



Bill tabled for 'preventive detention' of terror suspects

- Proposed law would allow military, civil forces to detain such individuals for up to three months
- Envisions JTs that will conduct thorough inquiries and gather actionable intelligence
- Similar legal provisions had lapsed in 2016 due to sunset clause in post-APS legislation

By Amir Waqar

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move, the government on Friday quietly introduced a crucial bill in the National Assembly, seeking to grant military and civil armed forces the authority to keep individuals facing terrorism charges in 'preventive' detention for up to three months.

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah referred the bill, which proposes amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) 1997, to the relevant committee for consideration immediately after Law Minister Asim Nadeem Tarar tabled it in the closing moments of a thinly attended session, without explaining its salient features.

The bill also includes provisions for establishing Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) composed of members from various law enforcement and intelligence agencies to conduct inquiries. The same amendments to Clause 11E(1) of the ATA, introduced in the wake of the deadly terrorist attack on Army Public School in Peshawar, lapsed a decade ago due to a sunset clause.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the bill, the "venerable amendments of Section 11E(1) of the Act are required to be re-inserted to empower the government,

armed forces and civil armed forces with the necessary authority to detain individuals who pose a significant threat to national security. This provision would allow for the preventive detention of suspects based on credible information or reasonable suspicion, thereby disrupting terrorist plots before they can be executed."

The amendment "will also provide law enforcement agencies with the legal backing to conduct more effective operations against terrorism. It would facilitate the use of JITs, composed of members from various law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to conduct comprehensive inquiries and gather actionable intelligence," it said.

The bill recalled that Section 11E(1) of the ATA was amended in 2014, providing the government and authorised armed forces and civil armed forces with the authority to conduct preventive detention of individuals suspected of involvement in terrorism-related activities. However, this amendment was subject to a sunset clause, limiting its validity to two years, which expired in 2016.

"Further, the current security situation requires a robust response that goes beyond the existing legal framework," the bill said.

The proposed clause in the ATA

Continued on Page 11

Ordinance giving more powers to top judge lands in Senate

- Move that increased powers of CJP on bench formation sent to standing committee
- Body agrees to increase number of SC judges from 17 to 25
- Policy to promote use of EVs being readied

By Hukhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: A controversial ordinance promulgated by President Asif Ali Zardari in September giving a dominant role to the chief justice of Pakistan in the formation of benches landed in the Senate on Friday.

The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) (Amendment) Ordinance 2024, was laid in the house by Minister for Law and Justice Asim Nadeem Tarar and referred to the standing committee concerned by the deputy chairman.

According to sources, the ordinance is likely to be placed before the house in the form of a bill next week.

The ordinance changes the com-

position of the committee that forms benches and fixes cases under the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023. The three-member committee originally comprised the chief justice and two senior-most judges of the court. Now it will consist of the chief justice, the most senior judge, and a judge to be picked by the chief justice.

"Every case, appeal or matter before the Supreme Court shall be heard and disposed of by a bench constituted by the committee comprising the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the most senior judge of the Supreme Court and a Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, from time to time," the

Continued on Page 11



MASTUNG: Members of the bomb disposal squad collect evidence around the damaged police vehicle as they investigate the crime scene following a blast that claimed the lives of eight people.—Reuters

Children among eight dead in Mastung bombing

One cop, two civilians among victims; IED targeted police party on its way to pick up police team; state functionaries condemn cowardly attack

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: At least eight people, including five schoolchildren and a policeman, were martyred and over 30 injured in a bomb blast near a girl's school and a hospital in Mastung town, some 50km southwest of Quetta, on Friday.

Officials said the target of the remote-controlled blast was a police vehicle heading to Mastung district hospital to pick up police vaccinators to escort them to different neighbourhoods as part of the nationwide vaccination drive being run from Oct 28 to Nov 5.

An improvised explosive device (IED) planted in a motorbike was used to carry out the attack at School-Hospital Chowk in the Majed Road

area, officials said.

The IED was detonated close to the school where students were coming in vans and rickshaws at a time when the police vehicle was passing through the area. While one cop was martyred, as many as five students also embraced martyrdom at the blast site.

"Dead children included two brothers and a girl and her younger

brother who were going to school in the school van."

No one has claimed responsibility for the blast.

SP Mastung Bahadurullah later confirmed to Dawn that the IED was detonated with a remote control. He said it was planted in a motorbike, parked at School-Hospital Chowk to target the police vehicle which was going to district hospital to escort police team.

Soon after the blast, Mastung Deputy Commissioner Bar Khan Mari

along with senior police officers rushed to the explosion site. The area was cordoned off and the bodies were shifted to Nawab Ghous Bahadur Rainani Memorial hospital and DHQ hospital.

"We have received three bodies and another 30 injured," the hospital spokesman initially said, adding that three more injured, including a police official, died.

Eleven victims, including five schoolchildren, who were seriously injured, were shifted to the trauma centre of the Civil Hospital, Quetta.

Officials at the Quetta hospital said they received 11 critically injured persons. Many have suffered multiple injuries. Dr Wasim Baig, spokesman for the civil hospital told Dawn that two of them died during treatment, while two others lost their lives in the trauma centre, pushing the death toll to eight.

He said four injured were shifted to CMH, Quetta.

In all, officials said, over 30 injured were admitted to Quetta and Nawab Rainani hospital.

Karai Commissioner Nadeem Baqi also confirmed to Dawn that eight

Continued on Page 5

Qatar to invest \$3bn in Pakistan: Tarar

- Reveals Qatari delegation will arrive soon, sees economy on path to stabilisation
- Terms KP gov't 'non-serious', accuses it of ignoring law and order issues

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday Qatar would invest \$3 billion in diverse sectors, adding that the financing would have a significant impact on the national economy and ultimately benefit the masses.

Pakistan, Qatar to explore ways to expand ties: Page 5

A delegation from Qatar would visit Pakistan to materialise the investment pledge, the minister disclosed while addressing a news conference highlighting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visits to Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

He said Pakistan's economy is on the path to stabilisation, adding that inflation has come down to 6.9 per cent.



PM Shehbaz Sharif meets delegates from the Qatar Businessmen Association in Doha, on Friday.—White Star

The country has received record remittances, while the interest rate has been reduced and the investment flow is increasing.

He pointed out that Pakistan had

achieved a fiscal surplus after 24 years. Mr Tarar recalled signing of 27 MoUs, envisaging \$2.2bn worth of

Continued on Page 5

Returns on National Savings slashed

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: The government has sharply reduced returns on savings accounts by up to 360 basis points, further chabbling small investors.

Profit rates for National Savings Schemes (NSS) have been revised across all categories, with only slight reductions for pensioners, Mushafa and Bahadur schemes for widows.

The NSS, launched in 1965 to attract investments, initially saw strong participation, but its appeal dimmed when corporate entities began leveraging these schemes for risk-free returns. Corporate investments were subsequently banned in July 2020 to protect small investors, leading to a significant decline in total NSS investment volumes.

The biggest cut affects Special Savings Certificates (SSCs), where returns have dropped to 11.60 per cent from 15.20pc — a 360 basis point decline.

Special Savings Accounts (SSAs) were also hit, with returns down by 220 basis points, now offering 13pc instead of 15.20pc. Regular Income Certificates (RIC) saw a smaller cut of 60 basis points, bringing returns to 12.12pc.

Islamic accounts were also impacted, with profits on the Surra Islamic Savings Account (SISA) and Surra Islamic Term

Continued on Page 5

ON OTHER PAGES



MPAs suggest measures to fight smog

As the Punjab Assembly continued its debate on smog and water scarcity in the province for a third day on Friday, members from the treasury and opposition suggested curbs on industrial and vehicular emissions, besides implementation of laws to check pollution. The speaker assured members their suggestions would be shared with the relevant departments. Page 2



Inflation edges up to 7.2pc

The annual consumer inflation rate edged up to 7.2 per cent in October from 6.9pc in September, driven by a modest increase in prices of perishable food items. Despite this increase, the headline inflation rate measured by the CPI remains much lower than recorded earlier this year. The minor increase is mostly due to a rise in food items such as tomatoes, onions and pulses. Page 9



New payment model for IPPs without 'profit bonanza'

- Govt wants to cut capacity costs, hold power producers accountable for 'excess profiteering'
- 'Unhappy' companies blame heavy taxes for costly electricity tariffs
- Independent generators say 'forced' renegotiations will damage investors' confidence

ANALYSIS

By Nasir Jamal in Lahore

A NEW financial model proposed by the government to 18 independent power producers (IPPs) will significantly reduce their capacity payments and also reverse "excess profits" made by these companies in the past, senior managers of three IPPs and a government official told Dawn.

A government task force is currently renegotiating the terms of power purchase agreements with four IPPs set up under the 1994 power policy and 14 under the 2002 policy.

The present round of negotiations with the 18 IPPs, aimed at slashing the burden of capacity payments and reducing electricity tariffs, started last Monday. The talks are expected to conclude in the next couple of weeks.

The current negotiations, the

task force member said, "are part of the structural power-sector reforms."

"They [IPPs] have made good money. Now it is incumbent upon them to help solve the crisis facing the consumers and the economy at large."

The government is aiming to scrap the 'take-or-pay' model under which the IPPs were paid fixed costs, commonly referred to as capacity payments — to cover their capital and operations expenses — regardless of the electricity sold to the grid.

Background interviews with stakeholders from both sides involved in the negotiations reveal that the authorities intend to substantially cut the fixed costs by moving the IPPs to a 'take-or-pay' model for the remaining life of these plants, which range from three to 17 years.

This, according to the govern-

ment, was because the IPPs "overstated" their fixed costs at the time of tariff determination.

The power producers deny it.

They claim the alleged excess profits were made possible by making the plants more efficient.

"All IPPs use the same technical spec and were given the same tariff. Only some of them were able to increase their efficiency and earn more," a director of one IPP claimed, adding the government wants to "penalise us for being efficient."

The renegotiations of excess payments made to the power producers are based on a 2020 inquiry report prepared by a committee headed by former SDCP chairman and current energy minister Muhammad Ali.

The task force member Dawn talked to said the excess profits over and above the guaranteed returns are being incorporated

into the revised payment model because IPPs "could not justify" this amount by labelling it as efficiency gains.

Revised contracts

Once the contracts are revised, the capacity payments to IPPs — for the remaining life of the plant — will be reduced to 70 to 75pc of the average annual fixed costs over the last five years.

This payment will be besides the amount paid for electricity dispatched to the national grid.

The task force has also revised the deals with eight bagasse-fired IPPs, with an estimated savings of Rs55m to 100m.

The exact amount of savings will be known once the revised contracts are finalised.

A source linked with the task force told Dawn that the tariff of these bagasse-based IPPs has been reduced substantially by delinking

the fuel prices from the imported coal rates and replacing it with local currency-based pricing.

"[T]he formula is changed by delinking the bagasse price from international coal price and removing dollar indexation. It will significantly reduce the tariffs," he added.

Capacity payments vs taxes

The private power producers have called the government's renegotiation approach "coercive" and complained about the "arm-twisting tactics" in a letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The 10 IPPs challenged the claims that capacity payments were responsible for making electricity unaffordable for consumers.

"The average generation tariff is Rs 27/kWh, while the average consumer tariff is over

Continued on Page 5

55 YEARS OF YOUR TRUST



HURON DILS LIMITED

Producers of quality automotive and industrial lubricants

Head Office: 021-35214000-8 Regional Office: 042-35757758

www.huronoil.com

DAWN



Sufi Super

DETERGENT POWDER

www.sufigroup.biz

KP 'ready to pay more than Rs10bn' for stake in PIA

KP Board of Investment and Trade writes to privatisation minister

By Manzoor Ali

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has formally conveyed to the federal government that it is ready to offer a bid for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), which would surpass the highest offer of Rs10 billion by the Blue World Consortium.

In a letter addressed to Federal Minister for Privatisation Ahsan Khan, KP Board of Investment and Trade (KPBOIT) vice chairman Hassan Masood Kusrar stated they would like their intent to participate in the bidding process for the sale of PIA to the federal government.

The letter stated that on behalf of the chief minister and people of the province, they would like to express their con-

"In line with this commitment, we are prepared to offer a bid that will surpass the current highest offer of Rs10 billion by Blue World Consortium, ensuring a strong and competitive position within this process," it said.

It said they were also looking for an immediate opportunity with the privatisation ministry team to present the province's proposal in detail, discuss their strategic vision for PIA and elaborate their capacity to meet and exceed the highest bids.

"Please let us know a convenient time for this engagement, as we are prepared to act swiftly and decisively in our pursuit of this vital national interest," the letter added.

Sources said the issue was discussed during a meeting attended by KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Thursday.

KPBOIT vice chairman Hassan Masood Kusrar told Dawn that the KP government bidding for the national flag carrier was not political, rather a genuine attempt to save the vital national asset from being sold off at a throwaway price.

He said that KP government would offer a bid higher than the Rs10bn offered by the current highest bidder for the acquisition. He said that federal government spent between \$25m and \$30m in its privatisation process while selling it for just \$35m would be a grave injustice with the people of Pakistan.

Mr Kusrar claimed that the Blue World Consortium was backed by the China Southern Airlines and people of Pakistan would come forward to save their pride, which had a legacy of more than 70 years. He said that KPBOIT also showed interest in the bidding process so that other investors from across the province could get the chance to acquire the national flag carrier.

"We are not going to allow the sale of the national flag carrier at a throwaway price," Mr Kusrar said.

He claimed that the KP government was working with technical and financial partners for the acquisition of the airline. He said that the airline would be run through experts by ending the role of political mafia.



RAHEM YAR KHAN: Elite force personnel patrol a sandy island along the Indus river, in the 'Katcha lands' of this district in southern Punjab. The riverine backwaters, located at the junction of three provinces, have been in the limelight following audacious attacks on police and other law enforcement agencies by Maoists based in the area. These outlaws have also terrorised locals, hatching honey pot schemes to lure people in and then holding them for ransom, police say.—AFP

Plane speaks: Editorial on Page 6

ment interest in participating in the bidding process for the sale of PIA.

"This letter serves as our formal intent to position the government of KP as a competitive bidder in this strategic acquisition," the letter read.

Besides, it said, as the national flag carrier, PIA represents a critical asset for the nation.

"Recognising the importance of retaining PIA within the national fold, the chief minister has directed us to actively pursue the acquisition to ensure the airline remains under the control of government rather than being transferred to a private or foreign-backed entity," the letter read.

The letter asked the federal government to consider the KP government proposal as a viable option to retain the national flag within a provincial structure, preserving PIA legacy and aligning with the public interest in maintaining national interest.

CM cannot completely ban transfers and postings, LHC rules

Court sets aside March 1 notification, approved by Punjab chief minister

By Waqif Ahmad Sheikh

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court has ruled that the law does not allow the chief minister to place a complete ban on the transfer/posting of government officials.

"Chief Minister can exercise powers and perform functions within the limitations defined and contours prescribed through legislative fiat," Justice Amin Hafeez holds in a judgement, setting aside a March 1, 2024, notification approved by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

Malik Ijaz Ahmad and some other officials of different departments had filed petitions challenging the notification, under which the chief minister had imposed a complete ban on all kinds of transfers/postings with immediate effect.

Opposing the petitioners, a provincial law officer argued that in terms of the constitutional mandate the executive authority of the province vests in the chief minister, who is otherwise

empowered to extend approval to appointments, postings, promotions and transfers in terms of Rule 23 of the Punjab Government Rules of Business, 2011. He also sought protection of section 9 of the Civil Servants Act, 1974.

However, Justice Hafeez, in his order, observed that the Rule 23 is not attracted in the matter in hand and even though the rule does not authorise the chief minister to place a complete ban on postings/transfers.

The judge also rejected the reliance on section 9 of the Civil Servants Act, 1974, made by the government's lawyer as being misplaced, saying the same does not permit issuance of such notification, placing the ban comprehensively.

The judge observed that the notification apparently further creates an exception and permits transfers/postings, subject to special circumstances, and approval of the chief minister.

The judge noted that the executive authority vested in the government or chief minister is circumscribed by the law, to the extent legislated by the legislature.

"There is no civil that postings and transfers are governed and regulated in terms of section 9 of the Civil Servants Act, 1974, and rules framed thereunder, and

according to the policy of the government, unless aligned with the permissible limits, prescribed by law," the judge added.

He said that the executive, by no stretch of imagination, could assume the role of the legislature, and proceed to legislate in garb of exercise of executive authority.

He said if the legislature intends to extend powers to the chief minister to control and regulate posts and transfers of civil servants operating in the province, same may legislate and make requisite amendments in relevant laws.

Commenting on the impugned notification, Justice Hafeez termed it an overreach by the executive tantamount to an arbitrary exercise of power and otherwise disturbs administrative equilibrium of checks and balances.

"Notification appears to be a reversion of colonial legacy," he said, mentioning that nothing was placed on record to demonstrate that legal opinion was solicited from the principal law officer of the province before issuing the impugned notification.

Justice Hafeez also rejected another argument of the government's lawyer on the jurisdiction of the court to hear the matter after the 26th amendment, which envisages placing of such cases

before the constitutional benches.

The judge noted that the mechanism for activating newly inserted changes in the Constitution, which deals with the constitutional benches in the High courts, has not been adopted so far.

The conclusion requires a resolution passed by a majority of the total membership of the respective provincial assembly to give effect to the provision of article 202A.

"Even otherwise instant petition is entertained and decided in exercise of powers under sub-clause (b) of clause (a) of Article 199 of Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, to declare an act, undertaken without the authority of law," the judge observed in the judgement.

The judge set aside the impugned notification for being without lawful authority.

However, the judge ordered that to avoid administrative disruption, the transfer orders made or cancelled, purportedly under the direction of the impugned notification shall continue to hold field, unless affirmed, withdrawn or cancelled by the competent authorities.

The judge said the petitioners are at liberty to raise individual grievances with the authorities competent to consider grievances relating to transfers/postings.

Demo for recovery of missing Balochistan University students

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: A demonstration was held on Friday to protest the forcible disappearance of two students from Balochistan University on the call of the Baloch Students Action Committee.

A large number of students, human rights workers, and members of the Baloch Youth Committee (BYC) — along with women, children, and family members of the missing Sohail Baloch and Fawaz Baloch — participated in the rally, which began at Balochistan

University Club.

BYC leaders, including Dr. Mubram Baloch, Seema Din, Hiba Baloch, Dr. Rabia Baloch and Beberg Baloch, joined the participants as the rally reached outside Quetta Press Club.

Demonstrators carried placards, posters of the missing persons, and banners inscribed with their demands, and chanted slogans against the government.

Speakers, including family members of the missing students, condemned the forcible disappearances, stating that both were simply studying at the university. They

questioned what the students' 'sin' was, asserting that they only sought to voice the rights of the people of Balochistan.

They said both missing persons were ordinary students aspiring to serve their community through politics, yet their whereabouts have been unknown for the past three years.

They claimed that in the last month alone, 53 students had disappeared in various areas, with only 10 taken into custody from a field in Rawalpindi, and no information on their current locations. They demanded the recovery of all missing persons.



QUETTA: Activists and members of the Baloch Students Action Committee held a demonstration to demand the recovery of missing persons, at the Quetta Press Club, on Friday.—PPF

SECP cautions people against surge in fake investment schemes

Scammers lure individuals through 'false promises' of profits by offering 'insider tips'

By Raiba Ali

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has again cautioned people regarding a surge in fraudulent investment schemes being promoted on social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

These schemes are falsely presented as legitimate investment advisory services or training courses with the intent to deceive people into investing their money in these fraudulent schemes.

These scammers lure individuals by making false promises of extraordinary profits with minimal risk, offering so-called 'insider tips' in exchange for membership fees or investment via the relevant platforms.

To appear credible, the fraudsters frequently misuse the names, images, and logos of well-known business professionals, reputable companies, SECP, and the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

Since August 2024, the SECP has been issuing warnings and cautioning the people against these fake schemes. Additionally, a popup warning message has been deployed on the SECP's official website.

The SECP's efforts are further supported by an awareness campaign launched by the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

To ensure a comprehensive and coordinated response, the SECP has informed key regulatory and

law-enforcement agencies, including the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) about these fake schemes.

These agencies are expected to take appropriate legal action against individuals and entities involved in such fraudulent activities.

The SECP has also brought this matter to Media's attention, urging immediate steps to safeguard users in such fraudulent schemes.

The SECP has urged the people to remain vigilant and verify the authenticity of any investment scheme before committing any funds and the individuals should not share personal or financial information with unverified sources or through social media platforms to avoid falling victim to financial scams.

Delegation to visit US for Aafia's release, IHC told

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Ullah Khan on Friday informed the Islamabad High Court that a Pakistani delegation will visit the United States soon after the presidential election to request the release of Dr Aafia Siddiqui.

Mr Khan shared the information with Justice Saeed Ijaz Ali during the hearing of a petition filed by Aafia's sister, Dr Farwa Siddiqui.

The ACP said the four-member delegation would consist of Senator Talha Mahmood, co-minister Amna Raza Khan, Dr Farwa Siddiqui and a medical professional.

The team aims to engage with US officials over the next two weeks, with plans to depart soon after the US elections end.

The delegation's priority will be advocating for Dr Aafia Siddiqui's repatriation and ensuring her health and welfare, he said.

Justice Khan appointed Advocate Zahid Jangoo as the focal person to coordinate between the parties involved.

The next hearing of the case is scheduled for late November, allowing time for the delegation's diplomatic discussions in the US.

No evidence to support rape claims at Lahore college: HRCP

TikToker remanded for claiming to be mother of alleged rape victim

By Imaan Gabol and Waqif Ahmad Sheikh

LAHORE: A joint fact-finding mission by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and AGHS Legal Aid Cell has stated that, without forensic evidence or credible testimonies, it is impossible to verify widespread allegations that a student was sexually assaulted at a private college in Lahore last month.

The mission noted a series of events that have heightened suspicion and distrust among students at Punjab College Campus 10. Those events included a spate of social media posts making unverified allegations of rape, contra-

dictory statements from government representatives — who initially endorsed and later denied the claims — and a delayed, inadequate response from the college administration.

The mission condemned the use of "disproportionate force" by police against hundreds of students who protested at Campus 10 on Oct 18, demanding justice for the alleged victim, only to be met with police violence.

Further analysis of online engagement suggested that other parties may have exploited the students' narrative to extend their own social media reach, the mission said.

The mission observed that the students' protest underlined dissatisfaction with campus security, perceived incidents of harassment and a lack of trust in the college administration and police. The mission believes that the testimony of students' is to be treated with caution because of the apparent role of misinformation.

At the same time, the damage wrought by per-

vasive misinformation is grounds for strong, regular public campaigns on digital literacy and fact-checking.

Among other recommendations, the mission suggests conducting a forensic investigation of the CCTV footage collected on Campus 10 over the first two weeks of October and holding the police accountable for violence against student protesters as well as for detaining a person accused of the alleged offence in the absence of an FIR against him.

The mission strongly believes, however, that concerns of harassment and sexual violence on campus must always be taken seriously and effective anti-harassment committees instituted on all campuses that can be accessed easily by students while respecting their right to confidentiality.

TikToker remanded for false claim

Meanwhile, an anti-ravertoo court on Friday

granted Golberg police a six-day physical remand for a TikToker, Sara Khan, who claimed to be the mother of an alleged rape victim at Punjab College.

Police presented Ms Khan in court, seeking a 14-day remand. The investigating officer stated that the suspect recorded a video in which she claimed to be the mother of the alleged victim and posted it on her TikTok account. The video quickly went viral, adding to the controversy around the case.

The officer told the court that the suspect had been charged with making a false claim, inciting public sentiment against authorities and encouraging violence.

Judge Manzoor Ali Gill approved a six-day remand, specifying that Ms Khan — a Karachi resident with a permanent address in Multan — would remain in police custody from sunrise to sunset and spend nights in judicial custody.

These schemes are falsely presented as legitimate investment advisory services or training courses with the intent to deceive people into investing their money in these fraudulent schemes.

These scammers lure individuals by making false promises of extraordinary profits with minimal risk, offering so-called 'insider tips' in exchange for membership fees or investment via the relevant platforms.

To appear credible, the fraudsters frequently misuse the names, images, and logos of well-known business professionals, reputable companies, SECP, and the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

Since August 2024, the SECP has been issuing warnings and cautioning the people against these fake schemes. Additionally, a popup warning message has been deployed on the SECP's official website.

The SECP's efforts are further supported by an awareness campaign launched by the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

To ensure a comprehensive and coordinated response, the SECP has informed key regulatory and

Two health teams face resistance during dengue surveillance, polio campaign

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Two health department teams carrying out dengue surveillance and polio vaccination faced resistance in different incidents in the garrison city.

In the first incident, a worker of the health department team deputed to carry out dengue surveillance was attacked by a woman in Munawar Colony.

Shakila Kausar, a resident of Chaurtra, lodged an FIR with the police saying that she was on duty on Thursday on Street No 10, Munawar Colony, Adiala Road.

When she knocked on the door of a house, a woman inquired from inside and when she was told her that they were from the dengue wing of the health department, she refused to let them in.

The health department team subsequently put a mark of 'infused' on the main door of the house and left.

Shakila further said that as they were moving forward, the woman came out of the house, grabbed her by the neck and put marks on her clothes and face with a marker, saying that since she had marked the door of her house, she did the same to her face.

She further said in the FIR that the enraged woman used abusive language against her and also tore her Afsos.

Following Shakila's complaint, a police case was registered and investigation launched.

Likewise, a team administering polio vaccination drops in Bahria Town's Phase VII faced resistance from at least four families who refused to get their children vaccinated against the crippling disease. The health team then informed the police and continued with their campaign.

Krishna temple lights up for Diwali celebrations

By Aamir Yasir



WOMEN light written lamps during Diwali celebrations at Krishna temple in Rawalpindi's Saddar area on Friday. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

RAWALPINDI: Krishna Temple, the only worship place for the Hindu community in the twin cities of Rawalpindi-Islamabad, echoed with chants of 'Happy Diwali' on Friday evening soon after the end of mass prayers.

The Hindu community members from Rawalpindi and Islamabad gathered at the Krishna Temple in Saddar to celebrate Diwali, the festival of light.

The temple was illuminated with lights and lit-up lamps and women, girls and children also came to the temple to offer religious rituals. The temple echoed with Bhajans, religious songs.

The main feature of the festival was earthen oil lamps which had been light up in every corner of the temple and Rangoli - different patterns made from colour powder on the doors of houses and temple's main entrance.

Diwali started on Thursday (October 31), but it was formally celebrated in the temple on Friday. It is the festival to mark the beginning of the New Year in the Hindu calendar and the home return of Hindu god Rama after 14 years in exile.

The festival started with Mantra followed by reciting verses from Ramayana and mass prayers. After that, children and women lit lamps and displayed fireworks. Special prayers were also offered for the country's development and prosperity.

According to Hindus, Diwali is celebrated to mark the return of Hindu god Ram to Ayodhya from his exile after vanquishing Lanka and killed demon-king Ravana.

"Ravi defeated evil forces and returned to Ayodhya, the people lit earthen lamps with Deepa glow to welcome him," Jai Ram, a Hindu priest of the temple, explained.

He said that Diwali symbolises the victory of good over evil, and lamps were lit as a sign of celebration and hope for mankind. He said on the first day the Hindus celebrated the festival in their homes and congregations were held at Krishna Mandir on Friday.

According to Jai Ram, the festival was connected with deep-rooted traditional and cultural values of Hindu religion. People wake up early in the morning, wear new

clothes, offer prayers and touch the feet of their elders and in return elders give them Diwali gifts.

Krishna Bharti said children enjoy the occasion a lot because they receive gifts from their elders, use firecrackers, and mostly families buy new clothes as well as sweets on the occasion of Diwali.

"All families try to take part in the celebrations wholeheartedly and according to their financial situation," he said inflation forced many people to borrow money to celebrate Diwali, adding he also had to borrow money so he could buy new clothes for his wife and children.

Woman from Taxila dies of dengue fever

By Our Staff Reporter

TAXILA: Health authorities and the local administration mourned on their loss after a patient died of dengue haemorrhagic fever in Taxila on Thursday.

Nadia Noorani, 32, a native of Mohra Shah Wali Shah of Union council 54 of the city, is the first woman to die of dengue in Taxila.

Deputy District Officer Dr Shahzad Rasool confirmed to Dawn that it was the first death caused by dengue, and that the authorities had decided to monitor dengue patients after a surge in positive cases in the area.

On the other hand, dengue patients continued to increase in Taxila and Wah at an alarming rate with 36 more people diagnosed with the virus raising the number of positive cases to 134 this season, local health department data showed.

Moreover, the official data reveals that dengue mosquito attacks continue to escalate in ward 7 of Wah Cantonment, which was emerging as a hotspot with positive cases rising to 38, followed by 24 in ward 6.

In union council Wah, the number of positive cases recorded was eight, six each in union council Sarai Khat, Thatta Khat and Jallala while four cases each in ward 2 and 9 of Wah.—Correspondent

Swati's bail petitions clubbed for hearing

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former Senator of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Azam Khan Swati on Friday got major relief from different courts of Islamabad as the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) clubbed all his bail petitions and invited arguments on Saturday (today).

ATC Judge Tahir Abbasi Sipsa was told that since October 5, Swati was under arrest and was nominated in 12 cases, with the recent court proceedings revealing an additional FIR filed against him at Margalla police station, which his defence claims was not disclosed to the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

During the course of the hearing, Judge Sipsa addressed the complexity of the case, referencing a recent order from the Islamabad High Court mandating judicial proceedings in seven cases against Swati.

However, Swati's lawyer argued that two case details were withheld from the High Court record. He warned that he would file a contempt of court petition over this alleged oversight, asserting that the police failed to provide a complete record.

When questioned, the investigating officer reported Swati's recent arrest, explaining that information on the additional FIR, dated October 5, was not communicated due to a departmental oversight.

Judge Sipsa was critical of the investigation process, emphasising that the police should verify financial assistance allegations against Swati through bank statements.

In a related development, IHC Justice Sarwar Rafiq Bhatti, has granted protective bail to Swati, preventing the police from arresting him in cases registered in Attock and Islamabad.

JIT close to completing probe into May 9 cases

RAWALPINDI: A Joint Investigation Team (JIT), probing cases related to the May 9 violence, is close to finishing the challenge since police investigation into the majority of the cases registered under the Anti-Terrorism Act has been completed.

A senior police official said majority of the challenges had been submitted to courts while the police were now finalising the remaining challenges. All the IOs with case files appeared before the JIT and submitted their reports.

The police JIT headed by Superintendent of Police (SP) Faizal Saleem on Friday called a meeting of the investigating officers probing into 13 cases registered with the Rawalpindi district police under Anti-Terrorism Act, Official Secret Act, abetting violence after several sections of the law against hundreds of people, majority of them PTI workers and leaders.

The cases were registered with the R.A Banner police for attacking the army headquarters, New Town police for storming Barera Camp, Civil Lines police for attacking the army mess, Court police for attacking AWT Plaza, Taxila police, Sadqabad, Margah police for attacking post



SINDH BUILDING CONTROL AUTHORITY

Old Cantonment Building, University Road, Ghalibagh-Iqbal, Karachi, Pakistan
Phone: 371-8020025 Fax: 371-8029338 Website: www.sbcra.gov.pk

PUBLIC NOTICE

AL-WAKEEL PLAZA

Plot No. 15, PH-2, Preetly Quarters, Karachi

Buildings Control Authority hereby informed to general public that Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) has issued NOC for Sale & Advertisement of TRANSFORMER WORKSHOP (above of noted project) for issued vide No. SB/CA/OP/TRANS/2024/145 Dtd. 01/10/2024, dated 01/10/2024, in favor of Mr. Muhammad Shauq (to Abdul Wahab & 04 others) CNOC No. 42301-2024/15-5 Co-Owners of Plot & Part of M/s Down Town Enterprises office situated at Plot # D-48, Block T Scheme-5 Clifton Karachi, on the basis of approved Building Plan / Construction Permit vide SB/CA/OP/Construct/ South/West/Prop/00202403, Dated 09/02/2023, according to Statement 2 (NOC) - Statement 1 (Shop) + Ground Floor (Shop + Service) + 1st to 3rd Floor (Store + Service) + 4th to 8th Floor (Office) + 9th Floor (Office /Shop + Restaurant) + 10th to 20th Floor (Office / Shop + Service) + Roof Top (Solar Panel + Machine Room) Only (Admission) 1021/30 (sq Yds).

Proposed Date of Completion: 04/01/2027

Name of Applicant: Shauq, Mueed (C/O 01/15)

Name of Builder: M/s Down Town Enterprises (B-3914)

Units Offer for Sale are as under

TYPE	FLOOR	COVERED AREA	NOS	UNIT PRICE
Shops	Basement-1	2620.83	26	@ Rs. 20,000/- PSF
Shops	Ground	2019.88	10	@ Rs. 20,000/- PSF
Stores	1st 2nd & 3rd	8328.93	12	@ Rs. 10,000/- PSF
Shops/Office	9th	1294.12	02	@ Rs. 10,000/- PSF
Shops/Office	10th to 20th	44807.63	66	@ Rs. 10,000/- PSF

NOTE:

- Transfer fee 2.0% of unit Price.
- Above mentioned prices does not include documentation / utility connection charges / floor / ceiling, roof / facing / corner charges / wast open charges etc.
- All above charges to be clearly mentioned in schedule of payment.
- Payment will be made to the builder strictly in accordance with the following schedule of payment based on stage of construction at site.

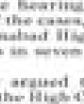
S.No.	Stage of Construction	Installments
1	On Booking	5%
2	On Completion	5%
3	On Completion of Plinth of concerned Block	5%
4	On casting of Columns of concerned Block	5%
5	On casting of Slab of concerned unit/floor	5%
6	On Completion of block masonry of concerned unit/floor	5%
7	On completion Sanitary and plumbing work of concerned unit	5%
8	On completion of plaster of concerned unit/floor	5%
9	On completion of Finishing of concerned unit/floor	10%
10	On Possession of concerned unit	10%
11	Balance 40% in equal quarterly installments	40%

SBCA further advise General Public to sign a written Agreement with the builder/developer at the time of booking on No. 100/- Stamp Paper in accordance with MODEL AGREEMENT of SBCA as per clause (4) Section 12 of SB/CA-1975 up to date, within 30 days of booking of unit and before issuance of Allocation letter. The Agreement will be got counter signed / witnessed by the Authorized representatives of SB/CA within 15 days, otherwise Builder will not be allowed to collect further payments/installments as per approved schedule of payment otherwise SBCA will not act as an arbitrator in any dispute between the Builder/Developer and Abites.

Copy of MODEL AGREEMENT may be obtained from Public Counter, SBCA, Civic Centre, Ground Floor Annex Building or may be downloaded from SBCA's web site www.sbcra.gov.pk

SINDH BUILDING CONTROL AUTHORITY

Public Sale Advertisement & Companies
3rd Floor, Civic Centre, Annex Building, Ghalibagh-Iqbal, Karachi. Tel: 42712501/24



TENDER NOTICE

The Section Officer/Chief Executive Development Camp, Fisheries Department Balochistan Quetta invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of following items. TSS-2023-1003281 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of EPPRA 000. Tender Fee Not required.

S.No.	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Security Equipment, Ammunition, Protective Clothing & related items (Total Items) Count: 14	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Managements of Similar Nature and Complexity 5,000,000 in Previous 10 Years Turn over of at least 12,000,000 PKR in 2 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. It is not permissible Submission of the required bid security in case bid security is not received as required. During financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as eligible and non-responsive BIA Procedure Of Procurement Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security. The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit or Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.eppra.gov.pk in case of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.eppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically till 16 November, 2024 at 12:30 PM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: At tenders will be opened on same day at 11:30 PM on EPPRA System. Address: block-12 civil secretariat ranghor road quetta Phone no: 0810001224. Fax no: 8700104411 bid_gov@ppra.gov.pk

PRO No. 1781/01-11-2024

Section Officer/Chief Executive Development & Fisheries Department Balochistan Quetta



Quetta Electric Supply Company

TENDER NOTICE

1. QESCO invites sealed bids from the manufacturers / suppliers who are registered with sales tax department on active tax payer list (VAT) of PFR and also registered with QESCO for the supply of the following material on free delivery at Transformer Substation Workshop, QESCO Quetta according to WAPDA/PTDC (QESCO) /PTDC specifications (mentioned in detail on single stage Single Envelope Tender). The submission should be registered with PEC having Registration Code MB-03 Certificate duly verified from Engineering Council Quetta and used by reference for 2024-25.

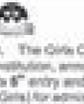
Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Deadline for Bid Submission	Opening date and time
1.	T-01	Supply of 30 KVA Cells, LT Copper Wire and wiring of LT Cables for 200 KVA L09W L09W Distribution Transformers.	18.11.2024 10:00 AM	18.11.2024 11:30 AM
2.	T-02	Supply of 30 KVA Cells, LT Copper Wire and wiring of LT Cables for 100 KVA L09W L09W Distribution Transformers.	18.11.2024 10:00 AM	18.11.2024 10:00 Noon
3.	T-03	Supply of 30 KVA Cells, LT Copper Wire and wiring of LT Cables for 25 KVA & 30 KVA L09W L09W Distribution Transformers.	18.11.2024 12:00 Noon	18.11.2024 12:30 PM

Terms & Conditions: (i) Tender must be accompanied by the correct money equal to 2% of the bid cost in shape of Bank Guarantee or Call deposit obtained from a scheduled Bank of Pakistan. The bid without correct money will be rejected. No pre-emptive Bidder's charges will be accepted. (ii) Bid will remain valid for 120 days from the date of opening of tender. (iii) The firm shall be registered with QESCO (QESCO is M-10) company. (iv) The firm shall have satisfactory performance in QESCO (QESCO) /PTDC projects in last 3 years. (v) The firm must have experience of 10 years in LT / LT Cables Manufacturing. (vi) Tender documents can be obtained from the office of Deputy Manager Transformer Substation Workshop, South/West/Algarah, Quetta against non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000.00 per tender on working day during office hours till a day earlier from the opening date of tender. (vii) Tender will be received and opened in the office of Chief Engineer QESCO Headquarter Zangeneh Road, Quetta on the date and time as mentioned above, in the presence of bidders or their Authorized representative who choose to attend. (viii) Tenders will be received personally and will be dropped in sealed box left on floor before the opening time.

Note: The Bidding Authority reserves the right for rejection and cancellation of all bid / proposals with compelling reasons as per PFR/PA Rules. This tender is also available on PFR/PA WWW.PFR/PA.QESCO.PK & QESCO's website respectively.

Deputy Manager
Transformer Reclamation Workshop
QESCO Quetta

PHDQ/177/24



ADMISSION FOR CLASS-VII

YEAR 2024 (B-ENGLISH)

- The Girls Cadet College Turbat, an English Medium Residential institution, announces the admission in class 7th for the year 2024 in its 8th entry and invites the applications from interested candidates (Girls) for admission to the institute.
- ELIGIBILITY:** The Candidates must have passed Class-VI Examination from a recognized school by 31st March 2024. Must not be under 11 and over 14 Years of age till 28/02/2025 and the candidate must be medically fit.
- SELECTION:** a) Admissions are granted strictly on the basis of merit, which will be determined through written examination and interview. The written test will be conducted from Balochistan Text Book Board 2024 syllabus of class seventh standard comprising of following four subjects and interview comprising Viva and Intelligence test.

S	Details	Maths	English	Urdu	Science	Total
1	Objective (MCQs)	10	10	10	10	40
2	Subjective (Short Answer)	10	10	10	10	40
3	Subjective (Long Answer)	10	10	10	10	40
Total						120

Sl. No.	Details	Percentage	Marks
1	Viva	20%	20
2	Intelligence Test	20%	20
Total			40

a) Objective and subjective (English and Urdu medium) written examination will be conducted through a third party service.
b) Selections are made through written test, weightage of written test is 50% and of interview is 50% followed by medical examination.

4. SEATS ALLOCATION

- Open Merit - 09
- Katit Division - 17
- Zhab Division - 07
- Nasirabad Division - 06
- Rakhshan Division - 13
- Quetta Division - 13
- Sibi Division - 07
- Makran Division - 11
- Total Seats - 86

(09 Seats are allocated for self finance)

5. College Admission Form:-
Admission Form and Registration Fee Chalan can be downloaded from www.qccollege.edu.pk and can be requested on whatsapp numbers: 03001790605 and 03042803005.

6. Registration Fee/Misc:- Rs. 2,000 to be deposited in Account No. 8777-28018008 (Shahkai Fatima Bitt Mubarak Girls Cadet College Turbat) United Bank Limited Pakistan, Main Branch, Turbat. Original Chalan (College Copy) must be attached with the application form.

7. Last date for receiving of application form complete is, all respect is 07th December 2024. At Shahkai Fatima Bitt Mubarak Girls Cadet College, Turbat Near Makran Scout Camp Abuar

Principal Shahkai Fatima Bitt Mubarak Girls Cadet College, Turbat

No application form will be entertained after closing date and neither acceptable through email, whatsapp or fax/Text.

8. Information of written Test:-
Date, center and time will be intimated via call/ Whatsapp message and social media account of QCCCT.

10. Interview:-
Shortlisted candidates for interviews will be intimated via call/whatsapp message followed by call letters, or postal addresses mentioned in their admission forms.

For query call: 03001790605, 03042803005 and (0852) 417460-1

AB No. 443/01-11-2024

Pakistan, Qatar to explore ways to expand ties

PM Shehbaz, Qatari emir resolve to deepen cooperation in various sectors

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Qatar have agreed to deepen cooperation and explore new horizons to strengthen bilateral ties, underscoring the importance of high-level exchanges to enhance mutual understanding, trade and investments.

Bilateral ties were discussed during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's two-day official visit to the Gulf state which ended on Friday.

The PM held meetings with Qatari emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

The two sides discussed opportunities in several fields in Pakistan in the context of previous investment pledges. Key regional and global developments of mutual concern were also discussed, according to a joint statement issued by the PM Office.

Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated Qatar's continuous support for Pakistan in various fields, and highlighted investment opportunities in vital sectors.

The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral relations, with emphasis on investment and trade, alongside discussions on cooperation in other fields.

The Qatari emir stressed the importance of bilateral relations and the two sides' aspiration to enhance economic partnership, increase trade exchange, and promote investments.

Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz also discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations and explore various avenues of collaboration in areas of economy, trade, investment and cultural exchange.

PM Shehbaz expressed his gratitude for Qatar's role in supporting economic development in Pakistan, praising the presence of a large Pakistani commu-

nity in Qatar that acts as a bridge linking the two countries.

The Qatari prime minister stressed the importance of Pakistan as a strategic partner in the region, expressing Qatar's commitment to deepen bilateral economic ties to serve the common interests of the two countries.

The two sides also discussed regional and global issues, stressing the importance of peaceful solutions and cooperative efforts to address the current challenges.

The premier praised the diplomatic efforts and humanitarian initiatives of Qatar to promote peace in the region, especially its role as a mediator in the Palestine issue and its commitment to supporting efforts to establish stability in the region.

During the tour, PM Shehbaz and the Qatari emir also visited the exhibition "Maritime Art and Architecture in Pakistan from the 1940s to the Present".

Business delegation
Before his departure from Doha, PM Shehbaz also met a delegation of the Qatar Businessmen Association (QBA) and high-lighted opportunities in Pakistan's energy, infrastructure and finance sectors, presenting the country as an attractive destination for investment.

The QBA delegation, led by Sheikh Faizal bin Qasim Al Thani, comprised leading Qatari business figures each representing influential sectors within Qatar's economy.

The meeting brought together key representatives from Pakistan and influential members of Qatar's business community, emphasising shared goals for strengthening trade, investment, and economic partnerships.

Delegation from various countries expressed interest in Pakistan's economic landscape, particularly in energy, technology and infrastructure development projects.

Both sides explored potential collaborations that could drive job creation, innovation, and sustainable development in both countries.

The QBA members responded positively to the prime minister's invitation, indicating their interest in expanding their investment in Pakistan's energy and infrastructure sectors.

'Qatar to invest \$3bn in Pakistan'

Continued from Page 1

investment, during the successful visit of a high-level Saudi delegation, led by Minister for Investment Sheikh Khalid bin Abdul Aziz Al Falih, a few weeks ago which included fruitful government-to-government and business-to-business meetings.

In a follow-up to that visit, the prime minister had very productive discussions in Saudi Arabia including his meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of the eighth session of the Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh, he noted.

Mr Taseer said that during the meeting, both sides reiterated their resolve to further strengthen bilateral relations and enhance trade with and investment in Pakistan.

Both countries have longstanding ties to people ties which spanned over decades, he said, lauding the hospitality extended by Saudi Arabia to Pakistani pilgrims during Umrah and Hajj.

He said the prime minister thanked Saudi Arabia for the crucial role it played for Pakistan's deal with IMF and for hosting Pakistani pilgrims.

During the visit, the minister said, delegation-level talks were also held that led to increase in the number of recently concluded MoUs from 27 to 34, while volume of investment also went up to \$2.8bn.

The minister hoped that an additional investment of \$400-million would have a positive impact on economy, and "we believe this is a major step towards attracting foreign investment in the mining, energy, agriculture, livestock, IT and human resource development sectors of economy".

As regards the PM's visit to Qatar, he said this has great importance for relations between the two countries.

The information minister said Qatar hosted an exhibition celebrating Pakistani artwork from 1947 to the present. The exhibition featured renowned artists and painters, including the acclaimed architect Nagat Ali Dada.

The relationship between Prime Minister Shehbaz and the Qatari emir was further emphasised by the warm reception he received during his visit.

In reply to a question, Mr Taseer alleged that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had a 'non-serious' government, pointing out their 'misadventures' of the past, and asked about their performance in health, infrastructure and other sectors.

He said the KP government had not taken any public service initiatives, for which the names would soon hold them accountable.

He said the KP chief minister was not qualified to run the provincial affairs. "Eradication of terrorism is the responsibility of the government, and we are committed to eradicating terrorism," he remarked.—APP

Children among eight dead in Mastung bombing

Continued from Page 1

people, including five children, were martyred in the blast. He said, "The blast took place at 8:42am when children were on their way to school."

The school van, a rickshaw and some other vehicles were badly damaged in the blast while windowspanes of nearby buildings, including girls school, district hospital and shops were shattered by the impact of the powerful bombing that rocked the entire town.

Eight people including children who were martyred in the blast were identified as schoolchildren

Gilani said. PM Shehbaz instructed the authorities to apprehend the perpetrators of the blast and take them to task, besides directing the best possible medical treatment of the injured. "The attack on a school is the manifestation of terrorists' animosity to education in Balochistan. Such cowardly acts can neither undermine the nation's morale nor that of Balochistan's government to promote education and development. The whole nation feels proud of its policemen and soldiers for their sacrifices to safeguard the country," he remarked.

CM Raziq expressed deep sorrow and grief over the attack targeting innocent children and said that such attacks only strengthened government's resolve to eliminate terrorism. The cowardly acts could not disrupt educational progress, he said while speaking at a laptop distribution ceremony at Government Girls Postgraduate Degree College, Quetta.

"We will provide promising students from Balochistan with opportunities to study at esteemed institutions worldwide," he said and announced several initiatives, including a high-tech lab at the college, 50 scooters for female students, and merit-based award of additional laptops.

He called for unity among students in rejecting terrorism and warned of attempts by external forces to mislead Baloch youth through propaganda. The CM expressed hope for a bright future for female students in Balochistan, noting that currently, five deputy commissioners and one assistant commissioner in the province are women who have proven to be effective administrators. He said he believed one day Balochistan would have a female chief minister.

'No leniency'
While denouncing the incident, Interior Minister Naqvi shared his heartfelt condolences, saying that no words were enough to condemn the incident of targeting innocent children. He described the attack as an "act of brutality", adding that "targeting children is a



PARAMEDICS shift a man injured in the Mastung bomb blast to Civil Hospital in Quetta on Friday.—APP

heinous crime that no one should tolerate." The minister made it clear that those responsible for such horrific acts would not face any leniency. "The brains who play with the lives of innocent children do not deserve any compassion," he stated, expressing government's commitment to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Meanwhile, United condemned the tragic attack in Mastung, calling for an end to this senseless violence and emphasising the need for ensuring the safety and protection of all children. In a statement issued in Islamabad on Friday, UN agency expressed heartfelt condolences to the families affected by this horrific

event and wished a swift recovery to the injured. **NA offers fatiha**
Also, the National Assembly offered Fatiha for victims of the Mastung bombing, a gun attack at the Panjgur dam site and for the personnel who lost their lives in a security operation in Buzdar Bakka Khel area.

Led by Ali Muhammad Khan, the lower house of parliament also offered fatiha for deceased family members of lawmakers, including MNA Mehtab Ghauri's brother, Mian Iftikhar, Minister Ghauri's aunt, and former governor Shah Farman's father.

Amin Ahmad in Islamabad also contributed to this report

GB celebrates freedom from Dogra rule

By Jamil Nigri

GILGIT: The 77th anniversary of the freedom of Gilgit-Baltistan from Dogra rule was celebrated across the region on Friday.

Special events were held in Gilgit, Skardu, Chitral, Shigar, Kharmang, Astore, Diamer, Ghizer, Hunza, and Nagar districts to commemorate those who died fighting the Dogra rulers.

On November 1, 1947, GB Scouts liberated the region from Dogra Raj and declared the region an 'independent' state. They later joined Pakistan.

The region's government had announced a public holiday to mark the day.

As part of the celebration, rallies were organised, decorated with banners and national flags, while pictures of national heroes were displayed on roads, homes and offices.

A flag-raising ceremony was held at the Yalghar-Shehadeh Chowk, Gilgit.

GB Governor Syed Mehdi Shah, Chief Minister Haji Gulzar Khan, Speaker Nazir Ahmed, regional ministers, X Corps Commander Lt Gen Shahid Inayat, Force Commander Northern Areas chief Maj Gen Irfan Hussain Gilani, Chief Secretary Akbar Ahmad Miran and other officials attended the ceremony.

They laid flowers at the memorial of independence heroes. For the first time in the history of Gilgit-Baltistan, a parade was held on Nov 1.

The parade, organised by the army at the Helipad Ground, was attended by civil and military officials.

The X Corps commander said the freedom of GB was a source of "pride" and the "only achievement of its kind".

He paid tribute to the "valiant and brave" people of Gilgit-Baltistan, who "liberated" the region and later joined Pakistan.

It is a manifestation of their "unconditional, matchless and unconditional" love for Pakistan. "This action of yours made the enemy believe forever that Gilgit-Baltistan was, and will remain a part of Pakistan."

While addressing the ceremony, CM Khan said the brave people of Gilgit-Baltistan were proud of their ghats and martyrs, whose sacrifices ensured their liberty.

Components of the army, GB Scouts, police, Punjab Rangers, cadet colleges Skardu and Chitral participated in the parade.

Commander of the elite Special Service Group demonstrated free fall jumping and parajumping during the event.

Schools and colleges across GB also held functions and events to mark the day. Children presented various national and regional songs and cultural dances.

BNP withdraws strike call after Mastung bomb blast

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The Balochistan National Party (BNP-Mengal) has withdrawn its province-wide school-jam strike call given for Nov 2 in view of Friday's bomb blast in Mastung which left eight people dead.

The BNP-Mengal has been holding protest rallies and observing strikes against registration of a terrorism case against the party leader Sardar Akhtar Mengal and arrest of the party's two other leaders.

The party announced on Friday that it has withdrawn the strike call because of the Mastung bomb blast and now the people are requested to observe a three-

Shahab appointed KP member in Irsa for three years

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Friday appointed Engineer Shahabuddin Mohammad Shahab as the member of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) for three years.

On the notification of his appointment as a member, Mr Shahab immediately assumed the charge of Irsa chairman for one year.

The federal government delayed the appointment of Mr Shahab, who was nominated by KP as its member on Sept 10. As a consequence, Muhammad Ayyaz, the secretary of KP Irrigation Depart-

ment, had assumed the role of the province's member as well as the chairman of the water regulator on October 18.

The position of KP's Irsa member had been vacant since May 8 following the completion of the four-year term of Engineer Zafar Abbas.

Since then, the KP government failed to nominate his successor. Interestingly, the provincial administration spent six months to appoint its previous member in May 2020.

Under Irsa's regulations, the chairmanship rotates annually among four provincial members and a federal representative.

The rotation begins with Balochistan, followed by KP, Punjab, Sindh and the federal government.

The post of the chairman fell vacant on Oct 17 after the one-year term of Balochistan's member, Abdul Hameed Mengal, ended.

Returns on National Savings slashed

Continued from Page 1

Account each reduced by 300 basis points to 11.0pc from 14.2pc.

Meanwhile, returns on long-term deposits, such as the Shalada Family Welfare Account, Pensioners' Benefit Account and Balbhad Savings Certificate, saw minor reductions of 24 basis points each, now offering 13.52pc.

These cuts were largely anticipated in the financial market due to the State Bank's recent interest rate reductions. Since June 2024, the State Bank has lowered the interest rate by 450 basis points to 17.5pc, with another potential cut expected in the most necessary policy announcement on Nov 4.

The new NSS profit rates will also take effect from Nov 4. NSS investments in July and August this year totalled Rs18.4 billion and Rs5.82 billion, respectively.

market due to the State Bank's recent interest rate reductions. Since June 2024, the State Bank has lowered the interest rate by 450 basis points to 17.5pc, with another potential cut expected in the most necessary policy announcement on Nov 4.

The new NSS profit rates will also take effect from Nov 4. NSS investments in July and August this year totalled Rs18.4 billion and Rs5.82 billion, respectively.

New payment model for IPPs without 'profit bonanza'

Continued from Page 1

\$600/kWh; this increase of over 100pc is due to heavy taxes, transmission & distribution costs and losses there," the letter stated.

The capacity payments, IPPs claimed, is Rs17/kWh in the total tariff, of which "more than half goes to [the] government-owned IPPs".

The letter by at least ten IPPs further said the generation tariff would reduce by only Rs0.5/kWh even if the government scraps the entire capacity payments of IPPs, set up under the 2002 policy, which cumulatively produce 2,400 MW of electricity.

They said the drastic decline of 22pc in electricity demand in the last two years and the exchange rate depreciation has increased capacity payments by over 40pc.

'Termination not an option'
The power producers argued their sovereign contracts are being renegotiated or terminated for the fourth time.

These coercive measures will severely "damage" investors' confidence and affect the government's efforts to privatise state-owned entities, one of the IPP representatives said.

The letter by 10 IPPs sought the premier's intervention, demanding that their contracts be terminated and outstanding payments be cleared.

They said the take-or-pay contracts of all IPPs — run by the government, both under CPEC and owned by other private companies — should be terminated to eliminate capacity payments altogether.

However, the task force members told Dawn that terminating contracts of IPPs "is not an option".

"We need them for bandwidth stability and also because of their loca-

tion ... Their termination would result in load shedding of two to three hours a day in some regions," he said.

The government's terms are "decree" which will ensure that contractual changes "don't affect" [IPP]s' business and that the plants are kept in good condition for future dispatch.

their contracts are being renegotiated or terminated for the fourth time.

The chief executive of an IPP told Dawn that policymakers "continue to focus on short-term gain" and have completely disregarded the damage it is doing to investors' confidence.

Local media has reported that the government has already received messages from different foreign governments over the "one-sided" deals reached with some IPPs after the renegotiations.

The German government has conveyed its reservations over the termination of the Roshdi Power Project Ltd, which Siemens is a shareholder.

"What is happening here is worse than Shalada's nationalisation," the IPP chief executive told Dawn, while referring to the move by ex-PM Bhutto to take private companies into government control in the early 70s.

"Last date of Applications submission: 15-11-2024 (during office hours)"

DIRECTOR GENERAL
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Directorate General of Science & Technology
Midway Building, Shams Road, Peshawar
021-3216580

INVITATION TO E-BID THROUGH SAP-ARIBA DISCOVERY

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

SR #	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CE-LOG-267817718-2024	ING NS SHIFTING FROM BALOCH-2 TO CHAN-2-2A SINDH PROVINCE	18.11.2024 AT 1030 Hrs
2.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CE-LOG-267817757-2024	ING NS SHIFTING FROM MELA AREA TO TOTT AREA TENSIL PINDR GAD ATTOCK, PUNJAB PROVINCE	18.11.2024 AT 1100 Hrs
3.	OGDCL-SCM-LBI-PT-CESS-000268442478-2024	CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE SLEEPERS FOR MONITORING TANKS-000 BILS AT PRASARI MAIN FACILITY SINDH PROVINCE	18.11.2024 AT 1130 Hrs
4.	OGDCL-SCM-LBB-CNRS-NAWAPUR-Dec265867664-2024	RETRIEVAL OF REDUNDANT EXISTING PIPE LINES, & GATHERING AREA, NAWAPUR, PANJUP & BAHU PUNJAB PROVINCE	18.11.2024 AT 1130 Hrs

- All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bid closing date/time.
- Tender Notice/ detailed instructions are available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk.
- Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through e-procurement portal at <https://epodcl.com/sap-ariba-tenders-or-discovery.ariba.com/profile/AN0156289621> for details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents.
- OGDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to amend the bidding process and reject all the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule-33.

GENERAL MANAGER (SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT)
OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
OGDCL HOUSE, JERMAN AVENUE, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN
PHONE NO. 92-01-50002344/3795

Ultimate price

As the world marks the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists today, the dangers confronting media professionals have become impossible to ignore, especially in regions plagued by conflict. The peril is particularly acute in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon, where according to CPJ, at least 134 journalists have been killed since the onset of Israeli hostilities last year. In Pakistan, too, the landscape is perilous, with over 150 journalists killed in the last 24 years. Freedom Network's 2024 *Impunity Report* highlights that Pakistan is witnessing a brutal year, with six journalists killed between November 2023 and August 2024 alone. A culture of impunity persists, exposing journalists to relentless threats and assaults. And while journalists continue to fall victim to violence, convictions are almost nonexistent, creating an environment in which perpetrators are rarely held to account.

The annual impunity report reveals the extent of these threats, identifying key actors behind the violence. Of the documented violations, nearly half (47%) were attributed to government authorities, with political parties involved in 12% of cases and other identifiable groups responsible for 16%. Alarmingly, 25% of these attacks came from unknown actors, underscoring the complexity and opacity surrounding these crimes. It also reveals other distressing statistics: 57 documented violations, including assassinations, threats, and harassment, took place in the period under review. Strikingly, this grim list, with Punjab, Islamabad, and KP not far behind, shows journalists from various sectors bear the brunt of these attacks, with TV journalists most frequently targeted, followed by those in print and digital media. Women journalists, too, have faced intimidation, making up 9% of the affected individuals. There are mechanisms within the law, such as the Sindh Protection of Journalists and Other Media Professionals Act, and the federal Protection of Journalist and Media Professional Act. However, these legal protections remain largely unenforced, leaving journalists vulnerable. The first local Media Impunity Index highlights that while the Sindh government has made some headway, other provinces and the centre are failing to establish active safety commissions essential for protecting media workers.

To dismantle this culture of impunity, the state must act decisively. Existing laws, like the 2021 protection act, must be enforced rigorously. Authorities must launch thorough investigations into crimes against journalists and bring perpetrators to justice. Moreover, families of slain journalists deserve financial and legal support to help them seek justice and recognition for their loved ones' sacrifices. Journalists are the backbone of democratic societies. Their work holds governments accountable, informs the public, and exposes injustices. When they are silenced through violence, the impact is felt across society, eroding public trust and weakening democratic integrity. It is incumbent upon the state to protect journalists and ensure that crimes against them do not go unpunished.

Mastung bombing

INSTABILITY continues to haunt Balochistan, as Friday morning's bombing in Mastung has shown. At least nine fatalities have been confirmed — mostly children — while at the time of writing no group had claimed responsibility for this atrocity. Considering Balochistan's complex vortex of violence, both separatist militants or religiously inspired insurgents could be behind the act of terrorism, though initial impressions suggest the latter may be responsible. The bombing occurred near a hospital and a school, while a police vehicle, that was reportedly going to escort polio vaccinators, was badly damaged, with a policeman among the victims. Statements from the prime minister and the provincial chief minister suggest that children were the prime targets of the attack. Regardless of the perpetrators' ideological background, the targeting of children is the worst form of terrorism, and needs to be strongly condemned by all quarters. Sadly, Mastung is no stranger to violence. Last year, an Eidi-Milad procession in the town was targeted, causing over 50 fatalities. Over the last 13 years, there have also been a number of high-profile sectarian attacks in Mastung. While separatist forces do operate in this area, it is believed to be a hotbed of extremist and sectarian actors. This lends credence to the impression that extremist militants may have carried out the latest attack. At one point Lashkari-Bangai was believed to have a strong presence in this part of Balochistan, and some believe those Lj cadres may have joined the self-styled Islamic State group.

If it is proved that Friday's attack was the handiwork of IJ, IS, or similarly inspired groups, the state would have a fresh security challenge to confront. While Balochistan has recently witnessed frequent separatist attacks, extremist outfits have been less 'prolific'. Countering both a separatist insurgency, and militant onslaughts inspired by groups such as the TTP and IS, is a formidable problem for the state. Despite the considerable presence of security forces in Balochistan, law and order remains poor. This must change as far too many precious lives — of both civilians and security personnel — have been lost in terrorist attacks. With regard to extremist and sectarian groups, the state had in the past 'decapitated' such outfits by neutralising their leaders. These groups cannot be allowed to reorganise and further destabilise Balochistan. Thorough intelligence and proactive action is required to check such malign actors.

Plane speak

DESPITE all its efforts to facilitate PIA's privatisation, it seems the government only ended up being taken for a ride. The long-promised sale of the national flag carrier stalled in rather spectacular fashion on Thursday, when the only bidder participating in the auction offered just about 12pc of its floor price. Blue World City, a real-estate developer and the only party to make it to the final bidding process out of six groups pre-qualified by the government, said it was willing to shell out just Rs10bn for PIA against the minimum price of Rs25bn set by the Privatisation Commission. The consortium's chairman, Saad Nazir, insisted on keeping the offer unchanged despite being given an opportunity to reconsider. "If the government does not privatise PIA, we wish them all the best; and if they want to run the airline themselves, we pray for them," he is said to have quipped. It is now up to the federal cabinet to make what it may of the ludicrous offer. In case it is rejected, "we will start our own airline," Mr Nazir was quoted as saying.

Why the government chose to make this a public spectacle is beyond understanding. Insiders with knowledge of the privatisation proceedings had previously shared that they did not consider Blue World City to be a serious contender. Its frivolous bid confirmed those suspicions. Did the real estate consortium stick around after the other bidders pulled out just for the free press? Meanwhile, all the government could do was pirk at the egg on its face. It is hoped that, whatever the complications might be, the cabinet will not hand over the airline at such a throwaway price. It must find another way to get this albatross off its neck, preferably one that ends with the airline being transferred to a competent buyer on terms that do not entail the government conceding anything more than what is reasonable.

OPINION

BY REEMA OMER



Basic structure, again

The temptation to find judicial solutions to political problems should be resisted.

EVERY few years, questions regarding the limitations of parliament's power to amend the Constitution, and the Supreme Court's jurisdiction to review, and if necessary, strike down constitutional amendments, become issues of great public interest.

This time around, these questions are being raised in response to the 26th Constitutional Amendment, and expectations that the Supreme Court should strike down certain changes for violating the principle of the independence of the judiciary.

The Constitution itself appears clear on the matter: Article 239(5) and (6) expressly state "no amendment of the Constitution shall be called in question in any court or any ground whatsoever", and even more categorically, "for the removal of doubt, it is hereby declared that there is no limitation whatever on the power of the Majlis-e-Shoora (parliament) to amend any of the provisions of the Constitution".

Before 2015, the Supreme Court considered the scope and meaning of Article 239(5) and (6) in multiple judgments, but did not reach a definitive conclusion. This changed in 2015, when a full-court bench of the Supreme Court heard petitions challenging the 21st Amendment to the Constitution together with the challenge to the 18th Amendment, which had been pending since 2010.

A majority of 13 judges of the Supreme Court found parliament's powers to amend the Constitution are limited, and it is the Supreme Court — the "guardian of the Constitution" — that would determine what those limitations are, and if they are transgressed, have the power to strike them down. The judges, however, suggested a number of different interpretations on the precise content and source of those limitations.

According to the majority opinion, authored by Justice Anwar Saqib and endorsed by seven other judges, there are implied restrictions on parliament's power to amend the Constitution "so as not to substantially abate, repeal or abrogate the salient features of the Constitution". The majority opinion held that it was not necessary to conclusively determine the salient features of the Constitution at this point. However, "democracy, parliamentary form of government

and independence of the judiciary are certainly included in the prominent characteristics, forming the salient features".

The judges reasoned that all questions about what kind of a country Pakistan was going to be were resolved through consensus in the 1973 Constitution. Any attempt by parliament to re-open those debates and reimagine Pakistan would risk "unleashing political tempests of unparalleled fury which may be difficult to control".

The majority also held the power to amend does not include a power to destroy. Therefore, Article 239(5) and (6) do not permit parliament to "destroy" a salient feature of the Constitution through a constitutional amendment.

Justices Jawwad S. Khawaja and Qazi Faez Isa authored separate opinions, but both were by and large in agreement over their reasoning and conclusions.

They rejected the "basic structure doctrine" coined by the Indian supreme court to review constitutional amendments, which they considered an "alien" theory born in a foreign land. They reasoned that given Pakistan's unique context, the limitations on parliament's powers to amend the Constitution were not found in the structure of the Constitution, but in the preamble, which was an embodiment of the nation's social contract and "aspirations for a future order". No parliament, therefore, had the power to alter the principles enshrined in the preamble, including "democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, as enshrined by Islam" and independence of the judiciary.

Justice Isa, rather curiously, also reasoned the Constitution mentions the Supreme Court by name when its jurisdiction is to be ousted. Since Article 239 did not expressly mention the Supreme Court but instead used "any court", there was no bar on the Supreme Court to review constitutional amendments.

It is important to remember that even though the majority accepted the possibility of the apex court striking down constitutional amendments, it did not consider any of the amendments being challenged in violation of the "salient features" of the Constitution. No amendment, therefore, was actually "struck down" by the court.

Four judges including chief justice Nasir-ul-Mulk, justice Iqbal Hamood-ur-Rehman, justice

Anif Naeed Khosa, and justice Saqib Nisar rejected any limitations on parliament's powers to amend the Constitution.

Justice Saqib Nisar stated matters of governance must be decided by the chosen representatives of the people, and should not be left at the "mercy of the collective wisdom of unelected judges", who "are the least accountable branch and in Pakistan". He argued the "basic structure" doctrine, as adopted by the Supreme Court in India, was "a vehicle for judicial grandstanding of power at the expense of the elected representatives of the people".

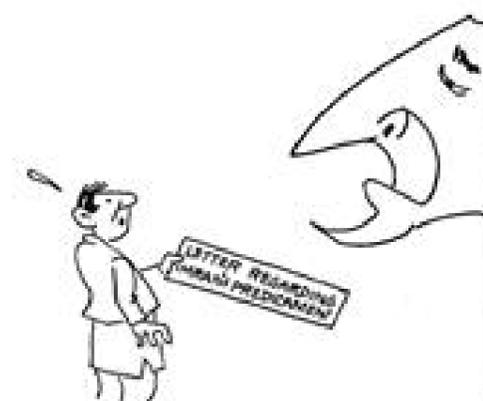
Justice Khosa raised another important concern, and asked that even if the preamble and the salient features of the Constitution expressed the will of a past generation, why should the Supreme Court hold future generations hostage to it? Surely, "if at some future stage the people of this country have a change of heart or mind... then the will of the people will have its way and the aspirations of yore or yesterday may not be able to shackle it".

The minority view is jurisprudentially and constitutionally far more convincing than the majority's opinion. As long as a constitutional amendment is passed in a manner that is procedurally sound and in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, the Supreme Court does not — and should not — have the power to "strike down" amendments that they consider contrary to the "salient features" of the Constitution.

This does lead to frightening possibilities, particularly when we consider a parliament that touches all norms of democracy, transparency, and public participation in its constitution-making functions. However, the temptation to find judicial solutions to political problems should be resisted. As justice Khosa wisely pointed out, it courts disaster to undermine the balance of power between institutions provided in the Constitution by striking down constitutional amendments on substantive grounds, that judiciary may claim to have the last word, but "parliament may have the last laugh". ■

The writer is a lawyer, reema.omer@aj.org
E: reema.omer

LAWMAKERS CRITICISE US CONGRESS FOR 'INTERFERENCE'



ZANNOOR

BY AHMED BILAL MEHBOOB

High-stakes reserved seats

RESERVED seats for women and non-Muslims in our legislatures have been a long-standing feature of Pakistan's political system, but they had never brought the state close to constitutional breakdown — until now. Not only are the three branches of the state bitterly pitted against one another, there are viable fissures within each branch as well, most notably the judiciary.

It is unprecedented that three sitting judges of the Supreme Court, including the then-chief justice, should openly call the July 12 majority order passed by the full court, incorrect (at least, besides declaring it non-binding on the executive and constitutional institutions) read ECF.

The Election Commission of Pakistan has not fully implemented the majority court order, despite repeated court warnings. Parliament has passed the Elections (Second Amendment) Act, 2024, to neutralise the order and the speakers of the National Assembly and assemblies in Punjab and Sindh have written letters to the ECP to defy it and distribute the remaining reserved seats among the PML-N, PPP and JUI-F as originally decided by the ECP in its order of March 4, which was upheld by the Peshawar High Court some days later.

At stake are 77 reserved seats for women and non-Muslims in the National Assembly and three provincial assemblies out of a total of 226 such seats. The remaining 149 seats have already been distributed to various political parties in proportion to their general seats in the respective assemblies.

A large number of independent legislators — those not affiliated with any political party — in the National Assembly and three provincial legislatures were, in fact, elected, for all practical purposes, as PTI legislators because their names were widely advertised on the PTI's social media as party candidates ahead of the February polls. They had to contest the election as independent candidates because the ECP had denied them, on technical grounds, the facility to contest the polls on the party's election symbol, a decision which was upheld by the Supreme Court.

Despite these well-known facts, some provisions of the Constitution such as Articles 51(6)(c) and 106(3)(c) and relevant sections of the Elections Act, 2017, do not support the claim of

either the Senate (which Council or the PTI. The SIC had not submitted a priority list of its Assembly candidates nor had its nominees for the reserved seats submitted their papers as required under the Elections Act, 2017 (it had no candidates either on the general or reserved seats). The PTI and its reserved seats' candidates tried to submit its priority list and their nomination forms respectively but the ECP refused to accept them as the PTI leadership was not recognised by it because of objections regarding the party's intra-party elections. The PTI would have had a better chance of circumventing these objections had it constituted its own parliamentary party within the assemblies and inducted independent candid-

The July 12 order is very much a legitimate Supreme Court order. On the other hand, the Elections (Second Amendment) Act, 2024, is a legitimate law.

dates into its fold within the constitutional deadline of three days from the notification of their election. The PTI, instead, preferred to use the SIC platform, which almost all judges in the full court agreed had no locus standi to claim the reserved seats.

The court in the July 12 majority judgment decided to rise above these technicalities and legal requirements and, instead, invoked the doctrine of "complete justice". The judgment allowed independent members to once again exercise their option to join a political party of their choice — four months after the three-day deadline prescribed in Article 51(6)(d) and (e). The doctrine of "complete justice" resonated with the wish of many, including this writer but, to many, it did not conform to specific constitutional and legal provisions.

The ECP and a majority of parliament disagreed with the order on these grounds and several review petitions were filed with the Supreme

Court against the short order. What made matters worse was the delay in announcing the detailed reasons for the verdict and delaying the hearing of the review petitions on the grounds that the judges were to go on their annual vacation. In view of the fact that the case was of critical national importance and time-sensitive, many agree that the honourable judges should have rescheduled their vacations to announce the detailed reasons and dispose of the review petitions. This is what the then chief justice reportedly suggested in the three-member Practices and Procedures Committee but he was outmanoeuvred. Even requests for clarifications, which the short order had invited and the ECP had filed, had to wait for over two months to get a response from the majority judges.

The invoking of the "complete justice" doctrine available in the "constitutional arsenal" — to use Justice Mansoor Ali Shah's words — seems to have played a key role in provoking the government to pass the 26th Amendment.

Where do we go from here? The July 12 order, despite some judges' dissenting notes and declaration of the order as unconstitutional, is very much a legitimate Supreme Court order unless the court amends it after hearing the review petitions. On the other hand, the Elections (Second Amendment) Act, 2024, duly passed by parliament, is a legitimate law unless it is declared otherwise by a competent court, or if parliament chooses to amend it. Despite the fact that eight judges have held in their response to the ECP that a law passed by parliament after the Supreme Court order can't have retrospective effect and therefore can't neutralise the apex court's order, this two-way communication may not be taken as a verdict by the apex court and therefore the issue appears to still be open to interpretation.

While much water has flowed under the bridge, the honourable Supreme Court and its soon-to-be formed constitutional bench will have to find a way to resolve the issue, as the order of the Supreme Court and the law passed by parliament compete for superiority. ■

The writer is president of the Pakistan-based think tank Pindar
E: @AHMFMehboob

OPINION

BY ARIF HASAN



Key takeaways

IT IS now indisputable that Israel's mass murder and destruction of Gaza had nothing to do with finishing off Hamas. The real reason was to depopulate Gaza and the West Bank and make it a part of "Greater Israel". It is also clear that the same policy of mass murder and destruction of infrastructure to make Lebanon uninhabitable is being followed as in another country.

Statements of Israeli politicians and diplomats also indicate that they have every intention of occupying Sinai and part of Syria. If they succeed in doing this, they will have fulfilled what Moses promised them in the Old Testament. The Israeli public and politicians firmly believe that what is mentioned in the scriptures is their right — odd for a supposedly secular country and that too in 2024. It is a belief that is also supported by a considerable population of US citizens who are waiting for the second coming of Christ.

It is also clear that the Western powers (the EU, Nato, and the US) have supported Israel's ambitions by providing it with military equipment, spare parts for military hardware, and/or financial assistance. They have also supported the American vetoes in the Security Council for a ceasefire in the Israeli bombardment of Gaza.

There are other takeaways too. During diplomatic initiatives, both in the UN and at press conferences, the Israelis never mentioned Palestine's name. In a map presented before the UN, Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, showed not only the Palestinian territories but also Lebanon, parts of Syria and Iraq, Jordan, and parts of Saudi Arabia as a 'new Middle East'.

Large sections of the Western media justified Israel's destruction of Gaza, saying that this was being done for Israel's right to exist. Many journalists, who reported otherwise or showed pro-Palestinian hearings, were sacked or coerced into changing their stories. It was only after millions of citizens around the world (including in the West) demonstrated against the war in favour of the Palestinians that media reporting underwent a change.

In addition, Al Jazeera bought a media war against Western propaganda and since it told the truth with images, it emerged as the most watched and believed media on the subject.

Reporting changed when schools and hospitals were destroyed, children were murdered, and food and water were denied to the Gazans, and when homelessness and repeated relocation were forced

on the victims of bombardment and the truth could no longer be wished away. As a result, some countries recognised the state of Palestine. This has been considered a victory but Israel has continued bombing and murdering the citizens of Gaza, the West Bank, and now Lebanon.

The Israelis have been taught to consider the Arabs as barbarians and cowards, incapable of protecting themselves. However, the Oct 7 event demonstrated that the Arabs could fight back effectively. The event humiliated the Israelis and much of the ferocity of the Israeli response was the result of being humiliated. The Arab response also led to an interest in Arab history and culture in the West. It showed the West that the Arabs had a great history, beautiful music and dance, literature, and that above all, they were a highly educated society and had outstanding people in the social and physical sciences. And then they were almost white, many with light eyes!

The Israelis have been taught to see the Arabs as barbarians.

One of the aims of the Israelis was to obliterate those understanding people and the educational and health institutions where they were trained. In Gaza, they have succeeded in doing this to a great extent.

A very disturbing development (apart from the genocide) in this conflict is that there is nothing left of international law and its institutions. Policy and election results in the US that has veto powers within the Security Council are also governed by what is known as the 'Jewish lobby', which controls much of corporate sector investments both globally and in the US.

In addition, it finances perspective and serving Congressmen by supporting their election through huge bribes.

The result is that the US Congress is not only pro-Israel, but also responsible for framing US foreign policy and domestic legislation. US military aid to Israel amounts to roughly \$3 billion per year.

Given these figures, it is obvious that the US is subservient to Israel and in light of the present electoral trends will remain so in the foreseeable future. So it will be a long war with the Muslim world, which is torn between ' pragmatism' and the pressure exerted for an anti-US policy by its own citizens. ■

The writer is an architect. arifhasan37@gmail.com www.arifhasan.org



BY NADIA TAHIR

Trade distortions

PAKISTAN'S exports are not increasing at a fast rate, perhaps because the authorities give incentives to traditional export sectors and restrict imports through tariff walls. We often overlook the link between imports and industry. The unintended consequences of imposing tariffs as a means of revenue collection have eroded our regulatory capacity to collect direct taxes.

In FY2023-24, import duties contributed 13 per cent towards overall FBR collection and some 24pc in indirect taxes, while 73pc of import duties were collected from just 15 product groups. Duties on petroleum products, iron and steel, vehicles and edible oil constitute almost 50pc of all customs duties. The narrow base of dutiable imports is also a reason for high tariff rates.

Our first National Tariff Policy (2019-24) marked a shift in revenue generation methods as tariffs became a tool for promoting trade and industrialisation. It was considered a step in the right direction as it intended to simplify the tariff structure. The NTP also aimed to provide time-bound strategic protection to domestic industries.

The NTP included all relevant stakeholders at a single decision-making forum, the National Tariff Board. This approach altered the balance between various stakeholders, mainly FBR and the Commerce Division, making decision-making more complex, thus leading to delays and court cases.

The government has decreased tariff rates but by imposing additional regulatory duties has increased the effective and nominal protection rates. Given frequent changes and the import control policy, the de facto tariff rate indicates more policy distortions.

The complexity of our tariff structure goes beyond the variation in rates across different states. Rates also vary based on product origin and origin, leading to policies that foster the misuse of concessions, create anomalies, and result in valuation lapses.

In the last five years, regulatory duties have increased by 140pc, and warehouse charges by 60pc. The nominal tariff rate (the total tariff divided by the value of all imports) has gone up significantly.

Let us examine our industrial landscape. Our last Census of Manufacturing Industries for 2015-16 revealed that the industrial sector still consists mainly of textile, food processing units, chemicals, and automobiles — all heavily reliant on imports. The "insurmountable and mysterious" growth of these sectors has puzzled policy-makers. It was thought that protection and incentives would trigger export-led growth but that did not happen. Instead, we have seen exports increase slightly and

imports double.

Pakistan's trade duties have tried to protect industries in the pursuit of growth but industry finds it difficult to compete because exports rely on imports for essential inputs. Our industrial structure is highly skewed in favour of a few who thrive on state subsidies, heavy indirect taxes such as customs duty and sales tax on imports hinder growth. Industry also finds it difficult to survive and compete with increasing costs of production.

It is the consumer who ends up paying for trade distortions created by subsidies and tariff, over and above inflation and high energy costs.

The WTO's general principle is that foreign goods must not be treated any "more than domestic products", and that "internal taxes or other charges on imports must be no higher than on domestic products, and laws and regulations affecting their sale, purchase, transportation, distribution". However, we routinely see this principle being violated.

Countries such as the UK and China, as well as the European Union, are giving huge subsidies and building tariff walls to lessen competition. Despite slowing globalisation and rising regulatory tariffs, technology links markets, and does not fracture economies. Trade is realising itself, with like-minded states trading with each other. We are living in a world which is more connected and interdependent. Isolation and tariffs can be addressed by creating new markets.

For economists, trade depends on differences in cost ratios. As tariff cost increases, aggregate demand and income shrink based on the 'reciprocal demand' principle. Low growth imposes a constraint on achieving the objective of 'decent work for all'. It also creates a set of other regulatory issues, such as the problem of calculating true income because of (legal trade and parallel economies).

Tariff has proved to be a major hindrance in the promotion of trade. Tariff walls are protecting a high-end industry, which is not there. Can we create such an industry out of thin air without collaboration, coordination and exchanging goods and ideas? For industrial growth, we need not just one of these factors but all three. ■

The writer is director, Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies, Lahore. info@casafu.com

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Right on target

JHELUM: Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto today [Nov 1] personally commanded a heavy tank and directed its fire on the "enemy" positions. After watching a live power demonstration of the armoured corps in an exercise codenamed "Al Fatah" the Prime Minister, accompanied by Chief of Army Staff Gen. Tikka Khan, went to the forward positions of the troops. He mounted a tank, wore the commander's headgear and ordered the instructor to fire. In a split second, its gun fired a deafening salvo. Newsmen standing near the tank were shaken by the burst. "Sir, the shot has hit the target", an Army officer reported to the Prime Minister. Mr Bhutto smiled and got down. ...

[Meanwhile in Khairpur] Prime Minister ... Bhutto was installed as Colonel-in-Chief of the Armoured Corps at a colourful ceremony. ... He is the first Pakistani to hold this office. Accepting his new appointment [Mr Bhutto] termed it a great honour and said that he would always maintain a close contact with the Armoured Corps. ... He added that the Government would continue working for the uplift of common man without neglecting the needs of the Armed Forces. — News agencies

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

Steel survey

KARACHI: A high-powered 17-man United States Steel Mission arrived in Karachi on Tuesday [Nov 2] to investigate the steel requirements and resources of Pakistan, says a Pakistan Government Press note. The Mission, which is headed by Mr E. W. Robinson, Regional Director (East) of the United States Steel Export Company, comprises of about 13 technical experts — besides the Secretariat. ... During their stay ... the Mission will visit important places in Pakistan — including East Pakistan — and prepare a Pakistan steel survey. The Mission will also advise Government on the question of establishing a steel industry in Pakistan. ...

[Meanwhile], the Steel Government will appoint shortly a chief engineer to supervise the development of hydro-electric power in the province, it was learned in Karachi. ... It will be recalled that the Steel Government have drawn up a scheme of large-scale electrification of the province within five years.

The biggest hydro-electric power station is to be set up at the proposed site of the Lower Sind barrage, which is expected to supply power to industries in the interior. Also connected with the development of the area ... is a colonisation scheme. — News agencies

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@dawn.com

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

Knowledge-driven economy is the key



THIS is with reference to the article "Building the knowledge economy" (Oct 17). As a retired college professor, I believe that the Higher Education Commission (HEC) should have only the barest minimum role in the overall regulation of the higher education sector.

The commission should have no control at all over funding or syllabi beyond ensuring an equitable standard throughout the country, and it should certainly not be deciding matters relating to the day-to-day management and administration of universities anywhere, neither in the centre nor in the provinces.

The federal government and the provinces should seriously think about granting full autonomy to a few universities, not more than 10, and only these universities should have full-fledged research funding and research-oriented setups. Such funding and support should be subject to annual performance reviews.

There should be district-level degree-awarding colleges affiliated with such such university, and they should limit themselves to degree courses at undergraduate and graduate levels. There should be no doctoral programmes or teaching requirements at these colleges. Vocational and professional training institutes should also be attached to the universities and colleges at district and sub-district levels.

And, of course, the focus must be on primary and secondary education at the grassroots level for all children up to matriculation. This should be of the broadest possible scope.

Educational institutions in the private sector — universities, colleges and schools — should also be strictly regulated and monitored at both federal and provincial levels, with the aim of discouraging the unfortunate "education for sale" trend. In time, every province should become

completely self-reliant in terms of providing education at all levels, including professional and research training.

In building up a knowledge-based economy from the grassroots upwards, there should be the same standards and qualifications throughout the country. And, this aspect should be regulated and organised by what is presently the HEC.

It is also advisable to minimise the role of organisations associated with the armed forces in matters pertaining to public education. These organisations should be involved only in limited defence-related training and education, like they once used to be.

Ultimately, the whole messed up educational system in the country can be rationalised and effectively organised and funded by central and provincial governments. They can also involve industries as well as other stakeholders in creating a feasible and more suitable system.

Omar S.K. Nisami
Qalandarabad, KP

Strategic thinking

THE incarcerated former prime minister has faced numerous ups and downs across his political career. Like most politicians, he has been critical of the establishment's interference in political affairs and he has also enjoyed being on the same page with the establishment.

Amid these shifting sands, he has struggled to establish a consistent political vision, leading to confusion among party leaders and supporters regarding how to effectively engage in the political process.

This lack of clarity has been evident in the recent deliberations surrounding the 26th Amendment to the Constitution, and its ultimate passage through parliament. The opposition party expressed concerns on the matter, but failed to counter the proposals in a legal context. It never engaged in any meaningful debate.

Instead of going for a legal, political struggle, it continued to rely on street power, neglecting existing political avenues. The refusal to shift from its power stance to the available political spaces limited the party's potential for progress.

The situation the party faces today is not unique in Pakistan; many others encountered similar challenges at various points in national history. However, unlike the current opposition, the other parties recognised their given space, and attempted to navigate their struggles within those limitations.

The current opposition, on the other hand, continues to cling to the concept of a power circle, and has not learned to effectively utilise the political space available to it. There is a clear lack of strategic thinking within the party.

Usama Khalid
Sawal, South Korea

Mere eyewash?

THIS is with reference to the report "Saudi add \$400m to \$2.2bn investment pledge" (Oct 31). A high profile delegation from Saudi Arabia had visited Pakistan in early October when it had signed 27 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with a major focus on the services sector.

The government was perhaps not aware of the fact that investment in the services sector is not the preferable solution to the country's economic crisis. We urgently need foreign direct investment (FDI) in the large-scale manufacturing (LSM) sector. Although foreign investment even in the services sector is a welcome sign, it is advisable for the government to work and bring in more investment in the LSM sector to boost exports.

Among the 27 MoUs that were signed, there were at least two that pertained to post and closed transactions: Go-Petrochem and Shell Pakistan Ltd. Another MoU was related to the supply of vegetables by Fasih Fresh & Process (FFP). Such exports are being executed by hundreds of others on a daily basis for years. Such incidents raise serious doubts about the sincerity and credibility of the government.

Interestingly, no one spoke about the proposed deep-water coastal refinery that was pledged by the Saudi crown prince during his visit to Pakistan a few years ago when the currently imprisoned former prime minister was in power.

This refinery was to be established at Gwadar with a total capital outlay of \$10 billion. In essence, the refinery can help Pakistan save billions of dollars that are being spent on the import of petrochemical products annually. Leaving aside political differences, the government must make efforts to have the Saudi offer converted into reality.

Iftakhar Azam Siddiqi
Islamabad

Trust deficit

THE breakdown of law and order one sees in society is quite alarming. The power of criminal gangs and mafias is a cause of fear and uncertainty among individuals and businesses. From smuggling and snatching to drug peddling and extortion, the mafias are active across the country, putting the law-enforcement machinery under serious strain.

The relevant authorities need to come into action with a concrete plan to curb the menace and restore some level of trust among the people. The twin elements of surveillance and investigation must be more potent, and there should be a judicial framework that may help expedite the prosecution process. Failure to do so would erode not only public safety, but also the social construct of society.

We should strengthen law-enforcement

by increasing funding and resources for the relevant agencies to enhance their capabilities in combating organised crime. Specialised training can improve the level of effectiveness.

Besides, community policing initiatives must be initiated and encouraged to build trust between the law-enforcers and the general public. This will encourage people to keep a watchful eye within their localities as well as co-operation, and to be able to report crimes without fearing about their own fate once they approach the law-enforcers.

Furthermore, implementing sincere anti-corruption steps across the law-enforcement machinery will also help in restoring public confidence and trust.

Nabeela Usmani
Karachi



FBR apathy

HEAD applied for voluntary sales tax registration on the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) website on Aug 15, and later submitted a manual application on Aug 23. Based upon that, I received an official letter on Aug 28, and was asked to report to the FBR office. Unfortunately, after paying five visits to different offices since then, I still do not know which FBR office has jurisdiction over my case because every office has simply referred me to some other office. Left with no option, I got my case on the Citizen Portal on Sept 20 (CIT00924-91517544), which is still lying unattended.

This just reminds me of a press conference that the federal finance minister had addressed a few months ago in which he had asserted that actions should speak louder than words. In my interaction with FBR, I have only experienced words with no any action.

The relevant authorities should resolve the issue as it is really causing uncertainty at my end. At this stage, I am just not interested whether my application gets accepted or rejected. All I am interested in is the ultimate fate of the application so that I may prioritise my work accordingly.

Abul Ahmad Nisamani
Karachi

► **DIALOGICAL APPROACH:** In his seminal work, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Paulo Freire's interactive method of dialogical or problem-posing education highlights the importance of dialogue, critical thinking and collaboration between learners and educators. Learning should be a two-way process where teachers and students engage in meaningful dialogues, rather than relying on the conventional banking method, where teachers deposit knowledge into passive students. This interaction fosters critical thinking and problem-solving techniques. By ditching outdated practices and adopting Freire's dialogical approach in our education system, we can cultivate a generation of critical thinkers and problem-solvers who can lead Pakistan to a brighter future.

Jahid Durrani
Karachi

► **ATTORCHUS CHARGES:** It is high time to get rid of the atrocious fixed charges (added to the natural gas consumers in the non-protected category). All consumers, especially residential consumers of natural gas, should be in the protected category regardless of the amount of previous bills. Also, the Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Company (SNGPL) should strike down its current formula, and charge consumers in line with the units consumed. The authorities should reimburse all the money previously charged to those in the non-protected category along with the general sales tax (GST). This should be considered a high-priority case.

Syed Aqbal Sarwar
Lahore

► **UNJUST REACTION:** Sindh is a land of peace, tolerance and Sufism. These elements have been an integral part of the poetry, music and literature produced by the locals. However, it was strange that when Sindh intelligentsia recently staged a protest against continuously growing extortion in the province, police maltreated the protesters by physically manhandling them. The police also have charged the protesters. They had the right to assemble and spread the message that religious extremism is not acceptable on the soil of Sindh.

Muhammad Razaq
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@siddiqiombudsman@gmail.com

PA legislates to control zoonotic diseases

By Muhammad Ashfaq

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Friday unanimously passed a bill to control zoonotic diseases in the province for the safety of animal and human health.

The proposed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zoonotic Disease Control Act, 2024, was tabled by livestock minister Faisal Hakim during a session chaired by MPA Muhammad Ishaq Khan.

Under the law, a zoonotic disease surveillance centre will be established to develop standard operating procedures for coordinated response and strategy with the help of the health department and other stakeholders for the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases as specified.

It will also be responsible for receiving, collecting and analysing information about the zoonotic disease from district offices of the department.

Section 3(a) of the law states, "In case of outbreak of any of the zoonotic disease, the government declares a zoonotic public health emergency by notification in the official Gazette and initiates subsequent response in the province."

Similarly, a zoonotic disease control committee will be constituted to administer and manage the affairs of the centre. The committee will meet twice a year, according to the bill.

It will be responsible for developing SOPs in consultation with the health department for the inspection, sampling and testing of animals' food, origin and by-products within the province for the purpose of inter-provincial trade.

The legislation has also empowered the zoonotic disease control committee to declare status of the zoonotic disease, propose, adopt and enforce measures and procedures for the prevention and control of diseases.

Under the law, zoonotic diseases analytical and reference laboratories would be established in different parts of the province.

Section 11 of the law is about the reporting of zoonotic diseases.

According to it, an owner or an individual, who keeps any animal, will report immediately to the nearest livestock office, veterinarian, veterinary officer or veterinary institute about the animals.

"The public shall not sell or offer for sale the suspected animals, their food or by-products and sell the suspected animals, on the instruction of the veterinary officer."

Section 6 of the law stops the owners from slaughtering the infected or suspected diseased animals except with the permission and in accordance with the instructions of a veterinary officer.

"Whoever violates the provisions of the law, the director or the veterinary officers, as the case may be, may be imposed fine," states the law.

Section 14 of the law declares, "Where the director or veterinary officer suspects that a zoonotic disease exists in a building or premises and believes that it may spread to animals or human beings or other things, entering the area's hall become affected or contaminated by it, the director or veterinary officer with prior approval of the director general declares the said place an infected area."

The assembly also approved the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Animals Feed Staff and Composed Feed Act, 2024, for regulating the storage, supply and transportation of feedstuff and composed feed in the province for sale and marketing to "ensure standards of production and quality of feed stuff and composed feed to check adulteration and misbranding of livestock, poultry and fish feed stuff and composed feed ingredients and for matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto."

The chair adjourned the session until next Monday.

Anti-graft body summons PTI lawmaker over Malam Jabba land lease

Atif insists move to 'damage' party, Imran

By Waseem Ahmad Shah

PESHAWAR: In a surprising move, the Anti-Corruption Establishment Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has summoned senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and MNA Muhammad Atif Khan as part of its inquiry into the much-publicised Malam Jabba land lease case, which has already been closed by the National Accountability Bureau three years ago.

A call-up notice was issued to Mr Atif, a former provincial minister, by the head of the ACE's special investigation wing, asking him to appear before the inquiry officer on Nov 12 for recording statement under Section 161 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Rule 343 of the ACE Rules.

The notice, issued on Oct 31, said that a complaint from the year 2018 had been under

investigation about allegations of corruption and misuse of authority in Malam Jabba Project (Samson Group of Companies).

As the move gives credence to the reports about wrangling in the PTI, Mr Atif said that it was known to all why and at whose behest, the notice was issued by his party's government in the province.

"The Malam Jabba case was closed by the NAB. Whoever is doing this is damaging the party as well as Imran Khan," the lawmaker said in an audio message and spent an audio media forum, X (formerly Twitter).

"This is our province and our party and I won't remain silent over such acts damaging it," he said.

He said the Malam Jabba deal had taken place in 2014 when he was neither the chief minister nor the tourism minister.

With the matter lingering on for many years, an accountability court accepted on Nov 2, 2021, a NAB plea to launch investigation against former chief minister Pervez Khattak and several officials in the case of

leasing of government land in Malam Jabba, Swat, in 2014.

The NAB had claimed that no evidence of corruption could be traced in the matter.

In the application, the NAB said that investigation was started against the then chief minister of KP, Pervez Khattak, former additional chief secretary (planning and development) Khalid Pervez, then managing director of Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TKCP), Mushraf Khan and others regarding alleged illegal leasing of 275 acres of state forest land in Malam Jabba to Samson Group of Companies.

It added that it was satisfied that no prima facie criminal case can be made out against the accused under the provisions of National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) and therefore, the matter was being referred to the accountability court for approval of closure of investigation against those people.

The allegations in the investigation included the illegal lease of forest land measuring 275 acres; extension of lease period from 15 to 33 years by

the chief minister; and irregularities in awarding of contract/bidding process.

"In view of the facts and circumstances coupled with record made available, the report of the NAB for closure of the investigation is prima facie valid and genuine to the extent of award of contract with regard to its regularities followed by its regularities accordingly, as such, exercising jurisdiction under Section 9(a) NAO 1999 read with Section 36(d) of NAO, the report so framed is allowed accordingly," the accountability court had ruled.

The court observed that the matter regarding illegal lease of forest land had been disposed of by the Peshawar High Court in its order on Oct 1, 2020, by directing the KP additional chief secretary to immediately submit the report of a committee, already notified by the provincial government on June 25, 2018, to settle the dispute of ownership and title of 275 acres of forest land.

The court observed that the committee gave its findings in a report, which was approved by the provincial cabinet on

Dec 28, 2020, according to which the tourism department was the rightful owner of the said land and not the forest department and the land in question was federal land and was given prior to merger of Swat state in Pakistan.

The report also provided that prima facie the entry in the revenue record was erroneous.

The court further mentioned that the matter had been resolved and the subject land had been de-notified.

"Similarly, the lease period has also been approved by the Cabinet from 15 to 33 years, as such, no post facto sanction was granted," the judge observed.

He added that the issue had also been thoroughly examined by the NAB in its executive board meeting and it had been expressed that the matter and mala fide intent had not been surfaced in the grant of subject lease and allied matters.

The issue also remained pending with the high court in the form of petitions, with the NAB adopting the same stand it had before the accountability court.

PTI govt burdened KP with Rsl.8tr debt: Aimal

CHARNADDA: Awami National Party

central president Senator Aimal Wali Khan has said that the PTI government, imposed on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since 2013, has burdened the province with a debt of Rs8 trillion.

"From 2013 to 2022, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's debt reached Rs80 billion but it ballooned to Rs8 trillion by 2024, with most people being without hospitals, schools, roads, and other facilities," Mr Aimal told a function in Prang area here.

The event was held to welcome former JUI-F election candidate Muhammad Ahmad Khan to the party along with his family members and supporters.

The ANP leader said that those who wanted to eliminate ANP from the political scene had miserably failed.

He claimed that the people's mandate for his party was solid in the last general elections.

"A fake public mandate has been imposed on Pakistan in the province for the last 13 years," he said.

Mr Aimal said the party would continue striving for Pakistan's rights.

He said the ruling PTI had made a compromise on the rights of Pakistanis.

The ANP leader criticised the chief minister for "using the province's resources to set up personal ends while

ignoring the people's needs."

On the occasion, ANP provincial president Milan Hukhtar Hussain said the party's primary concern was the poor law and order situation in the province. He said the PTI government had miserably failed to protect public life and property.

Mr Hussain accused the chief minister of acting as a "bridge" between the military establishment and his party leader Imran Khan to protect own interests.

He complained about the surging incidents of terrorism in the province and claimed that authorities had "betrayed" the police in southern districts not to step out at night for their safety.

The ANP leader said that his party's government ensured elimination of terrorism but currently, the ruling PTI and terrorists were working together.

He accused former spy-master Lt-General Fiaz Hameed of handing over certain areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to terrorists and said the wrong policy was responsible for the current terrorist attacks in the province.

Mr Hussain called for a change in the foreign policy to eliminate terrorism and said the National Action Plan should be enforced effectively and a crackdown should be launched on terrorist organisations in Punjab.—Correspondent

CM receives govt employees 'released from custody'

Bureau Report

by Mr Gandapur

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Friday received over 80 employees of the provincial government, who were behind bars in Islamabad after their arrests during the D-Chowk protest earlier last month.

Video footage shared on social media platforms showed Mr Gandapur showering flower petals on the employees after their arrival at the Chief Minister's House early on Friday.

PTI sources told Dawn that the government employees arrived at the Chief Minister's House at around 5am on Friday, where they were received

by Mr Gandapur.

A party insider told Dawn the chief minister gave the detained employees Rs10,000 each "from his own pocket". Besides, he also announced to give these employees a one-week leave so that they could take rest following their detention.

Similarly, Mr Gandapur also announced to give them one-step promotion; however, the party insider insisted a formal notification in that regard had not been issued so far.

He said there were 42 personnel of Reserve 1122, 35 policemen and seven retired municipal administration employees among those released.

A Reserve 1122 official said six of the agency's employees were still in the 'custody'.

AUCTION FOR TROPHY HUNTING OF STRAIGHT HORNED (SULIMAN) MARKHOR, AFGHAN URAL, BLAMFOUR URAL, SINDH BUCK AND KERRISON GAZELLE IN THE COMMUNITY BASED GAME RESERVES OF BALUCHISTAN, PAKISTAN

HUNTING PERIOD: 1st DECEMBER, 2024 TO 31st MARCH, 2025

The Balochistan Forest and Wildlife Department (BFD) after approval from the CITES Management Authority of Pakistan (CMA) dated 31st October, 2024 announces trophy hunting permits for hunting season 2024-25 in Community based Game Reserves of Province that commences from 1st December, 2024 and end up on 31st March, 2025, as per allotted quotas STEP 04 Suliman Markhor and 07 Afghan Ural, 06W5 08 Blamfour Ural, 18 Sindh Buck and 08 Kerrison Gazelle, WWS 08 Blamfour Ural, 08 Sindh Buck and 08 Afghan Ural, T00S 05 Blamfour Ural and 05 Sindh Buck, WFC05 09 Blamfour Ural and 05 Sindh Buck.

National and international level outfitters registered with CITES Management Authority of Pakistan (CMA) working under Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad are invited to offer their sealed bids for the permits of Afghan Ural, Blamfour Ural, Sindh Buck and Kerrison Gazelle in the name of Chief Conservator Wildlife, Balochistan Quetta, Head Office Sarhad Road, Opposite to University of Balochistan-Quetta, Pakistan (Email: gwhc@baf.gov.pk).

The four (04) trophy hunting permits of Suliman Markhor in favour of STEP will be awarded by the Trophy Hunting Auction Committee through open bidding and bidding will be started at 11:30 am up to 12:30 pm in the presence of representatives of STEP on 20.11.2024. Sealed bids will be received for other mentioned permits on the same day i.e. 20.11.2024 up to 1:30 pm and sealed bids will be opened by the Trophy Hunting Auction Committee on the same day in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives and representatives of community-based game reserves at 2:00 pm. After completing required formalities, the respective successful bidders will be notified and communicated within three (03) working days through Fax, WhatsApp or Email etc. The successful bidders/outfitters will be required to confirm their acceptance of Trophy Hunting Offer by depositing the bid money within three working days after notification. The money shall be deposited as per provisions of the Section 38 (3) of the Balochistan Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation & Management) Act, 2018 and Rule 15 of the Balochistan Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation & Management) Rules, 2018, that is:

- Twenty percent (20%) in the bank account of that particular community-based conservancy; and
- Twenty percent (20%), through bank cheques, in Account No. 01-C-0007 of Government of Balochistan.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The offer shall be made in US Dollars (USD) only.
- The successful bidders/outfitters shall deposit the earnest money as security deposit in the name of Chief Conservator Wildlife for each species as per detail given below:
- Suliman Markhor @ Rs. 1,000,000/-
- Afghan/Blamfour Ural @ Rs. 200,000/-
- Sindh Buck @ Rs. 200,000/-
- Kerrison Gazelle @ Rs. 100,000/-
- The outfitters, desirous for obtaining trophy hunting permit for any ungulate species in any of the community managed protected areas of Balochistan, shall be required to purchase/provide hunting permits through open bidding or sealed bids starting from the reserved rate fixed by the CMA in its meeting held on 31-10-2024 for trophy hunting season 2024-25 for single trophies as per following details:
- Suliman Markhor @ USD 80,000/trophy, Afghan Ural @ USD 20,000/trophy, Blamfour Ural @ USD 25,000/trophy, Sindh Buck @ USD 5,000/trophy and Kerrison Gazelle @ USD 2,500/trophy.
- The bidders offering highest bids for hunting of mentioned species (Markhor & Afghan Ural) and (Sindh Buck & Buck or Kerrison Gazelle) in any community-based conservancy will be encouraged. Permits will be offered/awarded to out-fitter/bidder offered highest rate.
- Hunting will be permissible only in that particular community-based conservancy for which the permit has been issued.
- In addition to the trophy hunting permits for straight horned Markhor/Afghan Ural/Blamfour Ural/Sindh Buck and Kerrison Gazelle/Chinkara Gazelle, the successful hunter will also be required to obtain "Big Game Shooting License" at following rate from the office of Chief Conservator Wildlife Balochistan of Balochistan Forest and Wildlife Department, Quetta.
 - Straight Horned Markhor @ Rs.25,000/- per shooting license/permit.
 - Afghan Ural @ Rs. 15,000/- per shooting license/permit.
 - Blamfour Ural @ Rs. 15,000/- per shooting license/permit.
 - Sindh Buck @ Rs.5,000/- per shooting license/permit.
 - Kerrison Gazelle/Chinkara Gazelle @ Rs.5,000/- per shooting license/permit.
- In case of a tie, the permit will be offered to the highest bidder through another bidding process between the contenders having tie on the same day before the committee.
- Trophy hunting fee once paid shall not be refundable.
- The security and safety of hunters, from their arrival to departure from the Balochistan province, as well as other security related clearances/formalities/NOCs shall be the responsibility of outfitters and representatives/outfitters bearers of that particular community-based conservancy where the trophy hunting is going to take place. The Balochistan Forest and Wildlife Department will not be responsible for any casualty/injury etc. that may happen during the hunting process.
- Only the valid permit holders shall be allowed to hunt trophies. Proxy/legal hunting will not be allowed and shall be dealt in accordance with the provisions of the Balochistan Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Act, 2018.
- Upon payment of the requisite fee, the hunters/outfitters are required to personally collect their hunting permit from the office of Chief Conservator Wildlife Balochistan, where they will also be briefed on hunting regulations, area etc.
- Consent upon hunting, the hunter is required to report in person to the office of Chief Conservator Wildlife Balochistan and present his trophy for inspection/examination before leaving the Balochistan province.
- It will be the responsibility of hunter/ outfitter to acquire CITES export permit from the CITES Management Authority of Pakistan (CMA) and inter-provincial export permit from office of the Chief Conservator Wildlife Balochistan, Quetta.
- The Chief Conservator Wildlife Balochistan Quetta reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids without assigning any reason.

PRG No. 1758/01-11-2024
 Chief Conservator Wildlife Balochistan Quetta, Head Office Sarhad Road, Opposite to University of Balochistan Quetta, Pakistan Office Phone: 009281244070

GHANI CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED
 Faith... Experience... Innovation... Growth

NOTICE OF EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
 Demerger/Merger of Ghani Chemical Industries Limited, Ghani ChemWorld Limited and Ghani Products (Private) Limited

In compliance with the Honorable Lahore High Court, Lahore order passed in Civil Original No. 60258/2004, notice is hereby given that Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the shareholders of Ghani Chemical Industries Limited (GCI, the Company) will be held on Saturday November 23, 2024 at 11:30 AM at registered office of the Company i.e. 10-N, Model Town, Ext., Lahore to transact the following business:

- To consider and if deemed fit to approve, adopt and agree to the Scheme of Compromise, Arrangement and Reconstitution for Demerger/Merger of Ghani Chemical Industries Limited, Ghani ChemWorld Limited and Ghani Products (Private) Limited & its related matters in pursuance to the provisions of Section 279 to 283 of the Companies Act, 2017 and other applicable provisions and to pass the resolutions as special resolutions by the shareholders of the Company with or without modification(s), addition(s) or deletion(s) as amended with the notice of EGM dispatched to the shareholders of the Company

Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Saad and Mr. Aimal Hayat Khan Lodhi Advocates have been appointed as Chairpersons by the Honorable Lahore High Court, Lahore vide its order dated October 21, 2024 to supervise the EGM and shall file their report on the next date of hearing.

Place: Lahore
 Date: November 01, 2024
MUNAZAR ALI
 Company Secretary

- The detailed statement under section 281(1)(a)(13A)(c) of the Companies Act, 2017 is annexed with the notice of EGM being sent to the shareholders of the Company.
- The Scheme of Compromise, Arrangement and Reconstitution for demerger/merger along with all annexures thereon is also annexed with the notice of EGM being sent to the shareholders of the Company.
- Share Transfer books of the Company will remain closed and no transfer of shares will be accepted for registration from Saturday November 16, 2024 to Saturday November 23, 2024 (both days inclusive) transfer received in order at the office of the share registrar i.e. M/s Corpley (Private) Limited, Wings Arcade, 14, Commercial Model Town, Lahore, Telephone No. +92 42 25916714, Fax No. +92 42 25899337, Email: corpley786@gmail.com at the close of business on Friday November 15, 2024 will be treated in time for the purpose of the EGM.

4. ATTENDANCE OF MEETING

A member entitled to attend, speak and vote at the EGM is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend, speak and vote instead of him/her. Proxy in order to be effective duly signed, filed and witnessed must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company, along with the attested copies of valid Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) or Passport, not less than 48 hours before the meeting.

ODC Account Holders will have to follow the guidelines as laid down in Circular No. 1 dated January 25, 2006 issued by the SECP for attending the meeting.

Attendance in the meeting shall be on production of original CNIC or passport.

The Company has made arrangements to ensure that all participants, including shareholders, can participate in the EGM proceedings via video link. In order to attend the meeting through video link members are requested to share the below information at ghaniglobal24@ghaniglobal.com, for their appointment/registration and proxy verification on or before November 21, 2024 as per below format:

Full Name	Folio/ODC No.	Company Name	CNIC Number	Registered CNIC Address	Cell Number

Video link details and login credentials will be shared with those members whose registered emails containing all the particulars are received on or before November 21, 2024.

5. E-VOTING & VOTING THROUGH POSTAL BALLOT

The shareholders are hereby notified that pursuant to Companies (Postal Ballot) Regulations, 2015 (the "Regulations"), amended through notification dated December 09, 2022, issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), wherein, SECP has directed all the listed companies to provide the right to vote through electronic voting facility and voting by post to the members on all businesses classified as Special Business.

Accordingly shareholders of the Company will be allowed to exercise their right to vote through electronic voting facility or voting by post for the special business in the EGM to be held on November 23, 2024 at 11:30AM in accordance with the requirements and subject to the condition contained in the aforesaid Regulation.

Corporate Office: 10-N, Model Town, Ext., Lahore-54700. UAN: 111 0940-1, www.ghaniglobal.com

Action against militants leading to collateral damage, says jirga

By Our Correspondent

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: A jirga of Aherwadi Wazir tribe held in Soghat area of Bannu held here on Friday said that the security forces' action against militants was resulting in collateral damage.

The participants asked the security forces not to resort to "indiscriminate" fire while responding to militant attacks on checkpoints as such actions often resulted in killing and injuring of civilians, including children and women, and damaged houses.

Hundreds of tribal elders, including Pakistan Quetta Jirga member Malik Gul, Muhammad Wazir, prominent social worker Taj Wazir and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf district coordinator Shahzad Wazir, were in attendance.

The participants said the tribal elders had helped the security forces purge Lower South Waziristan of foreign terrorists in 2002, leading to establishment of "hotting" zones in the region. However, they requested that troops had returned to the troubled districts over the last two years.

The participants said the security forces should avoid using heavy weapons, which terrified people and often resulted in injuries to civilians. They said the security forces should consult tribal elders before launching any action against militants. They warned if the security forces did not stop firing at night, the people of Lower South Waziristan would be forced to protest.

Meanwhile, the security forces repulsed an attack on the Zareenah EC post in the Khostal tribal of Lower South Waziristan on Friday night.

The attack occurred near the Pak-Afghan border. Sources said three attackers were injured when the security forces retaliated. However, the attackers escaped to Gardazi area of Zhob district of Balochistan.

The sources said exchange of fire between the security forces and militants continued for several hours.

Four booked for stripping transgender

PESHAWAR: The city police have booked four persons on charges of stripping a transgender individual on video and later using the same as a blackmailing tactic to rape her.

Shahzad Gulfar Hussain (Hafiznagar) police station have registered the FIR on the complaint of the transgender person against the prime accused, Israr, his brother Yasir, Abdullah and Sher Khan, residents of Mian Ka thi village of Shalqadar tehsil of Charsadda. Besides, three to four unknown persons have also been charged in the FIR.

The complainant told the police that back in 2023 Israr picked her up from a dance function in Mian Kaly village of Shalqadar and took her to his home, where he and his accomplices, including Abdullah, Sher Khan and others, stripped her at gunpoint and made video of her. She said afterwards Israr used the video to blackmail her for about five to six months to rape her.

"The accused also tortured her and extorted money from her, threatening to release the video," she said, adding the accused shared the same video on social media on Oct 25, 2024.—Bureau Report

BUSINESS

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GROW
ADVERTISE IN

INDUSTRY SUPPLEMENTS

Call Manager Supplements at
0300-4000000 or 0300-4000000
or 0300-4000000

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GROW
ADVERTISE IN

COUNTRY SUPPLEMENTS

Call Manager Supplements at
0300-4000000 or 0300-4000000
or 0300-4000000

Provinces question quality of Passco wheat stocks

• ECC okays Rs36bn grants, including Rs2bn for VIP aircraft used by president, PM • Allocates funds for e-passports, Sindh flood relief

By Khaleeq Kiari

ISLAMABAD: At the onset of the wheat sowing season, concerns over wheat quality in the public sector have emerged, with provinces questioning its safety for public consumption.

The issue arose during an Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) meeting chaired by Finance Minister Muhammad Awarag, which also approved about Rs65 billion in supplementary grants, including around Rs2bn for VIP aircraft used by the president and prime minister.

The meeting was informed that about 550,000 tonnes of imported wheat, carried over since 2021-22, remains with the Pakistan Agriculture Storage and Services Corporation (Passco) at a carrying cost of Rs1.8bn.

Although imported to meet provincial demands, the wheat remains unused as provinces are reluctant to collect their allocations, leaving Passco to bear the cost.

To address this, Passco proposed supplying wheat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan on a 50:50 basis of local to imported wheat due to the significant cost difference — imported wheat costs around Rs4,000 per 40kg, nearly double the domestic price.

However, apparently because of the price differential, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's food secretary alleged that imported wheat was not fit for public consumption. When asked if the provincial government had got it checked by a laboratory and if it could provide its results, no evidence was presented.

On the other hand, Passco officials claimed that the wheat stocks were up to the mark and regularly fumigated and kept on regular replenishment. Gilgit-Baltistan has an additional price difference of about Rs20 per kg subsidy.

Ministers subsequently recommended quality testing for all wheat stocks before distribution to deficit provinces or districts.

An official statement said the ECC considered a proposal from the Ministry of National Food Security and Research to allocate domestic and imported wheat stocks of Passco among wheat-deficient agencies or regions for the food year 2024-25.

The ECC discussed the issue thoroughly and decided that domestic and imported wheat would be allocated and released by Passco based on the allocation ratio decided by the ECC on Feb 1, 2024 — i.e. 50:50 — till full disposal of imported wheat stock. It also mandated quality testing before the wheat is dispatched to the seven wheat-deficient regions as per their demands.

In other business, the ECC approved a Rs252.7 million technical supplementary grant for the Capital Development Authority to create civic services at the Prime Minister's Office and staff colony, using funds reallocated from the Ministry of Housing and Works.

Additionally, Rs1.8bn was granted to the Ministry of Revenue for engine overheads on two VVIP aircraft used by the president and prime minister.

The ECC also approved Rs2,900bn for the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports to purchase two e-gate personalisation systems and six desktop personalisation machines, facilitating uninterrupted public services.

A proposal from the Ministry of Planning and Development for the transfer of Rs30bn, budgeted for FY25 under the "Food Response Emergency Housing Project", was also approved. The funds will be allocated to the Sindh government for flood relief, as per the Finance Division's release strategy.

The ECC granted Rs10bn to the National Accountability Bureau under Article 84 of the Constitution for expenditures related to Recovery and Reward Rules 2002. Additionally, Rs236.7m was allocated to support Pakistan's trade and investment missions in China.

Exports rise 13pc to \$10.8bn

Trade deficit narrows to \$6.97bn in July-October period

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's merchandise exports rose 13.45 per cent to \$10.88 billion in the first four months of the current fiscal year from \$9.59bn in the same period last year, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on Friday.

The growth momentum picked pace in July owing to improved orders from the international community and stability in the exchange rate. The exports grew 11.81pc in July, followed by 8pc in August, 13.52pc in September and 10.64pc in October.

The exports reached \$2.97bn in October against \$2.68bn in the corresponding month last year. On a month-on-month basis, exports rose a paltry 4.99pc.

Global buyers have redirected clothing sourcing from Bangladesh and China and placed orders with Pakistan. It allows

Pakistani exporters to capitalise on the opportunity and capture the market.

The FBR paid Rs160bn in refunds to taxpayers in the first four months, up from Rs155bn in the same period last year, representing a 6.28pc increase. The FBR paid Rs23bn in refunds in October compared to Rs30bn in the same month last year, a 23.33pc reduction.

An official announcement said all pending sales tax refund payment orders of exporters amounting to Rs32bn processed under the 2024-25, will be disbursed on Nov 1. However, the FBR did not confirm if the reimbursements were released on Friday.

The exporters, especially the textile sector, were unhappy with the government's decision to release refunds and rebates under different categories. According to the exporters, this suppresses their margins and limits their capacity to invest and expand operations.

They said immediate action is needed to prioritise export sector liquidity by fast-tracking refunds and resolving taxation issues. Making exports a top priority will allow busi-

nesses to optimise their potential and contribute significantly to the economy.

In FY24, Pakistan's merchandise exports rose 10.54pc to \$30.64bn from \$27.72bn in the preceding year.

Trade deficit

According to the PBS data, imports grew 5.17pc to \$17.85bn in July-October FY25 from \$16.97bn over the last year. The imports dipped 0.02pc in October to \$4.47bn from \$4.50bn in the same month last year.

Month-on-month, imports declined 3.32pc. The IMF revised its import forecast downward by \$3.3bn from \$40.5bn to \$37.2bn for the FY25, converging with the government's projection of \$37.1bn.

In FY24, imports fell by 0.84pc to \$34.7bn compared to \$35.19bn in FY23.

The trade deficit in July-October FY25 decelerated by 5.59pc to \$6.97bn from \$7.38bn over the last year. In October, the deficit decreased by 31.09pc to \$1.49bn from \$2.17bn last year. The trade gap contracted to \$24.08bn in FY24 from \$27.47bn in the preceding year.



Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, was recorded at 8.1pc in urban areas and 11.7pc in rural areas. —Ordnance

October inflation rises to 7.2pc amid food costs hike

Despite increase, the rate remains much lower than the highs recorded earlier this year

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: The annual consumer inflation rate edged up to 7.2 per cent in October from 6.9pc in September, driven by a modest increase in prices of perishable food items.

Despite this increase, the inflation rate remains much lower than the highs recorded earlier this year. The same increase is mostly due to a rise in food items such as tomatoes, onions, and pulses.

The headline inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), had slowed to 5.6pc in August, the first single-digit reading in more than three years, showed data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on Friday.

The monthly consumer price index in October stood at 1.2pc, reflecting an increase in perishable food prices compared to the previous month. The low inflation rate is partly attributed to a high-base effect from last year when annual inflation stood at 26.9pc in October 2023.

The annual CPI inflation has historically been driven by the food and energy sectors. Improved crop yields, particularly of wheat, rice and sugar, helped reduce food prices this year, alongside a lower reliance on imports. The government's support for agriculture, including increased loans, and favourable weather played a crucial role in boosting production.

Inflation crossed 10pc in November 2023 and then remained in double digits for 33 consecutive months until July 2024. In between, it peaked at 38pc in May 2023.

In the first four months of the current fiscal year (July-October), inflation averaged 6.88pc compared to 28.45pc during the same period last year.

Analysts attributed the decline to a combination of factors, including lower global commodity prices, stable exchange rates and better agricultural outputs.

The State Bank gradually raised its policy rate from 7pc in August 2023 to a peak of 22pc by April 2024, in an effort to curb inflation. Since then, the rate has been lowered to 12.5pc as inflation began to ease.

The IMF's forecast for CPI inflation was 12.7pc for FY25, which is now revised as 9.5pc, showing a downward revision of 3.2pc. The RRP monetary policy meeting will be held on Monday, which is expected to further reduce key interest rates.

Targets for Rabi crops fixed

Irta sees 16pc fall in irrigation water

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Despite reservations expressed by the provinces, the federal government has set the wheat production target at 33.58 million tonnes for Rabi 2024-25 against last year's 31.81m tonnes.

Provincial governments proposed a sowing area of 5,263 million hectares with a production of 27.92m tonnes during a meeting of the Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) — the highest forum that fixes crop targets — held on Friday.

Minister for National Food Security and Research Raza Tameer Hussain chaired the meeting and urged the provincial governments to make utmost efforts to achieve the sowing and production targets proposed by the federal government to meet the wheat consumption requirements for next year.

The Ministry of National Food Security and Research announced that the target of 33.58m tonnes would be achieved from an area of 35.38m hectares to attain self-sufficiency. Last year, wheat production of 31.81m tonnes was achieved from an area of 5.74m hectares.

The director general of the Federal Seed Certification and Research Department informed the meeting that the availability of certified seeds for Rabi 2024-25 would remain satisfactory.

The Indus River System Authority (Irta) Advisory Committee informed the meeting that it anticipated an irrigation water shortage of about 16 per cent for Punjab and Sindh

during the Rabi season. Provinces have been allocated 31.35m acres feet, which will be reviewed soon.

The FCA also set production targets for gram, potato, onion, tomato and shallots at 419,400 tonnes, 6,829,400 tonnes, 2,554,800 tonnes, 658,700 tonnes, and 56,800 tonnes, respectively.

The Meteorological Department informed the meeting that during Rabi overall normal to below normal precipitation is expected in most parts of the country, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, upper, central Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir and upper and central parts of Balochistan. However, Sindh, southern Punjab and Balochistan expect slightly above normal rains. Normal to normal rains are expected in November and December.

The FCA meeting was informed that to ensure food security, the government was making utmost efforts to facilitate the farming community by providing inputs at affordable prices, and taking steps to ensure better prices of their produce to bridge the gap between cost of production and output price in favour of farmers.

Agri loans

In pursuance of the government's agenda for the promotion of the agricultural sector to increase the flow of credit to the agricultural sector, the State Bank of Pakistan allocated an indicative agricultural credit disbursement target of Rs2,250 billion for 2024, which was 26.7pc higher than the preceding year's disbursement of Rs1,770bn.

The FCA meeting also reviewed the performance of Kharif crops.

Businesses demand 500bps cut in policy rate

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Amid sharp deceleration in inflation, business leaders have urged the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to cut its policy rate by 500-500 basis points to revive trade and industrial activities.

The SBP's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will meet on Monday.

In a statement, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Arif Ibrahim Sheikh said the business, industry and trade community is disappointed with the monetary policy stance as it continues to be based on a heavy premium vis-à-vis core inflation.

As per the government's statistics, he said, inflation was 6.9pc in September compared to the policy rate of 12.5pc, reflecting a premium of 1,660 basis points vis-à-vis core inflation.

He sought an immediate single-stroke rate cut of 500bps to align it with the vision of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for the

revival of economic growth and boosting exports.

Core inflation at 7.2pc in October, followed by reports of low international oil prices in future after reports that Saudi Arabia may cut crude oil prices for Asia in December make a strong case for a substantive policy rate cut, he added.

FPCCI Senior Vice-President Saqib Fayyaz Mageson proposed that the interest rate should come down to 12.5pc immediately to enable exporters to some extent to compete on the regional and international markets by meaningfully reducing the cost of capital.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) President Muhammad Jawad Bibani said that with inflation now under control and commodity prices stabilising, a significant policy rate cut of at least 500-500bps is crucial to alleviate the pressure on businesses, stimulate economic activity and reinvigorate growth in large-scale manufacturing, which has seen consistent declines in recent months.

Stocks rally 1,893 points on bigger rate cut hopes

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: After suffering losses in the last two sessions on profit-taking and concerns about below-par performance on privatisation and revenue collection fronts, the equity stage a spectacular recovery on Friday, pushing the KSE 100 index near 91,000.

Giving reasons for the spectacular rally, Tahir Abbas of Arif Habib Ltd told Abbas that investors flocked in an effort to pick shares at attractive valuations after the market witnessed a correction in the last two sessions after achieving an all-time high closing in the previous session record-setting spree.

He said the other factor that built market momentum was surplus liquidity, as investors had been shifting their funds from fixed-income to a bullish equity market due to the downward interest rate trajectory.

After losing 87.04 points to 88,852.68 in the initial trading on Friday, the bulls entered the market in a big way, driving the

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

THE TOP GAINERS		LOSERS		LEADERS*	
Unilever Foods	572.11	Raffian Mills	158.40	Siklani Limited	62.53
Eshwar Pakistan	58.62	Sapphire Fibres	61.61	X-Genus	57.56
Lucky Cement	39.21	East Engineering	45.87	WorldCall Telecom	37.21
Sala Automobiles	36.90	Philp Morris	34.00	Pakistan Petroleum	21.65
Sala Pakistan	30.93	Service Industries	18.78	Sul Southern Gas	17.78

INDICATORS		
	Price	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Share)	89,899.86	▲ 1,893.08
KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Share)	18,497.66	▲ 640.43
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	15,767.876	▲ 871.884
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	25.089	▼ 1.897

index to an intraday high of 91,333.28, a gain of 2,566.51 points or 2.44pc. However, the index settled at 90,859.85 after posting the 10th-largest single-day gain of 1,893.08 points or 2.13pc day-on-day.

Ahmad Mehmood of Arif Habib Corporation said stocks recovered sharply after Commerce Price Index-based inflation

stood at 7.2pc year-on-year in October, and the International Monetary Fund also revised its inflation projection to 9.5pc for FY25.

Topline Securities Ltd Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Sidani said low inflation boosted expectations of a 300 to 400 basis points rate cut in the coming few weeks, compelling investors to

buy equities aggressively. "Single-digit CPI inflation, which is slightly higher compared to September's 6.9pc, also boosted investor sentiment, where increased investor activity was observed in the second half of trading session," Topline noted in its report.

Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (Rs2.2bn), PSC (Rs1.9bn), and OGDC

(Rs2.5bn) were the highest traded value-wise companies, as they garnered investor interest on the back of expectation of an increase in payout given the improvement in receivable position.

However, the trading volume was down 14.71pc to 465.86m shares while its value fell 4.23pc to Rs21.08 billion on Friday. S&P was the volume

leader as the United Bank Ltd had shown interest in acquiring it.

Stocks contributing significantly to the traded volume included S&P Bank Ltd (62.5m shares), K-Electric (57.56m shares), WorldCall Telecom (27.21m shares), Pakistan Petroleum (21.65m shares) and Sul Southern Gas Company Ltd (17.78m shares).

The shares registering the most significant increases in their prices in absolute terms were Unilever Foods (Rs572.11), Siklani (Rs57.56), Sapphire Fibres (Rs61.61), Pakistan Engineering Company Ltd (Rs45.87), Philp Morris (Rs34.00) and Service Industries (Rs18.78).

Foreigners turned net buyers as they purchased shares worth \$5.18m. However, mutual funds offloaded shares worth \$3.22m.

US DOLLAR BUY:RS 275.80 SELL:RS 276.43	EURO BUY:RS 295.74 SELL:RS 296.52
GBP BUY:RS 206.64 SELL:RS 207.97	YUAN DENHAI BUY:RS 175.26 SELL:RS 176.96
ISA RYAL BUY:RS 1675.52 SELL:RS 1674.16	GOLD SOLA:RS 4,700 10 GMS:RS 4,034

Clashes between drug gangs rock French city

PARIS: France's struggle with drug-related violence is at a "tipping point" after a bloody shootout gravely wounded one teenager and left four more hurt, Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said on Friday.

Police were called out around 10:45pm on Thursday night in response to gunshots outside a restaurant in a working-class neighbourhood of western city Poitiers, a security source said.

"Hundreds of people were in the area and a fight broke out, with some of the youths accusing others of being close with the suspected perpetrator" of the shooting, police Jean-Marc Girier told news channel BFMTV.

Responders found a 15-year-old lying on the ground with a bullet wound to the head, the police source said. He was brought to hospital while paramedics treated two more — a 15-year-old and a 16-year-old — for serious gunshot wounds.

Another two 16-year-olds came to hospital themselves with lighter wounds, one to the scalp and another to a foot.

Police said they found around 50 bullet casings from 22-calibre ammunition at the scene. "The 'narco-bugs' have no limits any more... These shootouts aren't happening in South America, they're happening in Rennes, in Poitiers... we're at a tipping point," Retailleau told BFMTV.

France faced a choice between "full mobilisation of the 'Mexicanisation' of the country," he added, saying the "skirmish between rival gangs involved several hundred people" — although a police source later said that between 50 and 60 actually engaged in fighting.

Officers used tear gas to break up the fight, restoring order around 45 minutes after arriving on the scene, the source added.

The prefecture in the Vienne department where Poitiers is located said police reinforcements would be deployed to the city's Cosmopolitan neighbourhood by Friday evening. There were lingering "tensions between different groups" following the skirmish, it added. —AFP

Roof collapse kills 14 at train station in Serbia

NOVI SAD: Fourteen people were killed on Friday after part of an old, steel roof collapsed at a train station in the Serbian city of Novi Sad, the interior minister said.

Vesna Terkovic — the director of the clinical center of Vojvodina — told reporters that three people who had been pulled from the rubble were in serious condition, two of whom were undergoing operations. "The injuries are very severe," the doctor added.

Earlier the interior minister said rescuers were working to free multiple people trapped beneath the wreckage of the roof. Cranes and excavators

worked alongside emergency responders digging through the rubble to search for the survivors, according to a photographer at the scene.

"The operation is still ongoing and extremely challenging. Over 80 rescuers are involved, with the assistance of heavy machinery," Dacic said.

The Serbian government said an official day of mourning would be held on Saturday, according to a statement published by the country's state broadcaster.

The Blood Transfusion Institute in Novi Sad also called on residents to donate blood following the accident. —AFP



CIVIL defence personnel use a dog to search victims on a riverbank after floods devastated Paiporta, a town in Spain's Valencia region. —AFP

Deaths top 200 after worst floods for a generation devastate Spain

PAIPORTA: Rescuers on Friday raised the death toll in Spain's worst floods for a generation to 205 as the government deployed more troops in an increasingly desperate search for survivors.

The floods that have tumbled vehicles, collapsed bridges and covered towns with mud since Tuesday are the European country's deadliest such disaster in decades.

The organisation coordinating emergency services in the hardest-hit eastern Valencia region said 202 people had been confirmed dead there.

Officials in neighbouring Castilla-La Mancha and Aragon in the south had already announced a combined three deaths in their regions. Rescuers equipped with drones and sniffer dogs waded through water and rummaged through debris in search of several people the authorities believe are still missing.

The government has deployed another 500 troops to the stricken areas to bolster the 1,200 already on site for search, rescue and logistics tasks. Another 500 will be dispatched on Saturday.

Some cut-off areas remain without water, food or power three days after the floods began, and many roads and rail lines remain inaccessible.

In the devastated town of Paiporta near Valencia city, some residents complained aid was coming too slowly and frustrating the efforts of volunteers. "There aren't enough firefighters, the doctors haven't arrived," Pina Clemente, a 33-year-old pharmacist, said as he helped clear mud from a friend's house.

Thousands of people remain cut off from the electricity and telephone networks, but it is hoped the estimated number of missing people will fall once connections are restored.

"People are desperate" With several places seeing signs of order breaking down, government minister Angel Vazquez Torres on Thursday vowed an uncompromising response to looting. Police said they had arrested 50 people for incidents including theft from vehicles and a jewellery store.

In the Valencia region town of Alcala, Fernando Louren said he saw thieves grabbing items from an abandoned supermarket as "people are a bit desperate".

"Until things return to normal and the supermarket opens, it's going to be very bad here." Sports centres and schools were among the sites being used for emergency food distribution, Valencia region leader Carlos Mazas told reporters.

"We all have to help" An army of hundreds of volunteers set off from Valencia on Friday armed with shovels, buckets and shopping trolleys laden with food and supplies to help distressed neighbours in the city's flooded suburbs. Among them was chef Nacho Huerta, who said he felt "a lot of emotion" and that "we all have to help".

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez hailed "the limitless solidarity and dedication of Spanish society" on X and pledged aid "for as long as it takes". But the Valencia regional government urged people to stay at home, saying they risked hindering up the emergency services travelling to the worst-affected areas. —AFP

'Entire population in north Gaza' at risk of dying, UN chiefs warn

GENEVA: The unfolding situation in the northern Gaza Strip is "apocalyptic", United Nations chiefs said on Friday, warning that its entire population was at "imminent risk" of death.

They said the entire Middle East region was now on a precipice and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Israel launched a major air and ground assault in northern Gaza last month, saying it wanted to stop Hamas regrouping there.

"The situation unfolding in north Gaza is apocalyptic," said the joint statement from heads of organisations that form the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

"The area has been under siege for almost a month, denied basic aid and life-saving supplies while bombardment and other attacks continue. Just in the past few days, hundreds of Palestinians have been killed, most of them women and children, and thousands have been uprooted from their homes."

"The entire Palestinian population in north Gaza is at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine and violence."

They urged all parties fighting in the besieged Palestinian territory to protect civilians, and called on Israel "to cease its assault on Gaza and on the humanitarian crisis trying to help".

"Humanitarian aid cannot keep up with the scale of the needs due to the access constraints. Basic, life-saving goods are not available. Humanitarian workers are not safe to do their work and are blocked by Israeli forces and by insecurity from reaching people in need," they said.

"Humanitarian relief must be facilitated, and we urge all parties to provide unimpeded access to affected people," while hospitals "should not turn into battlegrounds".

The statement was signed by the heads of the UN humanitarian, health, food, rights, migration, refugees, development, children and women's agencies, among others. —AFP

The airport that 'never loses a bag'

IZUMISANO: Kansai International Airport in Japan is known for its impeccable performance of airlines or other stops on a traveller's journey, but it claims its handlers never lose a bag.

In 30 years of operation, the airport serving the region around Osaka and Kyoto says it has never lost a suitcase, a set of golf clubs, a stroller or anything in fact — a feat its employees humbly shrug off as nothing special.

"We just follow the work processes and rules and do what we have to do," Taroishi Habata, supervisor at CKES, one of the handling companies at Kansai, said. There is no "special training" but Habata and his teams handle more than 3,000 pieces of baggage every day with attention to detail.

"We carefully handle suitcases to avoid shocks. Suitcase handles are aligned in a direction that is easy for customers to pick up," Habata said. "We hand fragile items, strollers, surfboards and skis directly to passengers," he said. —AFP

Japan enters into defence pact with European Union

TOKYO: Japan and the European Union announced a sweeping new security and defence partnership in Tokyo on Friday, which EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell hailed as a historic and "very timely" step.

Borrell and his Japanese counterpart Takeda Iwaya unveiled the pact to develop cooperation on joint military drills, exchange of information related to the defence industry, and space security among other matters.

"I am extremely pleased to be here with Minister Iwaya to announce the conclusion of this security and defence partnership between the European Union and Japan,"

Borrell said. He called it the "the first agreement of this nature" the EU has made with an Asia-Pacific country, describing it as "historical and very timely".

"We live in a very dangerous world" and "given the situation in both of our regions, this political framework deepens our ability to tackle emerging threats together," Borrell told reporters.

He did not mention China, but Japan has previously called its neighbour its greatest security challenge.

After the Tokyo talks, Borrell heads to South Korea, where concerns about North

Korea will top the agenda. The United States has said thousands of North Korean troops are in Russia readying to fight in Ukraine.

Prototyping test-fired one of its newest and most powerful missiles on Thursday, demonstrating its threat to the US days ahead of elections.

Defence industries The text of the EU-Japan Security and Defence Partnership said they would promote "concrete naval cooperation", including through activities such as joint exercises and port calls, which could also include

"mutually designated third countries". It also said the EU and Japan would discuss "the development of respective defence initiatives, including exchange of information on defence industry-related matters".

Japan, which for decades has relied on the United States for military hardware, is also developing a new fighter jet with EU member Italy and Britain set to be airborne by 2025.

The agreement on industrial cooperation could "enable co-operation, such as joint defence projects between Japanese and European firms funded through EU mechanisms may be on the cards", EU

analyst You Kwang Hong of the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Public Policy said.

Japan is ramping up defence spending to the NATO standard of two percent of GDP by 2027, partly to counter China.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who could head a minority government after a disastrous general election last week, has said that "today's Ukraine could be tomorrow's East Asia".

Ishiba has also called for the creation of a NATO-like regional alliance with its remit of collective security, although he has conceded this will "not happen overnight". —AFP



MEXICO CITY: A Mayan center returned by the United States is on display after Mexico reopened a museum dedicated to ancient artifacts, on Friday. —Reuters



BIRMINGHAM: Cake artist Emma Jayne puts the final touches to her Queen Elizabeth II creation during an international show, on Friday. The cake decorating, sugar art and baking event is showcasing the talent of cake artists from around the world. —AFP

NEWSMAKERS



FISHERMEN on horseback drag their nets in the sea to fish for grey shrimps in Oostduinkerke, Belgium. —AFP

Horseback fishing saves cherished tradition on Belgian coast

OOSTDUINKERKE: Passionists strapped to their horses, a team of horses waded collar-deep through North Sea waters — hauling wide nets along the Belgian coast as cawing seagulls swirled all around.

In the saddle, clad head to toe in yellow oilskins, riders steered them parallel with the beach in Oostduinkerke — the last place on Earth, they say, where the tradition of shrimp-fishing on horseback lives on.

Once practised throughout Europe, the custom has all but died out — but a community of enthusiasts has kept the flame going in this coastal town, earning a spot on UNESCO's intangible heritage list.

They do not fish for profit, but the rare spectacle they offer has become a tourist draw for the small town, situated half an

hour from the French border. Back in the day, historians explain, poor farmers used to ride to the coast to fish — as a way to supplement their diet.

At first they pulled their nets by hand, later using mules then eventually work because able to haul much larger, heavier loads. The method was used in Belgium, the Netherlands, northern France and the north of England.

On this sunny day in late October, a group of five headed out at low tide to fish for grey shrimp. "This is the only place in the world where shrimp-fishing is still practised with horses," fisheries minister Vanhous said as he sorted his catch on the beach — surrounded by a curious crowd of smartphone-wielding onlookers. —AFP



ATHENS: Seasoned firefighters protest near the Greek parliament on Friday to demand permanent jobs, after their short-term contracts expired as a fire-wildfire season came to an end. —Reuters



YEHLIU (Taiwan): A Chinese-flagged cargo ship, which ran aground after losing power in rough seas as Typhoon Kong-rye neared waters near Taiwan, on Thursday. —AFP

Pro-Hasina party slams protesters after attack on its offices

DHAKA: A Bangladeshi party formerly close to the regime ousted by a student-led revolution said on Friday that such protesters were "splitting" the nation, a day after a mob torched its offices.

Jatiya Party chief Ghulam Mohammed Quader, a former commerce minister under toppled ex-leader Sheikh Hasina, said the offices were burned down in an armed attack by far-right protesters late on Thursday.

"The country is now divided," Quader told reporters in Dhaka. "They disregard everyone else, splitting the country into 'pure' and 'impure' factions... They determine who is culpable and who is not, leaving no room for justification. Once they tag someone as culpable, it's final."

Quader's Jatiya Party was a key player in taking part in elections in January boycotted by the main opposition, and in which Hasina won a fourth consecutive term.

Hasina's rule saw widespread human rights abuses, including the mass detention and extrajudicial killings of her political opponents. She fled to India by helicopter on August 5 after months of protests against her 15-year authoritarian rule.

Some of the top student protest leaders are now part of the cabinet of the interim government, which is led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus.

Dozens of Hasina's loyalists have since been detained. "They decide everything — they can vandalise, set fire to our offices, and remain above the law," Quader said, without specifying names.

Hassan Akhbarullah, convener of Students Against Discrimination, the protest group credited with sparking the uprising against Hasina, had on Thursday urged supporters to march on the Jatiya Party offices.

He called on students in a social media post to "annihilate the national traitor".

But the group's spokeswoman, Usmata Fatema, said it did not endorse the breaking of any law.

"The responsibility lies on individuals who joined the march," she said on Friday.

Senior police officer Taleb Rahman said that no one had filed a case concerning the attack.—AFP



DEMOCRATIC presidential nominee Kamala Harris speaks to the media upon her arrival at an airport in Madison, Wisconsin, on Friday.—Reuters

Kamala finds it hard to win men's support in labour unions

WASHINGTON: With the US election four days away, Vice President Kamala Harris is struggling to secure the support of male voters in some labour unions whose phone calls and house visits are needed to get Democratic supporters out to vote, senior officials said on Friday.

But Republican candidate Donald Trump, who was president from 2017-2021, has made inroads with union workers in recent years and any drop in support for Harris could be a decisive factor in the neck-and-neck race.

Historically, Harris made US history as the first female and second black president, and unions have been seen as a hurdle to her winning.

Most unions have long supported Democratic candidates, and both Harris and President Joe Biden have looked to unions to contract negotiations and championed workers' rights.

Liz Stoler, president of the 12.5 million-member AFL-CIO, said enthusiasm for Harris is strong over all but sectors is likely undermining support for her in some unions.

"Let's be honest, there are people who look at a female candidate and at face value dismiss her because, you know, she's perceived as not being presidential," she said. "No one goes near Donald Trump in that way."

'Records broken, action delayed' on health & climate change

Lancet report calls out govts, companies for 'fuelling' climate fire, fears these actions can reverse limited progress

By Zeki Abbas

ISLAMABAD: As people across the world face record-breaking threats to health due to rapidly changing climate, the Lancet Commission in its annual report on health and climate change called for a global health-oriented transformation of financial systems to deliver rapid health and economic benefits.

The eighth annual indicator report of the Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change revealed that people in every country face record-breaking threats to health and survival from the rapidly changing climate, with 10 of 15 indicators tracking health threats reaching concerning new records.

The report noted that 2023 was the hottest year on record, plagued by persistent droughts, deadly heat waves, and devastating forest fires, storms and floods, and disastrous impacts on the health, lives and livelihoods of people worldwide.

The higher frequency of heat waves and droughts was associated with 151 million more people experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity than annually between 1981 and 2010, it said.

Published ahead of the 29th UN Conference of the Parties (COP), the report provides the most up-to-date assessment of the link between health and climate change.

The report feared heat-related deaths were expected to exceed 200 million in a high-warming scenario, adding such deaths among those over age 65 increased by a record-breaking 94 per cent above deaths in the 1990s, substantially above the 65 per cent increase that would have been expected had temperatures not changed (accounting only for changing demographics).

Online gambling destroying Kashmiri homes, Mirwaiz says

By Our Correspondent

NEW DELHI: A rapidly spreading online gambling addiction, mostly among unemployed youth, is destroying families in India-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said in Srinagar on Friday.

Addressing the Friday congregation at the Jama Masjid, the Mirwaiz expressed deep concern over the growing trend of online gambling, which he said was disguised as various sports, including cricket and football.

Mirwaiz cited distressing examples of some youth who had lost jobs of respect, gotten heavy financial burdens on their families and destroying them emotionally. He stressed that in Islam, gambling in every form is strictly prohibited as it breeds greed and avarice and ruins lives, opposing their spiritual and moral foundations.

"They have taken hold of the youth," Mirwaiz Farooq said. "It's tragic enough to be grappling with the crisis of drug addiction, and now another menace has taken root in our society."

Mirwaiz Farooq emphasized that the social cost of addiction of every kind leads to the fast erosion of the social fabric of society and ultimately its end.

Mirwaiz suggested the government to take decisive action, noting that many states in India like Telangana, Assam, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, and Nagaland have already banned these gambling apps. "We call on the Jammu and Kashmir government to follow and immediately impose a ban on these apps to protect our youth and society from further harm," he said.

He said that hundreds of young people, driven by the lure of quick money, are falling victim to gambling apps such as dream11bet.com and mcl11bet.com. "They are forcing many families to sell their homes and assets to cover the massive debts incurred by their addicted members, mostly young men."

He pointed out that the high rate of youth unemployment, which he estimated at 40 per cent in the belt state, adds to the problem.

"It pushes many to take risky short cuts like online gambling out of competition. Our young people need meaningful opportunities, not harmful distractions that eventually drain their finances and ruin their futures," he said.

'Preventive detention'

Continued from Page 1

reads: "The government or, where the provisions of Section 4 have been invoked, the armed forces or civil armed forces, as the case may be, subject to the specific or general order of the government in this regard, for a period not exceeding three months and after recording reasons therefor, issue order for the preventive detention of any person who has been concerned in any offence under this Act relating to the security or defence of Pakistan or any part thereof, or public order relating to target killing, kidnapping for ransom, and extortion, abetment or the maintenance of supplies or services, or against whom a reasonable complaint has been made or credible information has been received, or a reasonable suspicion exists of his having been so concerned, for purpose of inquiry."

The amendment adds that "the detention of such persons, including detention for a further period after three months, shall be subject to the provision of Article 10 of the Constitution".

A new provision in sub-section (2) stipulates that if a detention order is issued by the armed forces or civil armed forces under sub-section (1), the inquiry will be conducted by a JIT comprising a police officer of at least superintendent rank and members from intelligence agencies, civil armed forces, and other law enforcement bodies.

According to the bill, these provisions will remain in effect for two years following the commencement of the ATA (Amendment) Act, 2024.

Standing committees

Earlier, Speaker Anwar Saadiq warned that he would convene meetings of seven standing committees — already requisitioned by members to elect their chairpersons — if the opposition PTI failed to provide nominations by next week.

The matter was raised by Agha Rafiqullah of PPP in response to PTI's Anas Qureshi, who criticised the government over the absence of ministers during the question hour. Mr Rafiqullah accused Mr Qureshi of point-scoring rather than genuinely working to empower the parliament, urging the opposition to submit committee member nominations promptly.

PTI Chief Whip Anwar Dogar assured the speaker that the remaining standing committees would be completed by next week. The speaker said he would wait until then, but if the process is delayed, he would call committee meetings next week to elect the chairpersons.

Opposition lawmakers on ECL

Responding to a calling attention notice on placing several opposition MNAs on the Exit Control List (ECL), Provisional National Identification List (PNIL) and Passport Control List (PCL), the law minister said a cabinet subcommittee conducts regular reviews of names on these lists in accordance with the 1981 law. He advised opposition MNAs to formally submit a written request to the committee and provide their details to the ministry through the National Assembly secretary.

The minister claimed that around 65 to 70 per cent of requests for ECL removal are accepted. He explained that names are often added to the list due to absconding in criminal cases, with the ECL typically including around 4,000 individuals, mostly absconders.

Recalling the previous PTI government's practice of placing opposition members on the ECL, the minister highlighted the current cabinet's subcommittee's efforts to remove names of former cabinet members now sitting in the National Assembly. He called for collective efforts to end the traditional practice of political victimisation.

The National Assembly will now meet again on Monday evening.

Ordinance giving more powers to top judge lands in Senate

Continued from Page 1

Ordinance reads

Another significant change is about handling of cases under Section 184(3) of the Constitution. The ordinance makes it mandatory to document why a particular case is considered a matter of public importance before it is taken up by the court. A formal order, under the proposed amendment, must clarify whether the case pertains to public interest or involves human rights issues.

A bench hearing a matter under clause (3) of Article 184 of the Constitution shall, before proceeding with the matter on merits, decide and identify through a reasoned and speaking order the question of public importance involved in the matter and the fundamental right which is sought to be enforced," it reads.

The ordinance also takes away the power of the apex court to take up a case for hearing out of turn. "Unless a transparent criteria is already mentioned or the applicable law requires a decision within a stipulated time, every case, matter or appeal in the Supreme Court shall be heard in its turn based on first in, first out, that is to say, the cases filed first shall be heard first. Any Bench hearing a case out of its turn shall record its reasons for doing so," one of the proposed amendments says.

Another clause reads: "Hearing of every case, matter or appeal in the Supreme Court shall be recorded and transcripts thereof shall be prepared. Such recordings and transcripts shall be made available to the public."

Number of judges

In a separate development, a Senate panel agreed to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court from 17 to 25, amid opposition from the PTI and JUI-F.

The bill, moved by Senator Ahsan Qadir, was thoroughly discussed during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Law and Justice held here with Farooq E. Naeq in the chair. It may be recalled that the bill introduced in the house had proposed to increase the number to 20 from 17.

Uplift projects

Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal informed the Senate that the government lacked capacity to adequately fund mega development projects in the country.

"This is an extremely extraordinary situation. The government is left with Rs10 trillion reserves after stacking share of provinces which straightaway goes in debt servicing," he said.

The minister pointed out that zero balance is left after repayment of debts and more money is to be borrowed for defence and development budgets, salaries, pensions and subsidies.

He said this was not sustainable

and taxation reforms were essentially required to stop tax leakages and increase tax-to-GDP ratio.

The minister's remarks came after members from both sides of the aisle raised alarm over what they called discrimination with smaller provinces and an inordinate delay in completion of projects there.

Mr Iqbal, however, blamed the inefficiency and lack of administrative capacity as well as an ineffective oversight for this state of affairs.

He recalled that at the time of 18th Amendment he had raised the issue of capacity and stressed that the aspect of capacity building has to be looked into while deriving powers to the federating units and had warned that it would weaken the federation instead of strengthening it.

He cited the examples of huge differences in the procurement prices of the same item for public sector organisations in different provinces. "This points to lack of administrative capacity and pilferage," he

remarked. He also said that an amount of Rs30 billion had been allocated for a water supply scheme in Quetta, but an audit could not find the trace of even a single pipe.

"The federal government cannot improve administrative capacity of the provinces. This is the job of their elected representatives to oversee the provincial administration," Ahsan Iqbal said, adding that a total of 200 PSDP projects were underway in Balochistan, with an estimated cost of Rs1,429m. He said Rs1,308m had been earmarked for these projects.

Electric vehicles

Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tahirul Hameed told the house that the government was formulating a policy to promote the use of electric vehicles (EV) which will be unveiled during the current month. He said the government had identified 40 places on motorways for establishing charging

points to facilitate the EV users.

He said that the Engineering Development Board had issued 51 assembling and manufacturing certificates to produce two and three-wheeler EVs in the country. He informed the house that 31 EV manufacturing companies had applied for the licences to produce four-wheelers.

In reply to a question, Minister of State for Finance Ali Perwaiz Malik said inflation rate is decreasing every month due to effective measures taken by the government.

He said prices of major food items and essential goods had decreased as prices of wheat flour came down over 35 per cent, petrol 23.5pc, HSD 22.5pc, chilli powder 20pc, electricity charges decreased by 13.5pc, sugar 12.7pc and cooking oil prices slashed by 10.3pc as compared to the previous year.

Responding to a calling attention notice moved by Zouhban Khanzada, Perwaiz Malik said the government was taking steps to control inflation.

Dictionary chooses 'brat' as its 'Word of the Year'

THE Collins Dictionary has chosen "brat" as its "Word of the Year" for 2024.

Defined as someone with a "confident, independent and hedonistic attitude", it has been inspired by Charli XCX.

What started as the name of her number one album has arguably grown into a cultural movement for some, with people adopting the brat way of life.

Even the team for US presidential candidate Kamala Harris decided to give her social media a brat reboot, to attract younger voters at the start of her campaign this summer.

Charli XCX has created a brat phenomenon with her aesthetic and Collins lexicographers, who put together their dictionaries, look at social media and other sources to determine which words should be added to their annual list of new and notable words.

Brat is the name of Charli's sixth studio album, which has built momentum since its release in June this year, though not only its original tracks, but remixes too.

The song with most commercial success has been Queens, which went to number one in August after a remix with Billie Eilish was released.

Brat is, in the words of the singer, a girl who "has a breakdown, but kind of like parties through it", who is honest, blunt, "a little bit volatile".

She told the BBC's Sidetracked podcast that someone brat might have "a pack of cigs, a lit lighter and a strappy white top with no bra".

"Creating an aesthetic has been something popularised on TikTok, with Charli's brat girl summer seen as a rejection of other trends such as the "clean girl" who looks feminine and well kept.

Brat is also about being hedonistic and rebellious, something Charli says was inspired by her early days of performing at illegal venues, which is again in stark contrast to other popular aesthetics that focus on staying at home and being a wholesome life.—Courtesy BBC

Andy Warhol artworks stolen in Netherlands

AMSTERDAM: Two works by artist Andy Warhol were stolen during the night of Thursday to Friday from a gallery in the south of the Netherlands, while two other screenprints were abandoned nearby.

The thieves used heavy explosives to break into the MUV Gallery in Oisterwijk in North Brabant province and took off with two screenprints showing former queens Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom and Margrethe II of Denmark, Dutch media NOS reported. "The entrance of the gallery was blown out and there was glass all around the building," NOS said.

Not much is known yet about the theft "but it is strange that explosives were used," well-known Dutch art detective Arthur Brand said. "That's not common for art thefts," said Brand, who has made headlines for recovering artworks, including a missing Picasso and a stolen Van Gogh.

The "Reigning Queens" series by Pop Art pioneer Andy Warhol were on display in the gallery before going on sale at the PAN Amsterdam art fair that runs from Nov 24 to Dec 1.

Two other works from the same series, showing former Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and Queen Mombi Tfwala of Eswatini, formerly Swaziland, were abandoned on the street because the full haul did not fit in the getaway car, NOS said.

"The works are worth a considerable sum," the owner of the gallery Mark Peet Visser told local media Omroep Brabant.

Brand, however, said the stolen artworks were "not unique and most likely lots of them were made." "This makes it easier to sell than unique works, but not that much easier," he said.

The "Reigning Queens" series was created in 1985, two years before the American artist's death, when all four queens were in power.—AFP



Muslim voters dread the choice between 'bad and worse'

'Full Ceasefire in Gaza Now' signs appear outside homes of Muslim, Arab residents

By Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: For Pakistanis and other Muslim Americans, choosing between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris would mean voting for a candidate who supports immigrants' rights. But with violence escalating in Gaza, many are reconsidering their long-standing political alignments.

This shift has led some traditional Democratic voters to weigh their concerns over Palestine alongside domestic issues, with a pollster now considering backing Trump in the election.

Across the US, signs declaring "Full Ceasefire in Gaza Now" have appeared outside homes of Muslim residents, signalling this growing unease. Foreign journalists travelling from New York to Washington recently observed this sign prominently displayed in neighbourhoods with Muslim nameplates.

Among those rethinking their vote is Khuram Shihab, a Pakistani American software engineer based in northern Virginia. "The ongoing violence in Palestine is devastating," said Shihab, explaining his decision to support Trump.

"Democratic leaders, including President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, have continued funding and supporting policies that escalate the situation. Voting for Kamala would mean endorsing these actions, and I just can't do that."

Others in the Muslim community urge caution, worried that a Trump presidency could be more harmful. Wajid Ali, founder of a website The Left Hook, expressed concern, saying: "Yes, Democrats are complicit in the tragedy in Gaza. But Trump's policies could be even more damaging for Muslims."

Many, however, are resolute in their support for Trump. On Wednesday night, PFI USA hosted Lara Trump, co-chair of the Republican National Committee and former president Donald Trump's daughter-in-law, in Houston, Texas.

Local PFI leaders, including Sajjad Bhatti, Dr Usman Malik, Dr Saad Bilal, Dr Abbas and Amir Khan, engaged in a 10-minute round-table discussion with her. The group discussed Pakistan's political landscape, focusing on the treatment of former prime minister Imran Khan. Afterwards, PFI USA announced that Lara Trump immediately joined them with her team to initiate engagement.

"We stand for some exciting developments ahead," the statement read. The party's supporters believe Trump's re-election could ease pressure on Imran Khan, though specifics were not provided.

The movement to back Trump extends beyond PFI circles. A recent poll by the Arab News Research and Studies Unit indicates the Republican now holds a slight edge over Kamala Harris among Arab-American voters, with 41pc supporting him and 41pc backing her.

In response, high-profile Democrats like former president Barack Obama, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Senator Bernie Sanders have made direct appeals to Muslim American voters to support Kamala. At a rally in Pennsylvania, Obama denounced Trump's previous rhetoric, calling it "the most racist, sexist, bigoted stereotyping" of immigrant communities.

In crucial swing states like Michigan and Wisconsin, with a large number of Muslim voters, Democratic lawmakers have called to support Kamala Harris. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a vocal advocate for Palestinian rights, urged Muslim voters to consider what a Trump presidency could mean for them.

Choice between bad & worse

Senator Bernie Sanders recently addressed Muslim voters in an article, emphasising his opposition to US military aid to Israel under Netanyahu's right-wing government. Responding to questions about Kamala's stance, Sanders acknowledged Muslim voters' concerns, asking: "How can I vote for Kamala Harris if she supports this war?"

Sanders contended: "On this issue, Donald Trump and his right-wing allies are even worse. In Congress, Republicans have persistently blocked humanitarian aid to starving children in Gaza."

Sanders asserted: "It's clear why Netanyahu would prefer Trump in office. We can't sit this election out. Trump must be defeated."

However, these appeals appear to have limited effect. In certain Trump-supportive like Missouri Governor Mike Parson, a Virginia-based IT entrepreneur, Governor Buck Trapp for "his business-minded approach to government and focus on America's core issues".

He believes Trump's commitment to a strong economy and straight-forward, entrepreneurially driven leadership aligns with the nation's needs, enhancing national safety and economic stability through level-headed investigation.

Chadham Hussain Qasim Baloch, a Trump supporter in the US capital region, agrees. "A competent president will bring down inflation for all Americans. Also, he is a friend of Imran Khan."

Ceasefire prospects dwindle as Israel intensifies attacks

• Strikes kill 64 people in Gaza Strip, 10 in Lebanon • Lebanese PM accuses Tel Aviv of 'rejecting truce'

CAIRO: Prospects of a ceasefire between Israel and its foes Hamas and Hezbollah are on Friday as Israeli air strikes killed at least 64 people in the Gaza Strip and battered Beirut's southern suburbs.

US envoys had been working to secure ceasefires on both fronts ahead of the US presidential election next Tuesday.

But Hamas did not favour a temporary truce, its Al-Aqsa Al-Naba television reported on Friday. The ceasefire proposals failed to meet its conditions that any deal must end the year-long war in Gaza and include a withdrawal of Israeli forces from there, it said.

Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his priority was to ensure security "despite any pressure or constraints". His office said he relayed this message to US envoys Amos Hochstein and Brett McGurk in Israel on Thursday.

Lebanon's prime minister on Friday accused Israel of rejecting a ceasefire after the Israeli military bombed the Hezbollah stronghold of south Beirut for the first time this week.

PM Najib Mikati condemned the "expansion" of Israel's attacks, saying they signalled a refusal to engage in truce efforts. "The Israeli enemy's renewed expansion... and its renewed targeting of the southern suburbs of Beirut with destructive raids are all indicators that confirm the Israeli enemy's rejection of all efforts being made to secure a ceasefire," he said.

Military offensives

Israel, meanwhile, pressed on with its military offensives against Hamas



GAZA: Smoke rises following Israeli bombardment in Beit Lahya.—AFP

in the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah in Lebanon on Friday.

Media in Gaza said about 64 people were killed and dozens more injured overnight and into Friday morning in Israeli strikes on the city of Beit Al-Balqa, the Nusra camp and the town of Al-Zawawiya, all in the central area of Gaza as well as in its south.

Fourteen people were killed by an Israeli strike at the gate of a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in Nablus, according to media at the camp's Al-Awda Hospital. Another 10 were killed in a car in Khan Younis in the south of Gaza, media said.

Israel also gunned Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday morning with at least 10 strikes. It was the first bombardment on the area — once a densely packed district and Hezbollah stronghold — in nearly a week.

The strikes came after Israel issued evacuation orders for 10 separate neighbourhoods.

Lebanon's health ministry said 10 people had been killed in an initial toll for Israeli strikes in the country's east on Friday, most of them in a single village.

"Ten martyrs and 26 wounded in a preliminary toll for today's Israeli

enemy strikes in the Baalbek/Hermel region," the ministry said, adding eight were killed in the village of Amchit.

Hassan Nasif, speaking in a street in Lebanon's capital Beirut, told Reuters: "This is a brutal war and Israel does not have the right to do this... There must be a limit (on) for Israel because it does not abide by any of the laws of human morality." Another Beirut man, Ali Hamad, said he believed the Israeli airstrikes were a way to put pressure on Lebanon in the ceasefire negotiations.

The ceasefire was whittled away any large a truce could be reached before the Nov 3 US presidential election, Hamas television, quoting a leading source in the group, said the ceasefire proposals did not meet its conditions.

"The proposals do not include a permanent cessation of aggression, withdrawal of occupation forces from the Gaza Strip, or the return of displaced people," the source said. Nor did they address Palestinians' need for security, relief and reconstruction, and the full reopening of border crossings, the source said.

The delegation also demanded the provision of food, medicine and shelter, and said any agreement must include an exchange of Palestinians held in Israeli jails for the Israeli captives in Gaza.

Israel on Thursday also bombed the Baalbek region in Lebanon's east, home to UNESCO-listed Roman ruins. A cultural group that organises yearly festivals said the ruins said some cracks were visible due to nearby Israeli strikes.—Agencies



A HOUSEHOLD in Virginia displays a pro-Gaza sign to welcome party campaigners.—Photo by the writer

Poliovirus found in two 'unaffected' areas

By Brian Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: The poliovirus has reached two new districts as 26 more environmental samples have tested positive for the presence of the crippling disease.

The samples were collected from 20 districts, including Noshki, Balochistan, and Miswahil, Punjab, which had so far remained unaffected by the virus.

The presence of poliovirus has been detected amidst the ongoing nationwide vaccination campaign to immunise over 45 million children under five years.

The positive samples take the total number of districts to over 70 where the virus' presence has been confirmed.

The National Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication in Islamabad has confirmed the detection of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in the sewage samples

collected from 26 sites in 20 districts.

These areas included Islamabad, Karachi's East, Korangi, Central and South districts; Hyderabad; Kambar; Jamshoro; Mirpurkhas; Rawalpindi; Lahore; Attock; D.G. Khan; Lohki Murwar; Peshawar; Mianwali; Pafk; Noshki; Quetta; and Zhob.

A lab official said only Noshki and Mianwali reported their first positive environmental samples, while the presence of the virus had previously been confirmed in 18 other districts, either through the emergence of cases or positive sewage samples.

"These areas are classified as WPV1-infected, highlighting the ongoing risk to children's health and well-being across the country."

Replying to a question, the official explained that if poliovirus is found in sewage, the sample is still positive and whenever a child was paralysed with the

virus, it is called a positive case.

"A sewage water sample from an area is the basic parameter to determine if polio vaccination campaigns are being carried out successfully. After the detection of samples, polio campaigns are held immediately to eradicate the virus from the area," he added.

A case of a child being paralysed can be reported from any city due to the movement of people, he said, adding if the virus is detected in sewage, it means the vaccination campaign failed to immunise all children in the area.

The presence of the virus in sewage water also shows that the immunity level of local children has fallen, and they are at risk of the disease, the official said.

Pakistan has been struggling to contain the poliovirus as 43 children have been paralysed by the disease this year. Afghanistan is the only other country where polio remains endemic.

Murdered girl endured years of abuse from father, trial told

By Aika Fishman

LONDON: The ongoing trial surrounding the death of 10-year-old Sara Shariq has thrown up disturbing evidence about a pattern of abuse, allegedly inflicted upon the child by her father, stepmother, and uncle.

Prosecutors contended that Sara's death in Woking, Surrey, on Aug 8 last year was the tragic culmination of a campaign of abuse and neglect.

During Thursday's session, the jury heard details from a series of messages exchanged between Sara's stepmother Rameah Bateed and her sister between 2020 and 2023.

Bateed is reported to have cited Sara's "naughty behaviour" as the reason for the punishments, even attributing her defiance to a supernatural force, telling her sister "she's got a jinn in her".

In various messages, Bateed depicted her husband Ulhas as prone to violent outbursts and shared accounts of him punishing Sara in ways that included all-night sits, verbal threats and physical beatings.

She claimed Sara had cut up his clothes, hidden keys, and torn documents, all acts which were described as "rebellious" and indicative of her so-called "bad behaviour".

Delhi tops polluted list as firework ban flouted

NEW DELHI: India's capital city topped global pollution charts on Friday, partly due to revelers defying a ban on firecrackers to celebrate Diwali.

Delhi battles pollution each winter as cold air traps dust, emissions, and smoke from farm fires in the neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana, with firecrackers exacerbating the problem after Diwali.

The city recorded a "very poor" air quality index (AQI) level of 339 in the 24 hours up to Friday evening, the Central Pollution Control Board said — marginally lower than the 338 the day after Diwali in 2023 — and Swiss firm IQAir rated it the world's most polluted city in its live rankings.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said, however, that pollution in the capital had not spiked the way it had been expected to after Diwali.



THE India Gate is barely visible on Friday morning.—Reuters

"I want to congratulate the people of Delhi that they behaved like responsible citizens and, by controlling crackers, helped to control pollution," Rai told news agency ANI.

Local government officials have blamed firecrackers during Diwali and the winter over the last few years, in line with Supreme Court directives, but have had difficulty enforcing the measure despite the threat of jail.

Some Hindu groups say the ban interferes with observance of the festival, a position the Delhi government has previously countered by saying the ban aims to save lives.

Delhi's air quality is likely to remain in the "upper end" of the "very poor" category for the remainder of the week, the Earth Sciences Ministry said.

Friday's smog also coincided with stable burning in north India, where farmers burn waste left after harvesting paddy to quickly clear fields.—Reuters

Documenting Gaza to #EndImpunity

Israel's war on Gaza — and now, Lebanon — has resulted in the highest recorded number of journalists killed in the line of duty in any given year or war. On the 10th International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, Israel appears on the Global Impunity Index for the first time, with zero official investigations underway, and no accountability for even documented, and apparently targeted, killings

By Lucinda Jordanian and Andy Hollop

THE Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has been documenting the killing of journalists since 1992: overall, 1,825 names have been recorded. Within that total, there are 974 confirmed murders — yet, over the past 30 years, less than 20pc have been accounted for.

As we observe International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, Haiti and Israel are ranked as the world's worst offenders in terms of letting journalists' murderers go unpunished.

This is according to CPJ's 2024 Global Impunity Index, which measures unresolved murders in proportion to a country's population.

This year is the first that Israel appears in CPJ's index: the targeted killing of five journalists in Gaza

and Lebanon since the outbreak of war in October 2023 enough to put the country second in the rankings. Over 130 journalists and media workers have been killed amongst the thousands of casualties in Gaza, but CPJ is investigating the possible targeted murders of at least 10 additional journalists.

As the index notes, "given the challenges of documenting the war, the number may be far higher."

The evidence

The tools are certainly available for governments to take meaningful action to reverse the alarming trend. This week, South Africa filed its memorial to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), containing evidence of the Israeli government committing genocidal acts against Palestinians in Gaza.

While the memorial is sealed, at least some of the evidence submitted is detailed in a report pub-

lished earlier this month: A Special Analysis of the Israeli Military's Conduct in Gaza since October 2023 by Forensic Architecture, an interdisciplinary research agency based at Goldsmiths, University of London.

The scope of the research provides the context in which thorough investigations of journalists' murders could take place.

The report comprises 827 pages of detailed evidence and analysis of Israel's military conduct in Gaza, with findings indicating that "Israel's military campaign in Gaza is organised, systematic, and intended to destroy conditions of life and life-sustaining infrastructure."

OSINT: Chocchelling crimes with tech

The comprehensive, compelling evidence outlined in each chapter of the Special Analysis report is just one example of a detailed documentation of Israel's military conduct

and humanitarian abuses in Gaza.

Newsrooms are also collaborating with agencies using open source information to tell the story of those who have been killed.

The Killings They Witnessed: An Open-Source Investigation, perpetually the largest public analysis of Israeli military strike footage, and the result of a collaboration between the UK's Sky News and transparency watchdog Airwars.

The investigation is an exhaustive review of strike footage posted by the IDF on social media during the month of October 2023. The footage, ostensibly posted to reflect a positive perception of Israel's "precise, targeted strikes" against Hamas members or infrastructure, reveals a different picture.

Ultimately, we publicised more than 70 strikes that the Israeli military published footage of. In 17 of these incidents, Airwars was able to

match the footage to the exact geographic location of a documented civilian harm incident. In those 17 strikes alone, more than 400 civilians were reportedly killed," the report reveals.

Targeting journalists

The fear that journalists are being deliberately targeted by the IDF to prevent accurate reporting of its military conduct in Gaza — and elsewhere — is not a new phenomenon.

In May 2022, Al Jazeera journalist Shiraz Abu Akleh was killed while on assignment in the West Bank. Israel reported calls to establish a criminal inquiry into the incident, despite a detailed joint investigation by the teams at Forensic Architecture and Ramallah-based human rights organisation, ASHRF.

Recent video journalist Issam Alshabeh was killed and six other journalists were injured in southern

Lebanon within a week of the start of the current conflict, when missiles fired from the direction of Israel struck them despite being clearly marked as press.

And just last week, WAN-IFRA condemned the killing of three journalists in a compound known to be housing journalists and called for an independent investigation to determine whether they were deliberately targeted.

This week, to mark #EndImpunity Day, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) also publicly condemned Israel for "the bloodiest period in the history of journalism," calling on it to uphold the ban on international journalists in Gaza, and accusing Israel of violating UN Security Council Resolutions protecting journalists and media workers during armed conflict.

Courtesy WAN-IFRA World Editors Forum

Constantine departs after leading Pakistan to promised land

KARACHI: Pakistan football's future and its recent past would've been so different had Stephen Constantine not taken up the job as the national team coach.

In an almost year-long stint, the Englishman helped take Pakistan to the promised land, the second round of World Cup qualifying for the first time in its history.

Masterminding that victory over two legs over Cambodia, Constantine ensured Pakistan's national team would have at the very least three years of competitive football.

He had set targets too, stating his ambition of steering Pakistan to a maiden appearance at the AFC Asian Cup finals in 2027.

But Constantine wouldn't be there when Pakistan begins their campaign in the third round of Asian Cup qualifying in March next year after the Pakistan Football Federation Normalisation Committee announced the completion of his contract on Friday.

"I want to express my heart-felt gratitude to the PFF NC for entrusting me with the incredible opportunity to lead

the Pakistan national team through some of its most historic achievements," Constantine was quoted as saying in a news release.

"The unforgettable scenes at Jinnah Sports Stadium on October 15, 2023 when our 1-0 victory over Cambodia [in the first round of qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup] secured Pakistan's first-ever qualification for the [second round of] FIFA World Cup Qualifiers will forever be etched in memory."

That remarkable triumph was the national team's first-

ever win in a World Cup qualifying match, coming after a goalless draw in the first leg in Phnom Penh, and cemented Constantine's place in the annals of Pakistan football after the 40-year-old had taken charge barely weeks before the opening game.

Pakistan lost all six games in the second round of World Cup qualifying, playing against some of Asia's heavyweights including Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Jordan, opponents the national team had rarely met in the past after crashing out in the first round

at every previous attempt.

But with the qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup reared together, the first-round win over Cambodia ensured Pakistan would get a place in the third round of Asian Cup qualifying where the bottom two teams in each of the nine second round groups drop to.

During his tenure, Constantine had repeatedly voiced his frustration at the inability of the PFF NC to get a national league going, which would allow players to play regularly. He also expressed

his displeasure at planned training camps not going through from time to time.

However, upon his exit, he thanked everyone involved with the national team during his tenure.

"To my staff every individual on and off the pitch you were phenomenal," he added. "You will ever truly understand the level of commitment and sacrifice you poured into this journey. Your dedication was invaluable to our mission, and it was an honor to lead alongside you. Thank you for everything you did for me, the

team, and the country.

"To the people of Pakistan, the fans, and everyone who cares deeply about football it has been a privilege to lead the Shaheens over the past year. Your support from beginning to end has meant everything to us, and I am grateful to each of you. To the players you achieved something unparalleled for Pakistan football, and you did it with heart and style. You made history, and you reignited hope for 250 million people who believe in Pakistan football once more." —Sports Reporter

Verstappen penalised as Norris tops Brazilian Grand Prix practice

SAO PAULO: Max Verstappen was hit with a five-place grid penalty on Friday for the Brazilian Grand Prix as his world title defence suffered another bump in the road.

The Red Bull star was penalised for opting to take a new engine in his car. It is his sixth of the year, exceeding the limit of four.

The setback comes as his hopes of a fourth successive world title have been steadily dented by McLaren rival Lando Norris who is 47 points behind in the championship with four race weekends left this season.

Last week in Mexico, Verstappen was penalised 10 seconds twice on his way to sixth place after he was punished for his aggressive driving which twice saw him force Norris off the track.

On Friday, Norris topped the times for McLaren with a late fastest lap to beat Mercedes' George Russell as Oliver Bearman, driving for Haas, made it three Britons on top in opening free practice.

Norris clocked a best lap in one minute and 10.610 seconds to outpace Russell by 0.181 with Bearman third, 0.191 adrift, ahead of Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren.

Verstappen was down to 15th in the second Red Bull, but had not pushed for a flying lap in the final minutes on soft tyres.

Alex Albon was 10th for Williams ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz, winners of the last two races in Texas and Mexico, with Nico Hulkenberg eighth for Haas.

Two-time world champion Fernando Alonso was ninth for Aston Martin, having arrived back from treatment for a stomach bug in Europe early on Friday morning, and Pierre Gasly was 10th for Alpine.

Like Verstappen, seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes did not clock a flying lap having lapped on medium for most of the session.

He roared up in 16th and Sergio Perez, in the second Red Bull, was 17th for similar reasons.—AFP



RED BULL's Max Verstappen of the Netherlands competes during practice for the Formula One Brazilian Grand Prix at the Autodromo Jose Carlos Pace racetrack on Friday.—Reuters

Australia to tour SL for two Tests

COLOMBO: Australia will play two Test matches in Sri Lanka early next year as part of the ICC World Test Championships, the cricket board in Colombo announced on Friday.

The series will pitch currently second-ranked Australia against third-ranked Sri Lanka, according to WTC standings.

The first Test will begin from Jan 29, while the second is scheduled to start on Feb 6.

Both matches will be played at the Galle International Cricket stadium.

The Australians will also stay on for a One-Day International on Feb 15, Sri Lanka Cricket said in a statement.

Australia last visited Sri Lanka in 2012 for a two-Test series which they levelled.—AFP



NEW ZEALAND batter Daryl Mitchell plays a shot during the third Test against India at the Wankhede Stadium on Friday.—AFP

Indian batting wilts after Jadeja, Sundar restrict New Zealand to 235

MUMBAI: With Virat Kohli run out for four, India were in deep trouble at 8-4 in their reply after spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar helped bowl out New Zealand for 235 on day one of the third Test in Mumbai on Friday.

Around 15 minutes before stumps, India were cruising at 28-1 but a rapid fall of wickets turned their fortunes around as New Zealand scored the chance of a clean sweep — they sealed their first-ever Test series triumph on Indian soil last week with victory in the second match in Pune.

The hosts trailed New Zealand by 149 runs at the close of a fast-paced day one at the Wankhede Stadium, where the pitch offered early turns to the spinners.

Shutman Gill, on 31, and Rishabh Pant, on one, were batting at the close after New Zealand's Mumbai-born spinner Ajaan Patel struck twice in two balls in a chaotic end to the day.

Ajaan bowled Yashvir Jaiswal for 10 while attempting a reverse sweep, and then India's play of sending a nightwatchman failed as Mohammed Siraj fell, trapped live on the next ball. Siraj also incurred a review.

New Zealand's biggest celebration, however, came in the next over when a direct throw from Matt Henry at mid-on ran out Kohli for four, the Indian batsman setting off for a reckless strike.

Jadeja told reporters that "everything happened in 10 minutes", and the team "did not get time to react".

"We cannot blame any individual. Everyone makes some small mistakes," he added, saying the team must "build partnerships" to not only close in on 230, but "to go beyond that".

Skipper Rohit Sharma was the

first to go, when he edged a delivery from pace bowler Henry to be caught at second slip for 18.

The left-handed Jaiswal and Gill put on 53 to resist the opposition spinners, but Ajaan broke through.

New Zealand batsman Daryl Mitchell, who hit 82, said he expected day two "will be a big snafu", and that the visitors were hoping to "take a few more" wickets on Saturday morning.

Mitchell said New Zealand were "lucky to build some pressure", and that the match was still "severely imbalance".

Earlier, New Zealand batsman Will Young made 71 and Mitchell hit his 12th Test half-century after the tourists elected to bat first.

Jadeja bagged 5-45 with his left-arm spin. Off-spinner Sundar took four — including the final two batsmen, Mitchell and Ajaan — to wrap up the innings in 65.4 overs in the final session.

"Taking a five-wicket haul for India in test cricket is always special," Jadeja said. "I felt good that I got wickets when the team needed a breakthrough. It wasn't

easy to bowl in the heat. But we did well as a team."

Mitchell attempted to anchor the innings after an 87-run fourth-wicket stand with Young before Sundar got him out.

In the first and humid conditions, Mitchell needed regular drinks and ice packs during his 129-ball knock, which included three fours and three sixes.

Jadeja struck regular blows and took two wickets in one over twice in the innings, to register his 14th five-wicket haul in Tests.

That included having Young caught at slip before bowling wicket-keeper Tom Blundell for a duck a few balls later.

Devon Conway was out for four before New Zealand skipper Tom Latham, who made 28, and Young attempted to build the innings in a partnership of 44 for the second wicket.

Off-spinner Sundar came around the wicket to dismiss the left-handed Latham, before then bowling left-handed Rishabh Ravindra, who leads the batting charts in the series with 252 runs, for five.—Agencies

NEW ZEALAND (1st innings)		INDIA (1st innings)	
T. Mitchell	82	R. Sharma	39
G. Gill	53	V. Kohli	4
W. Young	71	R. Jadeja	45
M. Blundell	0	M. Siraj	10
D. Mitchell	53	Y. Jaiswal	10
Y. Jaiswal	10	S. Gill	1
S. Gill	1	M. Siraj	1
A. Patel	4	R. Pant	1
W. Conway	4	M. Gill	1
R. Sharma	18	S. Pant	1
TOTAL (all out, 65.4 overs)	235		
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13 (Conway), 2-19 (Latham), 3-17 (Young), 4-19 (Gill), 5-27 (Mitchell), 6-27 (Gill), 7-23 (Sharma), 8-29 (Siraj), 9-23 (Blundell), 10-23 (Jaiswal)			
SCORING: 50+ (1-1), 100+ (1-1), 150+ (1-1), 200+ (1-1)			
WICKETS: 1-1 (Sundar), 2-1 (Sundar), 3-1 (Sundar), 4-1 (Sundar), 5-1 (Sundar), 6-1 (Sundar), 7-1 (Sundar), 8-1 (Sundar), 9-1 (Sundar), 10-1 (Sundar)			
WICKETS: 1-1 (Sundar), 2-1 (Sundar), 3-1 (Sundar), 4-1 (Sundar), 5-1 (Sundar), 6-1 (Sundar), 7-1 (Sundar), 8-1 (Sundar), 9-1 (Sundar), 10-1 (Sundar)			

SA bowlers relieved their batters are finding form

CHITTAGONG: A significant improvement in South Africa's Test batting form over the last year, culminating in a convincing two-Test series win in Bangladesh this week, has been welcomed by a once beleaguered bowling unit.

Kagiso Rabada said there was no longer as much pressure on the bowlers to try and win Tests.

"Whenever we get two days to put our feet up, I'm more than happy," Rabada told a Friday press conference as the South Africans prepared to return home.

"There is a confidence because of the performance that the guys have put in, and especially coming to the

subcontinent and beating Bangladesh."

Rabada said he had noted a major improvement in batting form at the start of the year when India played a two-match series in South Africa that was drawn.

"I was very impressed with our batting when India came to South Africa. I think that's when it really struck for me. The wickets were spicy, but you had guys who put their hands up in that series. And conditions were tough to bat."

"Perhaps, conditions were a little bit easier [in Bangladesh], but you still have to do the work," the pace added.—Reuters

Ruben Amorim named as new Manchester United manager

LONDON: Ruben Amorim was on Friday named as the new manager of Manchester United, replacing the sacked Erik ten Hag.

The 39-year-old Portuguese coach, who won two Primeira Liga titles with Sporting Lisbon, has signed a deal until 2027 and will join the club on November 11.

"Manchester United is delighted to announce the appointment of Ruben Amorim as head coach of the men's first team, subject to work visa requirements," the club said on its website.

"He will join until June 2027 with a club option of an additional year, once he has fulfilled his obligations to his current club."

United described Amorim as "one of the most exciting and highly rated young coaches in European football".

"Highly decorated as both a player and coach, his titles include winning the Primeira Liga twice in Portugal with Sporting CP — the first of which was the club's first title in 19 years," the club statement said.

Rubén van Nistelrooy will continue to take charge of the team until Amorim arrives at Old Trafford.

Amorim will oversee the

Portuguese 'champions' three remaining matches before the international break, starting with a game against Estrela on Friday.

Sporting lost Manchester City in the Champions League next Tuesday and Amorim's final game in charge is set to be against former club Braga in the league on Nov 16.

His first game in charge of United will be away at struggling Ipswich on Nov 24.

Sporting issued a statement saying they had "reached an agreement with Manchester United" regarding the terms of Amorim's departure, under which United will pay 11 million euros (12.1 million).

United sacked Ten Hag on Monday after a 2-1 defeat by West Ham United left them languishing 14th in the Premier League, with just three wins from nine matches.

Amorim quickly emerged as the club's top target and Sporting issued a statement to the Lisbon stock exchange earlier this week confirming United were willing to meet his release clause.

Amorim, a former Portugal midfielder, started his managerial career with then third-tier Casa Pia in 2018 before a switch to Braga.

Sporting swooped in 2020 and he won the club's first league title in 19 years in his first full season in charge, repeating the feat last season.

CHELSEA POSS: TOUGHEST TEST FOR NISTELROOY

But before the arrival of Amorim, United's interim manager Nistelrooy has a tough task ahead as the Red Devils host Chelsea on Sunday in the Premier League.

Nistelrooy led United to an enthralling 5-2 victory over struggling Leicester City in the League Cup on Wednesday, but Chelsea are a different beast.

Under new manager Enzo Maresca, a young squad have given the Stamford Bridge faithful a glimmer of hope that the London club can return to the Champions League.

Led by the imperious Cole Palmer, who has seven league goals and five assists this season, they sit 6th in the table.

They will also be desperate to improve their awful record against United — who have lost to Chelsea only once in the last 11 Premier League games.

Such is Maresca's attention to

detail that the Italian is redoubting his homework and analysing Nistelrooy's managerial stint at PSV Eindhoven where he led the Eredivisie club to a Dutch Cup title.

"Ruud's a friend of mine, we played together, we spent a year together at Malaga and we still have a relationship," Maresca said. "We started to watch some PSV games. We'd already watched some United games. Hopefully I can see him Sunday."

Chelsea are also looking to return to winning ways after Newcastle United took revenge for last weekend's loss by charging them out of the League Cup on Wednesday, a game where Palmer was rested.

Newcastle, though, had a loan run in the Premier League so far. They are flourishing in 12th place and next host in-form Arsenal.

Arsenal's title chase hit a couple of speed bumps against Bournemouth and Liverpool to leave them five points adrift of the top.

While Mikael Astoy is glad to have William Saliba back from suspension, question marks over the fitness of other defenders remain — including his centre back partner Gabriel Magalhães — while skipper

Martin Odegaard, the fulcrum of their attack, remains sidelined.

Meanwhile, Champions City have a one-point lead and they visit Bournemouth, but Pep Guardiola now has nine players on the injury list after their League Cup loss at Tottenham Hotspur.

"I think we are in trouble, because in nine years we've never been in the situation with so many injuries," Guardiola said.

Liverpool, who drew at Arsenal last weekend, have another stern test against Brighton & Hove Albion who have impressed under Fabian Hurzeler. It will also be a rematch of their League Cup encounter where Liverpool, second, came out 3-2 winners.

David Emery's high-flying Aston Villa travel to London to face Spurs who have blown hot and cold this season to sit eighth.

They will hope skipper Son Heung-min is fit again after he missed the 1-0 win at Crystal Palace.

The bottom three of Ipswich Town, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Southampton will be looking to register their first wins of the season when they play Luton, Palace and Everton, respectively.—Agencies

Zaheer Abbas nominated to PCB BoG

LAHORE: Former Pakistan batting legend Zaheer Abbas finally became the first cricketer inducted into the Board of Governors of the Pakistan Cricket Board in a long time, becoming the nominee of the State Bank of Pakistan.

State Bank had earlier nominated Muraj Mahmood to the BoG before it recommended former International Cricket Council president Zaheer.

A PCB official on the condition of anonymity confirmed that Zaheer had been included to the BoG, the PCB's decision-making body which comprises four members from the 16 regional cricket associations and four departments affiliated with the PCB. It also has three nominees of the Prime Minister alongside Punjab chief secretary and the secretary of the Cabinet Division.

The BoG was formed for the first time in 2003, with two Test cricketers being an essential part. However, former players later failed to place in the BoG, which was reformed during the tenure of former PCB chairman Ehsan Mani following the enforcement of the 2019 PCB constitution, which has now been revoked.—Sports Reporter

Short keen on captaincy for Pakistan T20s

MELBOURNE: Top-order batsman Matt Short will have a role in Australia's leadership group during the Twenty20 International series against Pakistan and has put his hand up to stand in as captain with Mitchell Marsh away on paternity leave.

Short has fewer than 20 white-ball internationals to his name but the 28-year-old Victorian led the Adelaide Strikers with aplomb in the last Big Bash League (BBL) tournament when promoted to captain the T20 side.

With none of Australia's test regulars in the T20 squad against Pakistan, Short is seen among the contenders for the captaincy along with Glenn Maxwell, Adam Zampa and Josh Inglis.

Short told reporters on Friday he was definitely interested in the role.

"I've done it for a little bit now with the Adelaide Strikers and really enjoyed being involved in making some of the calls," he said.

"The communication [from selectors] at the moment is ... they will haven't made up their mind, but if it was me they wanted, I'd definitely put my hand up for it."

It would be a rapid aberration for Short, who missed out on a spot in Australia's squad for the T20 World Cup in the UK and West Indies, and played his first T20 in seven months in September.

However, David Warner's retirement has opened the door for Short to make his claim at the top of the order after topping the BBL's batting list with 541 runs from 11 matches, earning him a second successive Player of the Tournament award.

Short is seen in a two-horse race with Warner apprentice Jake Fraser-McGark to open for Australia's white-ball teams with Travis Head.

Fraser-McGark lit up the Indian Premier League with a sensational tournament in the Delhi Capitals and the 22-year-old scored his maiden international fifty in the T20 series against England in September.

Short and Fraser-McGark will have an unofficial "bat off" when they open for Australia in the first of three ODIs against Pakistan at the MCG on Monday. The T20 series starts in Brisbane on Nov 14.

Short will face Pakistan bowlers prepared by his former Strikers coach Jason Gillespie and he said the 71-Test quick was "probably a big reason" for where he found himself today.

"He's given plenty of me-batting in the nets and in games and I'm sure he's going to hand that onto some of their bowlers," he added. "We'll see how we go." —Reuters

METRO South



Indian batting wills after Jadeja, Sundar restrict NZ to 235 Pg.18 SPORT

KARACHI
Sunset: 05:52 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow): 06:39 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum: 24°C
Maximum: 34°C
Humidity: 68%
Outlook: Sunny

KU syndicate approves promotion of 54 officers amid criticism

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: The syndicate of the University of Karachi (KU) has approved cases of 54 administrative officers for promotion in a controversial manner, it emerged on Friday.

The decision was made through voting in the syndicate meeting held on Thursday and sources said the majority of these officers were promoted without appearing for their selection boards, a mandatory requirement under the university rules for promotion to grades 18, 19 and 20.

Secondly, they said, the departmental promotion committee which recommended these cases for promotion, didn't have a member nominated by the syndicate, as required under the committee's rules.

Moreover, the syndicate member on the committee was nominated by the vice-chancellor.

Sources said the Incentive Scheme under which these cases were considered could be used for promotion of an officer only once. However, in the case of these employees, most of them had been promoted multiple times on the basis of this scheme.

They also questioned promotion of at least 16 officers to grade 20 at a time when the university faces financial crunch.

They said the proceedings of the statutory body saw long debate on the issue with at least five members including the vice-chancellor voting in favour of the promotions, four voting against while one member didn't participate in the voting.

During the debate, sources said, some members questioned why "special favour" was being shown to certain officers while cases of dozens of teachers for promotion had been rejected on the ground that no budgeted posts existed for appointment.

Highlighting teachers' reservations over the process after the meeting, Dr Riaz Ahmed, senior KU teacher and syndicate member, said: "Multiple violations have been committed for promotion of these employees. One of them even attended the syndicate meeting where his case was being considered."

It's high time that the authorities take notice of this blatant nepotism on the KU campus

Continued on Page 14



A TRAFFIC police officer removes a tinted sheet from the rear window of a vehicle during a campaign against fancy number plates, unauthorised use of tinted glasses, display of arms, and other illegalities, on Friday — Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

Desalination plant, 17-storey IT park at NED varsity approved

- Murad okays G2G agreements for mega projects to be initiated on public-private partnership mode
- Minister Nasir Shah says DHA is willing to buy desalinated water

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has approved multi-billion project of a desalination plant to provide potable water to the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) and construction of a 17-storey technology park at the NED University of Engineering and Technology on a public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

Mr Shah chaired the 46th meeting of the PPP Policy Board, held on Friday at the CM House, where he was briefed on several important projects.

The meeting was told that the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) was going to initiate a wastewater desalination project to supply clean drinking water to the residents of Karachi as the project structure was already approved in the 46th

meeting of the PPP Policy Board and the process to solicit investors began.

"This project will be procured under the design-build-finance-operate-transfer (DBFOT) model, allowing the private partner to finance it in exchange for availability and variable payments. The private partners are permitted to establish a facility with a higher capacity (up to 45 MGD) to enable surplus capacity sales for bottled water. This strategy aims to significantly reduce the overall tariff and enhance the project's viability," said a press release issued from the CM House after the meeting.

It said that a Kuwait-based company had expressed interest in installing the plant. Planning and Development Minister Nasir Shah informed the CM that the DHA authorities were willing to purchase desalinated water.

The CM approved the Government-to-Government (G2G) agreement and directed the local government department, the water utility, and the PPP unit to finalise the requirements and initiate the project.

NED Science & Technology Park

The CM was told that the NED Science and Technology Park is being established through a G2G arrangement with a Kuwaiti company.

He noted that he had already approved Rs1.7 billion as provincial government equity for the project.

The meeting was informed that following

an aeronautical study, the Civil Aviation Authority issued a no-objection certificate for a 218-foot tall building.

The CM instructed the PPP Unit to finalise the concession agreement by the end of November and to commence construction. "I want the project completed within two years," he said.

He stated that this would be the first fully integrated Science and Technology Park in Pakistan, located within the premises of the NED University on a PPP model.

The project scope includes constructing a building with three basements and 17 floors above the ground. The office spaces in the park will be sub-leased to technology companies, including large multinationals, SMEs, research companies, and startups.

The infrastructure will feature an auditorium, innovative workspaces, high-speed connectivity, research labs, tech incubators, cafes, etc.

Wastewater recycling project

The meeting was informed that a Kuwaiti company submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a G2G arrangement for the installation and operation of the wastewater recycling project.

The CM was informed about the company's extensive experience in wastewater treatment facilities, which would greatly benefit the project's success.

The KWSC will supply recycled water to

Continued on Page 15

Govt gets six weeks to frame rules for enforcing medico-legal law

By Ishaq Tanvir

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) has observed that the enactment of the Sindh Medico Legal Act, 2023 was a progressive step, but it required implementation through rule-making and appointments.

The SHC directed a committee, headed by the Sindh chief secretary, to ensure compliance with the law, frame rules within six weeks and approve the schedule of new expenditures (SNEs) for appointment of police surgeons and medico-legal officers (MLOs).

A two-bench, comprising Justice Salehuddin Feroz and Justice Adnan Karam Memon, was hearing a petition in which the petitioner sought justice for his daughter who died mysteriously after the alleged domestic abuse by her in-laws, on the ground that a flawed post-mortem and mishandled investigation hindered the justice.

The petitioner also pleaded for a thorough investigation, a medical board to ascertain the cause of death of the woman, action against the officials concerned and prosecution of the culprits.

Allowing the petition, the SHC directed the sessions judge of Larkana through registrar of the Peshawar High Court to appoint a judicial magistrate to oversee the exhumation of the victim's body. A special medical board would determine the cause of death and submit its findings to the magistrate concerned, it said.

The bench noted that at the last hearing, it had ordered the Sindh chief secretary and home secretary to form a committee to ensure implementation of the law by framing rules and approving appointments based on court guidelines reported in P.D. 2023 International 195 and Federal SOPs.

"Primarily, the Sindh Medico Legal Act of 2023, while a progressive step, requires implementation through rule-making and appointments. A coordinating committee, led by the chief secretary, is directed to ensure compliance with the act, frame rules within six weeks, and approve SNEs for appointment of police surgeons and MLOs," it added.

The bench also asked legal experts, including Advocate Muhammad Bilal Fashed, to assist the rule-making body and ordered that such exercise be completed within three weeks positively without fail.

The amicus curiae, Faah Khan Yousofzai and Raafiq Hashmi, submitted that the code of practice, performance and standards for public pathology in different countries be considered while framing the rules and there was guidance for conducting post-mortem examinations, including the second post-mortem.

Despite ban, Qingqi rickshaws continue to operate on city roads due to court stay order, PA told

Karachi has 319 notified and 263 un-notified katchi abadis, adviser tells house

By Tahir Siddiqi

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly was informed on Friday that the government had imposed a ban on Qingqi rickshaws, but the association of the rickshaw operators got a restraining order from court against the ban.

Replying to a call attention notice given by Muzahida Qureshi, Movement-Pakistan's Jamal Ahmed, Service Sindh

Minister Sharjeel Memon informed the house that Qingqi rickshaws were officially banned by the government, but they continued to operate in the city due to a court injunction. "However, these rickshaws are not seen on major roads in the city," he added.

The MQM-P lawmaker had drawn attention of the house to embargo drivers of rickshaws who were driving the three-wheeleders without driving licenses and asked the government as to what steps were being taken to prevent the illegal practice that leads to road accidents.

The minister informed the house that from January 1 to October 30, a total of 304 challans had been issued for embargo driving, resulting in the government

collecting Rs912,000 in fines. Additionally, 1,860 individuals were charged for driving without licenses, which generated Rs.72 million in revenue.

Minister pushes traffic police

Mr Memon, who holds the portfolio of Information, transport and crime, said that the traffic police took action against embargo drivers of Qingqi rickshaws and they were fined Rs120,000 during the past one year.

He added that the most vulnerable members of the society were traffic police who endured long hours in temperatures reaching 40 to 45 degrees centigrade.

He said that while there were good and

bad individuals everywhere, it was unfair to blame the entire department for the actions of a few.

The minister emphasised that traffic policemen had also faced targeted attacks in Karachi in the past, yet they continued to perform their duties with courage.

Flats planned in abadis

The house was informed that the provincial government was planning to build flats in abadis and shabby towns, also known as katchi abadis, to stop squatter settlements in the city.

Furnishing a statement and replies to

Continued on Page 14

Wounded policeman kills two 'muggers'

KARACHI: Two suspected robbers were shot dead by an off-duty policeman in Gulshahr on Friday, officials said.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shahid Siddiqi said two suspects tried to loot Constable Babar Birkat, 48, in Firdous Colony near Sana Tower. The official, who was in plain clothes, put up resistance and the muggers shot him in the leg. Despite being wounded, he returned fire, killing both the suspects on the spot, the SSP added.

The killed suspects were identified as Mohammed Noor and Shahzad. They were habitual criminals as there were several FIRs registered against them at different police stations, the SSP said. — Staff Reporter

Hindu community lights up night sky with Diwali fireworks

Confusion surrounding exact date of celebrations finally ends

By Shazna Hasan

KARACHI: After a lot of confusion over the correct date for the celebrations, the Hindu community in Pakistan gathered to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights, in huge numbers at their temples as well as during private functions at their homes on Friday.

This year, not only in Pakistan, but all over the world, no one was clear about whether Diwali was to fall on Oct 31 or Nov 1. Earlier, the patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Hindu Council, Dr Ramesh Kumar Vasakwani, clarified that Diwali was to fall on Oct 31.

"Diwali begins with the new moon or amavasya. And as per Pakistan Standard Time, amavasya happens on 3:22pm on Oct 31 to end

before sunset, at 5:46pm, on Nov 1," he explained in a video message circulated on social media.

"I hope this clears all confusion about when Diwali is to be celebrated this year," he added. "The Lakshmi puja and aarti on Diwali begins at the auspicious time after sunset and that aarti we got on Oct 31," Dr Ramesh further explained.

And yet the Hindu community celebrated Diwali on Friday (Nov 1). Even when some folks, after listening to Dr Ramesh, arrived at their temples wearing new clothes loaded with fireworks to celebrate the festival, they immediately realised that they were at the 'right place' at the wrong time. Some people who have homes inside the compound of the Shri Swami Narayan Temple had placed lit clay lamps at their main entrances but there were no fireworks going off anywhere. Friday though painted a different picture with celebrations all around.

Although Diwali is known as the festival of

lights and has come to be associated due to this with fireworks, it is also a time to prepare and distribute sweets, exchange gifts including jewellery items and decorate the doorway or thresholds with pretty and colourful rangoli designs.

According to Hindu scriptures, Diwali celebrates the victorious return of Shree Rama Chandra to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile. He returned after defeating the devil Ravana. It was the triumph of good over evil and thus a joyous occasion for the people who welcomed him back by lighting clay lamps and placing them in his path. This is why in remembrance of Rama's return, the Hindu community decorates the floor around their home entrances with pretty and colourful designs.

Today, the lighting of the clay lamps has grown into a much bigger celebration with the people playing with fireworks. There are

Continued on Page 14



A BOY sets off a firecracker to celebrate Diwali at a local temple, on Friday. — Shazia Aidi / White Star

PRAYER

Table with prayer times: Fajr 5:22, Zuhar 12:18, Asr 4:19, Maghreb 5:53, Isha 7:09

REFLECTIONS

IS A SENSIBLE MAN... THOUGH AND CULTURE... THOUGH AND CULTURE...

Young filmmakers feted

Dawn Report

KARACHI Ten aspiring Pakistani filmmakers came together to showcase the fruits of their labour on Friday... Five short documentary films, which offer unique perspectives on the environmental challenges faced by communities in Pakistan, were showcased at the event...

The fellows, who were celebrated for their determination to tackle climate change issues... Oscar-winning filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, whose 2012 film is the force behind Parakha Pictures, and actor Sarwat Gilani also hosted a panel discussion with the fellows and their mentors...



THE 10 aspiring filmmakers pose for a picture with Oscar winner Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy.—Dawn

Man found shot dead in Gulshan

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI A 56-year-old man was found shot dead in his Gulshan-5 gated home on Friday, police and hospital officials said... They added that Faizal Faraz Zaidi was found dead inside his home in Block-10 near Rafiqia Main Road with gunshot wounds... The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) for medico-legal formalities...

KU syndicate approves promotion of 54 officers

Continued from Page 13

and ensure merit in appointments and promotions, he said... "Cases of at least 40 teachers, who have passed their selection boards, are not being considered by the university on the ground that their designated posts don't exist. In this case, 54 officers have been promoted without posts. This is totally illegal," he said...

Upon contact, an official of the university's public relations department clarified that the matter pertained to the 'upgradation of officers' and not promotion... "Their cases, pending since 2018, were approved by the departmental promotion committee during meetings held over the last few years. The pay-scale and grades of these employees have been enhanced while their job titles remain unchanged," he said...

Despite ban, Qingqi rickshaws continue to operate on city roads

Continued from Page 13

lawmakers' written and verbal queries during Question Hour, Chief Minister's Adviser on Human Settlements Najam Akram said a large number of qingqi rickshaws were already there in the city and the provincial government intended to regulate the unregistered ones which existed on or before Dec 31, 2011... Besides, he said there were 263 unregistered qingqi rickshaws in the seven districts of the city... He said district Central had 32 unregistered qingqi rickshaws, West 114, East eight, Korangi 43, Malir nine, South 27 and district Keamari had 20...

from the land surveying agency and preparation of amelioration plan... Applying to another question raised by the MQM-P member, Mr Akram said that there were criteria for regularisation of qingqi rickshaws according to cut-off date under the Qingqi Rickshaws Act, 1987 and the Qingqi Rickshaws Authority Regulations, 1993... As per criteria, he said, a settlement should be in existence on or before Dec 12, 2011 and it must have at least 40 dwelling units... At the outset of the proceedings, the house was prepared for the speech by Speaker and Mr Akram said that there were criteria for regularisation of qingqi rickshaws according to cut-off date under the Qingqi Rickshaws Act, 1987 and the Qingqi Rickshaws Authority Regulations, 1993...

Advertisement for the movie 'Meraj Nila' featuring a woman in a black headscarf. Text includes 'NOW SHOWING IN CINEMAS NATIONWIDE' and 'FIRST EVER MALAYSIAN FILM IN URDU VERSION'.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE OFFICERS HOUSING AUTHORITY KARACHI PUBLIC NOTICE'. It contains detailed information regarding the authority's operations and public notices.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE OFFICERS HOUSING AUTHORITY KARACHI PUBLIC NOTICE'. It contains detailed information regarding the authority's operations and public notices.

Hindu community lights up night sky with Diwali fireworks

Continued from Page 13

spectacular fireworks displays in the night sky with sky rockets going off. Mischievous children buy loads of firecrackers that are going off here, there and everywhere along with crackling bonfires, cones, etc... Besides, events are prepared in Hindu kitchens early in the day to be distributed among family and friends. These include bhata made of different dried fruit cooked in homemade clarified butter or ghee. Some make rich walnut bhata, some wadhwa bhata, some simple bhata bhata and perat, too, along with namak, raggala, gahat jamun, bhata and the like. It is a sweet Diwali, just like we celebrate a month later... Hindus however are especially dressed for the day as it is also believed that the goddess Lakshmi would only visit a clean and tidy home. Therefore de-cluttering and even giving one's home a fresh coat of paint, if one can afford it, is done days in advance... Shopping for new clothes and gifts is also done beforehand. It is also an ideal time for reunions. Family and friends gather to meet after a long time for the occasion and therefore, it brings up a good opportunity for exchanging gifts to spread cheer... It is also an old tradition to buy gold or silver jewelry on this day as it is considered auspicious.

ADVERTISER

Advertisement for 'TO ADVERTISE IN DAWN'. It lists contact information for display advertisements and classified advertisements.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE 5 bed Bungalow 500 yard PROPER PHASE 4'. It describes a property with 5 bedrooms and a swimming pool.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE FLORIDA HOME 3 BED Cleaning Room 1974 FLOOR TILB'. It describes a property with 3 bedrooms and a cleaning room.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE 1.5/2 yards water built optional 2 unit 2x3 study 2'. It describes a property with 1.5/2 yards and a study.

Advertisement for 'KARACHI AUTO RENTALS AVAILABLE'. It lists various vehicles available for rent.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE Phase 5 1000 yards corner Highway South'. It describes a property with 1000 yards and a highway corner.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE FLORIDA HOME 3 BED Cleaning Room 1974 FLOOR TILB'. It describes a property with 3 bedrooms and a cleaning room.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE 1.5/2 yards water built optional 2 unit 2x3 study 2'. It describes a property with 1.5/2 yards and a study.

Advertisement for 'KARACHI REAL ESTATE FOR SALE'. It lists various real estate properties for sale.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE Phase 5 1000 yards corner Highway South'. It describes a property with 1000 yards and a highway corner.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE FLORIDA HOME 3 BED Cleaning Room 1974 FLOOR TILB'. It describes a property with 3 bedrooms and a cleaning room.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE 1.5/2 yards water built optional 2 unit 2x3 study 2'. It describes a property with 1.5/2 yards and a study.

Advertisement for 'ALFAROUILLAH our client has contracted to purchase'. It describes a property purchase.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE 5 bed Bungalow 500 yard PROPER PHASE 4'. It describes a property with 5 bedrooms and a swimming pool.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE FLORIDA HOME 3 BED Cleaning Room 1974 FLOOR TILB'. It describes a property with 3 bedrooms and a cleaning room.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE 1.5/2 yards water built optional 2 unit 2x3 study 2'. It describes a property with 1.5/2 yards and a study.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE 5 bed Bungalow 500 yard PROPER PHASE 4'. It describes a property with 5 bedrooms and a swimming pool.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE FLORIDA HOME 3 BED Cleaning Room 1974 FLOOR TILB'. It describes a property with 3 bedrooms and a cleaning room.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE 1.5/2 yards water built optional 2 unit 2x3 study 2'. It describes a property with 1.5/2 yards and a study.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE 5 bed Bungalow 500 yard PROPER PHASE 4'. It describes a property with 5 bedrooms and a swimming pool.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE 5 bed Bungalow 500 yard PROPER PHASE 4'. It describes a property with 5 bedrooms and a swimming pool.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE FLORIDA HOME 3 BED Cleaning Room 1974 FLOOR TILB'. It describes a property with 3 bedrooms and a cleaning room.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE 1.5/2 yards water built optional 2 unit 2x3 study 2'. It describes a property with 1.5/2 yards and a study.

Advertisement for 'DEFENCE 5 bed Bungalow 500 yard PROPER PHASE 4'. It describes a property with 5 bedrooms and a swimming pool.

Driver killed, 4 passengers hurt as coach overturns

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: A Karachi-bound passenger coach coming from Punjab on Friday morning went out of its driver's control and overturned near Panau Agri, resulting in the instant death of its driver. Four passengers were injured in the accident, which took place at a section of Motorway.

The deceased driver was identified as Abid Hussain Sonhoro. His body along with the injured victims was transported to a nearby government hospital by EMT volunteers and the Motorway Police.

According to the police, the driver lost control of the steering after the speeding coach broke its tie-rod.

The condition of injured passengers was stated to be out of danger.

The driver's body was handed over to the heirs after a post mortem examination. No FIR of the accident was registered till late in the evening.



The giant Boeing 737 takes a ride on a huge trailer that transported it from Karachi to Hyderabad. It completed its 35-hour journey on Friday. — Photo by Umar Ali

Retired Boeing 737 reaches its final destination in Hyderabad

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: The retired Boeing 737 finally reached its ultimate destination at the Civil Aviation Training Institute (CATI) at noon here on Friday through Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway (MH) after 35-hour journey started from Karachi.

Another plane — said to be bigger than this one — is to be transported to the CATI.

Commissioners and residents of various areas looked at the plane with a pleasant surprise and took photos and selfies. The plane passed through various pre-designated routes of the city before reaching the institute at the Hyderabad airport where it would be used for imparting training to students.

Officials accompanying the plane said that its parts were dismantled before bringing it to Hyderabad via the defined route and after measuring different roads, roundabouts and turning points. The plane's main body was kept on a huge trailer while its parts, including wings and wheels, were shifted through separate trailers. The plane is 35m long and 45m wide.

According to Mr. Hameem, a representative of the company which shifted the plane to the CATI, an even bigger one would be brought from Karachi to Hyderabad soon for training purposes.

Hameem said it was a difficult task, but safely handled and the plane reached its ultimate destination.

Fake pesticide stock seized

By Our Correspondent

MIRPURKHAS: About 300 suspicious pesticide bottles were seized from a shop in Kot Ghulam Muhammad Town, officials said on Friday.

The action was taken by the deputy director of the Mirpurkhas agriculture extension department, Ghulam Mujtaba Lakho, during an operation launched against unscrupulous firms selling fake, spurious and unregistered pesticides and fertiliser on a large scale in the district.

During an inquiry with shopkeepers, the officer found that the accused shop owner, Seth Abid Kaim Khani, had been running various fertiliser and pesticide shops for the past many years in the town on the basis of a licence issued by the Mirpurkhas agriculture extension department, which was illegal.

He also paid a surprise visit to a pesticide and fertiliser dealer shop in Mir J Landhi Town, Taluka KQTA, where he checked the suspected fertilisers and pesticides and acquired various samples for laboratory testing.

Later, the officer wrote a letter to the director plant protection Hyderabad, Shankar Lal Talbi, and complained about the man running multiple shops in Kot Ghulam Muhammad Town illegally on one licence of the department.

Four policemen found minting Rs1.9m from two illegally detained 'bookies'

By Mohammad Hussain Khan

HYDERABAD: Four policemen were booked and two of them were arrested for allegedly detaining two persons and minting Rs1.9m from them in an online transaction a couple of days back, it was revealed on Friday.

Hyderabad SSP Dr Farooq confirmed arrest of the two policemen, Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) in-charge SIP Waheed Pathanwar and constable Zohair.

The detained persons have been identified as Jawad Memon and his friend Atiq Soomro, both residents of Mera town of Nanded/Deosai Forest district.

The SSP said that Memon and Soomro were booked and were picked up by the policemen to extract money from them.

Insights made by them revealed that SIP Pathanwar and his team waylaid Memon and Soomro when they were present in a court in connection with some litigation.

SIP Pathanwar's guard Muneeb and Mohamad Gujar (who runs a guest house), as well as another suspect, Mustafa alias Raja, were also to be booked and arrested.

"The victims were detained at Gujar's

guest house, located in an area falling within the limits of the Hussainabad police station, and were released after an amount of Rs1.9m was transferred from their account through an online application into the account of two persons who were close associates of Pathanwar in Landhiabad," said a police source. The two persons were identified as Usaf, a resident of Landhiabad's Ura-7, and Muhammad Bax, a resident of Hyderabad's SITE area.

It was learnt that the SITE home minister spoke to the SSP as well as DSP CIA Aslam Langah after someone approached him to seek release of the detained man. When the DSP interrogated them, they identified the place of their detention (the guest house) and one of them told him that although his face was covered (while detained), he was able to figure out the area.

The CIA DSP visited the guest house, where the staff shared with him some facts, like who had taken them there on Tuesday for an overnight stay. The DSP spoke to SHO Inam Rashed of the Cantonment police station because Memon and Soomro were picked up from civil court, which falls within his jurisdiction. The SHO was asked to see the

place where they were taken to. He explained the site's location to the DSP but avoided to go there for any police action.

"After visiting the guest house, DSP Langah called SIP Pathanwar to the 8-Section police station where other policemen, whose names were associated with the episode, were also brought," said a source privy to the investigation.

Pathanwar initially denied his involvement in the matter but when he was confronted with mobile phone's gallery, he gave up as it revealed everything. "SIP Pathanwar even told the DSP that he was briefing the District Intelligence Bureau (DIB) in-charge, Akbar Loodi, about everything," said a source.

Akbar Loodi, however, rejected Pathanwar's claim. "SIOs and other policemen often share various things," he argued. When he was told that Pathanwar's phone that with him was shown to the DSP, Loodi insisted that he was not aware of the episode.

Police interrogation with SIP Pathanwar established that Rs1.9m was transferred in the accounts of Usaf Ali and Muhammad Bax. According to the SSP, the money was saved as it could not be

withdrawn from the receiver's account due to bank's intervention at the account-holder's request.

The Cantonment SHO confirmed that Zohair and Pathanwar were taken into custody, but denied that an FIR against them was registered.

Only last month, the SITE police had registered a case against two SIs and four police constables for holding a man in wrongful confinement to mint Rs400,000 from him.

The case was registered after High Court Bar Association (HCBA) President Ayaz Tahir had brought the matter to the notice of the SSP. It was led by Babbar Ali Chandio.

The SIs were identified as Asif Jami and Saifullah Gill, police constable Zohair, and four unidentified constables.

According to the victim, he had gone to a mall located on Aurubhan Road after closing his hotel to pick his friend. He stated that the accused kidnaped him in a car on Sept 18 and took him to the SITE police station where he was deprived of his ATM card, mobile phone and a cash amount of Rs80,000. He said he was then taken to a private bank's branch where the suspects withdrew Rs422,000 using his ATM card.

Desalination plant, 17-storey IT park at NED varsity approved

Continued from Page 13

industries in SITE, ensuring the quality of recycled water meets their requirements.

The CM instructed the local government, industries, and PPP Unit to finalise the project with the company and initiate work promptly.

The meeting was

informed that the MMR Expressway project would add approximately 500 meters before the existing two-lane Karhoo interchange on the M9 motorway.

It was informed that the six-lane expressway would create traffic bottlenecks on the two-lane Karhoo interchange and to mitigate these bottlenecks

and operational issues, it was crucial to reconstruct, rehabilitate, and widen the Karhoo interchange to accommodate the increased traffic volumes without delays.

A discussion was held with National Highway Authority (NHA) officials, and both sides recognised the need to upgrade the interchange.

The CM approved the appointment of a technical consultant to conduct necessary studies, enabling the local government department to provide the NHA with the required documentation.

Ghokhi-Kandhlat Bridge

The CM was informed that construction on the Ghokhi-Kandhlat Bridge began in August 2020, but construction activities were suspended on July 18, 2023 and resumed on

Journalists protest 'police excesses'

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: Media personnel in Karachi, Sukkur and Ghokhi towns held protest demonstrations after a police team from Punjab broke into the Karachi Press Club and tried to take away its former president Reza Mohammad Rangwar and his professional colleague Saleem Mirani on Friday without informing anyone about their crime.

A large number of journalists and other media personnel offered resistance, forcing the police team to leave the premises.

Speaking to the participants at the protest venue, leaders of the journalist community strongly condemned the fresh police action. They recalled that one of their professional colleagues, Khan Mohammad Shar, had been taken away by the Punjab police along with his family members in a similar action in Karachi 10 days ago and their whereabouts were not known till date.

They said such actions could not deter the journalist community from discharging its duty of disseminating facts through fair reporting.

They acknowledged that the Sindh and Punjab police were annoyed over reporting of their utter failure to eliminate dacoit gangs in the riverine areas of the two provinces, as well as those of Balochistan.

Sukkur IBA University
www.iba.edu.pk

AUCTION NOTICE
TO RUN CENTRAL CAFETERIA ON RENTAL BASIS
AUC/01/24-25

Sukkur IBA University invites technical and financial proposals from eligible and well reputed firms/individuals registered with taxation Department(s) having relevant experience for running following food/pastry facility at main campus at Sukkur on contract basis.

S.No.	DESCRIPTION	AUCTION DOCUMENT FEE
01	Central Cafeteria	10,000

Auction documents can be collected from the office of Additional Director Procurement against written request and submission of auction document fee Bank's pay order/demand draft in favor of "Sukkur IBA University" from November 02, 2024 to November 18, 2024 during working hours on working days.

Bid Security as mentioned in the bidding documents must be attached with the financial proposal. Any bid without bid security will not be considered.

The last date for the submission of the proposals is November 18, 2024 up to 3:00 pm in the office of additional director procurement. The technical proposals will be opened on the same day at 3:30 pm.

Auction documents can also be downloaded from SBAU website www.iba.edu.pk and submitted with auction document fee.

In case of Government declare/announce public holiday on the date of opening, the proposals will be submitted/opened on the next working day at the same time.

The site can be visited during hours: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on any working day.

Sukkur IBA University reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

PLEASE SEND YOUR QUERIES TO: iba@iba.edu.pk

SUKKUR IBA UNIVERSITY
Near Ahmed Sekhri Road, Sukkur
Ph: 071-2644141-42 Fax: 071-2604429

14th BARS



1943 - 2010
The Fourteenth Bars of
Late S.N. ABBASI

All relatives, friends, colleagues and well wishers are requested to pray for the spiritual elevation of the deceased.

Please recite Surah-e-Fatiha for the salvation and heavenly ascension of the departed soul.

MOURNERS:
All Members of the Abbasi Family,
Kot Diji, Khair Pur (Mr's) 0303-2150688

اللهم صل على آلنا كما تصلي على آل محمد

SOYEM

With deep sorrow we announce the passing away of our beloved

Dr Razia Reaz Ahmed Faruqi
Wife of Late Reaz Ahmed Faruqi
And D/o Rahim Ahmed Dharamsey
On October 31, 2024

Soyem for ladies and gents will be held on Saturday
November 2nd 2024 After Maghrebain Prayers at
Mehfil-e-Murtaza PECHS Block 3

Fondly remembered and loved by:
Munir Ahmed Faruqi
Sajeda Nazir Ahmed

And All the Doctors and Staff at Holy Family Hospital and
Australian Concept Fertility Center

SOYEM

for the Isal-e-Sawab of our beloved

RAZIA SHARIF
W/o Late Mohammad Hasan Sharif

will be held for Ladies & Gents on Saturday, November 02, 2024
at Masjid-e-Yasrab, Defence Inam Bargah, Phase-IV, DHA, Karachi

Quran Khwan: 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm
Majlis: 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Askari & Reema
Sharif & Heer
Salman & Sanobar

Grandchildren
Sharif Hashim Family
Ahmed Habib Family

METRO

North



Indian batting wilts after Jadeja, Sundar restrict NZ to 235

Page 18 SPORT

ISLAMABAD
Sunset 05:18pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:25am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 18°C
Maximum 30°C
Outlook Mostly Sunny

Krishna temple lights up for Diwali celebrations

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI Krishna Temple, the only worship place for the Hindu community in the twin cities of Rawalpindi-Islamabad, echoed with chants of 'Happy Diwali' on Friday evening soon after the end of mass prayers. The Hindu community members from Rawalpindi and Islamabad gathered at the Krishna Temple in Saddar to celebrate Diwali, the festival of light. The temple was illuminated with lights and withered henna and henna. Women, girls and children also came to the temple to offer religious rituals. The temple echoed with Bhajans, religious songs.



WOMEN light earthen lamps during Diwali celebrations at Krishna temple in Rawalpindi's Saddar area on Friday. — Photo by Mohammad Aamir

The main feature of the festival was earthen oil lamps which had been lighted up in every corner of the temple and Rangoli (different patterns made from colour powder on the doors of houses and temple's main entrance). Diwali started on Thursday (October 31), but it was formally celebrated in the temple on Friday. It is the festival to mark the beginning of the New Year in the Hindu calendar and the home return of Hindu god Rama after 14 years in exile. The festival started with Mantra followed by reciting verses from Ramayana and mass prayers. After that, children and women lit lamps and displayed fireworks. Special prayers were also

offered for the country's development and prosperity. According to Hindus, Diwali is celebrated to mark the return of Hindu god Ram, his wife Sita and Lakshmana from his exile after conquering Lanka and killed demon king Ravana. "Ram defeated evil forces and returned to Ayodhya, the people lit earthen lamps with Desi ghee to welcome him," Jai Ram, a Hindu priest of the temple, explained. He said that Diwali symbolises the victory of good over evil, and lamps were lit as a sign of celebration and hope for mankind. He said on the first day the Hindus celebrated

the festival in their homes and congregations were held at Krishna Mandir on Friday. According to Jai Ram, the festival was connected with deep-rooted traditional and cultural values of Hindu religion. People wake up early in the morning, wear new clothes, offer prayers and touch

the feet of their elders and in return elders give them Diwali gifts. Krishna Bharti said children enjoy the occasion a lot because they receive gifts from their elders, use fireworks, and mostly families buy new clothes as well as sweets on the occasion of Diwali. "All families try to take part in the celebrations wholeheartedly and according to their financial situation." He said inflation forced many people to borrow money to celebrate Diwali, adding he also had to borrow money as he could not buy new clothes for his wife and children.

Two health teams face resistance during dengue surveillance, polio campaign

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI Two health department teams carrying out dengue surveillance and polio vaccination faced resistance in different incidents in the garrison city. In the first incident, a worker of the health department team deputed to carry out dengue surveillance was attacked by a woman in Munawar Colony. Shakila Kausar, a resident of Chauraha, lodged an FIR with the police saying that she was on duty on Thursday on Street No. 10, Munawar Colony, Adiala Road. "When she knocked on the door of a house, a woman inquired from inside and when she was told her that they were from the dengue wing of the health department, she refused to let them in. The health department team subsequently put a mark of 'refusal' on the main door of the house and left. Shakila further said that as they were moving forward, the woman came out of the house, grabbed her by the neck and put marks on her clothes and face with a marker saying that since she had marked the door of her house, she did the same to her face. She further said in the FIR that the enraged woman used abusive language against her and also tore her Alaya. Following Shakila's complaint, a police case was registered and investigation launched. Likewise, a team administering polio vaccination drops in Bahria Town's Phase VII faced resistance from at least four families who refused to get their children vaccinated against the crippling disease. The health team then informed the police and continued with their campaign.

Joint survey to be conducted on Khanpur Dam canal to check water theft, leakage

Proposed dams to meet water shortage also discussed in meeting

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD City managers have decided to carry out a joint survey of the 18km Khanpur Dam canal, which supplies water to the twin cities, to address the issue of leakage and water theft. Matters related to proposed dams for meeting water shortage also came under discussion. A meeting was held at the CDA headquarters, which was presided over by Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Muhammad Ali Raza. He was attended by officials from the civic body, Rawalpindi Cantonment Board, Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa), Wapda and other departments. A participant of the meeting said the basic purpose of the meeting was to set a roadmap for the newly established 'Islamabad Water' agency, which was formed on Wednesday after the federal cabinet's approval. Various other decisions related to water supply and proposed dams were also taken in the meeting. "The CDA chairman directed that a joint survey be carried out by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab irrigation departments, RCB, Wasa Rawalpindi and CDA of the 18km distribution canal from Khanpur Dam to address water leakage, water theft and overuse of the share. Wapda will lead the survey. Each department will survey its designated section of the canal," read a handbook issued by the CDA after the meeting. It is relevant to note here that a document of the CDA recently pointed out that Wapda release 51 million gallons per day for the CDA from Khanpur Dam for both Islamabad and Rawalpindi but the civic body received only 28MGD as water was being used through unfair means before it reached CDA's reservoir in Sangjani. The civic body believes that this loss of water was a result of theft and conveyance losses. The CDA document further revealed that an estimated shortfall was 25 to 30pc of water. It said the irrigation departments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa managed the distribution canals, and the potential losses and thefts allegedly occurred before the water reached the CDA intake point in Sangjani. During the course of the meeting, Director General (Water Management Wing) CDA Sadar Khan Zahir presented an administrative and financial overview of the city's water resources and outlined the existing shortfall. He highlighted the disparity in water distribution from Khanpur Dam and urged to undertake corrective measures

for ensuring equitable distribution. During the course of the meeting, the CDA chairman emphasised the urgency of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to resolve the critical water challenges facing the city. The meeting also discussed the need for separate electricity meters for RCB, Wasa and CDA and taking the matter up with Ispra for swift action. Both RCB and Wasa Rawalpindi expressed their commitment to resolve the issue of outstanding dues with CDA to urgently clear old liabilities. In addition, plan for having a dedicated raw water pipeline from Khanpur Dam with an aim to reduce unauthorised water abstraction/leak was discussed, with stakeholders agreeing to share the pre-feasibility costs. Additionally, concerns over water contamination at Khanpur Dam were raised, and urgent steps are being planned to make drinking water safe for Islamabad residents. The meeting focused on future mega water projects, including the Indus River/Faridkot Dam water connection project to address long-term water shortages in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. This proposed project, which was designed to provide 100MGD each to Rawalpindi and Islamabad, is being discussed since 2007, but no serious practical step has yet been taken to start construction work. The meeting took up the proposed Chirah Dam project, being executed by the Punjab government on 50pc water

and cost sharing basis with the CDA and Rawalpindi. The meeting was held at detailed designing and estimation of this project was in progress. This dam was approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Econ) in 2009. The dam is supposed to be built on Soan River near Chirah village with a capacity to supply Rawalpindi and Islamabad 150MGD. Many years ago, the CDA had paid Rs851 million to the Small Dam Organisation of Punjab for this project, but work has still not started. Meanwhile, the meeting was told that Wapda had also been requested for pre-feasibility studies for Chirah and Shalimar dams in Islamabad. While the meeting was informed that for Dhotra Carryover Dam near Khanpur Dam, pre-feasibility is already underway through Wapda. Official handbook said the CDA chairman directed Member Technology and Digitalisation to introduce IT interventions, including e-based governance, e-billing and net metering to enhance the efficiency and transparency of water resource management. According to the CDA, the meeting concluded with a commitment from all stakeholders to resolve outstanding issues collaboratively and work toward a sustainable water supply for Islamabad. The CDA chairman directed to nominate focal persons from the relevant department to ensure streamlined coordination moving forward.

RAWALPINDI Traders on Friday stressed the need for improving security at shopping areas and removing encroachments to streamline traffic in the garrison city. A delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) led by its president, Usman Shaikat, met Regional Police Officer (RPO) Babar Sarfaraz. During the meeting, President Usman Shaikat invited the RPO to visit the chamber, along with CPO and CTO, to which RPO Babar Sarfaraz agreed. He said he planned to visit the chamber next week and discuss business community's issues. Mr. Shaikat emphasised the need for reactivating the police post and patrol in Faisal Industrial Estate. The chamber's president stressed the need for finding a lasting solution to encroachments in the city markets, which include reducing traffic congestion and reviving the Police-Chamber Coordination Committee. Regional Police Officer Babar Sarfaraz assured the delegation that the police were making efforts to curb street crime, theft, and other security issues across the city, prioritising the safety and well-being of the business community. — Staff Reporter

Woman from Taxila dies of dengue fever

TAXILA Health authorities and the local administration remained on their toes after a patient died of dengue haemorrhagic fever in Taxila on Thursday. Nida Noorin, 32, a native of Mohra Shah Wali Shah of Union council 84 of the city, is the first woman to die of dengue in Taxila. Deputy District Officer Dr. Shaukat Rasool confirmed to Dawn that it was the first death caused by dengue, and that the authorities had decided to monitor dengue patients after a surge in positive cases in the area. On the other hand, dengue patients continued to increase in Taxila and Wah at an alarming rate with 28 more people diagnosed with the virus raising the number of positive cases to 114 this season, local health department data showed. Moreover, the official data reveals that dengue mosquito attacks continue to escalate in ward 7 of Wah Cantonment, which was emerging as a hotbed with positive cases rising to 38, followed by 24 in ward 8. In union council Wah, the number of positive cases recorded was eight, six each in union council Saral Kala, Thaha Khalil and Jaitala while four cases each in ward 2 and 9 of Wah. — Correspondent

Pindi traders want security of shopping areas improved

RAWALPINDI Traders on Friday stressed the need for improving security at shopping areas and removing encroachments to streamline traffic in the garrison city. A delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) led by its president, Usman Shaikat, met Regional Police Officer (RPO) Babar Sarfaraz. During the meeting, President Usman Shaikat invited the RPO to visit the chamber, along with CPO and CTO, to which RPO Babar Sarfaraz agreed. He said he planned to visit the chamber next week and discuss business community's issues. Mr. Shaikat emphasised the need for reactivating the police post and patrol in Faisal Industrial Estate. The chamber's president stressed the need for finding a lasting solution to encroachments in the city markets, which include reducing traffic congestion and reviving the Police-Chamber Coordination Committee. Regional Police Officer Babar Sarfaraz assured the delegation that the police were making efforts to curb street crime, theft, and other security issues across the city, prioritising the safety and well-being of the business community. — Staff Reporter

Promotion of bureaucrats may face further delay as Pims doctor challenges CSB meeting in high court

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD The promotion of scores of senior business executives is in jeopardy as a doctor from Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) has approached Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking directions to the Central Selection Board (CSB) not to convene its meeting till a final decision on her departmental appeal. The meeting of the CSB is scheduled to be held on Nov 25 to 27 after an unprecedented 16-month delay to consider the promotion of senior officers to RN-20 and RN-21. Dr. Majida Zafar, through her counsel Tanvir Bhatti, in a petition filed in IHC challenged the

upcoming meeting and contended that she had been discriminated against and deprived of the seniority through a tailor-made notification. She sought the court's direction for her departmental appeal to be decided well before the CSB meeting in which the promotion of a panel forwarded by the hospital administration would be considered. The list forwarded by Pims included the names of directors Najma Khuresheed, Sadia Aftab and deputy director Noorahim Anand. The petitioner's counsel requested the court to issue directions to the CSB not to convene its meeting till a final decision on her departmental

appeal. Dr. Zafar claimed that she should be considered for promotion in the said meeting. She stated the respondents namely Najma Khuresheed, Sadia Aftab and Noorahim Anand, non-clinical doctors, were brought to Pims from another service cadre and placed in the petitioner's cadre which under the applicable legal framework could not have been done. Her counsel Advocate Bhatti contended that as a consequence of this unlawful absorption in a different cadre, the seniority list had also been affected to the prejudice of her client. According to the petition, these respondents belonged to the administrative cadre and

lacked the requisite experience for promotion to the post of associate professor of gynecology as they had never served as an assistant professor of gynecology which was a prerequisite for the subject promotion. Furthermore, they have also never held the post of senior registrar or medical officer in any tertiary care hospital, which was also essential for promotion to the post of assistant professor. It said Sadia Aftab was an assistant instructor at Population Ministry and was transferred to Pims. She managed to change her cadre to the clinical cadre and claimed back-dated seniority based on her previous position. This action implied the conversion of job

experience from one cadre to another, which is against established norms and regulations. Noorahim Anand and Najma Khuresheed got changed their administrative cadres from administrative/ non-teaching doctor to clinical cadre upon their deputation to Pims. The petition stated that the respondents also got promotions in RN-18 and 19 without departmental selection board and departmental promotion committee's recommendations. After hearing the preliminary arguments on the petition, IHC Justice Saadur Raza Ishaq Khan issued notices to Pims, Establishment Division and other respondents and sought their reply by Nov 5.

PRAYER

Fajr 05:05
Zuhar 11:55
Asr 03:40
Maghreb 05:19
Isha 06:43

Starting time in Islamabad

REFLECTIONS

‘A SENSIBLE MAN ACQUIRES EDUCATION AND CULTURE THROUGH ADVICE, WHILE BRUTES AND BEASTS ALWAYS IMPROVE THROUGH PUNISHMENT.’

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)
75A-1427

Russia supports Pakistan's inclusion in BRICS: analyst

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Director of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) Dr. Andrei Kartanov has said Russia strongly supported Pakistan to join BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa alliance) as it was an important country of the region.

He was speaking at a seminar jointly organised by the Asian Institute of Economic Research and Development (AIERD) and the Russian International Affairs Council on Thursday.

Mr. Kartanov elaborated that Pakistan was a big and important country that could positively foster South-South cooperation and economic linkages.

He emphasised that there was a need to define mechanisms for fostering a bilateral relationship between Russia and Pakistan.

SDPI Executive Director Dr. Abdul Q. Sulewi said that maintaining the multipolar world required a balanced relationship between Russia and Pakistan.

any single-currency be reduced and that the use of multiple currencies be strengthened in the global financial system.

Dr. Sulewi also proposed that The Global South must explore options for establishing a network of think tanks.

Mr. Julia from RIAC explained that the SCO and BRICS have different mandates, and BRICS cannot assume the role of a security organisation. Therefore, more focus should be placed on economic cooperation and linkages.

Seminar Moderator Hussain explained that they are living through a century of unprecedented changes. The Global South must work together to achieve a balanced global order.

He emphasised that the Global South should embrace comprehensive cooperation, which must be multi-dimensional and focus on development.

Dr. Ashfaq Hassan Khan said Pakistan should join the New Development Bank and benefit from its development and economic growth opportunities.

In his concluding remarks, Shaukat Ahmad Ramay, CEO of AIERD, emphasised that Russia and Pakistan should develop mechanisms for academic and literary exchange.

Moreover, Russia should focus on its commercial policy, otherwise, propaganda will damage Russia's image and interests.

Governor calls for mobilising youth for country's development

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Governor Sardar Saqoom Haider Khan on Friday said youth should be mobilised so that they could play their role in the country's development.

He was meeting with PPP Punjab Chapter president and former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and General Secretary of PPP Central Punjab Hassan Murtaza at Punjab House where they discussed the re-organisation of the party in the Punjab.

Sardar Saqoom Haider Khan said that the younger generation is the future of Pakistan, adding that it was the responsibility of the government to provide them equal opportunities in the development and progress of the country.

He said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was the last hope of the youth who could bring the country out of crisis.

Therefore, the stability of democracy is inevitable, he said, adding that the understanding and wisdom of President Arif Alvi Zardari and the tireless work of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had strengthened the People's Party in Punjab.

He strongly condemned the blast that took place near Muzaffar Hospital Chowk on Friday and expressed deep sorrow and regret over the loss of precious human lives to the blast.

He expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The governor said terrorists who targeted innocent people did not deserve to be called human beings.

He also called on acting President Syed Yasir Raza Gilani and discussed with him the political situation of the country, especially the affairs in the Punjab.

ADVERTISER

TO ADVERTISE IN DAWN

For display advertisements, please contact

Landline: +92-01-222771-5 Ext. 328
Mobile: +92-333-5422244
E-mail: mohammad.wasfi@dawn.com

For classified advertisements, please contact

Landline: +92-01-222771-5 Ext. 313
E-mail: shahid.syd@dawn.com

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

ISLAMABAD

COA PARK ENCLAVE

COA PARK ENCLAVE 1 & 2 NEW PLOTS IN COA GATED AREA FROM ISLAMABAD CLUB. RESIDENTIAL PLOTS 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Corrigendum

Reference to the office advertisement No. 01/2024 in various forms papers 'Dawn' dated 23-10-2024, regarding notice for Stationery for the FY 2024-25, the printing agencies have made amendments in connection with the Tender notice and Document. All the conditions for bidding will remain the same except the Kyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority KPRA for Goods under KPFRS rate 11%. The last date for the submission of bid Document is 13-11-2024. The Bid Document can be downloaded from Kyber Pakhtunkhwa Elementary & Secondary Education Department website <http://www.kyber.gov.pk> KPFRS website and also available at the office of Director CES, Peshawar during office hours.

Note: Errors / Omissions are subject to rectification.

Syeda Samina Afzal
Director
Elementary & Secondary Education
Kyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar Tel: 095-3212323-44
Email: director@kybereducation.gov.pk
www.kybereducation.gov.pk / DirectorCES@kyber.gov.pk

Two killed, 13 injured in road accidents

TAXILA: At least two persons were killed and 13 others injured including 10 schoolchildren in different road incidents in Taxila area on Friday, police and hospital sources said.

In the first incident, a 30-year-old man died when a speeding dumper hit him on G.T. Road near Margalla Hill in the limits of Taxila police station on Friday.

Police sources said Abbas was crossing the road when the dumper hit him, killing him on the spot.

The dumper driver, however, managed to escape along with his vehicle.

Moreover, a man was killed and two of them were injured when a car collided with a pickup on Fatmeh Khan Road.

Police sources said Mubhar Khan was travelling in his pickup up when a speeding car while trying to overtake a vehicle collided with the pickup.

Separately, 11 people among them 10 schoolchildren were injured when a van and a wagon collided on Bawal-Firdhoush Road near Dheka Timber in the limits of Firdhoush police station. — Correspondent

STAFF REQUIRED

FRONTIER CORPS PUBLIC SCHOOL HAYATABAD PESHAWAR

1. Applications are invited from suitable qualified Male / Female Candidates for the following staff at Frontier Corps Public School Hayatabad Peshawar.

Ser	Name of Post	Minimum Qualification	Experience
1.	Maths Teacher	MA, MSc	Minimum 2 X years experience
2.	Computer Teacher	BS Computer Science	
3.	English Teacher	BS-English	
4.	History / Geography Teacher	MA, MSc	
5.	Montessori Trained teacher	MA, MSc	
6.	Mail	" 10"	" Retired Armed Forces (Males) may also apply
7.	Maid (Dhala)	Experience Based	

2. Application alongwith CV, recent photographs and attested photocopies of documents should reach by 10 November 2024. Only Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. No TA/ DA admissible.

ADDRESS:
FRONTIER CORPS PUBLIC SCHOOL
FC COMPLEX PHASE-6 HAYATABAD
TEL: 9219595, 03041916694, 03149432535

PESHAWAR INSTITUTE OF CARDIOLOGY MTI - PESHAWAR

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Ref:08/2024

Applications are invited for the following vacancy at PICO-MTI, Peshawar as per the following conditions:

S. NO.	NOMINATION OF POST	SEX	AGE (YRS)	QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE
1.	Hospital Director	Male/Female	45+	Qualification: • Master's Degree in Hospital Management or Health Services Management or Business Management or Public Health Administration or any other relevant management qualifications from an ACC Recognized University. Medical Degree is addition to the Master's Degree in management would be an advantage. Experience: • Minimum 17 years experience of management level positions. Responsibilities: • The Hospital Director will have the responsibility for all overall functions of the institute including Finance, Accounting, Facility Services, Building maintenance, Human Resources, Procurement etc. • The Hospital Director will report to the Board of Governors of the Institute.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:
HOW TO APPLY:
1. Job Application Form is available on the website www.mti.edu.pk application is acceptable only on a prescribed form. Applications accompanied with complete set of Application Form, covering letter, including bio-data, passport size photo and copies of all relevant documents, Qualification, Experience, Domestic certificates (along with CC photographs) and other documents required with respective original/true copies must be submitted to OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (HR), PESHAWAR INSTITUTE OF CARDIOLOGY, MEDICAL & TEACHING INSTITUTION PESHAWAR through registered courier service.
2. The receipt must be in the name of "Hospital Director" Peshawar Institute of Cardiology MTI. Details of account:
Branch Account No. 0002-0000-0145-0000 Bank of Khayal, Phase 5, Hayatabad Branch, Peshawar on processing fee non-refundable as per the fee schedule given below:

PAYMENT SCHEDULE	
Description	Payment (Rs. 000/-)
Sr 01	Rs. 5000/-

3. The services of the candidates will be governed under the Peshawar Institutions Medical and Teaching Institutions Rules, 2015 including its amendments and regulations of the institution.
4. Candidates should be eligible to all respects including qualification (Degree and Diploma) experience partly post-qualification experience will be considered which is duly tested by either the Administration of Human Resources or Establishment department of the institution concerned with proper references and date of leaving, age established as on last day of the advertisement/invoice for filling up of the advertisement.
5. The following applicants will be called for interview and will not be considered:
a) Incomplete applications i.e. Missing Job Application Form, Missing or incomplete experience certificates as mentioned in serial 3, Missing Copies or Originals as per requirements.
b) Late submission of applications received after the due date.
c) Application received without processing fee (as per the schedule).
6. Candidates will be they called if found of any discrepancy in documents/information at any stage of the process of employment.
7. Attempts to influence any member of the recruiting committee.
8. Attempts to influence applicant for his candidature by improper means.
9. Enquiry only by hand addressed will not be entertained.
10. For a qualification to be valid, a degree is a must, the mere submission of a marks sheet/ Through DMCO (score complete certificate) will not be considered unless complete and will therefore, be rejected.
11. Receipts received after the closing time will not be considered.
12. Candidates already in government service should apply through the proper channel, along with NCC form the concerned organization, clearly stating the length of service and other particulars. In case of appointment, the candidate will receive a full time, regular employment and will have to resign from his/her existing employment with any other public/private entity national or foreign, including, but not limited to and services of Pakistan.
13. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.
14. The decision of the competent authority shall stand final.
15. No TA/DA will be admissible for the institution.
16. The institution reserves the right to decrease/increase the positions or revoke the hiring process at any stage without assigning any reason.
17. The last day of applying for the above advertisement is 10th November 2024.
PICO-MTI is committed to achieving excellence through diversity in terms of gender and culture. We further encourage individuals from minor groups, indigenous groups, and persons with disabilities to apply.

SECRETARY - BOARD OF GOVERNORS
PESHAWAR INSTITUTE OF CARDIOLOGY
MEDICAL & TEACHING INSTITUTION, PESHAWAR
Email ID: prerecruitment@pic.edu.pk #PPI2024
Plot No 5-A, Sector B-3, Phase-V, Hayatabad Peshawar - Pakistan

Capital Development Authority Public Notice

It is notified for information of general public that Mr. Jaleel International (Pvt.) Ltd. is proposing to sponsor a housing scheme 'Faisal Residences' on the land comprising over an area 5,292.60 Kanal in Muzza Pind Pindyan and Muzza Dera, Zone-2, Islamabad. Residential Plots No. 75 to 77, 117 to 118, 709 to 730, 1071 to 1094, 1075 to 1080, 1087 to 1090, 1030 to 1032, 1041, 1042, 1092 to 1094, 1097 to 1099, 1748 to 1750, 1753 to 1756, 1820 to 1825, 1872 to 1875, 1889 to 1890, 1904 to 1925, 1920 to 1923, 1928 to 1930, 1935 to 1940, 2068 to 2071, 3075 to 3100, 3123 to 3130, 3137 to 3140, 3187 to 3178 over an area measuring 78 Kanal 10 Marla and 04 Decimals Plot Nos. 20 (area 179x200) 09.00, 3301e measuring 20x200 and Residential Plot Nos. 142 to 150 (area measuring 40x20), 241 to 247 and 120 (area measuring 50x20) over an area measuring 70.61 Kanal (Total area of 148.17 Kanal) situated at District Islamabad and have mortgaged these plots out of their scheme with COA.

The plots described above are not to be sold, allotted, transferred or controlled in any form to anybody by the owners or by their attorney unless and until the same are released by the COA. In case of failure or delay in development work of the scheme, these plots shall be sold by the COA and money so received shall be utilized towards the development of the scheme. The public is, therefore, advised to the same interest, not to purchase or make any claim in respect of any of the plots as described above.

(Director Housing Societies)
Capital Development Authority, Islamabad

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

PESHAWAR

PUBLIC at large is informed that Mr. Adil Khan is the owner of Plot No. 240 Registration No. 1017 measuring 3/2 Marla at PMA Range. He has given the power of attorney to Mr. Ghous Ali Farooq to Khan Muzar through Vile Dard No. 107 Bah No. 4, Volume No. 3, Date 27.10.2024 Now Mr. Ghous Ali Farooq wants to transfer the plot through govt attorney. Therefore, if any Bank, Department, Firm or individual have any objection on this transfer, he should contact the undersigned with written proof within 15 days. Otherwise, the plot shall be transferred and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Officer (Transfer), PMA Range Peshawar. (2024/79428)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

PESHAWAR

PUBLIC at large is informed that Mr. Saqoom Haider Khan, is the owner of Plot No. 100 Registration No. 5280 measuring 3/2 Marla at PMA Range. He has given the power of attorney to Mr. Muhammad Nisar Ali, Adalat Pind through Vile Dard No. 107 Bah No. 4, Volume No. 07, Date 03-10-2023 Now Mr. Muhammad Nisar wants to transfer the plot through govt attorney. Therefore, if any Bank, Department, Firm or individual have any objection on this transfer, he should contact the undersigned with written proof within 15 days. Otherwise, the plot shall be transferred and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Officer (Transfer), PMA Range Peshawar. (2024/79427)

COURT NOTICE

HAIRPUR

In the Court of Vile Dard Court Judge Hairpur Case Title Mubshir Sultan Vs Mansoor, Notice to Mansoor Deceased Legal Heirs Saira Jai Wajid, Muhammad Aftab Mubshir, Ejaz, Jaffer, Zafar Saira Resident of Village Ladhian Hairpur District Hairpur Present Adress out of Country. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants (a) / shall not appear personally or through duly authorized agent or pleader in the Court of Vile Dard on 02-11-2024. The proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of the Court. (2024/19943)

COURT NOTICE

ISLAMABAD

In the Court of Islamabad Khan Judge Banking Court Islamabad, M/s Fayal Bank Ltd versus Jahanzeb Khan, Saira Jahanzeb Khan, Vile House 4, PMA, Lane 4, Old Ladhian Colony, Near Bab-ul-Jammat Masjid, Chakri Road, Rawalpindi, Office Address: Mail Postbox, MO Department, 1st Floor, Old Building, G-10-4, Islamabad. Whereas Fayal Bank has instituted a suit for Recovery of Rs. 171,823,80/- (Rupees One Lakh Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Rupees) against you under Section 80 of Financial Institutions Recovery of Finance Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said suit of Rs. 171,823,80/- (Rupees One Lakh Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Rupees) against you. Next date of hearing is fixed 04-11-2024. (277027022)

COURT NOTICE

ISLAMABAD

In the Court of Islamabad Khan Judge Banking Court Islamabad, M/s Fayal Bank Ltd versus Jahanzeb Khan, Saira Jahanzeb Khan, Vile House 4, PMA, Lane 4, Old Ladhian Colony, Near Bab-ul-Jammat Masjid, Chakri Road, Rawalpindi, Office Address: Mail Postbox, MO Department, 1st Floor, Old Building, G-10-4, Islamabad. Whereas Fayal Bank has instituted a suit for Recovery of Rs. 171,823,80/- (Rupees One Lakh Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Rupees) against you under Section 80 of Financial Institutions Recovery of Finance Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said suit of Rs. 171,823,80/- (Rupees One Lakh Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Rupees) against you. Next date of hearing is fixed 04-11-2024. (277027022)

COURT NOTICE

DHANNU

In the Peshawar High Court Baro Baro Bench (CN No. 153-B-2024) Case Title: Muhammad Rehman vs. Ms. Hajra Begum. Respondent No. 020 Hajra Begum vs. Rehman son of Miss Khan. (Presently in Absence). WhatsApp No. (99927024302) resident of Village Talwara District Karak. In the above case filed the service of above defendant is not possible through ordinary means. Therefore, you are informed through this publication to attend the office of Additional Registrar on 21-11-2024 at 09:00 and you have to file an appearance before the Court without personally or through attorney or through counsel to pursue the suit/retalation. Otherwise, ex-parte proceeding will be carried out in the case. (2023/79000)

DAWN
the complete newspaper

آزاد حکومت ریاست ہماچل و کشمیر
(محکمہ منصوبہ بندی و ترقیات)

ٹینڈر نوٹس

تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

1. تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

2. تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

3. تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

4. تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

5. تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

6. تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

7. تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

8. تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

9. تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

10. تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

11. تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

12. تعمیراتی کاموں کے لیے ٹینڈر نوٹس جاری کیے گئے ہیں۔

سیکشن آفیسر (انٹیکس)
فون نمبر: 05822-921360



Indian batting wilts after Jadeja, Sundar restrict NZ to 235

Pg.18 SPORT

LAHORE
Sunset 05:15 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:16 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 18.0°C
Maximum 32.0°C
Outlook Mainly Sunny
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 240

METRO Central



A VENDOR busy in commercial activity near an LDA camp in Gulshan-e-Flori. — White Star / Murlaza Ali

DCs barred from issuing 3-MPO detention orders

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Friday temporarily restrained the deputy commissioners (DCs) in Punjab from issuing further detention orders under section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance 1960. Justice Muhammad Anwar Rafiq passed the order while hearing a petition by PTI leader...

ince since May 9 riots had been released. The report said as many as 3,232 detention orders had been issued against 4,770 persons in the whole province. However, it said, 3,511 detainees had been released following the withdrawal of their detention orders. The report further said that the provincial government had delegated its powers under section 26 of the MPO Ordinance 1960 to the DCs, through a notification in 2012, to issue detention orders subject to reasonable restriction. Advocate Siddique argued that the government issued "unlawful" detention orders of the PTI leaders and workers under sections 3 and 26 of the MPO in the wake of May 9 episode. He alleged that the DCs, at the behest of the provincial government, misused their powers and issued detention orders for hundreds of political leaders/activists affiliated to the petitioner's party (PTI) without any reason. The counsel questioned raids on the residences of the party workers/leaders and ransacking of their properties, if the purpose of the orders was preventive detention. He pointed out that the Islamabad High Court had already declared the use of MPO unlawful in the capital territory limits. He asked the court to declare section 3 of the Punjab MPO Ordinance 1960 ultra vires to the Constitution. JOURNALIST FREEDOM: A judicial magistrate at district courts on Friday discharged journalist Faraz Nisam from a case registered by the cybercrime wing of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for 'libelous' reporting of a crime incident. The FIA had detained the journalist the other day when he appeared before it to join an investigation. The agency presented Nisam before the court of Judicial Magistrate Nazeem Balhish to obtain his removal. Advocate Zein Qureshi, appearing on behalf of the journalist, argued that despite registration of a frivolous case, the FIA had yet to provide an official copy of the FIR, casting doubts on the charges. The magistrate expressed displeas...

ure, noting that this was a recurring practice by the FIA. He remarked that in six previous cases, the suspects had also been denied FIR copies by the agency. The counsel argued that that everyone had a fundamental right to access the charges against them. He said the sections of the laws applied in the FIR were irrelevant as the journalist's video recording contained nothing that could justify the charges. The magistrate, observing that the police officers appeared in the video as well, questioned if they were similarly listed as suspects. The FIA's counsel failed to respond. Advocate Qureshi further argued that the footage predated the high court ruling that the FIA referenced, meaning retrospective charges would be legally invalid. He asked the magistrate to discharge the journalist rather than sending him on judicial remand. After hearing the arguments from both sides, the magistrate discharged Faraz Nisam from the case.

High court hints at curbs if smog level worsens

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Friday hinted at the possibility of implementing a two-day work-from-home policy and closure of schools twice a week to combat smog. Justice Shahid Karim was hearing the public interest petitions regarding the smog and other environmental issues. The judge expressed concern over the smog situation in Lahore especially and issued directions to the authorities suggesting re-implementing restrictions from last year if smog levels worsen, including suspension of all commercial activities on Saturdays. The judge ordered inspections of vehicles at bus terminals, with immediate shutdowns for those emitting smoke. The judge also called for a policy for alternative vehicles to replace motorcycle rickshaws by next year. Justice Karim instructed a judicial commission to meet with the secretary of environment to make...

Secretary transferred on minister, MPA's intervention

Mines and minerals officer had 'offended his higher-up by following rules' in award of contracts

By Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: Mines and Minerals Minister Sher Ali Gurehmi and other legislators in the Punjab Assembly on Friday managed to get the department's administrative secretary Babar Aman Babar transferred for not joining the lease proceedings in violation of its rules of procedure. Upon his failure to attend the assembly session during the question hour, Mr Babar was called to appear before the assembly's...

Privileges Committee that termed his conduct as 'unprofessional' as well as 'contemptuous' and recommended his removal from his post. A formal transfer order was issued on Friday that directed him to report to the S&GAD for further orders. The matter, however, is not simple as there is more to it than meets the eye. Mr Babar had proceeded against the minister of his department and his brother in an award of sand contract in Rajapur as well as ordered an inquiry against the MPA from Faizalabad, Raza Abdul Razzaq, on charges of theft of minerals. Mr Razzaq was the prime mover of the privilege motion in the Punjab Assembly on Thursday. The minister and the secretary's relations had gone sour when the latter took action against the department officers on corruption charges and the beneficiary con...

tractors in the mines and minerals department. Mr Babar had passed orders against the illegal refunds to Sher Zaman Gurehmi - the brother of Mines and Minerals Minister Sher Ali Gurehmi. According to documents, available with them, Mr Babar had conducted an inquiry in a case no. S011/M&M/9-1/2024 "Sher Zaman vs Director Licensing Minor Minerals etc." under the Punjab Mining Concession Rules, 2002. The secretary had, in the matter of Feb 22, 2024 order passed by the Licensing Authority on an appeal filed by employee Sher Zaman to refund his money and security in respect of the cancelled mining lease of sand gravel near Bastani over an area of 477.27 acres in Rajapur district. He observed that the order was not in line with rules...

Third day of PA debate on smog MPs for controlling emissions from industry, vehicles

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: As the Punjab Assembly continued the debate on smog and water scarcity issues in the province for the third day here on Friday, members from treasury as well opposition suggested curbs on industrial and vehicular emissions, besides strict implementation of laws to check environmental pollution. Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan named the members that their suggestions would be shared with the agriculture, irrigation and other relevant departments. Questioning the prolonged delay in the launch of the vehicle fitness mechanism in Punjab, PMN's Uzma Kardar...

lamented that the province did have laws but these were not being implemented. She suggested that the smog issue should be made a part of school syllabus. PTI MPA Raza Aftab alleged that the environment department officials received bribes from the pollution causing factories for not taking action against them. He regretted that industrial water got polluted and vegetables were being irrigated with polluted water, harming people's health. PMN's Raza Miansewar Ghana called for judicious use of canal water and promoting kitchen gardening. He said had the departments concerned been working efficiently to check the vehicular and industrial emissions, deterioration of cities could have been averted. PTI's Mushtaq Ahmed called for...

increasing water storage capacity through small and medium dams and demanded setting up a committee on water scarcity in the province. Treasury's Zakia - Shaharwan suggested providing super seeders in all vehicles to check burning of crop residues. Opposition MPA Dr Faizal Javed stressed tree plantation along motor ways and prefering railways as a means of transport to control vehicular pollution. He also advocated for conserving rainwater to improve quality and quantity of industrial water. MPA Anwar Ali Javed regretted that the last government destroyed the public transport system in Lahore, giving a free hand to motorcycle-rickshaws, contributing to air and noise pollution. Hassan Buttler called for promoting...

trees with big leaves like gopal to help filter more air and encouraging growing plants on rooftops to increase green cover in the city. Treasury member Raza Saleem suggested crop zoning as per water availability and banning cultivation of water-guzzling crops in areas facing water shortage. He also opposed use of potable water for fisheries and introducing corn flour for two days in a week in case of wheat shortage. PTI's Ahsan Raza alleged that tyres were still being burnt by Daroghawala industries and advocated for use of e-vehicles to check pollution in the Punjab's capital. He proposed harvesting of rainwater at each building, whether residential or commercial.

CM conducts tractor scheme balloting

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday conducted digital balloting of the 'CM Punjab Green Tractor Programme', 're-launching' Nawaz Sharif's green tractor scheme for farmers in the province after a lapse of 12 years. The earlier scheme was named after her ex-premier father, who is also PMN supremo. "A Pk1 million subsidy will be given on each tractor to 6,500 farmers under the scheme," the chief minister said addressing the balloting ceremony, where she inspected four types of tractors to be given to the farmers and also drove one of the vehicles. She described the tractor drive as a pleasant experience. She was told that initially 339 farmers in Okara, 111 in Chakwal and 276 in Dera Ghazi Khan will get tractors under the scheme. The CM congratulated all farmers who got green tractors, saying names of all lucky winners had been displayed on the scheme's portal and the website of provincial agriculture department. She announced that green tractors will also be given free of cost to the farmers growing wheat on 25-50 acres, through balloting. Meanwhile, USAID Mission Director Veeraya Kato Romwongkai, US Consul General Kristin Hawkins and USAID Punjab Chapter representative Anisha Iliano called on the CM. The delegation discussed Pak-US relations and ways to further strengthen the ties between the two countries in various sectors. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in trade, climate change, renewable energy, women's economic empowerment, health care and education. — Staff Reporter

Polio team member assaulted

OKARA: A polio vaccination team member, Yasmin, was assaulted twice and had vaccine materials damaged by a woman during a vaccination drive in Basirpur. According to the first information report (FIR), on Oct 29, the health department team was administering polio drops on Mubeen Wali Street when Sundas, a local resident, reportedly abused Yasmin, a lady health worker, before pushing her and then fleeing as security personnel arrived. On Friday, when the team resumed its work, Sundas allegedly reappeared, pelting the team with bricks, damaging a vaccine carrier, tearing records, breaking finger markers, and destroying two vaccine vials. Yasmin reported the loss of some personal items during the incident. On Yasmin's complaint, police registered a case under sections 188 and 379 of the Pakistan Penal Code against Sundas and arrested her. — Correspondent

Hindu temples light up in city

LAHORE: Various temples in Lahore have been decorated with colourful lights for Diwali, the biggest festival in Hinduism, according to a spokesperson for the Parks & Horticulture Authority (PHA). "The PHA adorned Krishna Mandir on Rawl Road, the historic Valmiki Temple in the Neela Gumbad area, and the Jain Mandir near Old Anarkali Bazaar," said a spokesperson for the PHA in a press release on Friday. Traditionally, he said, a special ceremony to celebrate Diwali is held at Krishna Mandir, where Hindus from across Punjab attend the event. "These lights are a gift from the PHA to the Hindu community," the spokesperson added, noting that Diwali, also known as the festival of lights, is celebrated by Hindus around the world with special prayers in temples. — Staff Reporter

Pre-arrest bail for Imran's sisters

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Friday granted interim pre-arrest bail to the sisters of the PTI founding chairman Imran Khan in three new cases related to the protests of Oct 6. Ayesha Khan and Uzma Khan appeared before two different judges of the ATCs to plead bail pleas. The judges ordered them to furnish surety bonds of Rs50000 in each case. Judge Mansur Ali Khan approved bail in one case registered with Masti Gate police till Nov 23 while judge Irfan Haider allowed bail in two cases of Shaligabad and Lorry Aada police stations till Nov 8. — Staff Reporter

Jamaat to challenge Amendment

Views to resist privatisation moves

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeem Rehman has reiterated that the 26th Amendment is a measure aimed at undermining judicial independence, announcing that JI will challenge it in court.

Presiding over a central leadership meeting at Maroora on Friday, he also pledged that the JI would resist privatisation of government schools in Punjab, as well as national enterprises, including Pakistan International Airlines.

Rehman condemned the recent Mangochi terrorist attack, praying for the deceased and wishing a swift recovery for the injured. He expressed regret over the rise in terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, stating that, rather than ensuring citizens' safety and establishing peace, the government is focusing on attacking the constitution and serving personal interests. The ruling coalition, he asserted, has left citizens at the mercy of terrorism.

The JI chief also criticised the government for raising petroleum prices despite a global decrease. He said the rulers are exploiting the poor while claiming economic progress, achieved at the expense of heavier costs on essential commodities. He demanded that

the government provide relief on petrol and electricity prices, abolish the petroleum levy, and cancel support agreements with independent power producers.

He vowed that JI would continue its protest until these agreements were terminated.

"The constitutional amendment will not stand. Lawyers oppose this government's attempt to make the judiciary subservient, and JI will approach the higher judiciary to counter this unjust move," Mr Rehman said.

He lamented the state of education over the past 77 years, noting the absence of Pakistani universities among the world's top 200. He highlighted that private schools have grown at the expense of public institutions.

"Education is a fundamental right. The government plans to hand over more than 14,000 schools to the private sector," he said, adding that despite provisions collectively spending over Rs 2,000 billion on education, students remain underserved.

He remarked that the same challenges afflict the healthcare and law enforcement sectors. He advised the youth to shun the thoughts of emigrating, stressing that such an escape is not a wise solution.

Instead, he called for a peaceful movement to free the country from the grip of mafias.

He also announced that the JI membership campaign would continue until Nov 30.

30 booked after PTI factions clash in Faisalabad

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: The D-Type Colony police booked 30 activists from rival factions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Friday for staging opposing rallies and chanting defamatory slogans against each other on Sarandari Road, Faisalabad.

According to a first information report lodged by Station House Officer (SHO) Anand Ali, the groups, led by Bilal Hassan Gujjar and Imran Taj, violated Section 144 CrPc by holding public demonstrations. The rallies converged on the D-Type Colony overhead bridge, where supporters of the Taj faction allegedly defaced a flag banner of Gujjar, branding him a "traitor".

Police arrived on the scene, causing both groups to disperse. No arrests have been made.

In a separate case, the women police station arrested two people in Chak 230-BR, Faisalabad, on Friday for allegedly assaulting a woman, Nasreen Bibi, over a verbal altercation.

SHD Masrooha Ishaq confirmed that a medical-legal report verified the torture, and suspects Tahir and Naeem were in custody.

Meanwhile, Madina Town police arrested Najid in Nemat Colony, Faisalabad, for obstructing a police vaccination team. In a separate incident, the Rataha Colony police detained Muhammad Bilal for harassing female public workers when they were performing their work on streets.

COPS HELD: Faisalabad's Sargodha Road police arrested four Dolphin police constables on Friday for illegally detaining two citizens and later releasing them after accepting a Rs30,000 bribe.

According to the FIR lodged by com-

plainant Shafiq Mansoor of Chak 69 JB, he and his cousin were staying at Haliq-Ahmed Hospital with a patient.

Early in the morning, they went by car to Dolphin constable Qamar and three unidentified officers reportedly declared them suspects, publicly assaulted them and took them to Sargodha Road police station. There, the officials allegedly demanded and received Rs30,000 for their release.

DDMV: Faisalabad police recovered the body of an unidentified woman, aged 42, from a sugarcane field near Abbaspur railway station in Thikriwala on Thursday.

The alleged killer was arrested on Friday. Police received a call from Nadeem Ahmed of Chak 74 JB, who informed them to go to Abbaspur railway station to arrest his brother Haseeb Ahmed.

Ahmed reportedly confessed that he, along with accomplice Imran Baloch, had killed the woman two weeks ago and disposed of the body in the field.

Police are conducting raids to arrest Baloch, while they continue investigating Haseeb about the woman's identity and motive behind the murder.

BOMBERS: Four robbers injured a couple and tortured another family member in a Gojra home on Faisalabad Road during a robbery late Thursday night.

Reports said that the assailants scaled the outer wall of Abdul Ghaffar's residence in Sitara City. When the family resisted, the robbers opened fire, injuring Ghaffar and his wife, Parveen Bibi.

The attackers also assaulted Ghaffar's brother, Muhammad Siddiq. The injured were shifted to THQ Hospital, with Abdul Ghaffar later referred to Faisalabad Allied Hospital.



MULTAN: A vendor sells pigeon nets at the bird market. — APP

Minor girl 'lured to brothel, repeatedly gang-raped'

Police claim two of the six suspects, including women held

By Our Correspondent

CHINOT: Sialkot police have booked six persons, including two women, for abduction and gang-rape of a minor girl at a brothel that they were allegedly running in a house near Jaman Colony, Lahore Road, Chinot, arresting the two nominated ones.

The suspects, four of them, including a woman, unidentified under sections 364-A, 375-A, 375-B, 377-B of the Pakistan Penal Code and Section 3 of Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018 on the complaint of one Saif Ullah, a resident of Chak No 146-JR, Chinot.

Saif Ullah, in the first information report (FIR) said that his cousin Nasreen, wife of Raza Khan,

had been living with him (the complainant), with her 11-year-old daughter 'N'.

He said that a few days ago, his relative Abida, wife of Rafiq, who lived near Jaman Colony, Lahore Road, Chinot, visited his house and insisted on taking 'N' to her house to impart her knitting and sewing skills. On her insistence, they sent the girl with Abida to her house.

He said a couple of days back, the family attempted to contact Abida on her mobile phone to inquire about the child's health, but she didn't take the calls.

Alarmed by the situation, Saif Ullah, along with his relative Rehman and Shaukat reached Abida's house near Jaman Colony, but found her house locked, the FIR said.

He said that during the search for the child, they spotted Abida, Rafiq and an unknown man, with the girl, on a motorcycle near the river Chenab bank in Kot Muhammad Yar area.

As they raised an alarm, the man pushed left 'N' there and fled away on their motorcycle.

The complainant said that the minor girl, who was in a poor condition, told them that Abida, along with other suspects, including a woman, was running a brothel in her house.

Quoting the girl, Saif Ullah said that Abida took 'N' to a deserted house at Kot Muhammad Yar, where three men were already present. Abida took money from them and left, while the three men repeatedly gang-raped the girl for next two days, the complainant, quoting the victim, said.

The girl said the suspects were shifting her to some other place, where Saif Ullah and others arrived and rescued her.

District Police Officer (DPO) Abdulhaleem Ahmed said the two nominated suspects - Abida and Rafiq - have been arrested, while a special team is conducting raids to nab the rest.

Over Rs1bn corruption in highway dept

By Abid Mahmood

NAROWAL: An alleged corruption scandal involving over Rs1 billion in the Punjab Highway Department funds has surfaced, involving multiple senior officials in Narowal.

Punjab Communications and Works (C&W) Secretary Sohail Ashraf has ordered an inquiry under the Punjab Act 2006 against four officers, including two executive engineers (EXEN), following reports of extensive misappropriations.

The initial investigation stemmed from complaints received by the secretary regarding suspected collusion among officials in the Punjab Highway Department's Narowal division. The inquiry targets Muhammad Saadullah, Building Division EXEN in Ludhiana (previously EXEN in Narowal), Sabir Afzal, EXEN in Gujranwala (with additional charge as EXEN in Narowal), retired sub-divisional officer Khalid Mahmood from Bhakarganj and Sub-Engineer Wasim Ahmad from Narowal.

The officers allegedly paid advance amounts to contractors and used government funds to construct

substandard roads, often in violation of official guidelines. The report says that some road projects exist only on paper, with funds misappropriated under the guise of project expenses.

The C&W secretary had previously appointed Shaukat Mahmood, chief engineer of building (Central Zone) Lahore, to conduct a preliminary inquiry, which confirmed the allegations.

Following the initial findings, the secretary has appointed Naqib-Rahim, chief engineer of the Punjab Monitoring and Evaluation Department, to lead a comprehensive investigation, with a detailed report expected within 60 days.

Mother, two infants die under mysterious circumstances

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: A young mother and her infants died under mysterious circumstances on the outskirts of a landlord at village Sanoa Bala in the Waboolo police precincts of Kamoke tehsil in Gujranwala district on Friday.

Reports said 26-year-old Hina Bibi came to her room and found her three-month-old son, Abdul Rehman, dead under mysterious circumstances after which she too fell unconscious and died on the spot.

The condition of Hina's two-year-old daughter Mehrab also deteriorated and she was shifted to the Gujranwala District Headquarters Hospital where the doctors pronounced her dead.

Police said the bodies were shifted to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Kamoke where doctors conducted the autopsy and handed over the bodies to the family of the deceased.

The locals said the deceased belonged to a poor family working at the agricultural farm of a landlord in the area and the incident occurred at his residence.

Police said the family of the deceased had declined to lodge a complaint by declaring the deaths an accident. However, a spokesman for Gujranwala police said they had registered a report of the incident under Section 174 of Pakistan Penal Code, which deals with 'not obeying a legal order to attend at a certain place'.

Gujranwala SSP Operations Dr Raza Tariq-e-Raza said police had launched an investigation into the incident and the matter would be probed from every aspect.

He said further legal proceedings might be started in light of the autopsy report.

Sources in the hospital said the factor of poison could not be ruled out in the matter but the exact reason of the deaths would be ascertained through the autopsy report.

High court hints at curbs...

Continued from Page 13

decisions on the matter. Additionally, the judge ordered the installation of converters on generators in Lahore and praised the government's measures, noting that they were largely based on previous court orders.

The judge also directed the Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) to recycle water from mosque ablutions to wash streets.

Expressing concerns about the "green lockdown" imposed by the government, Justice Karim remarked that such a policy could severely shift pollution from one area to another.

The judge recalled that similar measures were taken last year, including two-day work-from-home, school closures on Fridays and Saturdays, revised market hours, and a complete halt to commercial activities on Saturdays.

Earlier, the commission submitted a report on the implementation of the court orders, and the LDA's counsel highlighted the issues of LED light sheds in Lahore's underpasses.

He said now the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) had been entrusted the responsibility to maintain the underpasses.

The judge ordered the commissioner of Lahore division to take action regarding the re-filtration plants for Kasur's tanneries. The judge observed that the children in Kasur had been facing diseases due to polluted air.

The judge adjourned the further hearing until Nov 8.

Secretary transferred...

Continued from Page 13

and directed the DG(M&M) and licensing authority to maintain status quo and not to refund the bid money to the bidders.

In another case of a contract of sand in Rajanpur, the Lahore High Court remarked the case to the secretary who cancelled the contract and ordered rebidding.

Well-placed sources in the department told Dawn the minister of mines had pressured the district administration not to hold the auctions. But due to written orders by the secretary, auctions were held again which fetched almost double the amount than the previous one.

Moreover, written references on corruption charges were submitted by Mr Baluch against the DG and the director minerals. On the approval of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Director-General Abdul Shakoor and Director Muhammad Usr Jozja were transferred and directed to report to the S&GAD for further orders on Sept 13. Sources allege that these transfers further influr-

ated the minister.

MPA Raza Abdul Raizaq Khan, the mentor of privilege motion, is a contractor and doing salt business in Khushab as a partner with Mr Harman Chemicals.

According to documents, available with Dawn, the secretary had passed an order against Harman Chemicals as well as ordered an enquiry against theft of minerals.

In another case regarding the license assigned to Mr Sardul Bae, the secretary had constituted an enquiry committee and Mr Raizaq was allegedly pressurising the department to scrap the enquiry.

While the bureaucracy circles strongly reacted to the transfer of an administrative secretary without investigating the intentions and decried use of foul language by an MPA in the house.

When the media asked him questions outside the assembly, the secretary refused to comment on the matter, saying he, being a civil servant, could not give his statement in media. He, however, said, "Neither I take bribes nor tolerate it. I also do

not tolerate a dubious person".

Speaking to Dawn, MPA Raza Abdul Raizaq said secretary Baluch had reinitiated an inquiry, which he had faced four times during the tenure of previous administrative secretary. "The salt mines were assigned to us over a year ago for 50 years," he said.

He added that a habitual complainant was filing complaints and the same person again submitted the complaint and Mr Baluch, yet again, initiated inquiry despite all explanations. He said it took years and years to work and reach salt in the mines.

Regarding Sardul Bae, he said, the company had approved salt after a work of some six years and claimed that the department secretary had permitted it to install a salt plant instead of Sodium Sulphate plant, chabki and other machinery. "Instead of facilitating the license, secretary Baluch was trying to damage our business," he added.

Minister Goehani neither responded to calls nor a WhatsApp message.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا إِلَيْكَ رَاغِبُونَ

SOYEM

With deep sorrow we announce
the passing away of our beloved

Dr Razia Reaz Ahmed Faruqi
Wife of Late Reaz Ahmed Faruqi
And D/o Rahim Ahmed Dharamsey
On October 31, 2024

Soyem for ladies and gents will be held on Saturday
November 2nd 2024 After Maghrebain Prayers at
Mehfil-e-Murtaza PECHS Block 3

Fondly remembered and loved by:
Munir Ahmed Faruqi
Sajeda Nazir Ahmed

And All the Doctors and Staff at Holy Family Hospital and
Australian Concept Fertility Center



Indian batting wilts after Jadeja, Sundar restrict NZ to 235

Pg.18 SPORT

PESHAWAR
Sunset 05:27pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:32am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 15°C
Maximum 30°C
Outlook Partly Cloudy



An eye-catching view of Saifal Muluk Lake after snowfall in Kaghan Valley on Friday. — Photo by Nisar Ahmad Khan

Anti-graft body summons PTI lawmaker over Malam Jabba land lease

Atif insists move to 'damage' party, Imran

By Wassem Ahmad Shah

PESHAWAR: In a surprising move, the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) has summoned Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provincial leader and MNA, Muhammad Atif Khan...

year 2018 had been under investigation about allegations of corruption and misuse of authority in Malam Jabba Project (Samsam Group of Companies). As the move gives credence to the reports about wrangling in the PTI, Mr Atif said that it was known to all why and at whose behest, the notice was issued by his party's government in the province.

government land in Malam Jabba, Swat, in 2004. The NAB had claimed that no evidence of corruption could be traced in the matter. In the application, the NAB said that investigation was started against the then chief minister of KP, Pervez Khattak, former additional chief secretary (planning and development) Khalid Pervez, then managing director of Tourism Corporation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TKKP), Mushtaq Khan and others regarding alleged illegal leasing of 275 acres of state forest land in Malam Jabba to Samsam Group of Companies.

from 15 to 33 years by the chief minister, and irregularities in awarding of contract/ bidding process. "In view of the facts and circumstances coupled with record made available, the request of the NAB for closure of the investigation is prima facie valid and genuine to the extent of award of contract with regard to its irregularities followed by its rectifications accordingly, as such, exercising jurisdiction under Section 109 NAO 1999 read with Section 180B of NAO, the request is allowed accordingly," the accountability court had ruled.

report, which was approved by the provincial cabinet on Dec 28, 2020, according to which the tourism department was the rightful owner of the said land and not the forest department and the land in question was federal land and was given prior to merger of Swat state in Pakistan. The report also provided that prima facie the entry in the revenue record was erroneous. The court further mentioned that the matter had been resolved and the subject land had been de-notified.

PTI govt burdened KP with Rs1.8tr debt: Aimal

CHAMSAIDA: Awami National Party (ANP) leader Senator Aimal Wali Khan has said that the PTI government, imposed on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since 2021, has burdened the province with a debt of Rs1.8 trillion.

The ANP leader said that those who wanted to eliminate ANP from the political scene had miserably failed. He claimed that the people's mandate for his party was stolen in the last general elections. "A fake public mandate has been imposed on Pakistan in the province for the last 13 years," he said.

On the occasion, ANP provincial president Mian Hisham Hussain said the party's primary concern was the good law and order situation in the province. He said the PTI government had miserably failed to protect public life and property. Mr Hussain accused the chief minister of acting as a "bridge" between the military establishment and his party leader Imran Khan to protect own interests.

The ANP leader said that his party's government ensured elimination of terrorism but miserably, the ruling PTI and terrorists were working together. He accused former government minister General Faiz Hameed of handing over certain areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to terrorists and said the wrong policy was responsible for the current terrorist attacks in the province. Mr Hussain called for a change in the foreign policy to eliminate terrorism and said the National Action Plan should be enforced effectively and a crackdown should be launched on terrorist organisations in Punjab. — Correspondent

PA legislates to control zoonotic diseases

Bill also passed to regulate storage, supply of animal feed

By Mohammad Ashfaq

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Friday unanimously passed a bill to control zoonotic diseases in the province for the safety of animal and human health. The proposed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zoonotic Disease Control Act, 2024, was tabled by livestock minister Faraz Hakim during a session chaired by MPA Muhammad Imran Khan.

with the help of the health department and other stakeholders for the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases as specified. It will also be responsible for receiving, collecting and analysing information about the zoonotic diseases from district offices of the department. Section 3(c) of the law states, "In case of outbreak of any of the notifiable zoonotic disease, the government declares a veterinary public health emergency by notification in the official Gazette and institutes subsequent responses in the province."

developing SOPs in consultation with the health department for the inspection, sampling and testing of animals' food, origin and by-products within the province for the purpose of inter-provincial trade. The legislation has also empowered the zoonotic disease control committee to declare status of the zoonotic disease, propose, adopt and enforce measures and procedures for the prevention and control of diseases. Under the law, zoonotic disease analytical and reference laboratories would be established in different parts of the province. Section 11 of the law is about the reporting of zoonotic diseases. According to it, an owner or an individual, who keeps any animal, will report immediately to the nearest livestock office,

veterinarian, veterinary officer or veterinary institute about the animals. "The public shall not sell or offer for sale the suspected animals, their food or by products and cull the suspected animals, on the instruction of the veterinary officer." Section 6 of the law stops the owners from slaughtering the infected or suspected diseased animals except with the permission and in accordance with the instructions of a veterinary officer. "Whoever violates the provisions of the law, the director of the veterinary officers, as the case may be, may be imposed fine," states the law. Section 14 of the law declares, "Where the director or veterinary officer suspects that a zoonotic disease exists in a building or premises and believes that it may spread in

animals or human beings or other things, entering the area's hall because affected or contaminated by it, the director or veterinary officer with prior approval of the director general declares the said place as infested area." The assembly also approved the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Animals Feed, Stuff and Composed Feed Act, 2024, for regulating the storage, supply and transportation of feedstuff and composed feed in the province for sale and marketing to ensure standards of production and quality of feed stuff and composed feed to check adulteration and misbranding of livestock, poultry and fish feed stuff and composed feed ingredients and for matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto." The chair adjourned the session until next Monday.

Action against militants leading to collateral damage, says jirga

By Our Correspondent

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: A jirga of Ahmadiya Wazir tribe held in Flaghza area of Dirawal tribal area on Friday said that the security forces' action against militants was resulting in collateral damage. The participants asked the security forces not to resort to 'indiscriminate' fire while responding to militant attacks on checkpoints as such actions often resulted in killing and injuring of civilians, including children and women, and damaged houses. Hundreds of tribal elders, including Pashtun Qasim Jirga member Malik Gul, Mohammad Wazir, prominent social worker Taj Wazir and Pashtun Tahafuz Movement district coordinator Shahzad Wazir, were in attendance. The participants said the tribal elders had helped the security forces purge Lower South Waziristan of foreign terrorists in 2007, leading to establishment of 'lasting' peace in the region. However, they regretted that terror had returned to the merged districts over the last two years. The participants said the security forces should avoid using heavy weapons, which terrified people and often resulted in injuries to civilians. They said the security forces should consult tribal elders before launching any action against militants. They warned that the security forces did not stop firing at night, the people of Lower South Waziristan would be forced to protest. Meanwhile, the security forces repulsed an attack on the Zamzama F-C post in Ica Khudakh tribal of Lower South Waziristan on Friday night. The attack occurred near the Pak-Afghan border. Sources said three attackers were injured when the security forces retaliated. However, the attackers escaped to Gandak area of Zhob district of Balochistan. The sources said exchange of fire between the security forces and militants continued for several hours.

CM receives govt employees 'released from custody'

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister An Armin Gandapur on Friday received over 80 employees of the provincial government, who were behind bars in Islamabad after their arrests during the D-Chowk protest earlier last month. Video footage shared on social media platforms showed Mr Gandapur showering flower petals on the employees after their arrival at the Chief Minister's House early on Friday. PTI sources told Dawn that the government employees arrived at the Chief Minister's House at around 5am on Friday, where they were received by Mr Gandapur. A party insider told Dawn the chief minister gave the detained employees Rs10,000 each 'from his own pocket'. Besides, he also announced to give these employees a one-week leave so that they could take rest following their detention. Similarly, Mr Gandapur also announced to give them one-step promotion, however, the party insider insisted a formal notification in that regard had not been issued so far. He said there were 42 personnel of Rescure 1122, 35 policemen and seven tribal municipal administration employees among those released. A Rescure 1122 official said six of the agency's employees were still in the 'custody'. — Bureau Report

Four booked for stripping transgender

PESHAWAR: The city police have booked four persons on charges of stripping a transgender individual on film and later using the same as a blackmailing tactic to rape her. Shauheed Gulzar Hussain (Hashnagari) police station have registered the FIR on the complaint of the transgender person against the prime accused, Imran, his brother Yasir, Abdullah and Sher Khan, residents of Mian Kalay village of Shabqadar tribal of Chamsada. Besides, three to four unknown persons have also been charged in the FIR. The complainant told the police that back in 2020 Imran picked her up from a dance function in Mian Kalay village of Shabqadar and took her to his hujra, where he and his accomplices, including Abdullah, Sher Khan and others, stripped her at gunpoint and made video of her. She said afterwards Imran used the video to blackmail her for about five to six months to rape her. "The accused also tortured her and extorted money from her, threatening to release the video," she said, adding the accused shared the same video on social media on Oct 29, 2024. — Bureau Report

Young World

DAWN

November 2, 2024

The art of speaking

By Muhammad Majid Shafi



Illustration by Sumitral

Cont...
pg 4

Now Introducing
Kidz Chupp
THE FOOD FRIEND

BACHON KA APNA KETCHUP

MEAL KA FUN BUDDY

www.youngs.com.pk | Facebook | Instagram | WhatsApp

Young's

Healthy - Tasty - Quick

Order Online
Young's Bazar
www.youngsbazar.com

Scan for Order

Young's Chicken Spread Bar-B-Que

Young's Chicken Spread

New Flavor
Young's Chicken Spread Black Pepper

Young's Chicken Spread Fajita

Full of Nutrition
Full of Taste!

A stitch in time saves nine

This is regarding the story "A stitch in time saves nine" by Mahnoor Sohail (YW, September 7). The simplicity of the plot, combined with the timeless message, makes it relatable for all age groups.

Small efforts today can indeed save us from bigger problems tomorrow — a lesson I believe everyone needs to keep in mind in their daily lives.

Sarah Iman, Lahore

||

The story "A stitch in time saves nine" by Mahnoor Sohail highlighted the consequences of procrastination. One of the main characters, Hassan, reflected this common attitude in many of us.

What stood out to me was how relatable the situation was. We all face these moments when taking immediate action feels like a waste of time and effort, but later regret the missed opportunity.

The story serves as a gentle nudge to prioritise responsibility and act on things before they spiral out of control.

Kashan Abbasi, Karachi

Bryan's awakening

This is regarding the story "Bryan's awakening" by Mahnoor Rehan (YW, September 7). It was a well-written story with a valuable lesson.

Our elders' opinions and

experiences are precious; they are shaped by the challenges of time. By listening to their stories, we can make our future bright.

Masooma Batool, Tando Jam

Power of encouragement

This is regarding the story "Power of encouragement"

by Aqsa Shoaib (YW, September 21). It was an impressive read as the writer shared her personal experience of performing in front of an audience.

There's no doubt that such an act can be challenging for students, often leading to nervousness and self-doubt.

The writer offers strategies to overcome these challenges, such as staying positive and confident. While every beginning may feel rough, the outcome can turn out well.

Sarfraz Ahmed Laghari Sanghar

In conversation with a panda

This is regarding the article "In conversation with a panda" by Gulrukh Tausif (YW, September 21). The article serves as a compelling example of how human activities impact other living beings. It was also very informative.

I look forward to more animal-related content in *Young World*.

Shaheer Abid Siddiqui, Islamabad



Mailbox

Quotes

"There is more stupidity than hydrogen in the universe, and it has a longer shelf life."

— Frank Zappa (Musician)

"Lest we forget: it is easy to be human, very hard to be humane."

— Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib (Poet)

"Low self-esteem is rooted in many things. One of them is not spending time to appreciate the gifts we've been given."

— Nouman Ali Khan (Instructor)

"You'll find that life is still worthwhile, if you just smile."

— Charlie Chaplin (Actor, comedian)

"To do the useful thing, to say the courageous thing, to contemplate the beautiful thing: that is enough for one man's life."

— T. S. Eliot (Playwright)

"Just thinking about a friend makes you want to do a happy dance, because a friend is someone who loves you in spite of your faults."

— Charles M. Schulz (Cartoonist)



Word search

Find the terms used commonly in chemistry class from the list given below, hidden in this word grid.

- Wordlist:
- ATOM
- MOLECULE
- ELEMENT
- COMPOUND
- PROTON
- NEUTRON
- ACID
- SALT
- ISOTOPE
- SOLVENT
- REACTANT
- MIXTURE
- ENZYME
- ALLOY
- POLYMER
- ELECTRODE

V	E	L	E	C	T	R	O	D	E	N	A
H	M	S	I	Y	N	N	J	H	G	U	O
D	R	O	O	N	A	L	E	N	D	I	E
I	U	L	E	E	T	V	U	M	O	T	A
C	L	V	N	U	C	J	O	V	E	G	X
A	H	E	Z	T	A	C	V	G	N	L	Z
C	H	N	Y	R	E	O	V	Y	O	O	E
P	N	T	M	O	R	M	Z	C	M	Z	O
O	S	E	E	N	N	P	X	B	I	C	R
L	N	P	T	I	D	O	V	L	X	X	H
Y	M	O	L	E	C	U	L	E	T	E	U
M	X	T	T	G	S	N	U	I	U	L	S
E	M	O	B	O	K	D	U	W	R	O	A
R	F	S	B	O	R	X	W	N	E	E	L
N	Z	I	H	K	Q	P	V	I	P	E	T



Your contributions should mention your full name, age, class, school, address and telephone number/email address. If you are under 18, you need to give your parent's or guardian's name too with their CNIC number. *Young World* accepts original contributions only.

Poet's corner

A day on the island

A glorious day with the birds chirping,
I planned to draw a vibrant colourful painting.
I saw the rays of the sun on the waves of the ocean,
As if dolphins were greeting me in slow motion.
I put canvas and brushes in my hand,
My mind was filled with artistic thoughts
Two little girls near the bank had fought.
After a while, the girl's mother came rushing,
She handed them both a Sundae,
And I started drinking my iced latte.
Everything was back to normal,
It was such a great day.
.....
Asma Ali,
13 years, Sahiwal

Save Earth

My Earth is green,
I want to save it for my dream.
Don't cut the trees,
My Earth is not for free.
Water saves our life,
Don't destroy the Earth with a knife.
Save it! Save it! Save it!
Otherwise, it will finish in a bit.
.....
Amena Amin,
8 years, Islamabad

Self-belief and determination

With a soft heart, and a height that is tall,
I stand strong, I feel, I fell.
Sometimes, I feel this world is not for me,
I search for a place where I can be free.
I do not expect anything from anyone,
All my expectations are from me.
My heart is full of dreams;
I believe one day, they'll come true for me.
.....
Maheen Sattar,
14 years, Mithri

Help

Help Pakistan, take a huff and a puff,
Hello everyone, I'm here to tell you what you should do,
Save electricity for good advances,
Save water, save food, don't be so rude!
Save trees, don't cut even just one tree,
Because not even one tree is now free.
Don't waste electricity,
Look around, you already have the sun shining bright.
Reuse resources and don't use excess TV and phones,
Because it's bad for our environment.
Read, play and change your lifestyle for good!
.....
Razeena Ahmed,
7 years, Islamabad

Let's stand

Let's stand for a better tomorrow,
Let's all work with unity,
Let's all work with continuity,
Let's learn to end climate change,
Let's learn to reduce the greenhouse effect.
Let's plant more trees.
Let's get the Earth out of fear.
Let's protect the ozone layer.
Let's keep the environment clear.
Let's protect Planet Earth,
Let's make it clean.
Let's use electrical vehicles,
Let's increase phytoplankton,
Let's work on biodiversity.
Let's go with the reusable bags.
Let's end those evil plastic bags.
Let's fight with the climate change,
Let's clear the atmosphere
Let's get Earth out of fear.
.....
Qanecah,
13 years, Karachi

Corruption

The privileged life is one of guilt,
It's easy to destroy what has been built.
The earth's beauty is flora and fawn.
Why add to the corruption of Pakistan?
Or the pain of Afghanistan;
The destruction of Iran,
The genocide in Palestine?
Everything's fine.
Till we feel the pain,
Of Russia Vs Ukraine,
We have too much war.
Yet we still want more,
Until it comes to us,
Until it hurts us.
Power is how the world pulls,
The corruption of us mortals.
.....
Rayyan Ahmed Syed,
14 years, Austin, USA

The Neelam Valley

I visited Neelam Valley,
I saw the Occupied Kashmir,
A river flowed gently.
I stayed in a hotel, feeling so divine.
I went to Arang Kel, with excitement so high,
But waiting for the lift to reach the other side,
Made me want to cry,
The lift was scary like a torture machine.
The hiking was great fun,
Suddenly a man fell down, which made me scared,
I was so tired, but the hiking was worth it,
For the magnificent view on top.
I'm glad I went to Arang Kel so high,
For the memories, will never say goodbye.
.....
Muhammad Abdullah Aqeel,
7 years, Karachi

My school bus

My school bus is big and bright,
It is a daily delight.
There are twelve seats,
There are six windows.
It picks and drops me on time,
On every journey, I feel just fine.
The driver is so polite,
I enjoy this daily ride.
The driver's smile is so warm and kind,
Keep us safe with peace of mind.
.....
Amal Faisal,
7 years, Karachi

The land of emojis

In a cellphone lived an unusual land,
Where emojis thrived, a lively band.
One was partying, one was happy,
And anger, well, was a little snappy.
The tiger stood as the safety guard,
Keeping them all in check, standing hard.
But then came a Trojan, a sneaky virus,
Turning emojis into something desirous.
The queen of emojis, what do you think?
Went crazy in just a single blink.
The owner, once sad,
Suddenly got mad.
Our hero, swift as you could blink,
Defeated the virus before you could think.
The emojis were once again fine,
Back to their normal, peaceful line.
And in that land of joy and cheer,
Life resumed, with nothing to fear.
.....
Zunairah Iqbal,
7 years, Karachi

Spot the difference

There are eight differences in these pictures, see if you can spot them. You can find the answer on Page 11



The art of speaking

For long, there has been much emphasis on speaking appropriately and fittingly. Many of us would have heard our elders say: "Speak as if flowers are springing from your mouth". This is because a person's choice of words and the tone of his speech influence his personality.

And this is also because many of the issues in our day-to-day lives are not because of some error on our part, but because of a lack of proper communication that leads to misunderstanding.

In the rapidly changing dynamics of the globe, the need to possess sound soft skills has been rising even more. Speech is the foremost in the list of those soft skills. So, this means that a well-versed individual has a higher chance to excel in various fields as compared to his counterpart who is as qualified as he is, but lacks the soft skills of the former individual.

Also, in this context, it is necessary to emphasise that communicating effectively is not something that can be learnt in a matter of days. You cannot expect to impress people by the way you speak at an event, or in a ceremony when you have not had the least bit of prior practice. Rather, it requires practice to be able to do so. In the following paragraphs, talking effectively to some people as a drill for effective communication is mentioned.

Communication with elders

Speaking to elders should include the elements of respect and politeness. It should be different from the way one speaks to a friend and people of the same fellows. Many children are really frank with their elders and this is nothing to be discouraged. However, there is a thin demarcation line between frankness and disrespect. During communication, it is really important to be mindful of this boundary.

The need for choosing the words

Cont...
pg1

carefully and speaking them in the right manner is even more important when one is speaking to elders such as parents.

In many instances, the opinions of parents and children are different. Similarly, at times, parents might not allow their children to do something, or to go somewhere. In such a situation, it is really important not to get angry, to remain polite and to understand that parents are well-wishers of their children.

With politeness and effective communication, you might even be able to convince your parents to allow you something that they had previously disapproved of.

Communication with younger ones

In our day-to-day activities, many of us fail to consider the fact that those our junior, in any sense, also deserve respect and that their self-respect should not be let down by mocking them or hurting them with your rude behaviour. So you mustn't make fun of or scold your younger siblings or friends, especially in front of other person.

Secondly, it is not alright to consider younger siblings as your equals in terms of maturity. Give them some

room to make mistakes, and politely tell them how to rectify those mistakes instead of scolding them. Proper communication with them is also important; it should not just be limited to elders and colleagues.

Communication with friends and foes

Friendship is a structure that is entirely based upon communication; effective communication makes friends and strengthens the bond of friendship. Also, at times, friendship is broken for no reason other than a lack of proper communication. These observations should be self-explanatory in emphasising the importance of speaking properly to maintain and strengthen friendships.

In my opinion, more emphasis should be laid on your communication with people who are not on good terms with you. Firstly, there mustn't be a fight. If you do not want to befriend a person due to something you don't like about the way he talks or acts, maintain some distance instead of confronting that person. Preferably, that person shouldn't get to know that you are avoiding him. In public, you should greet that person like you greet others, only avoid being frank with him.

More importantly, in childhood,

many friendships are broken and formed. Someone who is the 'best buddy' one day ceases to be a friend the next day. Similarly, some people who you do not consider your friend might become your most trusted companion at a later stage.

Keep this in mind so that you don't talk or behave with someone in a way that you would regret, in case things were to turn around. Remember that your rude behaviour might never be forgotten by that person.

Communication with domestic helpers

Now we come to the most neglected aspect of communication: talking properly with the domestic helpers. Unfortunately, it has become common in our society to have a condescending attitude toward drivers, gardeners and other domestic helpers. While it is true that they do not have the social standing that you have, they are certainly humans and all humans have the right to be respected.

Call your drivers or watchmen with respect, instead of calling them by their names or calling them rudely. They are your elders and deserve your respect. Talk to them politely, and not in an arrogant way. Take care of their needs.

In a nutshell, in all the interactions that you have with them, always remember that they have self-respect, they can get tired and they are liable to make mistakes just like you are.

This approach will help in the long run. When you enter the professional field, you will have subordinates. There will be sweepers and tea boys in the offices. Your attitude with them will reflect how you behave with your domestic helpers today and will have a role in the opinion your colleagues form about you. So, it is better to be prepared in time for that phase of life.

So remember, communication is an oft-neglected aspect of our daily lives, but it is an integral part of our personalities. Therefore, we should focus our attention on this aspect as well, and strive to speak in a way that is pleasant and polite. ■



Opinion

By Naba Bano

Exploration often reveals the beauty of nature. We all explore the world in our own ways — whether visiting relatives, going to parties or enjoying a picnic, seeing new places is part of our journey.

Nature is precious, and exploring it is a meaningful part of life. Even without going abroad, you can still take road trips and visit nearby places that are within your reach. Experiencing nature can change your thoughts and mindset, making you feel refreshed, more active and healthier as you enjoy fresh air and new surroundings.

Exploration allows us to experience the beauty of nature, so whenever you travel somewhere, take a moment to appreciate your natural surroundings. I know it can sometimes be difficult to explore one's surroundings due to various reasons, like lack of time, or other important engagements. But exploration or traveling is important as it helps us learn about other cultures.

Remember, even if you can't visit your favourite place, it's valuable to cherish the places you've explored in the past. Taking time for a relaxing trip is also essential when exploring new places. The spirit of exploration is a fundamental part of human nature, inspiring new adventures and helping us gain a deeper

Explore and discover!



understanding of our planet. It is not just about discovering new places, but it is more about gaining fresh perspectives and new ways of think-

ing. It unites us, fostering global cooperation and appreciation for nature's beauty. Through exploring the unknown, we discover not only

new lands and species, but also new aspects of ourselves. It drives us to push boundaries and challenge the status quo.

Exploration is an opportunity to discover lands, mysteries, inventions and experiences that you haven't encountered yet. The thirst for exploration involves taking risks and adapting to nature by exploring various habitats. Adventuring through famous sites, thrilling rides and living joyfully enriches our lives. We can taste popular dishes from around the world, experience their culture and lifestyle, while exploring natural wonders. Remember, exploration of nature provides a chance to discover many things in life, and we often learn something new in the process.

Always make time for fun in your life. On the path of discovery, we generate new ideas, make new friends, and create unforgettable memories. When we explore new things, we spend quality time with our family and take a moment to thank Allah, the Creator. Not only do we embrace new lifestyles and environments, but our behaviours and activities also change significantly. ■

Story time

By Sidra Sozer



Redirect your efforts

“Mum, you always told me to be productive and use my skills for good. Now that I've started crocheting as my passion and trying to make my skills more creative, I've made a lot of things and even started a business, but there's no one to buy them and boost my efforts. I've only received a few orders in these past months,” Safa said dejectedly.

Her mum replied, “You shouldn't be sad. If you're making an effort, it will bear fruit; you just have to be patient. Success doesn't only come from a business.”

Safa sighed, “Okay, I hope

you're right.”

One day, Safa received a call from her friend. “I heard you're selling things made from wool. How much does a sweater cost?” her friend asked.

Safa replied, “You want a sweater in our city, where winter barely arrives? That's surprising! But I can send you the price list.”

Her friend responded, “No, I don't

want it for myself. I want to donate some items for a nearby village because there are many needy people there.” Safa was shocked upon hearing this.

Her friend continued, “So I'll place an order online on your page.

Can you please send me the link?”

Safa said, “Oh! Yeah, my business page is called ‘Crots and Knots’. By the way, your idea is wonderful!”

Her friend smiled, and they chatted about other things. After the call, Safa discussed her friend's idea with her mum.

“I don't know why I didn't think of this earlier. It's not necessary to use my skills just for myself. I can help others with my creativity!” A rush of excitement coursed through her at the thought of using her work to help those in need.

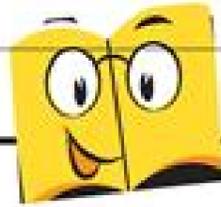
Mum smiled and replied, “Now you'll be happy and can fulfil your passion in this way.”

From that day on, Safa was thrilled to dedicate half of her work to people in other places who truly needed it. She realised that the people in her city didn't require the winter items she was making, and she had been putting her efforts into the wrong place. In this way, she accomplished her passion while making a positive impact on others. ■



Story time

By Syeda Fizza Hussain



The art of believing in yourself

The first day of the new school year had arrived, and Mariam was out with her father, shopping for new stationery and art supplies. Mariam was a brilliant student at school and a gifted artist at heart. She had a natural talent for art and enjoyed both painting and drawing. Her paintings were colourful, expressive and carried a rich message.

But despite being such a talented artist, Mariam was timid and never had the confidence to share her art with anyone, except for her parents or her best friend, Zara.

The next day at school, Zara greeted Mariam with exciting yet exhilarating news. Zara retrieved a glossy pamphlet and gave it to Mariam.

Confused, Mariam held onto it and asked, "What's this, Zara?"

Zara enthusiastically said, "Just read the first line!"

Even with more confusion at hand, Mariam read aloud: "International Art Competition 2024. Submit your best artwork for a chance to meet world-famous artists and have your artwork featured in five different countries! The first 10 winners will be awarded with a cash prize!"

Reading this, a wave of excitement rushed over Mariam's body. This was the opportunity of a lifetime! But then, the fear inside her resurfaced.

"I ... I don't know, Zara," Mariam stammered. "There are so many talented artists out there. What if I'm not good enough?"

"Mariam, you're one of the most talented people I know. Your art is amazing and I love how you convert thoughts into art!" Zara put a comforting hand on her shoulder. "You

don't have to decide right now. But just think about it, okay? The world deserves to see what a great artist you are!"

Mariam wanted to believe Zara, but her mind was swirling with doubts. Their conversation was cut

"Mariam, this is beautiful!" Mrs Ahmed remarked admiringly. "I'd like to speak with you after the class."

Mariam nodded anxiously. "Yes, sure ma'am."

The bell rang, and Mariam's heart raced. Mrs Ahmed gently said, "Come with me, Mariam," and guided her into the office. She sat across from her and asked, "Mariam, your work is amazing, and I have seen how talented you are. But you are hesitant to share it. Why?"

"I'm not sure if it's good enough," she admitted quietly. "I love painting and sketching, but I'm scared to share it because, what if it's not as good as I think it is?"

Mrs Ahmed leaned forward, "Mariam," she began gently, "art isn't about being perfect or better than someone else. It's about expressing the beauty within. Every artist, no matter how talented, has doubts. But the courage to create and share

competition is a chance to move forward and share your talent with the world. Sometimes, stepping out of our comfort zones is the greatest win."

"I don't know," Mariam said softly, fidgeting with her fingers. Mrs Ahmed gently placed a reassuring hand on Mariam's shoulder. "Mariam, take the first step this time, you'll be amazed to see how easy the next one becomes!"

Mariam left Mrs Ahmed's room, feeling anxious but also hopeful.

That evening, Mariam shared Mrs Ahmed's advice with her parents. Both reassured her that no matter what her decision, they'll stand by her. They knew that she has all the talent someone dreams of.

The next day in art class, Mariam felt a rush of excitement and determination as Mrs Ahmed asked the students to share their work. Mariam took a deep breath and showed her beautiful landscape painting.

Her classmates responded with immense love and appreciation for her work, boosting Mariam's confidence.

Mariam was determined to participate in the art competition, whether she won or not. Channelling all her talent and creativity into this project, Mariam created a masterpiece like none other. She painted a beautiful landscape with silhouettes that reflected a journey of growth, self-belief and determination — much like her own. When the submission day finally came, Mariam handed over her piece, feeling accomplished. She was grateful for the experience and the tremendous support she had gotten from her parents, Zara and Mrs Ahmed.

The result was to be announced a few days later. Mariam was composed, she was calm all this time. Soon the results were sent to all the schools who participated. The next day, during the assembly, the results were to be announced, Sara awaited the announcement of the winners, around a myriad of young talents each uniquely different.

Her deep trance was suddenly interrupted by her name being called for the winner from her school. At that moment, Mariam experienced disbelief and joy, and an overwhelming sense of gratitude and self-assurance took over her. She realised that with little encouragement and some self-belief, her dream had come true. ■



short by the ringing bell that meant the start of classes. Mrs Ahmed, the art teacher, entered the class with a new set of art projects for this term. She instructed the students to begin their projects and went around the class offering guidance. When she reached Mariam's desk, her eyes lingered on the beautiful sketch Mariam was working on.

despite those doubts is what truly makes an artist. Your work is beautiful because it's uniquely yours. Don't let your doubts keep you from showing the world what only you can create."

Mrs Ahmed proceeded encouragingly, "There's an art competition coming up that could be a great opportunity for you. Mariam, this

Movie

By Muhammad Suhayb

Transformers One

review

Have you ever wondered how the rivalry between Optimus Prime and Megatron began? How were the seeds of the iconic Autobot-Decepticon rivalry sown? Or what made Optimus a champion of justice while Megatron embraced darkness? What exactly is Cybertron? And what roles did Optimus Prime and Megatron play there before the war? If questions like these have crossed your mind while watching any *Transformers* movie, then *Transformers One* is a must-watch.



Praised as one of the best entries in the franchise, this animated movie not only traces the origins of Optimus Prime and Megatron on their home planet of Cybertron, but also answers many lingering questions. Directed by Josh Cooley, it is the first *Transformers* movie to be entirely animated, setting it apart from previous live-action adaptations.

It tells the story of how the miner Orion Pax and D-16 are part of the thousands of miners extracting Energon in hopes of Matrix of Leadership, whose return could resolve their energy crisis.

The plot revolves around these two friends who make it their mission to do what they feel is right for them and their people, and that's where things go from good to really bad. The film also features Keegan-Michael Key as the talkative Bum-

blebee (B-127), adding a comedic touch. At the same time, Scarlett Johansson, known for her role as Black Widow in Marvel's *Avengers*, voices the no-nonsense Elita-1. Jon Hamm and Laurence Fishburne also lend their voices as Sentinel Prime and Alpha Trion in a film that blends high-octane action with surprising emotional depth.

Transformers One explores themes of leadership, vision and the pivotal choices that shape destinies. It offers a fresh and meaningful take on a beloved franchise. If you're a fan of the franchise, *Transformers One* is a must-see for understanding the origins of the Autobots. ■

Website

By Asif Ali

Discover historical connections!

review

During history lectures, or reading history chapters, we explore the lives of famous figures and the years they spent making history, we often encounter others from different fields who lived during the same time. This intriguing overlap sparks curiosity about their connections and influences, revealing how closely intertwined their timelines truly are.

While searching for one such famous personality and their timeline, I discovered another figure and then another. This led me to this wonderful

site, *Parallel Lives*, which serves as a one-stop solution for studying famous figures and their timeline.

Parallel Lives is an interactive timeline created by Jan Willem Tulp (an independent data experience designer) who brings history to life by showing famous figures who lived at the same time across diverse fields such as politics, science, religion, culture and arts. The site focuses on figures from approximately 4000 BC to the present day. You can scroll through centuries, filter by cat-

egories and zoom in for detailed views of overlapping lives.

For example, the overlap between William Shakespeare and Galileo Galilei is outstanding as both personalities lived during the late 16th and early 17th centuries, a period rich in cultural and scientific advancements. Shakespeare's contributions to



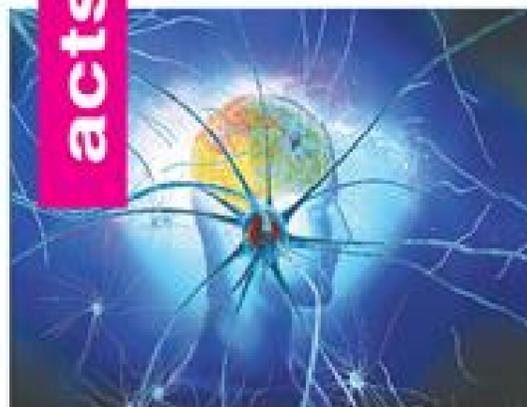
literature coincided with Galileo's groundbreaking work in astronomy, this shows how the arts and sciences evolved side by side, shaping the intellectual landscape of their time. Thus, you can actually see famous historical figures in various fields making history at the same time.

If you are curious who was composing symphonies while the other was inventing the light bulb, check out the site

Visit: <https://janwillemulp.github.io/parallel-lives/> ■

Your brain can predict the future by a few seconds

f Known as 'predictive coding,' the brain often tries to anticipate what's about to happen in order to save time. This is why you sometimes reach for an object before it's fully in sight or anticipate the end of someone's sentence. ■



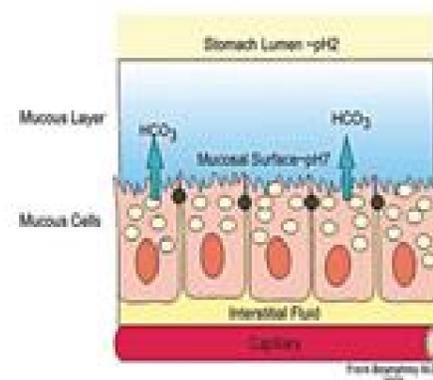
Your stomach's mucus layer renews itself every two weeks

Stomach acid is so strong it could dissolve steel. To avoid digesting itself, your stomach has a special mucus lining that renews every two weeks to protect it from the acid. ■



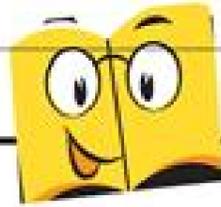
Pigeons can recognise human faces

Studies show that pigeons can identify individual human faces, even distinguishing between those who have fed them and those who have chased them away. They can remember specific people over time.



Story time

By Wardah Sajjad



A night in December

Growing up in the countryside, I experienced all the joys of childhood — the soothing seasonal changes, chasing butterflies, having fun with friends and discovering new things every day.

However, the world, so familiar and safe in daylight, transformed into a frightening and mysterious place once the sun set. One fear that I shared with many young ones and which always sent shivers down my spine, was the fear of darkness and the unknown.

As night fell, the darkness would wrap the world like a blanket. It had a chilling whisper that could freeze my heart. When the lights went out or were dimmed down, my fear woke up. Even soft voices sounded terrifying. Shadows looked like monsters. The insects' chirping warned of danger. The moon and stars looked like ghostly figures. And my imagination would take control of my mind.

My fear worsened when I was seven and started wearing glasses — blurry vision made everything scarier. I kept the lights and glasses on all night and hugged my grandma tight. The darkness haunted me and I just wanted it to go away.

Grandma was old and kind. She knew a lot of folk tales. In the spring,

we planted seeds of carrots, tomatoes and peas together. In the winter, we would bake egg and banana cake on the wood stove. At night Grandma would lie beside me and she would hold my hand.

"Close your eyes, honey," she would say softly.

"I want to be brave!" I would say in a whisper.

"You are brave, my child," she would assure me. "You know, the things around you don't change at night. They're just not visible. Your teddy is still there on the chair, my coat is still hanging on the back of the door, even the curtains are the same and you, my dear, are still safe in your bed. See the stars? They are our friends, watching over us," grandma would explain gently.

And so I would sleep peacefully in her comforting embrace, and she would slowly remove my glasses.

One December morning, grandma accidentally fell down the stairs. She got severe injuries. Uncle Hasan and Aunt Mariam rushed her to the hospital and she was kept in the ICU for many hours. That night, I was scared of two things: the darkness and losing someone I loved.

The house felt empty and scary without grandma. Even in daylight, I felt sad and frightened. One night I decided something.

"I am tired of feeling insecure. I have to conquer this fear someday, why not now?" I thought and got out of bed when Aunt Mariam was sleeping, looking tired.

I turned off the lights which were kept on because of my fear and after a minute, the moonlight peeked in from under the door. The room was dark, but I told myself everything was the same as in the daylight. I put on my coat, gloves and shoes.

At midnight, I slowly opened the door and went outside. The porch was shining in the soft moonlight. I sat down and observed every detail around me; surprisingly, my fear started settling like foam. Everything was peaceful, no lurking shadows or monsters were around. The orange tree's leaves were moving gently.

I looked up at the moon surrounded

by stars, feeling like they were watching over me just like grandma and appreciating my bravery. I stayed there for a very long time, and when my eyes got heavy, I went inside to sleep. And after that night, my heart was free from all my fears. ■



Illustration by Saurabh

The next morning, we received the news that Grandma hadn't survived. I couldn't believe she was gone forever. I would never see her again. It felt like a big hole had been dug in my heart. I couldn't stop crying. Aunt Mariam said she would stay with me until my exams.

1 How many sides does a hexagon have?

2 What is the number of degrees in a straight line?

3 How many zeroes are there in one billion?

4 What does the prefix "kilo" mean in the metric system?

5 What is the Roman numeral for 500?



Maths

6 If a triangle has sides of equal length, what kind of triangle is it?

7 What is the perimeter of a circle commonly known as?

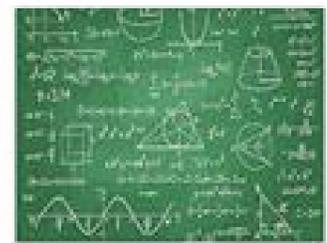
8 What do you call an angle less than 90 degrees?

9 What is the next prime number after 7?

10 What is the name given to a triangle in which all three sides

are of different lengths?

—The Quiz Master



- 5. D
- 6. An equilateral triangle
- 7. Circumference
- 8. Acute angle
- 9. 11
- 10. Scalene triangle

- 1. Six. A hexagon is a six-sided polygon
- 2. 180 degrees
- 3. Nine. One billion is written as 1,000,000,000
- 4. Thousand

ANSWERS

Spotlight

Wimpy Kid's Hot Mess tour, empowers young readers

Jeff Kinney, author of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, has kicked off his *Hot Mess* tour to promote the series' 19th book. Starting on October 20, the tour will run through November 3, 2024. Kinney is travelling nationwide in a themed food truck, performing an interactive stage show and donating books.

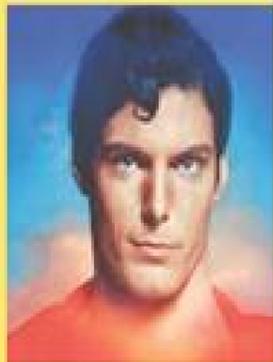


The tour emphasises the importance of reading freedom, aiming to empower children in their book choices amid increasing book bans. In partnership with First Book, Kinney will donate over 100,000 books to Title I schools and diverse communities. Highlights of the tour include a conveyor belt signing system and a *Wimpy Kid*-inspired book menu, ensuring fun and inclusivity at each stop. ■

New documentary on Christopher Reeve's resilience

The new documentary *Super! Man: The Christopher Reeve Story* explores actor Christopher Reeve's life, focusing on themes of love, loss and resilience.

After a tragic 1995 accident left Reeve paralysed, he became a passionate advocate for spinal cord injury awareness and continued his career in the entertainment industry.

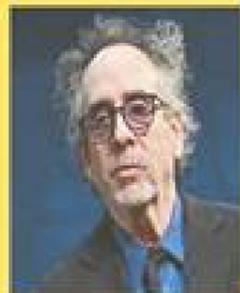


Directed by Ian Bonhôte and Peter Ettedgui, the film highlights Reeve's journey through grief, adaptation, and advocacy for the disabled community, and it includes deeply personal interviews with his children, capturing his legacy. ■

Tim Burton, a technophobe who prefers clouds over tech

Tim Burton, the acclaimed director of *Beetlejuice* and *Edward Scissorhands*, has revealed his aversion to technology, stating he is a "bit of a technophobe."

In a recent *BBC News* interview, he admitted that browsing the internet often leaves him feeling depressed and prefers to find joy in simpler, more tangible experiences, like observing clouds, which he finds uplifting. Burton is working on his upcoming projects, including the new *Beetlejuice* sequel and episodes for Netflix's *Wednesday*. He remains focused on the creative aspects of filmmaking while steering clear of the digital distractions that can dampen his spirits. ■



The weekly weird

Museum technician accidentally disposes of artwork

A new technician at the LAM Museum in the Netherlands mistakenly threw away "All The Good Times We Spent Together," an artwork by French artist Alexandre Lavet resembling two empty crushed beer cans.

The museum, known for placing art in unexpected spots to surprise viewers, had displayed the piece in an elevator, where it was mistaken for discarded cans. Fortunately, a curator found the artwork in a bin before it was permanently removed. The museum holds no grudge against the technician, acknowledging he was only doing his job.

Sietske van Zanten, the museum's director, said: "Our art encourages visitors to see everyday objects in a new light. By displaying artworks in unexpected places, we amplify this experience and keep visitors on their toes." ■



Transformer trucks turn into mobile banquet halls

In rural China, transformer trucks that unfold into banquet halls have gained popularity for hosting events like weddings and festivals. These trucks, which transform in six minutes and accommodate up to 200 guests, feature air conditioning, screens and karaoke equipment. However, they lack kitchens. Renting one costs around 8,000 yuan (\$1,150) for two days.

Originally seen in Inner Mongolia, these mobile venues have spread across northern provinces, despite their high purchase price of up to 1 million yuan (\$141,000). ■



Man breaks into homes to do housework

Damian Wojnilowicz was sentenced to 22 months in prison after breaking into two homes in Newport, Wales, and performing chores such as hanging laundry, cleaning floors and taking out the trash. The man even left a note that read "Don't worry, be happy, eat up and scratch!" for one of the victims.

Though Wojnilowicz didn't steal anything significant, his actions made residents uneasy. One homeowner was so disturbed by the incident that she temporarily moved in with friends.

Wojnilowicz's lawyer explained he was homeless and intended no harm, yet the court deemed him a "significant risk to the public." ■

Baker creates miniature aristocratic dress cakes

Vietnamese cake artist, Nguyen Vu Hoang Anh, has gained viral attention for his intricate cakes shaped like miniature aristocratic dresses. Known for his expertise with fondant flowers, the 34-year-old took on dress-shaped cakes as a personal challenge, inspired by Baroque-era gowns.

Each cake, crafted with layers of sponge and buttercream, is meticulously shaped by hand to mimic fabric pleats, hems and tiny accessories, taking 3-5 days to complete. These edible masterpieces are priced between 3.5 million and 5 million VND (\$140-\$200), reflecting the detailed craftsmanship involved. ■



Story time

By Novaira Waseem Rizvi



Strength in adversity

Omer was a mischievous, yet intelligent, boy, capable of doing many great things. He excelled in sports, academics and much more. However, he often made fun of others who were not as talented or capable as he was. His life seemed perfect; he had many friends and enjoyed life to the fullest. He had never been alone, as everyone flocked to him because of his excellence.

One day, while returning home from a football match, Omer thought it would be fun to play a prank on his parents. He decided to pretend he was jumping off the roof. After preparing for the prank, he called out to his parents, shouting, "Mum! Dad! Look! I can do this stunt!"

Having recognised his pranks before, his parents brushed it off and left, thinking it was just another joke. Little did they know that this prank would lead to a tragic outcome.

As Omer attempted to come down, his foot got stuck, and he slipped from the roof. Initially, he held onto the railing and shouted for help, but his parents thought it was another prank and ignored him. Unfortunately, Omer lost his grip and fell to the ground. When the sound of his fall reached them, his parents rushed outside to find their son lying on the floor, severely injured. They quickly took him to the hospital.

After treating him, the doctor informed Omer's parents that he was fine, but also delivered the heart-breaking news that he would never walk again. Overwhelmed with grief, Omer became silent and refused to see anyone. He became increasingly aggressive due to his inability to do the things he once loved. Most of his friends aban-

doned him, leaving him alone and lonely.

When school resumed a week later, Omer decided to hide his fear and sadness behind a façade of anger. People viewed him with pity, which only fuelled his rage, making him feel even more isolated. If anyone tried to befriend him, he would humiliate them in return.

Two weeks into the school year, a project was assigned, for which students had to create something related to technology, experiments or community service. Omer was grouped with two classmates, Ali and Samar, who were kind-hearted and tried to console him after his

accident. However, Omer treated them with disdain.

As the deadline approached, Ali and Samar began discussing ideas, but Omer dismissed them, belittling their suggestions. Deep down, he was grappling with guilt for his foolish prank that had changed his life forever.

One day, their teacher asked about their project. When it was Omer's

he was coaching kids how to play football, despite being unable to play himself. Omer was impressed. Hesitating at first, he approached the boy and introduced himself.

"What's your name?" Omer asked. "My name is Saad," the boy replied.

Curious, Omer asked, "How long have you been like this?"

Saad answered, "Since I was ten years old."

At that moment, Omer realised that there were many others in situations worse than his own.

He asked, "How do you manage everything with this condition?"

Saad smiled and replied, "It's simple. I accept my reality and adjust my life to fit my situation. I loved playing football, but since I can't, I decided to teach others instead."

Omer was struck by Saad's words. "So you've turned your adversity into strength," he said.

"Yes," Saad smiled. "But the first step is accepting your reality, and then you can move forward."

Omer went home, called Ali and Samar to meet him at his house. Both were confused by the invitation but somehow, they arrived.

Omer without wasting time apologised for his behaviour and said, "I have a brilliant idea if you're willing to listen."

"Sure, tell us," they said.

Omer proposed, "Let's create a group that connects people facing similar challenges, so they can support each other. We can start a camp where we help people discover what they love to do and learn from experienced individuals."

Ali and Samar exchanged excited glances and exclaimed, "That's a great idea! It could help so many people, and we might even win first place!"

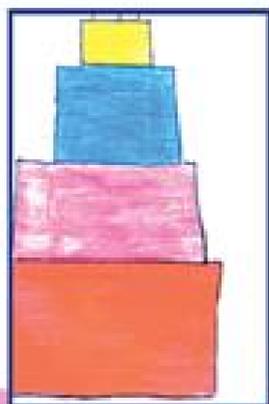
From that moment on, the three of them began working on the project. Omer slowly recovered from his sorrow, and their teacher recognised their efforts. They completed their project and received appreciation, ultimately winning first prize.

From this experience, Omer learned that if a person stays calm and confident while bravely facing every situation, they can overcome any challenge. Moreover, sometimes your greatest weaknesses can become your greatest strengths. ■



Art corner

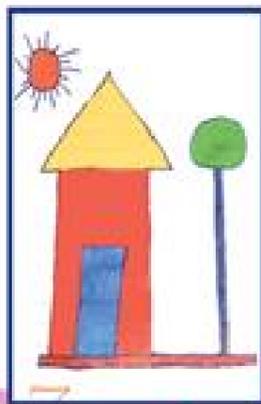
How can I get more people to see my work?



Baig Khan Gaincho
8 years, Jamshoro



Abdullah
12 years, Karachi



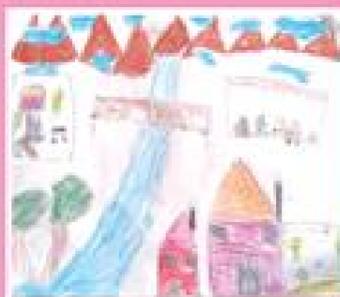
Zoya Gaincho
8 years, Jamshoro



Inaayah Assad
11 years, Karachi



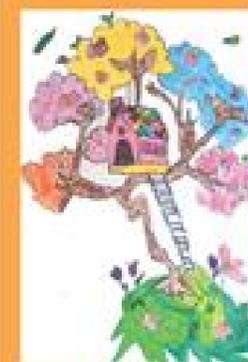
Pireh Sindhu
6 years, Jhol



Areeba Amjad Ali
6 years, Karachi



Ayan Saqib
12 years, Karachi



Zainab Shaikh
9 years, Karachi



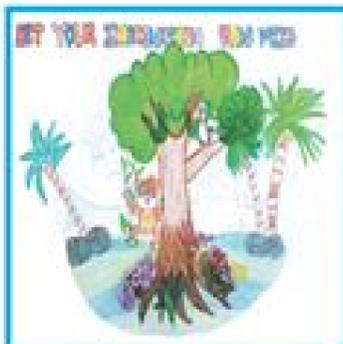
Qasim Shaikh
3 years, Karachi



Haniya Sadia Saeed
12 years, Karachi



Moses Ralph Gasper
7 years, Karachi



Aiman Shaikh
7 years, Karachi



Junaid Asgher
10 years, Turbat



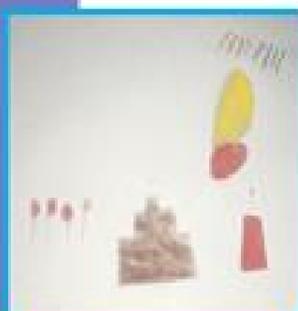
Syed Abeeha Waqar
8 years, Karachi



Fakhar
8 years, Sukkur



Sheikh Hussain Abbas
7 years, Karachi



Abdul Saboor
6 years, Karachi



Alina Ahsan
4 years, Karachi



Abbas Raza
9 years, Karachi

Spot the difference

Answers of the pictures on Page 3



Eshal Noor
5 years, Quetta



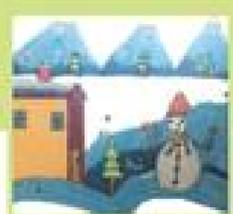
Ziram Shah
9 years, Karachi



Zoya Zubair
10 years, Karachi



Affan Murtaza
5 years, Karachi



Hafsa Murtaza
10 years, Karachi



Meherma Faizan
10 years, Karachi



When sending your drawings, poems and contributions to us, write your full name, age, class, school, address and telephone number/email address. If you are sending your drawings by post, please write your details on the back side of the drawing.

Email: youngworld.dawn@gmail.com or youngworld@dawn.com
Postal address: Young World, Haroon House, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road, Karachi, Postal Code 74200. Telephone: +92-21-35613338, +92-21-35613014
Please note that we don't accept drawings that have been traced or made by children over 12 years of age.

Story time

By Maryam Siddiqui



A glimpse into a ruined world

It was a usual sunny day with a light breeze blowing in the early morning and me heading off for school with a glum face, as I usually did every Tuesday morning.

You see every Tuesday, we had this environmental studies class, which I never looked forward to. We always discussed ways to fight global warming, conserve the environment and address climate change. I always wondered if it would really be so bad if our world was affected by these problems. I mean, we are already living in a world full of problems, what difference would few other problems make?

The class began and it was as boring as usual. The teacher discussed small things that we could do to help protect earth, like using reusable bags, containers and water bottles, turning off lights, electronics and taps when not in use and many other things, but you get the idea. After what seemed like forever, school ended and I headed home.

At home, as usual, my mother had lunch ready and my grandfather, who was a very famous inventor, was, as usual, nowhere to be seen, probably in his laboratory working on this machine he had been working on for months, which I knew nothing about. I ate lunch and wished for something exciting to happen in my boring life.

After lunch, I headed towards my grandfather's lab, but upon reaching there, I was surprised to see that not only the door was opened, but there also stood my grandpa beaming at me, which was highly unusual. He looked quite excited and signalled me to come in and I happily obliged.

He showed me his latest invention, which stood in the middle of the room. It looked like a computer with a large screen and a keyboard, but atop the keyboard rested a VR headset which seemed to also be connected to this strange device.

I looked at my grandfather in confusion and asked, "What is this?"

"You know how humans always have questions about what if this happened and what if that hap-

DownMedia
Breathe
Pakistan

LET'S WEATHER THE CHANGE - TOGETHER

pened? Well, I used human curiosity as my base and came up with the idea of the "What If Machine." Using the latest AI models and VR technology, this machine holds the power to not only answer your questions, but also create a scenario to answer your questions more practically. Those scenes are so realistic that not only do you see yourself there but also feel it. I have run multiple tests and it's in perfect working condition," he explained. He then asked me, "Do you want to have a go?"

I did want to have a go as the machine sounded exciting. I wondered what I would ask the machine, then told my grandpa, "I want to know what would happen if the world was affected by global warming?"

My grandpa seemed a little nervous and asked, "Are you sure kiddo? It's kind of a complex topic." I nodded in the affirmative. So my grandfather shrugged and asked me to sit down and put on the VR headset, and I did so. He then typed in the question and it appeared on the screen.

My view changed and the next thing I saw was a barren landscape. Words appeared on my vision, which explained that it was the year 2050 and that the temperature was 50°C, which was a normal average temperature for that year. The scene in front of me was quite horrid. The earth was cracked, dry and dusty, with little to no vegetation and remnants of what used to be fertile soil, now eroded. There were no trees, and if there was anything, was the remnant of trees. The sun was blazing hot and the sky was a dull, faded colour due to the toxic air and dust particles. I was just processing all this when my view shifted again.

Now, I could see a beach and the

temperature there was also really high. The ocean stretched before me, but it wasn't how it usually looked. Instead, it was dirty and with trash floating on the surface. Waves crashed along the shore, warmer than they should have been. The air felt stale, a reminder of the rotting plants and trash gathered along the shore.

My view changed yet again, and this time I could see icebergs, a fraction of the size they usually are. The ice, which should have gleamed pure white under the sun, looked slushy and thin, its edges melting into the dark, cold water. Chunks of ice broke off every few minutes, splashing into the ocean, leaving the iceberg smaller with each fall. I had read about icebergs melting, but actually seeing this

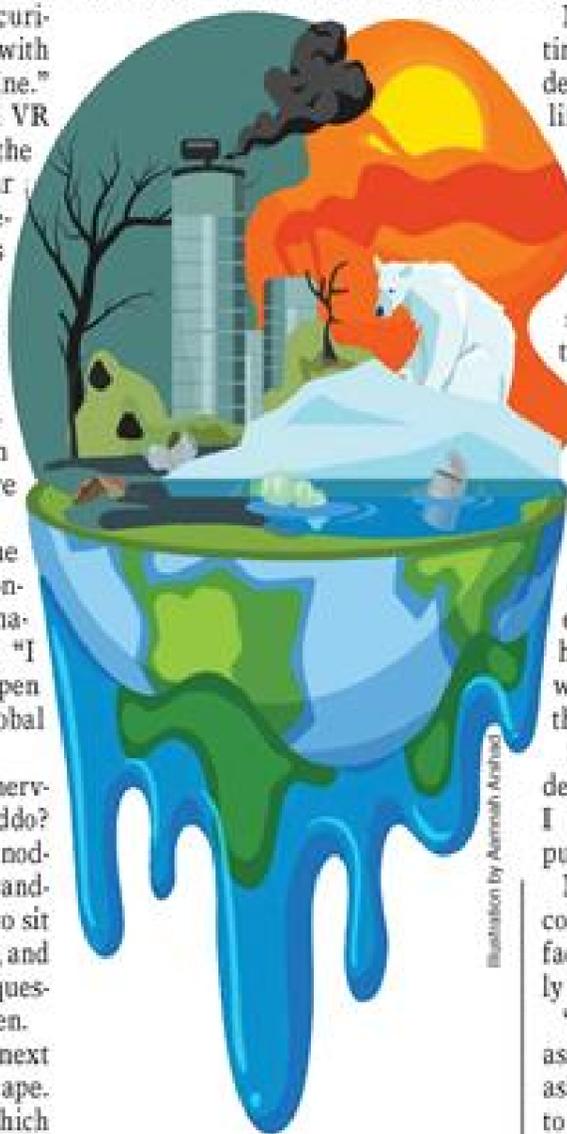


Illustration by Aameerah Arshad

was quite horrible.

My view shifted once more, this time I could see a city in truly bad condition. The streets were altered almost beyond recognition. Buildings near the water's edge were either abandoned or had their lower floors swallowed by rising tides. Sandbags lined the streets, a desperate attempt to keep the sea at bay. The grass was dry. The city's roofs gleamed with solar panels, clinging to capture whatever energy they could capture to survive the heat.

My view changed yet again, this time I was seeing a bustling street. The sun was blazing overhead, casting an intense, almost blinding light. People moved along the street, their faces hidden behind some new kind of masks. I was told that in this era, masks were used for protection against smog and pollution in the air. Cooling stations were installed in many places, that released a gentle mist and people lined up in front of them. I was explained that these were essential with temperatures often too high to bear the heat without a break. People wore light-weight fabrics that reflected the blazing sunlight instead of absorbing it. Everyone rode in electric vehicles because it was necessary cut down on fossil fuel emission to help improve the bad air conditions.

My view then shifted again, this time revealing a forest — a brown, desolate forest — that signified life had ended there. There was no greenery, only the burned and lifeless remains of brittle branches and dead leaves scattered across the forest floor. The trees stood like hollow shells, stripped of vitality, as though time had drained away their spirit, leaving nothing but a haunting silence in its wake.

My view again changed and I could see a world with increased droughts and water scarcity. Communities were fighting each other for water and food. The prices for everything were extremely high. It was like looking at a world where there was only survival of the fittest.

Seeing all that chaos, havoc and deteriorated condition of the world, I couldn't take it anymore and pulled the VR headset off.

My grandfather looked at me with concern for I was panting and my face had lost all colour. He hurriedly handed me a glass of water.

"You okay, kiddo?" he asked and I assured him that I was fine. Then he asked me if I had gotten the answer to my question.

"Yes grandpa, I got my answer. I saw the terrible future we are headed towards and I will do everything in my power to prevent it from happening. I will also spread the word to other people," I replied.

I pledged, and oh, and I no longer hated Tuesday's environmental class because it was actually the time I was learning ways to combat the causes making our world go dark. Each lesson opened my eyes to the impacts of pollution, deforestation and climate change and I felt a growing responsibility to make a difference. ■