/> the last date for application submission is 11 November 2024. Application submitted by e-mail or by hand will not be entertained.

Candidates who meet the eligibility criteria are required to take an entry-test. Short listed candidates will be called for an in-person interview.

The entry test date will be communicated to the applicants via e-mail, SMS and the same will be uploaded on SIMS, Karachi website <http://www.sims-siut.edu.pk/admission/> before one week of the test.

#### FOR DETAILS CONTACT

The Admissions Office, SIMS-Karachi, 5th Floor, Hanifa Suleman Dawood Oncology Centre, SIUT. Phone: (021) 99215718, 99215752 Ext [2101, 2120] e-mail: [admissions@siut.org](mailto:admissions@siut.org)



### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

#### MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Applications are invited for following training programs at NICVD & its partnering SICVD Satellite Centre

Position Title	Eligibility Requirement	Program Duration	Training Centre
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ADULT CARDIOLOGY</b>			
Clinical Fellow	03 Years FCPS Cardiology Training Completed	01 Year	All Centres
FCPS Postgraduate Trainee	FCPS - I with 02 Years (MM training completed) <b>Preferable</b> IMM passed candidates	03 Years	Karachi, Sukkur, Larkana, Hyderabad, Tando M Khan
Diploma in Cardiology PG Trainee	One Year House Job, recognized by PMDC <b>Preferable</b> One year post house job experience	01 Year	Karachi
<b>DEPARTMENT OF INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY</b>			
Post Fellow	FCPS Cardiology Qualified	02 Years	Karachi, Sukkur, Larkana, Hyderabad, Tando M Khan
<b>DEPARTMENT OF CARDIAC IMAGING</b>			
Post Fellow	FCPS Cardiology Qualified	02 Years	Karachi
<b>DEPARTMENT OF CARDIAC SURGERY</b>			
Post Fellow	FCPS Cardiac Surgery Qualified	02 Years	Karachi
Clinical Fellow	FCPS Cardiac Surgery Training Completed	01 Year	Karachi, Sukkur, Larkana, Hyderabad, Tando M Khan
FCPS Postgraduate Trainee	FCPS I with 02 years training in General Surgery <b>Preferable</b> IMM passed candidates	03 Years	Karachi, Sukkur, Larkana, Hyderabad, Tando M Khan
<b>DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY</b>			
Post Fellow	FCPS Paeds Medicine Qualified	03 Years	Karachi, Sukkur, Tando M Khan
Clinical Fellow	FCPS OR MD Paeds (Medical) training completed	01 Year	All Centres
<b>DEPARTMENT OF CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE</b>			
Post Fellow	FCPS Qualified in (General Medicine / Cardiology / Anesthesia / Emergency Medicine / Pulmonology / Nephrology)	02 Years	Karachi
Clinical Fellow	FCPS Trained in (General Medicine / Cardiology / Anesthesia / Emergency Medicine / Pulmonology / Nephrology)	01 Year	Karachi
<b>DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL CARDIAC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY</b>			
Post Fellow	FCPS Cardiology Qualified	02 Years	Karachi
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIA</b>			
Post Fellow CTA	FCPS Anesthesia Qualified	02 Years	Karachi
FCPS CTA	FCPS - I with 02 Years (MM training completed)	03 Years	Karachi
FCPS Postgraduate Trainee	FCPS - I Anesthesia	02 Years	Karachi
Clinical Fellow	FCPS Anesthesia training completed OR MCPS Anesthesia Qualified or training completed	01 Year	All Centres
<b>DEPARTMENT OF PAEDS CARDIAC ICU</b>			
Clinical Fellow	FCPS OR MD Paeds (Medicine) training completed	01 Year	Karachi, Sukkur, Tando M Khan
<b>DEPARTMENT OF CARDIAC EMERGENCY</b>			
Clinical Fellow	FCPS Cardiology trained OR FCPS Emergency Medicine training completed	01 Year	Karachi
<b>DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGERY</b>			
Post Fellow	FCPS Cardiac Surgery Qualified	03 Years	Karachi, Sukkur, Tando M Khan, Hyderabad
Clinical Fellow	FCPS Cardiac Surgery training completed	01 Year	Karachi

NICVD & ITS PARTNERING SICVD SATELLITE CENTRES ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS

#### How to apply:

- Application form is available at website: <http://www.nicvd.org> or can be collected from Medical Education Department, 5th Floor, NICVD, Karachi.
- Application form with required documents (attested) should reach Medical Education Department, 5th Floor, NICVD, Karachi by Monday, November 11, 2024.
- If you are sending documents through courier, kindly ensure that your documents reach our office before the last date.
- Selection will be purely on merit basis.
- An applicant can apply for one position only. Remember to mention the training centre.
- Only shortlisted applicants will be called for Interview/Test. No TA/DA admissible for appearing in interview/test.
- Government employees are directed to apply through proper channel & should bring NOC at the time of interview.
- All courses are full time training positions. No one is allowed to work with any other organization during training period.
- Stipend will be provided as per NICVD policies.
- Training will start from January 2025.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES  
[www.nicvd.org](http://www.nicvd.org) [www.facebook.com/nicvdkarachi](https://www.facebook.com/nicvdkarachi) [www.instagram.com/nicvd\\_karachi](https://www.instagram.com/nicvd_karachi)

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GROW. ADVERTISE IN **INDUSTRY SUPPLEMENTS**

Chief Manager, Supermarkets in Karachi Lahore & Islamabad on 0300-111-444-777

#### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

A Public Sector entity requires suitable candidates for the following positions at its office situated in Karachi on following positions:

POSITION	JOB DESCRIPTION
<b>GEOPHYSICIST</b>	<p><b>Qualification:</b> Must possess the following qualifications: Master's degree in Geophysics.</p> <p><b>Experience:</b> Minimum 10 years of post-education experience in exploration and production company.</p> <p><b>Required Skills:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seismic acquisition, processing and interpretation</li> <li>Hands of experience: Petrel, Kingdom, Landmark software for seismic interpretation</li> <li>Well versed with oil and gas exploration techniques</li> </ul> </p>
<b>RESERVOIR ENGINEER</b>	<p><b>Qualification:</b> Must possess the following qualifications: Master's degree in Petroleum Engineering</p> <p><b>Experience:</b> Minimum 10 years of post-education experience in exploration and production company.</p> <p><b>Required Skills:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reservoir modeling</li> <li>Production profile</li> <li>Reservoir Development</li> <li>Reserves / Resource estimation</li> <li>Well versed with oil and gas field development</li> <li>Hands on experience of related softwares</li> </ul> </p>

- General Instructions:**
- The above posts are contractual positions. Renewal is subject to performance evaluation.
  - Competitive market-based salary package would be offered to the successful candidates.
  - No application will be accepted by hand or after the deadline.
  - The Company reserves the right to hold and/or cancel recruitment at any time.
  - Only shortlisted applicants will be called to appear in written test / interview and no TA/DA will be admissible in any case.
  - Interested & eligible individuals may through e-mail ONLY at [hr@department033@gmail.com](mailto:hr@department033@gmail.com) within 15 days of publishing of this advertisement. CVs received after the due date shall not be considered.
  - Sindh domicile will be preferred.

**FARAH RUTH PFAU MEDICAL COLLEGE PAF BASE FAISAL, KARACHI**

**SITUATION VACANT**

**GENERAL MANAGER FINANCE**

**Qualification:** ACA/CPA/ICMA/ICAEW/IMA/CA/ICMA/ICAEW or equivalent relevant qualifications

**Experience & Competence:** 05-10 years relevant experience in reputed organization preferably in Healthcare/Pharmaceutical industries.

**Responsibilities:** Should have strong financial management skills, good communication, team management, and ability to work under pressure.

**Other details:**

- Should have strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Should have strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Should have strong leadership and team management skills.
- Should have strong knowledge of financial reporting and tax laws.
- Should have strong knowledge of healthcare industry and its regulations.
- Should have strong knowledge of financial markets and investment opportunities.
- Should have strong knowledge of financial planning and budgeting.
- Should have strong knowledge of financial risk management.
- Should have strong knowledge of financial compliance and regulatory requirements.
- Should have strong knowledge of financial reporting and tax laws.
- Should have strong knowledge of financial markets and investment opportunities.
- Should have strong knowledge of financial planning and budgeting.
- Should have strong knowledge of financial risk management.
- Should have strong knowledge of financial compliance and regulatory requirements.

For further information, please contact us at **INF-KHY 3400/24** [hr@srb.edu.pk](mailto:hr@srb.edu.pk) or call on **+92-21-38104700 Ext. 2380/2370/2374**

**Sadiq Public School**

**APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

Sadiq Public School Bahawalpur requires the services of an audit firm for its external audit. The contract with the firm will be for a span of three (3) years. Reputable Chartered Accountancy Firms, having QCR rating issued by ICAP, are invited to submit their proposal with service on annual lump sum basis. Last date for submission of proposal is 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**Sadiq Public School, Bahawalpur**  
 e-mail: [principal@sps.edu.pk](mailto:principal@sps.edu.pk)  
 Tel: 092-62-3877692-4

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY!**

We are looking for talented professionals to join our team in the following roles:

- Marketing & Sales Managers (2 to 3 Years Experience)
- Front Office (FO), Duty Manager, Receptionist (1 to 3 Years Experience)
- All F&B Staff (2 to 4 Years Experience)
- Housekeeping Supervisor, Room Boy (1 to 3 Years Experience)

If you have the passion to excel in the hospitality industry, we offer a competitive salary and benefits.

Send your CV to: [sah083086@gmail.com](mailto:sah083086@gmail.com)

**USAID | PAKISTAN**

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Pakistan is Pakistan's leading employer for the following position:

**USAID Human Resources Assistant - Executive Office, F204**

For detailed position description and posting of online application, interested applicants may visit the website: <https://usa.gov/pakistan-jobs>

Applications must be submitted on form DS-114 (Application for Employment as US Staff), which can be retrieved from the website: <https://www.usa.gov/pakistan-jobs>. When submitting an application, the vacancy announcement number and the title of the position must be mentioned in the subject line.

Applications on Form DS-114 should be forwarded only on the email: [hr@usa.gov](mailto:hr@usa.gov) address in MS Word or PDF format. Incomplete applications and/or applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for the interview.

The deadline for submission of applications is **November 18, 2024**.



**AL MURTAZA  
SCHOOL NETWORK**  
(Affiliated with AKUEB)



**APPLY NOW!**

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**FEMALE TEACHING STAFF REQUIRED**

- ✓ Homeroom Teachers for Primary Level (Classes I - V)
- ✓ Computer Teachers for Primary and Lower Secondary Level
- ✓ Social Studies Teacher for Secondary Level

**Eligibility Criteria**

- Minimum Bachelor's Degree or A-Levels.
- Experience will be preferred.
- Proficiency in spoken and written English.

**Benefits**

- Excellent in-house training and sponsorship for further Professional Development.
- Progressive salaries with enhanced personal skills and training.
- Life Insurance, Health Insurance, EOB, Provident Fund Scheme and other fringe benefits.

**Confidentiality of applicant will be strictly observed**

✉ Email CV to: [amnetworkhr@gmail.com](mailto:amnetworkhr@gmail.com) ☎ 021-34520988 / 0300-2665251 📍 163-K, Block B, PECHS, Karachi.



**KUTIYANA MEMON  
HOSPITAL**

**POSTGRADUATE RESIDENCY PROGRAM  
JANUARY 2025**

Kutyana Memon Hospital (KMH) is a leading health-care organization located in Sharda, Karachi. KMH invites applications in the following disciplines for its Postgraduate Residency Program commencing from January 26, 2025:

Department	Qualification
Anesthesiology	MBBS & Passed FCPS-1 in Anesthesiology
Medicine	MBBS & Passed FCPS-I in Medicine & Allied
Obstetrics and Gynecology	MBBS & Passed FCPS-1 in Obstetrics & Gynecology
Pediatrics	MBBS & Passed FCPS-1 in Pediatrics
Surgery	MBBS & Passed FCPS-1 in Surgery and Allied

**Experience (for all): 1 Year House Job from a Recognized Institution**

Kutyana Memon Hospital offers great learning opportunity, work environment, and opportunity for career growth with attractive remuneration package. Application form can be collected and submitted at Kutyana Memon Hospital. Last date of submission of application form is **November 21, 2024**.

Alpha Khan / R. Akram Road, Sharda, Karachi 74000.  
Ph: 021-32315378-77, 32313835-6-7  
www: [www.kmh.org.pk](http://www.kmh.org.pk)

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

**A Leading Manufacturing & Export Organization Required Staff for our Import Department.**

**1. CUSTOM BOND OFFICER**

We are looking for candidates from the outside candidate who have minimum Bachelor Degree having experience of 4 to 5 years for handling of custom bonded items and tender with Analysis Cards. Also able to keep record for inventory of Free Stores, Port and Warehouse and bonded goods (updated). Candidates will be interviewed by the factory management.

**2. IMPORT OFFICER**

Required Import Order having Degree minimum B.Com/BA with 3 to 4 year experience in import. Candidate must be able to handle import documentation, Banking dealing with clearing & Forwarding Agents and Shipping Companies also handling of bills, invoices, bills of lading, etc. Candidates should be able to handle import duties.

Please send your C.V. Latest by 13 Nov 2024 at [jobs.hr@hsr.com](mailto:jobs.hr@hsr.com)

**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**

We are a leading multinational organization with a presence in 45 cities across Pakistan and an international presence in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Malaysia, and Philippines. We are seeking to fill the following positions based in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

**INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER**

The ideal candidate should meet the following criteria:

- CA (Inter) / ACCA / ICMA
- Minimum 5 years' experience in Senior Audit position
- Knowledge on application of Accounting, Financial & Operational Controls
- Proficiency in the use of IT tools and software applications

**ASSISTANT MANAGER AUDIT**

The ideal candidate should meet the following criteria:

- CA (Inter) / ACCA / ICMA
- 2-3 years' experience in Internal Audit
- Proficiency in the use of IT tools and software applications

**We are an equal opportunity employer.**  
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Interested Candidates may send their CV to: [careers@hsr.com](mailto:careers@hsr.com) no later than 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2024

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**COMPANY OVERVIEW**

Our Client, a Karachi based company, seeks to appoint experienced professionals for the following roles:

**MIDDLE MANAGEMENT POSITION – PROCUREMENT & SERVICES**

**Key Responsibilities**

- Devise and use fruitful sourcing strategies for effective procurement of Goods.
- Collaborate with key persons to ensure clarity of the specifications and expectations of the company.
- Forecast alterations in the comparative negotiating ability of suppliers and clients.
- Supervise and carry out project-based pre-qualifications to enhance Company's vendor base.
- Review assigned Purchase Requisitions to ensure achievement of maximum competitive bids and compliance of PFRA rules with respect to specifications and/or terms & conditions.
- Ensure compliance with the company's policy, regulatory requirements, and PFRA Rules by reviewing each stage of the procurement process and requesting the necessary approvals.
- Build and maintain long-term relationships with vendors and suppliers.
- Control the procurement budget and promote a culture of long-term saving on procurement costs.
- Review technical evaluations by indenting departments to ensure compliance of PFRA rules and tender terms & conditions.
- Conduct periodic review/updates of Procurement Policy, Procurement Manual & SOPs to ensure alignment with PFRA Rules.
- Ensure timely payment to suppliers and live up to the expectations of all stakeholders.

**Education**

- Minimum 16 years of education preferably masters from a renowned HEC recognized university or institution / equivalent foreign degree holder, preferably in Supply Chain, Business Administration, Industrial/ Mechanical Engineering or related field.
- Additionally, must be MCIPS from Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply.

**Experience**

- Minimum 8-8 years of professional experience, preferably in a large national/multinational organization with at least 4-5 years of related functional experience in a similar role at a senior equivalent position or one position below.

**Requirements**

- Detail-oriented with strong organizational skills, efficiently manage multiple tasks and deadlines, ensuring that all assignments are completed accurately and in a timely manner.
- Familiarity with document management systems and electronic filing.
- Work with team members to complete duties as needed.

**Age**

- The candidate should be preferably not more than 40 years of age as of the last date of submission of application.

**JR. MANAGEMENT / MIDDLE MANAGEMENT – TALENT ACQUISITION**

These Talent Acquisition roles will report to the Head of Talent Acquisition and will be responsible for sourcing candidates through multiple channels. This includes collaborating with recruitment agencies for advertising, assessing candidates, and conducting talent mapping of external candidates to ensure timely filling of positions.

**Key Responsibilities**

- Manage overall talent acquisition process from receiving job requisition to till the employee onboarding.
- Analysis of Talent Acquisition Data including Cost, Budget, Turn-around time, Monthly Turnover (New joining, Separations & Confirmations) and preparing reports for different Projects on needs basis. Talent mapping / Head Hunting on different Social Media platforms including LinkedIn.
- Regular update of the recruitment database/leader of all the newly hired incumbents in the company throughout the year.
- Maintaining comprehensive records of all past and current advertisements with the dates.
- Collaborate/Coordinate with different departments to assess their manpower needs and initiate the recruitment process for relevant position as required (External & Internal).
- Creating job advertisements tailored to the department's specifications in compliance with recruitment policy and collaborating with headhunters for the publication. In case of internal hiring network with departments for LP Approval in both scenarios.
- Scrutinizing applicant's data as per recruitment criteria and/or management requirement to generate suitable number of prospective applicants and seek more information with headhunters where required by way of quality check.
- Liaison with testing service provider/head hunter for timely completion of shortlisting process.
- Arrange interviews, prepare interview summaries, draft salaries and obtain subsequent approvals from post for final selection.
- Facilitate in ensuring timely on-boarding of inductees as per Recruitment Policy, SAP recruitment actions and employee code generation.
- Coordinate with departments for pre-onboarding formalities and arrange orientation of new inductees.
- Organizing career fairs/initiatives in collaboration with various educational institutions to enhance employee branding and increase audience engagement for future recruitment efforts.

**Education**

- Minimum 16 years of education preferably masters from a renowned HEC recognized university or institution / equivalent foreign degree holder preferably in Business / Public Administration.

**Experience**

- Preferably 3-8 years of professional experience, preferably in a large national/multinational organization with at least 2-5 years of related functional experience in a similar role at an equivalent position or in one level below position.

**Requirements**

- Strategic thinker with the ability to develop and execute recruitment strategies aligned with business objective.
- Analytical mindset with the ability to leverage data to drive informed decision-making.
- Excellent leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills, with the ability to lead cross-functional teams, influence stakeholders, and drive alignment towards common goals.

**Age**

- The candidate should be preferably not more than 40 years of age as of last date of submission of application.

**MIDDLE MANAGEMENT POSITION – SOLUTION ARCHITECT**

**Key Responsibilities**

- Lead the design and development of enterprise applications using Oracle APEX, ensuring the delivery of scalable, secure, and high-performance solutions aligned with organizational objectives.
- Conduct in-depth system analysis and gather business and technical requirements from senior stakeholders to ensure Oracle APEX solutions align with business needs and IT architecture strategies.
- Develop and oversee Oracle APEX architectures, data models, and workflows for large-scale projects, ensuring efficient integration with other systems, databases, and web services.
- Evaluate and recommend Oracle tools and related technologies to enhance IT system performance, scalability, and security.
- Lead the development of prototypes and proof-of-concepts using Oracle APEX to validate design concepts and feasibility for senior leadership and stakeholders.
- Ensure adherence to UI/UX design principles within the Oracle APEX platform, creating intuitive and user-friendly interfaces tailored for diverse user groups.
- Implement security best practices within the Oracle APEX environment, ensuring data privacy, integrity, and compliance with industry standards.
- Prepare and maintain detailed technical documentation specific to Oracle APEX development, including design specifications, implementation guidelines, and operational procedures.
- Conduct design reviews to ensure that Oracle APEX-based solutions comply with organizational policies, industry standards, and best practices.
- Mentor and guide developers in using Oracle APEX, fostering a culture of continuous learning and technical excellence.
- Collaborate with cross-functional teams (DBAs, system administrators, system integrators etc.) to ensure successful Oracle APEX application deployment and integration with other IT systems.
- Ensure projects are delivered on time and within budget by managing development timelines and coordinating with relevant teams.

**Education**

- Minimum 16 years of education preferably masters from a renowned HEC recognized university or institution / equivalent foreign degree holder, preferably in the discipline Computer Science, Software Engineering, Information Technology or related field.

**Experience**

- Minimum 5-8 years of professional experience, preferably in a large national/multinational organization with at least 2-5 years of related functional experience in a similar role at a senior equivalent position or one position below.

**Requirements**

- Strong expertise in Oracle APEX development, including the creation of applications, data modeling, and web services integration.
- Experience with PL/SQL and other Oracle technologies like Oracle Database, Oracle REST Data Services (ORDS), and JavaScript for extending APEX functionalities.
- Solid understanding of UI/UX design principles and experience in implementing these within Oracle APEX applications.
- In-depth knowledge of security best practices in Oracle APEX, including handling authentication, authorization, and data protection.
- Relevant certifications are a strong advantage.
- Excellent communication, leadership, and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage effectively with both technical and senior stakeholders.
- Experience with application performance tuning and security hardening within Oracle APEX environments.

**Age**

- The candidate should be preferably not more than 40 years of age as of the last date of submission of application.

If you have the required experience and educational qualification to take up the challenging role, you are requested to apply by **November 10, 2024** at <http://jobs.hrsi-int.com/>. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

[www.hrsi-int.com](http://www.hrsi-int.com)

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE CONSERVATION SPECIALIST**

The Energy Efficiency & Resource Conservation Specialist will play a pivotal role in identifying, developing, and implementing energy efficient solutions for various projects and processes. This position requires a professional with a strong technical background in energy systems, who can assess energy use patterns, propose optimization strategies, and support the adoption of renewable energy technologies. The Energy Efficiency & Resource Conservation Specialist will collaborate with cross-functional teams to improve energy performance, reduce operational costs, and enhance sustainability practices within the organization.

**Key Responsibilities**

- Conduct detailed energy & resource consumption audits to assess energy use, efficiency levels, and energy loss across facilities.
- Analyze energy & resource like water, paper etc. consumption data and prepare reports with actionable recommendations.
- Identify and implement energy & resource conservation measures that align with operational goals.
- Design and oversee energy-efficient solutions for HVAC, lighting, processes, and renewable energy systems.
- Work closely with design, procurement, and operations teams to implement energy-saving & resource conservation initiatives and technologies.
- Monitor project performance to ensure energy savings targets are met and provide post-implementation reviews.
- Ensure compliance with local, national, and international energy efficiency regulations and sustainability standards.
- Develop energy management strategies in line with regulatory requirements and company sustainability goals.
- Evaluate the financial viability of energy-efficient systems and projects, including cost-benefit analysis and ROI calculations.
- Prepare project budgets and track expenses related to energy-saving measures.
- Stay up-to-date on the latest energy-efficient technologies, industry trends, and best practices.
- Provide technical support and guidance to other engineers, project managers, and facility managers on energy-saving techniques.
- Collaborate with external vendors and contractors to integrate energy-efficient products and solutions.
- Create detailed technical reports, proposals, and presentations on energy efficiency and resource conservation findings and solutions.
- Maintain documentation related to energy audits, efficiency & resource conservation measures, and regulatory compliance.

**Education**

- Minimum 16 years of education preferably masters in Engineering from a renowned HEC recognized university or institution/equivalent foreign degree holder preferably in Electrical, Energy Management, or a related field.

**Experience**

- Minimum 3 years of professional experience preferably in a large national/multinational organization with at least 1-2 years of related functional experience in a similar role at an equivalent position or in one level below position.

**Requirements**

- Professional certification such as Certified Energy Manager (CEM) or LEED accreditation is preferred.
- Strong knowledge of energy management principles, HVAC systems, electrical systems, and renewable energy technologies.
- Strong understanding of energy management principles and methodologies.
- Excellent organizational, communication, and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to work effectively in a fast-paced, collaborative environment.
- Familiarity with regulatory frameworks related to energy efficiency (e.g., ASHRAE, ISO 50001).
- Understanding of energy storage systems and demand-side management.

**Age**

- The candidate should be preferably not more than 35 years of age as of last date of submission of application.

