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Revamped JCP to hold maiden meeting on 5th

- Judicial commission likely to take up nomination of judges for constitutional benches
- One lawmaker each from PML-N and PPP, two PTI members also part of panel

By Nasir Iqbal and Ihtsham A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) is all set to meet on Nov 5 after it was reconvened in light of the 26th Amendment recently passed by both houses of parliament, paving the way for the inclusion of parliamentarians in the high-powered body to nominate superior courts judges.

The JCP meeting convened by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yaqub Afridi is expected to discuss issues related to the establishment of the constituent of the JCP and the nomination of judges for constitutional benches in the Supreme Court.

The commission may also discuss any other agenda with the permission of the chair. The 26th Amendment envisaged the formation of constitutional benches in the Supreme Court to take up cases requiring interpretation of constitutional provisions.

Presided over by CJP Afridi, the meeting is expected to be attended by senior justice judge Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Mansur Akhtar, Justice Amiruddin Khan, Senator Farooq Hamid Naik, MNA Sheikh Afrab Ahmad, Rothan Khair Shaid Bharrucha, Law Minister Asim Nasser

Tarar, Senator Syed Khadija Faraz, MNA Omar Ayub, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Javed, and Pakistan Bar Council representative Akhtar Hussain.

Earlier in the day, parliamentary nominations for the judicial commission were sent to the Supreme Court by National Assembly Speaker Asim Sajid after consultations with the Senate chairman and parliamentary leaders.

Chief justice advocates developing judicial reforms policy: Page 2

PTI MNA Omar Ayub and PML-N lawmaker from Attock Sheikh Afrab Ahmad have been nominated from the National Assembly while PPP Senator Farooq Naik and PTI's Sheikh Faraz have been nominated to represent the upper house of parliament.

The nominations came a day after a Senate panel headed by Senator Naik endorsed a proposal to increase the number of Supreme Court judges to 25.

Rothan Bharrucha has been nominated as a woman member of the judicial commission by the speaker. She has served as a minister in Balochistan between 1999 and 2002. She was a senator from

March 2003 to March 2009. She also served as a caretaker minister in 2018.

A statement issued by the NA Secretariat said, "According to the 26th Amendment, five members of the parliament are to be included in the judicial commission. The nomination of names from the parliament is on the basis of equal representation from both the government and the opposition. The Supreme Court has received all nominations."

Before the 26th Amendment, the JCP comprised a majority of judges.

The recent constitutional amendment, however, changed the JCP's composition to include two members of the National Assembly, two members of the Senate, and one woman or non-Muslim member, from outside parliament, nominated by the NA speaker.

The recently amended Article 175A stated that a 13-member judicial commission, comprising the CJP, three most senior judges of the Supreme Court, most senior judge of the constitutional benches, law minister, attorney general for Pakistan, a nominee from the Pakistan Bar Council, two members each from the National Assembly and the Senate, and a woman or non-Muslim from

media was reporting the AQI of an hour when they should report the 24-hour average of 336. "We have never reached a level of 1,000," he told AFP.



COMMUTERS make their way amid smog in Lahore, on Saturday.—AFP

Lahore's AQI touches unprecedented level

- Alarming reading in morning 71.1 times above WHO limit
- Minister blames crop burning in India for pollution
- Over 1,000 arrested, drivers fined

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: Air pollution in Lahore soared on Saturday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) briefly reaching an "unprecedented" level of over 1,000 despite a "green lockdown" in the city.

Data from a global air quality monitoring platform, IQAir, showed air quality at 1,062 between 8am and 9am. It was the highest in the world. The pollution level was recorded 71.1 times above the World Health Organisation (WHO) standard.

The level of deadly PM2.5 pollutants — fine particulate matter in the air that causes the most damage to health — peaked at 610.

The WHO considered a reading above 15 in a 24-hour period as unhealthy.

Environment Protection and Culture Change Department Secretary Jahangir Anwar said the

around 9pm, the AQI reading in different areas of Lahore was US Consulate 290, Coop Office 261, Pakistan Engineering Services 247, Byed Marathi Ali Road 246, Netaji 230, DHA Phase-8 235, WWF Pakistan 216, University of Management and Technology 215, EAS Lahore 204 and Revenue Employees Coop Housing Society 211.

Alarming level
Punjab senior minister Maryam Aurangzeb conceded the air pollution in Lahore had reached alarming

LAHORE: A day after the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government said it was ready to purchase the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Saturday followed suit, expressing its interest in either acquiring the national carrier or establishing a new airline.

PMI-N President Nawaz Sharif stated on Saturday that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had sought his counsel on whether the Punjab government should acquire the PIA or establish a new airline. "Maryam proposed that the Punjab government launch a new airline. Air Punjab, and I advised her to proceed with further consultations on the potential acquisition of the PIA," Nawaz Sharif told reporters in New York.

"We could introduce a new airline that would offer direct flights from Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and Quetta to New York, along with services to London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, and other international destinations," the elder Sharif elaborated. He said the proposal was under consideration.

Nawaz Sharif also suggested that the PIA could be purchased and rebranded by the provincial

Imran Khan, Mr Gandapur pledged to continue the struggle for it. Despite being optimistic with his remarks, he stressed that PTI would remain peaceful. "We and our leader (Imran Khan) have been mistreated by the state despite us being peaceful. With the power of people, we will come out and return home with our rights," he said.

He called the upcoming rally a "prayer for all Pakistanis".

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After KP, Punjab also jumps on PIA bandwagon

By Zukhrain Tahir

LAHORE: A day after the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government said it was ready to purchase the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Saturday followed suit, expressing its interest in either acquiring the national carrier or establishing a new airline.

KP's surprise move to acquire PIA raises eyebrows: Page 3

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Gandapur vows 'final nail in govt's coffin soon'

- Meets Imran, warns of final call for ex-PM's release after Swabi rally on 9th
- Says public will soon rid itself of 'Form 47' govt
- Seeks capital punishment for violators of Constitution

By Imran Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Amin Gandapur announced on Saturday, following a meeting with PTI founding chairman Imran Khan, that he would soon "hammer the last nail in the government's coffin" and that his party was ready to "make the ultimate sacrifice".

"The final call for Imran Khan's release will be given after the public gathering in Swabi on Nov 9," Mr Gandapur

told reporters in Rawalpindi.

The KP chief minister said he was "tired of being poisoned" in the face of the state's alleged heavy-handedness. "We will go out there and be ready to make the ultimate sacrifice," he said. "Despite being peaceful, our workers are beaten and arrested. They are acquitted in court cases only to be re-arrested and charged with new offences. This is intolerable."

According to media reports, PTI is considering establishing a "tent city" in Swabi and may

announce a march on Islamabad to demand the release of Mr Khan, who is currently incarcerated at Adiala Jail.

Imran should face a military trial: Azma — Page 2

Mr Gandapur had previously also declared his intention to "shut down the country" and launch a movement against the government if Mr Khan was not released. He urged PTI workers to

"inform your families not to wait for you, as your coffin may arrive instead". He stressed that the Peshawar rally planned for Nov 8 would be cancelled to focus on arrangements for the Swabi public meeting.

He claimed that the public would soon rid itself of the "Form 47" government and that the country would be liberated from an administration he accused of violating the Constitution. Using the term "Haseedi Azadi" (True Freedom), a phrase popularised by

Imran Khan, Mr Gandapur pledged to continue the struggle for it.

Despite being optimistic with his remarks, he stressed that PTI would remain peaceful. "We and our leader (Imran Khan) have been mistreated by the state despite us being peaceful. With the power of people, we will come out and return home with our rights," he said.

Continued on Page 5

Four terrorists killed in KP; convoys of security men attacked

By Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Four terrorists were killed in South Waziristan, where a convoy of security forces came under a rocket attack on Saturday, sources said.

Eleven security personnel were injured when militants fired a rocket targeting the convoy in the Karwaki area of South Waziristan, the sources said on Saturday night, though no official statement confirming the attack was issued by the military's media wing till filing of this report.

Earlier in the day, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement explained that security forces conducted an "intelligence-based operation in general area Karwaki, South Waziristan district, on reported presence of Absoor".

During the operation,

Continued on Page 5

ON OTHER PAGES



Pakistan yet to launch bonds

The government's inability to launch Euro and Panda bonds could put the economy under stress, which may not help the country get improved ratings from international rating agencies, said financial experts. The government is not yet able to launch bonds in the international market due to poor ratings given by the international rating agencies, said sources in the financial sector. Page 8

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Man, two sons killed by rivals on way to court

LAHORE: A man and his two sons were shot dead allegedly by their opponents at Rawi Bridge in Shahdara on Saturday.

Police said Saeed (50), his two sons Yasir (30) and Nasir (25) and accomplice Jafar Meo, riding a rickshaw, were going to attend a court hearing in a murder case against them when their opponents riding motorcycles approached them at Rawi Bridge.

Police said the suspects stopped the rickshaw on the bridge, pulled out their guns and shot dead Saeed and his two sons and injured Jafar. The suspects fled the scene. The rickshaw driver remained safe.

Police reached the spot, collected evidence and shifted the bodies to the morgue. The injured was shifted to a nearby hospital where he was said to be stable.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Faisal Kamran said the man and his sons were killed over enmity.

He said the deceased were facing murder charges of killing two men in south Cantonment area in 2015 while their rivals attacked them to take revenge.

He said one of the suspects was identified as Usman and teams were constituted to arrest them.

He said the suspects involved in this triple murder case would be arrested soon.

—Staff Reporter

Chief justice advocates developing jail reforms policy

Forms panel to inspect prisons; series of meetings to continue in other cities

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi on Saturday chaired a session in Lahore inaugurating discussion for developing "National Jail Reform Policy" focusing on prison reforms and the welfare of inmates.

The participants in the consultative meeting included Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Adil Noorhan, LHC administrative judge Justice Shams ul-Musawwir Mirza, the provincial secretary of the home and prosecution departments, inspectors general of police and prison department, the secretary of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP), the superintendent of central prison Lahore and human rights activist Saadia Amin Khawaja.

Members from both treasury

and opposition political parties — PML-N Senator Ahmad Khan Chohan and PTI activist Khadija Shah — who underwent incarceration in jail also attended the meeting on a special invite.

Senator Chohan, a former bureaucrat, was initially arrested by the NAB in 2018 following revelations of illegal assets and the Ashrafia-Iqbal Housing scheme against him. He remained in jail till 2021 when the Supreme Court granted him bail. Later, he was acquitted of the charges in all cases filed against him.

Ms Shah, a fashion designer and granddaughter of former army chief Asif Nawaz Janjira, was arrested following the registration of cases of May 9 riots against the PTI leaders and workers. She was released on bail in December last year.

Chief Justice Afridi shared his vision for modernising Pakistan's criminal justice system, stressing that a humane and effective prison system is essential to ensure a fair legal framework, and a statement issued by the LJCP.

He noted that data collected by the LJCP reveals a deeply concerning situation nationwide,

with 108,643 inmates housed in facilities with an authorised capacity of only 66,625.

The data shows Punjab faces particularly severe challenges, with 62,837 prisoners confined in prisons built to accommodate just 26,365. Of them 26,128 are under-trial prisoners, many of whom have been awaiting trial for over a year.

The CJP emphasised the importance of addressing these urgent issues in Punjab, beginning a phased approach that will ultimately extend to the entire country.

He said the series of consultative meetings, which started in Lahore, will continue across other cities in Pakistan to gather insights and build consensus on reform initiatives.

The agenda centred on the LJCP's proposal, a National Jail Reform Policy in alignment with international standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules, Bangkok Rules, and Beijing Rules, to ensure humane and rehabilitative management across Pakistan's correctional facilities.

The meeting participants also discussed the possibility of estab-

lishing a jail reforms committee, aimed at developing strategies to reduce overcrowding, enhance inmate welfare, and improve case processing efficiency.

The CJP constituted a sub-committee comprising retired justice Shabbir Raza Rizvi, Ms Khawaja, Senator Chohan and Ms Shah to inspect the jails across the province and to give recommendations to streamline processes to address the high numbers of under-trial prisoners and promote alternative sentencing options, including community service and probation.

The statement said, under the guidance of Chief Justice Afridi, and with the dedicated data collection and analytical support provided by the LJCP, these initiatives are intended to bring about transformative, systemic improvements within Pakistan's prison system.

By prioritising humane treatment, rehabilitation, and efficient case management, this collaborative framework will set the stage for a sustainable and just prison system that upholds human dignity and fosters rehabilitation across the nation, it concludes.

Imran should face a military trial: Azma

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bekhari says Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan should face a military trial.

"The mastermind (Imran Khan) of May 9 should face a military trial. The PTI suspects of May 9 should be tried in military courts," the minister asserted at a presser here on Saturday. She said the status of martyrs were attached and warplanes were set on fire, even he (Khan) himself had justified military trials so why not for the suspects of the May 9, she said and added that the PTI's objective was creating chaos as it was not interested in improving the conditions of the people and development.

Ms Bekhari said the PTI should know that the courts could not be managed through deals.

"We are the slaves, will be a new slogan of the PTI as it has set its hopes on Trump's victory to seek Khan's release," she said.

The minister lamented that funds from the KP government, already in a financial crisis, were being used for the security of Imran Khan's family.

"Bashir Bibi, Khan's wife, has brought her own security from the KP to Zaman Park."

Azma Bekhari highlighted a number of initiatives. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had taken up after assuming the power.

"Maryam Nawaz has launched over 80 initiatives within a year and all are being implemented," she said and added that a public sector cancer hospital in Lahore costing Rs54bn with a capacity of 520 beds would be built where no patient would be denied treatment. She said the Punjab government would establish agricultural malls in four cities: Sahiwal, Nargodha, Bahawalpur and Multan.

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Non-bailable warrants for six PTI leaders in May 9 case

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Saturday issued non-bailable warrants for the arrest of six absconding Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in connection with another case related to the May 9 riots, as they failed to appear in court.

The Gwadar police had registered a case against the PTI leaders for burning a container and police vehicles during the May 9 protests. The suspects include former federal ministers Murad Saeed and Hamid Arfar, former provincial minister Mian Adnan Iqbal, as well as Zubair Niaz, Hamid Raza Gillani and Waqar Qayyum.

The investigating officer (IO) informed the court that the suspects had gone into hiding to avoid arrest. The IO requested the court to issue non-bailable warrants for the suspects as a pre-condition to declaring them proclaimed offenders (POs).

Granting the request, the court issued non-bailable warrants for the arrest of the PTI leaders.

Several PTI leaders, including Hamid Arfar, Murad Saeed, Azam Saeed, Farukh Haidy, Mian Adnan

Iqbal, Anisulab Abbas, Karamat Khokhar and Zubair Niaz have already been declared POs in multiple cases related to the May 9 incidents for failing to surrender to law enforcement.

Following the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan by NAB in a graft case, the police in Lahore registered multiple cases against PTI leaders and workers, accusing them of vandalising public and private property, including army facilities and the residence of the corps commander.

RAIL: An anti-terrorism court on Saturday extended the interim process bail of PTI Secretary General Salmaan Akram Raju in cases related to the party's Oct 5 protest in the city.

Judge Arshad Javed also directed the investigating officers to submit their reports at the next hearing. The cases were filed at police stations in Shafiqabad, Islamabad, Lorry Adda and Masti Gate, with Raju and other PTI leaders named in the FIRs. The judge also extended the bail of Aftab Anwar Pabai in the same cases until Nov 23.

—Staff Reporter

Medical examination of film actor conducted

Witnesses record statements in domestic violence case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Police on Saturday conducted a medical examination of the film actress Nargis and recorded the statements of her witnesses in a domestic violence case.

The Defence C police registered a case against Nargis' husband Inspector Majid Bashir and started the investigation.

Nargis was allegedly subjected to torture by her husband in Defence Housing Authority (DHA) three days ago.

Police Superintendent of Police Investigation Muhammad Naveed told Dawn that the suspect got a two-week pre-arrest bail and would appear in a day or two for

investigation.

He said that a medical examination of the victim was conducted and the report was being awaited.

He said the investigators also had recorded the statements of the domestic help of the film actor who was a witness in the case.

He said that action would be taken against the inspector involved in the case.

A video clip circulating on social media showed the actor with multiple bruises on her face, eyes, and other parts of her body.

The actor alleged in the FIR that her husband wanted to accommodate the former wife of a famous TV host in her (Nargis) house without her consent. She also alleged that Bashir wanted her to transfer the ownership of her farmhouse in his name. "Majid Bashir repeatedly hit my face with his official gun, leaving bruises, particularly, in and around my eyes," she said in the FIR.

She said her husband also put the

barrel of his gun in her mouth in an attempt to injure her jaw.

The actor said that Majid Bashir wanted to grab a valuable three-lakh plot, gold ornaments and other properties belonging to her, at gunpoint. "He (Majid) had also subjected me to brutal domestic violence during the past, but each time I ignored the act of extreme violence just to save my marriage," she added.

On Friday, she said, her husband crossed 'all limits', dragged her from her hair, humiliated and beat her up black and blue in front of her nephews and employees. She alleged that the suspect also planned her murder and warned her that he would put the blame on her enemies.

Earlier, Punjab Women Protection Authority (PWPA) Chairperson Hina Pervez Butt met Nargis at her home and assured her of justice.

The PWPA chairperson committed to provide any legal assistance.



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DAWN



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LET'S WEATHER THE CHANGE - TOGETHER

A climate change initiative

Justice Shah regrets lack of focus on climate change

• Says 'overexcited' lawmakers need to make a regulatory framework
• Recalls \$30bn funds outstanding in the wake of 2022 floods

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Senior justice judge Justice Naved Mirza Ali Shah has observed that the government has yet to establish a Climate Change Authority or Climate Change Fund under Climate Change Act, 2017.

The 'overexcited' legislators dealt with matters overnight, but they did not set up a climate change fund or authority despite the fact that climate financing has become a lifeline for vulnerable countries like Pakistan, Justice Shah observed while speaking at a high-level Climate Finance Forum and COP-29 Preparatory Workshop, on Saturday.

The two-day event — hosted by Sebail and Partners and Resources Forum, in collaboration with Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, and the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF), Islamabad — was designed to engage in strategic discussions for robust solutions to mobilise climate finance for Pakistan's mitigation and adaptation efforts.

"The government needs to wake up and think more seriously on such issues rather than other issues," Justice Shah emphasised.

He recalled how the Climate Act was essential for suitable adaptation of projects and submissions to international and local institutions for global funding related to climate change susceptibility. "Sadly, when the law

was passed in 2017, and we are now in 2024, there is no such authority in the country," he reiterated while recalling how a public interest petition came to the Supreme Court with a prayer to direct the government to set up the climate change authority.

But the government had no answer when the SC asked about earmarking funds in budget for climate change, he said. "I failed to understand, as a judge, what would be more important for allocation in the budget if you do not allocate anything for climate change in a country severely hit by climate change," he regretted. This was shocking, though the government assured the court that there would be allocations in future budgets, he said.

"What I want to tell you is the reality check that the 2017 Act asks for the climate authority, but in reality, no such authority exists till date, besides not a single penny coming to climate change funds," he lamented.

There must be a proper regulatory framework and 'overexcited' legislators need to come up with a robust and targeted regulatory framework. He emphasised that lack of such framework posed a risk to timely project implementation and limit investors' confidence in the security of climate-related projects.

"The climate change should be the topmost human right issue since climate change is the greatest existential threat that Pakistan is posing

through," he continued. He said judges looked at climate change as a human right issue, as countries were their events create basic rights issues of access to food, water and health. Therefore, any climate financing has become essential to preserving human dignity and human survival, he said.

"For Pakistan, climate finance is not a choice but a survival strategy," Justice Shah observed. "When our home is on fire, I think climate finance is the water through which we need to put that fire out."

Justice Shah said international finance of \$30 billion was outstanding in the wake of the 2022 floods. "Therefore, we need to agitate this matter as a human right obligation; otherwise, there will be no way to get such funds internationally," he said.

Justice Shah said the courts, as protectors of rights, could hold the state to these commitments for ensuring that financial support flows to those who need it most by translating international agreements into binding rights to the constitution facing the greater threats.

He noted that climate finance was not merely an economic policy but a matter of survival and justice.

The judiciary, both nationally and internationally, had an unprecedented role in ensuring these funds were managed, protected, and implemented to meet the urgent needs of vulnerable nations and communities.



ECONOMIC Affairs Division Secretary Dr Kazim Niaz and German Development Bank Director Esther Gravenkotter sign the agreement for the second phase of Billion Tree Afforestation Project.—APP

Germany pledges €20m for 'billion tree' project

ISLAMABAD: Germany will provide 20 million euros to Pakistan for the second phase of 'Billion Tree Afforestation Support Project' (BTASP).

An agreement for the financial support was signed in Islamabad on Saturday. Economic Affairs Secretary Dr Kazim Niaz and Director of German Development Bank, KfW Esther Gravenkotter signed the agreement.

The first phase of BTASP is already under implementation in partnership with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Climate Change, Forestry,

Environment and Wildlife Department.

It will support the protection and sustainable management of forests in KP. The project will focus on new plantation on 10,000 hectares, capacity building of forest departments, and developing a management information system.

The project will support nature-based livelihoods generation geared to alleviate poverty. Moreover, it will promote women's economic empowerment and participation in decision making processes.—Amin Ahmed

With two more polio cases from KP, year's tally increases to 45

ISLAMABAD: Two more cases of poliovirus have been reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan and Lakki Marwat districts. So far this year, 45 cases of the crippling disease have been reported from across the country.

The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication in Islamabad has confirmed the detection of two more wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases. The victims include a 34-month-old girl in Lakki Marwat and a two-year-old child in D.I. Khan.

The genetic sequencing of the samples collected from the children is underway, a lab official said. The cases have been reported at a time when a nationwide vaccination campaign is ongoing to immunise over 45 million children under five years.

Both districts had previously reported one case of poliovirus each. Environmental samples collected from these areas have also tested positive for the presence of the virus, as per the official.

So far, 22 polio cases have been reported from Balochistan, 12 from Sindh, nine from KP and one each from Punjab and Islamabad.

In light of the rising number of cases, the federal and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments have decided to form a joint strategy for eradicating the virus.

Other than the reported case, WPV1 has been detected in 26 districts from all four provinces and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, indicating widespread circulation of the virus and a continued serious risk to children's well-being, according to officials.

Earlier on Friday, the testing of environmental samples showed that the poliovirus had reached two new districts, Nowshera, Balochistan, and Mianwali, Punjab, which had so far remained unaffected by the virus.

According to experts, a sewage water sample taken from an area is the basic parameter to determine if polio vaccination campaigns are being carried out successfully. 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.—Ikram Jussali

KP's surprise move to acquire PIA raises eyebrows

Experts question province's intention, say it could set up its own smaller airline; CM aide insists offer is 'genuine'

By Manzoor Ali

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's offer to acquire the struggling Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has sparked debate over whether this is a genuine acquisition bid or an attempt to "rescue" the federal government.

On Friday, the KP Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BOIT) sent a letter to the federal Privatization Minister Ahsan Khan, expressing interest in purchasing

the national carrier. The letter stated that the province was ready to outfit the carrier offer of Rs10 billion from the Blue World Consortium.

Aviation expert Qasim Anwar, who served PIA for nearly four decades, estimated the airline's actual value to be between Rs60bn and Rs75bn. He argued that PIA could achieve a turnaround under professional management, noting that former leadership appointments, often retired air marshals, were ill-equipped for commercial aviation management.

"There's a huge difference between flying a fighter jet and managing a commercial airline," he observed. He said that, unlike PIA, several private airlines in Pakistan are operating profitably, suggesting that a similar outcome could be possible for the national airline.

Mr Anwar was dismissive of the Rs10bn valuation some might consider, calling it "peanuts" in light of the airline's potential value if managed effectively.

Advisor to KP Chief Minister on Information Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif told Dawn that the province's bid was genuine and not politically motivated. "We are interested in acquiring the airline," he said, adding that the KP government intended to operate PIA professionally.

He added that the KP government had reviewed the financial and logistical aspects of the proposal, and its offer to buy the national airline was not a shot in the dark.

He urged the federal government to assess the bid on merit, stating there was no reason to dismiss KP's offer if it was fairly considered.

Meanwhile, KP advisor for Finance, Management Ahsan, did not respond to inquiries via call or WhatsApp messages.

Tahir Iqbal Mian, a journalist who covers aviation, was sceptical of the genuineness of KP's bid, suggesting that a more feasible plan would have been to establish a regional airline with a small fleet to improve connectivity within the province.

"If KP was serious about owning an airline, they could set up a smaller provincial airline instead," he said, noting that this would require fewer resources and potentially attract investors.

He questioned why the provincial government had not participated in the initial bidding process if it was serious about acquiring PIA. "The KP government is just cashing out a headline opportunity," Mr Mian said.

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Bail pleas of KP chief minister's aide, others dismissed

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: District and Sessions Court Islamabad on Saturday dismissed pre-arrest bail petitions of KP chief minister's special assistant and other officials allegedly involved in a smear campaign against Judge Humayun Dhowar.

The ruling will impact multiple officials with one already in the FIA custody on a four-day physical remand. They were accused of scandalising Special Judge Central Humayun Dhowar following the KP Anti-Corruption Establishment issued arrest warrants against the judge and his family in connection with a land dispute case in their native town.

They were on pre-arrest interim bail and required to appear before the court.

However, the Chief Minister's Special Assistant on Anti-Corruption retired Brigadier Mohammad Musaddiq Abbasi along with ACE officials Siddique Anjum and Umar Siddique did not appear before Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Atzal Majoka. Due to their absence despite the issuance of two summonses the court dismissed their bail petitions on grounds of non-prosecution.

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) produced Assistant Director Anti-Corruption Umar Saqib before Senior Civil Judge Mohammad Abbas Shah, alleging he circulated a social media video linked to the case. The FIA sought a seven-day physical remand, citing a need to identify other suspects. Saqib denied his involvement, claiming he was falsely accused after refusing alleged favours, and pointed out that the actual poster had received interim bail.

After hearing both the sides, the court approved his four-day physical remand to facilitate the investigation.

In a related development, Siddique Anjum re-filed a pre-arrest bail petition before Judge Majoka, appearing with his lawyer Mousalim Khan Niaz. The court granted him interim bail against bonds worth Rs20,000 and set the next hearing for November 11.

The FIA registered the First Information Report (FIR) against Abbasi, ACE KP officials and a vlogger for allegedly attempting to discredit Judge Humayun Dhowar. The judge had earlier convicted former prime minister Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case.

The FIR was registered after the ACE KP filed a land dispute case against Judge Dhowar and his family on September 5, leading to the issuance of warrants by a judicial magistrate. Records show Judge Dhowar's family acquired land in Danna in 1970 and a housing project legally progressing under the PTI government.

However, after former prime minister Imran Khan was convicted by Judge Dhowar on the Election Commission of Pakistan's complaint for concealing details of Toshakhana gifts in his assets declaration, the family reportedly faced intimidation which allegedly intensified under PTI's administration following the February 8 elections.



THE escalator at the Faizabad metro bus station in Rawalpindi remains out of order much to the apathy of the relevant authorities.—Photo by Mohammad Asim

Murree civil defence 'under-staffed' to deal with snow season

Department's request for 90 additional workers remains unanswered

By Aamir Yasir

RAWALPINDI: After getting no response from the Punjab government regarding the allocation of funds for the deployment of the staff to perform winter and snowfall duties in Murree, the Civil Defence Department has deployed only 10 members in the city to deal with snow-related tasks.

The Punjab government asked all the rescue departments to implement a winter/snowfall plan in Murree from November 1 to February 28 and deploy all the staff and machinery to avoid a tragedy like 2022 in which more than 23 people died after they were trapped in snowfall.

However, the provincial government

failed to provide any additional staff to the civil defence department to perform rescue services and provide first aid to the people in case of snowfall, or any untoward situation. A senior official of the department told Dawn that there was a shortage of staff in the department and it sought help from the Punjab government, particularly for the budget to deploy staff in Murree after training.

He said that the civil defence officials were supposed to perform duties at facilitation centres, health camps, sensitive junctions, the control room, and facilitating tourists in case of emergency. At present, there are only 10 members which is negligible with regards to the task at hand.

During the meeting of the high-powered committee in Lahore last month, it was decided to increase the number of staff, but the same could not materialise. He said that the provincial government gave a cold shoulder to the department and it had no option but to deploy the

available staff of 10 people in Murree for the winter and snowfall duties. The official said the department needed to recruit 90 "volunteers" for four months, and it required Rs11.5 million for the task.

When contacted, Civil Defence Officer Tahir Hussain confirmed that there was a shortage of staff and that they had sought the help of the provincial government.

He said that as per standard operating procedures issued by the Punjab government, there were 10 locations where the civil defence officials had to perform duties during the season.

In January 2022, as many as 22 people died in vehicles trapped in snow. After the incident of Murree, the then commissioner, deputy commissioners, and other officials were transferred for their negligence.

After the incident, the Lahore High Court Rawalpindi Bench also directed the authorities to make a winter plan to deal with traffic before the start of the

snow season in the hill station.

Snowfall measures

On the other hand, the Murree administration has completed its plan for winter and asked the departments of the highway and police to deploy their staff in the hill station by November 15. A senior official of the administration said that there was a shortage of staff in different departments and the administration asked them to deploy all the staff as per the contingency plan for the winter season to avoid any untoward situation.

Meanwhile, District Health Authority Chief Executive Officer Dr Asif Arbab Niaz said all the basic health units will perform their duties in three shifts. He said that in case of a shortage of beds, three private hospitals will help the government to utilize their beds. He said that eight ambulances and four mobile clinics in Rawalpindi will also be used in cases of emergency.

Role of Frontier Constabulary vital for ensuring peace, security: minister

ISLAMABAD: Interior (FC) was of utmost importance in ensuring peace and security.

Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday said the role of Frontier Constabulary

meeting with police officers from the 49th Cantonment who had recently been posted in Frontier Constabulary.

He expressed his good wishes to the officers on their appointment in the Frontier Constabulary. Addressing the officers, Mr Naqvi said the Frontier Constabulary was also fighting along side other law enforcement agencies in the war against terrorism.

Mr Naqvi said the 10 brave sons of FC recently sacrificed their precious lives in Dera Ismail Khan, setting the highest example in the line of duty.

He emphasized that the sacrifices of FC personnel have further strengthened their resolve against terrorism and the nation greatly valued their sacrifices.

The interior minister said the Frontier Constabulary was being equipped with modern technology and equipment.

He said young officers could bring new life to any institution and stressed that they should perform their duties according to the highest standards of honesty, discipline and moral conduct.

"You have to improve the overall reputation of law enforcement agencies in the eyes of people with your dedication and hard work," he said, adding that good behaviour with people in the trust of a good officer.

Mr Naqvi stressed the need for establishing strong relationships with people instead of traditional relationships. He said make a name for yourself in good deeds which would become your identity and go out of the way to help and serve people.

He further said officers who served people and lived in their hearts did not need any recommendations.

Interior Secretary Khuram Ali Agha and

Commandant Frontier Constabulary Riaz Nazir Gana were also present on the occasion.

Journalists' protection top priority

In a special message on International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists being observed on Nov 2 (today), Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that the government would take all steps to protect journalists.

The federal minister said that a favourable and secure environment is crucial for journalists to perform their duties. He said journalists had a heavy responsibility to inform the public the authentic information.

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that journalists should clearly distinguish between truth and falsehood and focus on responsible journalism, advancing Pakistan's agenda rather than any one else's.

He lamented that journalism has become entangled in a whirlpool where the distinction between truth and falsehood has almost disappeared.

He highlighted that a mafia, both inside and outside the field, is actively perpetrating crimes against the journalistic community, exerting influence.

Mr Naqvi said that there is a long list of crimes against journalists, and it is essential for all segments of society, along with governments, to play their part in preventing these crimes.

He expressed solidarity with journalists who had become victims of crimes, reiterating the commitment to take all necessary measures to prevent crimes against journalists.

The federal minister reaffirmed the commitment to taking all necessary measures to prevent crimes against journalists.—Staff Reporter

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Mastung blast FIR registered by CTD

Large number of people attend funeral prayers of victims; students stage sit-in on Quetta-Karachi highway

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Balochistan police has registered an FIR against unidentified terrorists who carried out the blast in Mastung on Friday.

Eight people, including five children, were killed in the explosion, while over 30 were injured. Meanwhile, students staged a sit-in on the Quetta-Karachi highway and refused to call off their protest until the acceptance of their demands, which included "granting the guilty before the public". The highway remained closed to traffic till late on Saturday night.

The FIR was registered on the complaint of Abdul Parah, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Mastung's city police station.

The FIR said Rafiq Shah, who heads the bomb disposal squad, inspected the scene of the explosion on Saturday, noting that "seven to eight kilograms of explosive material and ball bearing" were used.

A police team posted nearby heard a deafening boom while it was patrolling the area, the FIR said. They later learned that a blast had occurred on Mastung Road.

When the police contingent arrived at the site, it saw a large number of children there. "Several workers riding a van which was taking a police party to a hospital for police duty, were martyred and injured."

The FIR invoked sections 7 (penalisation for acts of terrorism) and 21(1) (aid and abetment) of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997, as well as sections 3 (penalisation for causing explosion likely to endanger life or property) and 4 (penalisation for attempt to cause explosion or for making or keeping explosive with intent to endanger life or property) of the

Explosive Substances' Act 1908.

Funeral

A large number of people attended funeral prayers for the Mastung blast victims on Saturday.

The victims were buried at a graveyard in the presence of hundreds of mourners.

Heart-wrenching scenes were witnessed during the burial of five schoolchildren, including two brothers, Saifullah and Samadullah. They were going to school with their father when the blast took place.

The grandfather of the boys, weeping uncontrollably, said: "I told my son, 'let me take the children to school and don't use risk show for dropping them!'"

A girl Khairun Nisa also lost her life, along with her younger brother Amir Hamza. They were riding a school van enroute to the blast.

Nadeem Tarsoo, a manager at a local branch of United Bank Ltd, was also killed in the incident while going to work. He belonged to the family of Hashim Tarsoo, a footballer who represented Pakistan in international events.

Funeral prayers for Abdul Hadeed Doraki, a policeman, were performed at Police Lines in Quetta.

Protesting students

Students of various schools took out processions in Mastung against the attack.

They marched on various roads carrying placards and banners inscribed with some demands.

The protesters later staged a sit-in on the Quetta-Karachi highway, causing suspension of inter-city traffic. The students chanted slogans against the government, saying it had failed to "protect citizens against terrorists".

Officials of the local administration held negotiations with the protesters and urged them to call off the sit-in.

But they refused to do so and continued blocking the highway.

The students called upon the administration to arrest the suspects and "parade them before the public".

They also called for payment of compensation to the families of the dead and to the injured.



QUETTA: A vendor drives his rickshaw loaded with used household items. — AFP

CM urges teachers to save kids from being led 'astray'

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Saifur Raheem Bugti has urged the teachers to play their role in creating awareness in society and counter the enemy's propaganda.

While addressing a function on Saturday, he said this propaganda was aimed at misleading the youth towards violence and criminal activities.

He said the youth were being misled through an organised conspiracy and pointed out that it was the teachers' responsibility "to root out this false narrative" from society.

The teachers have a "heavy responsibility" to educate the students about the difference between perception and reality.

He urged the teachers to teach the

youth patriotism and social ethics.

He emphasised that there should be a relationship of respect and love between the state and the citizens, for which "we all have to play our positive role".

The chief minister said that those who pick up guns and choose the path of violence were misguided and "there will be no change as a result of their futile struggle".

"No one should be under any misimpression that they can divide this great state," he said, adding the narrative of Balochistan's backwardness was being perpetuated by people siding abroad.

According to Mr Bugti, various qualified educationists and intellectuals who were called from other provinces to train the local teachers were sent back in the past.

Punjab jumps on bandwagon

Continued from Page 1

government as Air Punjab.

Regarding PIA's privatisation, he noted that the current bid stood at Rs10 billion, and any prospective buyer would be looking for business exceeding the investment. "It is disheartening to see that there are individuals among us who have contributed to PIA's downfall," he remarked.

The PML-N president also alluded to former PTI aviation minister Ghulam Narwar, who alleged that some PIA pilots held fake licenses. "Regardless of its accuracy, was such a claim appropriate for public disclosure?" he questioned. In February's general elections, Mr Narwar ran with the PML-N support but failed to secure a win.

PML-N spokesperson and Punjab minister Maryam Aurangzeb told Dawn that discussions were ongoing regarding whether the Punjab government should purchase the PIA or establish a new airline with no final decision made yet.

According to sources, if any provincial government intends to buy PIA, it will need to consider the implications of the federal government's agreement with

the IMF. With both the KP and Punjab governments showing interest in PIA, questions are being raised as to why the federal government cannot manage the airline if it is unable to sell it to a private entity.

Like the federal government, any provincial government acquiring PIA would require substantial funds to operate an airline that is widely considered a financial burden.

The much-anticipated privatisation of PIA hit a standstill on Thursday, as the only bid fell approximately Rs75 billion short of the government's expectations.

The Blue World City consortium submitted a bid of Rs10 billion, far below the minimum price of Rs25.01 billion set by the Privatisation Commission.

In a letter addressed to Federal Minister for Privatisation Azeem Khan a day before the bidding, KP Board of Investment and Trade Vice Chairman Hassan Masood expressed provincial government's intent to participate in the bidding process.

The letter conveyed that, on behalf of the chief minister and the people of KP, they wished to formally register their interest in acquiring the national air carrier.

Revamped JCP to hold meeting

Continued from Page 1

outside parliament will work for the appointment of the judges in the Supreme Court, high courts, and the Federal Shariat Court.

Crises, however, expect the amendment as an attack on the

independence of judiciary. The International Commission of Jurists had also raised alarm over significant institutional changes in the structure and functioning of Pakistan's judicial system, particularly with respect to the Supreme Court and high courts.

Lahore's AQI touches unprecedented level

Continued from Page 1

levels.

The blanket crop burning in Indian states the fumes of which were "being carried by strong winds into Pakistan".

The minister claimed Nasa had also released an air quality map showing emissions from crop burning in India.

She said the air quality improved to 283 when the wind direction from India changed.

Mr Aurangzeb also briefed the media about the Punjab government's operation to address the issue of smog.

A "green lockdown" has been imposed in various areas, particularly around Shimla Park and adjoining localities, where water is regularly sprayed to reduce air pollution.

Action has been taken against

encroachments from Engro Road to Railway Headquarters and Haji Camp, with monitoring of food points and commercial generators.

A Punjab Police spokesperson has claimed that 1,035 people have been arrested and 1,130 cases registered during the ongoing crackdown against smog this year.

Of them, 73 accused were arrested in Lahore and 184 cases have been registered.

The spokesperson said fines were imposed on drivers of 686,691 vehicles for excessive smoke emissions, and 152,640 vehicles with substandard fitness were impounded during the current year.

He said 10 users certification of 3,993 vehicles emitting excessive smoke were suspended.

Smog is particularly pronounced in winter when cold, denser air traps

emissions from poor-quality fuels used to power the city's vehicles and factories at ground level.

Five days, Lahore has been enveloped by smog, a mix of fog and pollutants caused by low-grade diesel fumes, smog from seasonal agricultural burning and winter cooking.

On Wednesday, the provincial environmental protection agency announced new restrictions in four "hot spots" in the city.

Rickshaws equipped with polluting two-stroke engines are banned, as are restaurants that barbecue without filters.

Government offices and private companies will have half their staff work from home starting Monday.

Construction work has been halted and street and food vendors, who often cook over open

fires, must close at 8 pm.

'Anxiety'

Breathing the toxic air has catastrophic health consequences, with the WHO saying strokes, heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory diseases can be triggered by prolonged exposure.

"As a mother, I am full of anxiety," 42-year-old Lily Mirza told AFP.

"Last year was not this bad, it was much better. Somebody needs to tell us what has happened. Did a pollution bomb explode somewhere?"

The smell of toxic fumes has become familiar to 40-year-old painter Rehman, who goes by one name.

"What can a poor painter like me do if the government can't fix this? I will keep the mask on and work," he told AFP.

Four terrorists killed in KP; convoys of security men attacked

Continued from Page 1

the terrorists' location was effectively engaged by the troops, as a result of which, four terrorists were killed.

The ISPR added that a sanitisation operation was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

Meanwhile, the sources said, five security personnel sustained injuries in an exchange of fire with militants in Lakki Marwat.

They said security personnel came under attack when

they were passing through the Wanda Mirzafari area of Lakki Marwat. They said the security convoy was on its way from Karak to the Qaboolkhal area on border with Lakki Marwat and Mirzafari districts when it came under attack. Security personnel retaliated and opened fire, forcing the attackers to flee. However, five personnel received injuries in the exchange of fire.

Security forces later launched a search operation in the area to trace the attackers.

Ghulam Marwat Marwat in Lakki Marwat also contributed to this report.

Gandapur vows 'final nail in govt's coffin soon'

Continued from Page 1

and added that after consultations, "a final schedule will be announced" about the rally routes, among other details. "Those attending from other parts of the country will join us and represent their areas," he added.

When asked about his involvement in Budha Bibi's recent release, Mr Gandapur clarified that he was not directly involved, suggesting that "everyone knows who played a role" in her release.

He noted that he has been facing increased pressure, with eight cases filed against him.

In reply to another question, he called for death penalty for individuals who violate the Constitution, warning that, without severe consequences, constitutional breaches will persist.

The chief minister also recounted an incident in Islamabad where his vehicle was damaged and his mobile phone was confiscated and never returned.

However, he stressed that "they" would not find anything incriminating on his phone.



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Concerning measures

An old law is being resurrected. Why? It is a question that the government must answer. On Friday, the law minister quietly introduced a bill in the National Assembly to give military and civil armed forces the power to 'pre-emptively' detain any individual facing terrorism charges for a period of up to three months. The bill, which proposes several amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act, was quickly referred to the relevant committee by the deputy speaker without any discussion of its salient features. It aims to resurrect several amendments to Clause 11E(1)(b) of the ATA which had lapsed in 2016. Specifically, the bill seeks power for the authorities to detain any individual for up to three months if they "pose a threat to national security". The detained individual may not have actually committed a crime; under the law, "reasonable suspicion" will be good enough for the state to deprive them of their liberty.

The rationale provided for preventive detention has long been the same: in times of insecurity, drastic measures are "necessary" for maintaining order. Lately, there has been a sharp resurgence in terrorist activity, which has resulted in the loss of many lives, particularly among security personnel. As a result, there is growing pressure on security forces to restore peace in the affected areas and clamp down on militants and insurgents. Unfortunately, Pakistan's legal system lacks versatility and often appears inadequately equipped to deal with the various challenges faced by security forces and the state while conducting counterterrorism operations and prosecuting dangerous terrorists. For example, it has been a long-standing complaint from security forces that they catch dangerous terrorists after much effort, only to see the courts set them free again. It is in this context that legal cover is repeatedly sought for "emergency measures" that violate fundamental rights.

But it is hardly as simple as that. There are countless examples of preventive detention laws being used for much more than simply combating terrorism. They have proven extremely useful, for example, for punishing political opponents and dissidents. It cannot be ignored that the language of the amendments proposed by the law minister is vague enough for the law to be used against anyone whom the state wants to put behind bars for a short period. "Reasonable suspicion" can mean anything in a country where ordinary citizens are routinely charged with terrorism merely for participating in unruly protests. Given how frequently the ATA is used when political opponents are to be taught a lesson, any measure that enhances its potential for abuse should be a cause for alarm. It is for this reason that the government must seek political input and consensus on the changes it is seeking to make and be open about its intentions.

Short-lived relief?

POLICYMAKERS must be jumping with joy. At the close of the first quarter of FY25, the budget posted a consolidated surplus of Rs1.7tr — 1.4pc of GDP — after 24 years. However, their jubilation will be short-lived, since this surplus is an outcome of a one-off event: the unprecedented profits of Rs2.5tr made by the State Bank by lending money to commercial banks last year through its Open Market Operations at a record-high policy interest rate of 22pc to finance the budget. Another major factor that has helped convert the perennial deficit into surplus in the first quarter is a record government earnings from the petroleum levy on transport fuels, which increased by 18pc from a year ago. With no cash coming from the SBP over the next three quarters of the present fiscal year, the surplus will gradually morph back into deficit in the coming months. Besides, the authorities struggling to pull off budgeted targets for tax collection and public spending, crucial to keep the deficit down within the targeted range, is not helping either.

Tax collection has actually fallen far short of the targeted revenue, and public expenditures have already exceeded the budgeted estimates. The fiscal operations report for the period July-September released the other day shows that taxes fell short of the target by Rs91bn. In fact, the four-month tax revenue collection shortfall soared to Rs190bn by the end of October. This is in spite of an enormous increase in tax rates and the imposition of new levies in the last budget. In a similar manner, expenditure rose by 13pc from last year. If these two variables continue to worsen, the budget deficit may even surpass the target of 5.9pc for the year, necessitating further cuts in the development expenditure. That said, the government is following the path of fiscal consolidation, producing a primary surplus — its current income less its current spending, excluding debt payments — of 0.4pc of GDP. Nevertheless, this fiscal consolidation has come at a huge cost to economic growth and jobs as the authorities are forced to cut the public-sector development budget to make up for their failure to boost tax collection. In other words, it will not be possible to sustainably control elevated fiscal deficits without compromising growth and development unless tax revenues are increased and wasteful public expenditure slashed.

Brisk spread

THE surge in polio cases has reached distressing levels with a tally of 45 last reported, after two cases emerged in Lakki Marwat and D.I. Khan. Despite nationwide vaccination efforts targeting millions of children, the virus continues to find footholds in previously unaffected districts like Noshki in Balochistan and Miranshah in Punjab. It has become painfully evident that we are in urgent need of a reassessment of our polio eradication strategy. We are hindered by persistent challenges — vaccine refusal, poor healthcare infrastructure, and security threats to health workers. Vaccine hesitancy is becoming a catastrophic obstacle, fuelled by myths linking polio drops to infertility and other unfounded fears. The Sindh government's plan to engage religious leaders to address these misconceptions is appreciable and could turn the tide in high-refusal areas like Karachi. However, a wider cultural and community-based effort is needed. Clerics, educators, and large-scale media campaigns must reinforce the vaccine's safety and religious acceptability. Equally pressing are attacks on health workers, like the assault on a polio team member in Okara. It is essential to secure dedicated personnel for polio campaigns who are equipped with counterterrorism training and equipment.

Moreover, recent environmental samples testing positive in multiple regions suggest that immunity levels among children are low. This indicates systemic failures in our routine immunisation coverage, which must be improved. We need an approach that integrates routine immunisation with essential services like sanitation and nutrition. This broader public health strategy would not only enhance vaccine coverage but also address underlying drivers of disease transmission. While the National Emergency Action Plan for Polio 2024-25 aims to address these concerns by targeting mobile populations and focusing on high-risk districts, its success depends on proper implementation and inter-agency coordination, especially in volatile areas. These steps, combined with governmental commitments, are critical for ensuring every child's right to a life free from polio.

OPINION

BY MUHAMMAD AMIR RANA



Beefing up security

What can Pakistan do to address the Chinese concerns?

THE dynamics of terrorism threats in Pakistan have shifted significantly since the Taliban took control in Afghanistan, challenging security institutions to develop an effective strategy to address these risks.

The current counterterrorism strategy is seemingly based on a zero-tolerance approach towards all terrorist groups, including religiously motivated terrorists and insurgents. However, this approach has yet to yield productive outcomes, and it has heightened security concerns, especially for foreign nationals in the country. Chinese nationals, in particular, have been targeted twice within six months, and a convoy of foreign diplomats narrowly escaped an attack while visiting Swat in KP. China, facing specific security concerns, has been urging Pakistan to intensify its efforts against terrorist groups that threaten its interests.

China has been using high-level diplomatic channels to convey its security concerns to the Pakistani leadership, initially pushing the latter to announce a comprehensive campaign against terrorism and extremism under the tag of 'Operation Amri-Ishkiyan' and then recently by pressuring Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to announce that he would personally oversee the investigation into last month's terrorist attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi. However, these assurances from Pakistan have done little to ease Beijing's concerns. A recent statement by the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, is a reflection of this frustration. At a public seminar, Ambassador Zaidong rebuffed Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, rejecting his praise of China's patience amid security threats. He stated unequivocally that two deadly attacks within six months were unacceptable and urged the Pakistani government to launch a comprehensive crackdown on all anti-China terrorist groups.

What can Pakistan do to address the Chinese concerns? What has Operation Amri-Ishkiyan achieved so far, and how sustainable is the campaign? These questions are essential, especially with regard to interpreting the Chinese demand for decisive action against the terrorists. Suppose it is conceived that full-scale military operations in Balochistan and KP eliminate the terrorist networks. This is a critical demand, as full-scale mili-

tary operations are not viable.

It has been argued on these pages that any large-scale military operation in Balochistan would complicate the province's political and security crisis, and there is a need to adopt a very delicate approach. For threats such as those emanating from the likes of the banned TTP and the BKP, Pakistan needs full cooperation from the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which the Taliban are resisting by holding the TTP instead. The alternative is cross-border action to eliminate the threats, which would have its own political and security implications, and will further strengthen the bond between the Taliban and TTP.

If China understands Pakistan's position on the non-viability of military operations, what should the other options be? China seems to want deeper cooperation in the security sector. The ongoing formal cooperation between the two countries is not producing enough trust, so China has proposed a joint security mechanism.

Media reports reveal that during Chinese Premier Li Qiang's recent visit, a proposal for a joint security mechanism was discussed as a critical condition for securing major infrastructure and energy deals with Pakistan. A vital outcome of the visit was signing agreements to provide Pakistan's law enforcement, tasked with protecting Chinese nationals, with six bulletproof vehicles and approximately 20 firefighting trucks.

Pakistan has not been in favour of a formal Chinese security presence within its borders, having itself developed extensive infrastructure to secure CPEC and protect Chinese nationals. We have mentioned in an earlier column, too, that in 2016, the Special Security Division was established, comprising 34 and 44 Light Infantry Divisions, with 15,000 troops each. According to some reports, the 34 Light Division was created in 2016, followed by the 44 Light Division in 2020. The SSD is also supported by 32,000 security personnel from the Frontier Corps, police, and Levies. There is reportedly a dedicated intelligence network to detect and eliminate terrorism-related threats. Despite this robust security infrastructure, attacks on Chinese nationals have persisted.

Notably, no terrorist attacks have been reported at project sites. Except for the 2018

assault on the Chinese consulate in Karachi, all recorded attacks have occurred while Chinese workers were travelling between locations.

In response to the Damsi attack on a bus carrying Chinese workers, the government has reaffirmed its commitment to the safety of Chinese nationals by tightening standard operating procedures and adding extra security layers. Responsibilities for police forces have been extended down to the district level, with district administrations and provincial governments required to review security plans for Chinese nationals monthly, alter travel routes, and implement other precautionary measures. An investigation will determine whether provincial and district administrations have been vigilant in ensuring the safety of Chinese nationals. According to the SOPs, Chinese nationals must travel in B-6-level armoured vehicles to minimise risks.

The October attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi highlighted vulnerabilities within security institutions and exposed lapses in SOP enforcement. While details about the joint security mechanism between China and Pakistan remain limited, it is seen as a possibility that Chinese private security companies may become involved in providing inner-circle security for Chinese workers, a step that would respect Pakistan's sovereignty. One can imagine this would be an initial step, and if security threats were not prevented, the cooperation would go deeper.

The issue lies not in the sincerity and dedication of Pakistan's law enforcement but in their capacity and access to effective surveillance equipment, which could make a significant difference. With more substantial resources, Pakistan might have been able to avoid the need for a joint security mechanism. Now, it appears increasingly difficult to avert this initiative. Pakistan can, however, aim to refine the joint security mechanisms to specific areas while ensuring that the SSD and other law enforcement agencies maintain maximum compliance with the SOPs they have developed to protect foreign nationals. ■

The author is a security analyst.



BY ABBAS NASIR



Iran's refusal to back down

THE deputy commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Gen Ali Fadavi, has said his country's "response to the Zionist aggression is definite", in remarks reported by the New York Times, quoting Iranian media. This has again capped the same in the region.

The NYT report also quoted Gen Fadavi as saying "we have never left an aggression unavenged in 40 years. We are capable of destroying all that the Zionists possess with one operation", triggering fears of an all-out regional war.

These remarks were the first unreserved reaction by Iran to the missile attacks launched by Israeli warplanes last Tuesday which, Israel claimed, caused significant damage to the Iranian air defence missile batteries and sites mixing fuel for its ballistic missiles.

Gen Fadavi was not alone in delivering the warning as the head of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei's office, Ghulam Hassan Mohammedi Gohyayouni, reinforced the general's message and said "a brave, tooth-breaking response" will be delivered to retaliate for Israel's "disproportionate action".

Both these statements came after Ayatollah Khamenei was given a detailed assessment by senior military and IRGC commanders on the damage inflicted by the Israeli air-launched missiles.

One noteworthy element of the Israeli warplanes' missile attack on Iran was that Israeli air defence wasn't used and, after Iraq and Iran's air defence batteries were apparently suppressed by electronic counter measures, as they are called, the ballistic missiles were launched from beyond Iranian airspace in all probability from over Iraq.

Israel has long enjoyed complete immunity over Syrian airspace since for the period of the war against the militant Islamic State group when Russian S-400 batteries were deployed along with their crews to curtail Israel's air force activity in support of IS over Syria.

Iran had warned that it would retaliate against US allies in the region if they participated in any way in a military strike against Tehran. That the airspace of Saudi Arabia and Jordan was not used in the planning and execution of the missile attacks took away the risk of that escalation. For the time being at least.

Military experts are saying that the Iranian response might also come via its assets based in

Iraq so further escalation is averted. However, with neither side appearing prepared to back off, a wider war remains on the horizon.

Against this backdrop, the Israeli payment in Gaza continues unabated, despite UN warnings of catastrophic conditions in north Gaza and the need for emergency food aid. It is clear Israel's objective is to depopulate north Gaza.

And its relentless bombing campaign in the rest of the strip is killing doctors, even hundreds, of Palestinians including women and children daily, and calls to kick out Israel from the UN.

The impatience with which Israel is attacking civilians in Gaza and Lebanon (the south in particular) leads one to believe that the unconditional political and material US, UK and German sup-

Iran had warned that it would retaliate against US allies in the region if they participated in any way in a military strike against Tehran.

port is not all that is enabling it to carry on as if it's business as usual.

Excerpts from American investigative journalist, Bob Woodward's latest book titled 'War' make interesting reading as they almost portray US President Joe Biden as a highly angry leader who has zero influence over Israel's war criminal, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and often uses profanities while talking to confidantes about him.

But what appears inexplicable at least from the excerpts is that when Biden calls Netanyahu a "*****" and uses even fouler language about him with aides, why the US continues to supply arms and armaments and station its own aircraft carrier battle groups, long-range bombers and air defence suppression planes in the region in support of Netanyahu's genocidal policy.

The other alarming, even if not surprising, are the Woodward disclosures about what leaders of Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Jordan privately said

to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in terms of tacitly supporting what's happening in Gaza.

Egypt's support was more than tacit, according to Woodward, because apart from President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi reiterating his commitment to the peace treaty with Israel, its intelligence chief shared invaluable targeting information with Blinken to pass on to the Israelis about the Hamas tunnel network and how to draw out and eliminate the group's leaders.

If true, the remarks attributed to the de facto Saudi ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed and Jordan's King Abdullah are bereft of empathy for the suffering of Palestinians and amount to an endorsement of Israel's military campaign.

The remarks appeared so outrageously pro-Israel that some X handles started to dispute them as a deliberate ploy to further divide Arab unity. But even these handles were hard-pressed to list what the militarily/economically powerful Arab states have done to stay Netanyahu's hand.

As one pro-Palestinian activist pointed out, Saudi Arabia has taken more concrete steps for the cause of Palestine than the entire Muslim world represented by the OIC. The role of individual Arab/Muslim states who had the clout to help has been no different.

Therefore, the franchised Axis of Resistance seems to have done more for the Palestinians and taken more risks with their own security and well-being than some of Palestine's neighbours.

One wonder of this role has brought credibility to Iran's clergy-led government in the Arab street and washed away the sectarian label stuck to Iran after it helped crush the Syrian resistance.

In the coming weeks, not only will the US presidential race have been decided, but it would also become clear whether Iran has retained enough military capacity to deliver its promised response to Israel's missile attacks. This will be significant as Israel has claimed severely diminishing Iran's missile launch capability.

The answer to these two questions may well determine whether the Palestinian suffering and their genocide will come to an end. ■

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

OPINION



BY MUNA KHAN

Paper tiger?

I WAS a graduate student during the 2016 presidential elections when I learned a lot about American media's coverage of elections. We don't generally make newspaper endorsements in Pakistan but it is a big deal in the US with long histories, dating back to Abraham Lincoln.

Two newspaper endorsements from that time stand out for the reactions they elicited. One, the *Chicago Tribune* endorsed libertarian candidate Gary Johnson. I happened to be Facebook friends with a leader writer at the paper and witnessed the anger directed at her for the Tribune's decision, which they explained in a lengthy editorial, as endorsement of an alien.

The *American Republic* endorsed Hillary Clinton, backing a Democrat for the first time in its 126-year history. That endorsement drew media attention and elicited the same excitement that PTI supporters felt at 'capturing' Quaid-e-Azam on video in London. Both editorials led to anger, feelings of betrayal, and conversations about the worth of endorsements, exactly what we're seeing today with two newspapers.

The first is the *Los Angeles Times*, owned by Patrick Soon-Shiong, a biotech tycoon, who said the paper would not endorse any candidate because it wanted to remain impartial. This led to staff resignations and hundreds of cancelled subscriptions but also put the spotlight on his daughter, Nika, who tweeted about the family's 'joint decision' not to endorse. "As a citizen of a country openly fracturing politically, and as a family that experienced South African Apartheid, the endorsement was an opportunity to repudiate justifications for the widespread targeting of journalists and ongoing war on children."

Her father has denied her involvement, saying the quote in a personal capacity but also denied those by tweeting a screenshot of a quote from *The National* (written interview to *The Guardian*) wherein he says "this is about apartheid" and "I don't have much hope from a [Karachi] Harris presidency". She then followed up with a thread addressing the controversy, saying "I trust the editorial board's judgment. For me, genocide is the line in the sand."

LA Times has endorsed a Republican candidate since its founding in 1881 but stepped after the Watergate scandal in 1976. It resumed endorsements when it backed Barack Obama in 2008, and subsequently all Democrats. It has continually written editorials saying Donald Trump poses a threat to democracy so it's understood the paper is pro-Harris, would an endorsement change anything? And that too days before the election?

Shortly thereafter came the news about the Washington Post's owner Jeff Bezos

withdrawing the paper's planned endorsement of Harris. Staff resignations and thousands of cancelled subscriptions followed. There was no family drama here, just Bezos saying endorsements create a sense of bias at a time many Americans distrust the media.

The American Presidency Project wrote that 56 of the largest 60 newspapers that endorse presidential candidates sided with Clinton in 2016, compared to eight of any size for Trump. So, we know that these endorsements don't really sway voters. Perhaps they have outlived their purpose. Maybe editors need to step outside their elite silos and see how they serve their audiences.

Most of the conversation has centred on the problem of billionaires owning the media — the New York Times family, John Henry of *Boston Globe*, Rupert Murdoch of *NewsCorp*, etc. (*The Guardian* is reader funded and "is unafraid of potential consequences" for endorsing Harris).

Perhaps endorsements have outlived their purpose.

I don't think the problem is their money but the value they place on making money over the purpose of journalism. I suspect the Soon-Shiong family did not want to support Harris' genocidal policies but sent out conflicting messaging because they, like Bezos, perhaps fear reprisal from Trump should he win.

What I've learned from subscription cancellations is that readers value an endorsement for Harris more than the consequences of her support for Israel's military war on Gaza. Since watching the 2016 elections, such one since has been framed as important to democracy's survival and certain commitments (warren and mittromney) are painted as spoilers who don't know what's at stake. This time it's Arab Muslims who are "spurred" by the decision, as the post it, "to punish Democrats or stop Trump?" Why must they be portrayed as carrying this "burden" of a difficult choice? Palestine is not just a Muslim or Arab issue, as Nika Soon-Shiong has articulated.

A YouGov poll conducted on Oct 29 saw 47 per cent of respondents say newspapers should not endorse candidates and 28pc saying they should, while 25pc said they did not know. I'm not surprised at the latter because people will not know the difference between news and opinion. Maybe that's a problem that media owners and editors need to address.

The writer is an instructor of journalism. X @LestinyLady



BY MUHAMMAD ALI SIDDIQI

Jabalia death march

IT will live in history: the Jabalia death march. As reported by *Al Jazeera*, the fleeing Palestinians were carrying white flags while going through checkpoints, but the Israeli bombardment continued. Correctly did Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi tell US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that what was going on in Gaza was "ethnic cleansing", while the Jewish Voice for Peace has compared it to the Holocaust and asked the American administration to halt arms supplies to Israel.

This paper's issue of Oct 23, 2024, is archival material and tells us more about the misery of the Palestinian people than all words put together. The picture on the front page shows the wreckage of a house. In the background are masses of people forcefully displaced from their north Gaza homes as Israeli planes had rained bombs. They have had no food and water for weeks.

Unless I missed it in the voluminous literature on the Dar Fajr era, I do not think the Luftwaffe ever rained bombs on fleeing Jewish people. The time-yet-never 1,400 pages of John J. Mears's Pulitzer Prize-winning classic *Abd al-Hadi* contain every act of brutality perpetrated on the Jews by the Nazi regime but it mentions no such horrifying drama, which I am sure must have satisfied the sadistic instincts of racists like Yusef Gallant in the Benjamin Netanyahu cabinet.

The north Gaza trauma coincided with Israel's latest choice of a war theatre — Lebanon. Such is Israel's fixation with showing off its military power that it used no less than 100 jets on tiny Lebanon. The targets hit included a hospital named after one of Lebanon's most popular prime ministers, Rafic Hariri. This was not a mistake. As I wrote in one of my pieces, it is Israel's official policy to hit hospitals and places of worship to tell the world it doesn't care about what the world thinks of its crimes, with the categorical support it enjoys from Western powers. (In November in northern Gaza, Israeli forces hit a school, killing 17 people, including children. Instead of expressing regret it said it was a Hamas command and control centre which was previously a school.)

One can estimate the number of civilian casualties in Beirut when four apartment buildings blasting with men, women and children were flattened.

While Lebanon was in the throes of a bloodbath, the issue for the US was to make a comment that would not annoy Israel. So American envoy Amos Hochstein made a 'safe' statement, saying Washington was trying to end the war in Lebanon "as soon as possible", stressing that the US was seeking a lasting resolu-

tion to the crisis. A true indication of civilian casualties in Lebanon came from Tyre, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Normally it has a population of 50,000. However, following the mass evictions in the wake of the Israeli attack on Sept 23, less than 14,000 people were reportedly left in the city.

Yet, despite the thinning of the population, casualties were still high as revealed by Tyre's disaster management spokesman: "Seven buildings were levelled and more than 400 apartments in their vicinity damaged." Four streets, he said were "completely blocked by debris".

On the very first day of the blitz, code-named 'Northern Arrow', 554 people, including 50 children and 34 women, were killed while 50,000 fled to Syria. No wonder Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati called the Israeli attack "a war of destruction". However, so thorough is the Zionist control of the international media that on Oct 24, when I googled to check casualties in Tyre what I got was this:

What are the prospects of peace in the region?

According to Daniel Levy, president of the US/Middle East Project, there is little possibility of peace in Palestine. According to him: "The game plan — sadly declared openly and publicly by Israeli leaders from the go-go — was an intensification and continuation of the displacement and denial of Palestinian rights that has gone on for decades, but in a far more gruesome way."

He told *Al Jazeera*: "We are at a new phase in the north of Gaza where the intention is apparently to entirely depopulate that area using war crimes of starvation, of allowing disease to spread, even the prevention of police could not be continued."

According to him, Israeli authorities are implementing the 'General's Plan' aimed at starving, bombing, and forcibly extracting civilians out of the north of the Gaza Strip.

Postscript: *N.A. Bhutto* once remarked only Islam can give peace to the holy land because it is the only religion which recognises the rights of the three communities to Jerusalem.

The writer is Dawn's External Correspondent.

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Punjab tour

LAHORE: Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto today [Nov 2] said that his current tour of the Punjab is for mass contact, and he will try to meet as many people as possible — people of all shades of opinion. Talking to newsmen at the Minara-Pakistan ground ... he said his tour of the Province had been delayed by about three years ... but there were reasons for it. He maintained that he had to tackle problems in other parts of the country — he had to deal with insurgency in Baluchistan, with foreign interference on a massive scale in NWFP, and some of it even in Sindh ...

Mr Bhutto dispelled the impression that he had neglected the Punjab. Apart from the fact that Punjab had all along been in his heart, how could he ignore the most populous and important province? ... The Prime Minister said he had nothing but affection ... for all the provinces as they were all parts of Pakistan, every corner of which was equally dear to him. "I see them all with the same eye," he added. Referring to the colourful reception accorded to him in the historic Minara-Pakistan grounds ... the Prime Minister ... said he was overwhelmed ... by the warm and kind hospitality. — Staff correspondent

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

There was no issue of the paper on Nov 3, 1949, on account of Lahore. The excerpt below is taken from the previous day's edition.

Supreme sacrifice

KARACHI: "This day of Moharram is a day of great significance for Muslims all over the world. On this day took place one of the saddest and most tragic events in the history of Islam," says Mr Liaquat Ali Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, in his Moharram Day message. He adds: "The martyrdom of Imam Husain (Husain) was nevertheless the ultimate triumph of true Islamic spirit as it was an act of supreme submission to the will of God."

[Moharram, as reported by news agencies in Mardiah, H.E. Sahibzada Muhammad Khurshid, Governor of the Frontier Province, addressing men and officers of the 2nd Field Regiment here yesterday evening [Nov 2] called upon them to follow in the footsteps of the Islamic heroes. Quoting instances from Islamic history, when Khalid with a handful of followers defeated huge forces of enemies, he said: "The cause of their success was that they were imbued with great self-belief and love for Islam and had firm belief in God. Follow their example and do not hesitate to shed the last drop of your blood for the honour of Islam."

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.

Sindh and Centre in a tussle over water



THIS is with reference to the reports GDA rejects a plan to amend Indus Act, addition of six canals (Nov 1) and 'Karnal Rahnama' Centre to refer to from constructing 'Cholistan Canal' (Oct 30). Clearly, a fresh standoff between the Sindh and federal governments is in the making.

Islamabad has issued directives for constructing new canals on the Indus River to transform the barren lands of Cholistan desert, and others into fertile lands under the Green Pakistan Initiative to bolster the country's economy.

There are, mainly, six new canals to be developed in different provinces. However,

a serious dissent has been demonstrated by the people of Sindh against such developments on the Indus River, while underscoring the biasness of the Indus River System Authority (IRSA), which is the regulatory authority for water apportionment among the provinces, and citing other concerns regarding the said project.

Any addition to the existing canals will be a severe blow to the agriculture of Sindh, which has a share of more than 20 per cent in the province's total gross domestic product (GDP).

This will consequently affect the socio-economic lives of a large number of people in Sindh. Moreover, according to the Sindh government, the federation has conceded that 18 million acres of agricultural land in Sindh remains uncultivated due to a shortage of water.

The federal government has further revealed that only 8.2 million acres of land in Sindh is cultivated compared to more than 39 million acres in Punjab.

Besides, Sindh has been deprived of its due share of water as set under the Water Apportionment Award (WAA), 1951, for a prolonged period. Any such development will further aggravate the water scarcity in the province, and more water from Sindh's share will likely be taken away.

In a recent meeting of the Indus advisory committee, Sindh reiterated its demand for the distribution of provincial waters as per WAA, which establishes that Sindh has to be released a total of 47 million acre feet (MAF) water annually.

Furthermore, it was also highlighted

that the current water distribution is according to a three-tier formula based on the historical usage of water by the provinces. For years, the matter has been undecided and sidetracked owing to this status quo.

Moreover, due to inequitable water distribution policies that prevent water from reaching downstream, 3.5 million acres of agricultural land has been so far eroded by seawater intrusion in Baloch and Thar districts.

The 175km river banks of the Indus from Kotri Barrage to the sea have turned into sand beds, as can be seen in the accompanying image, and water is only seen there during floods. This has already devastated millions of lives and livelihoods.

In the light of sustainable facts, the federal government should reconsider its decision. Rather than depriving the impoverished people of their right, it should be adopting a pluralistic approach to address the concerns of all sections of society.

Samer Akbar Arshad
Khatirpur Mirs

Overseas Pakistanis

I AM a Pakistani citizen living in Germany. Recently, the German government introduced laws allowing workers from outside the European Union (EU) to obtain German citizenship without requiring them to renounce their primary citizenship.

However, Pakistani laws regarding dual nationality with Germany state that adult Pakistanis cannot retain their citizenship after acquiring German citizenship. This has put Pakistanis living in Germany in a difficult position, as they must choose between the two options; if they acquire German citizenship, they automatically stand to lose their Pakistani citizenship.

There are many who are opting to take German citizenship without considering the consequences, as the new law does not explicitly require them to renounce their Pakistani citizenship, thereby allowing them to keep both the passports.

Another problem is that the German law requires all its citizens to explicitly affirm their support for the right of existence of Israel even when a full-blown genocide has been taking place in Gaza.

The Pakistani passport, in contrast, clearly states that the passport is valid for all countries of the world except Israel.

The fact is that becoming a dual national of the two countries is like being caught between a rock and a hard place. I wonder if the two governments will spare some time consider these pressing matters and find a solution to this riddle.

Muhammad Saad Khan
Heidelberg, Germany

Some free advice

EVEN after the 26th Amendment to the Constitution has been passed, nothing substantial has changed. Yet, there are already murmurs about another amendment being planned.

Though I am not an expert in legal or constitutional matters, being a citizen of this green land, I have some free advice for those who matter.

To ensure and strengthen the democratic process, the federal government should redefine the eligibility criteria for those planning to contest parliamentary elections, making it compulsory for candidates to be residents of the constituency from where they plan to contest.

This will help the electorate approach the elected. Also, those elected would be aware of the genuine issues and grievances of the people at the grassroots level.

Moreover, the Constitution should also be amended to ensure the continuity of development projects. A change of government should not affect any ongoing project initiated by the outgoing government. Any initiative already taken for public good should not be the victim of political power game or gimmickry as it will have negative results.

Eventually, these are the kind of amendments that might actually bring about some positive change in the lives of the people who have been waiting for a meaningful change in the country.

Tahirque Laghari
Khatirpur Mirs

Pakistani govts and people have the same approach to begging

PAKISTAN is struggling with a myriad of issues and so are its people. The level of despair among the people is quite obvious. The number of beggars has reached a level where even cab drivers and delivery boys end up begging for money in addition to the tips they usually get from their clients. Inflation has brought people to their knees, and they are doing everything they can to survive.

The problem is that we have become desensitised to the ill of begging and seeking loans. The prime minister himself recently used the phrase "beggars can't be choosers", and similar sentiments were echoed repeatedly by his predecessor.

However, both the government and the right thing by seeking International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans in the best interest of the state and its people. The issue is not with seeking loans; it is how we beg for them, and what we do once we get the money.

Ironically, both the government and the people of Pakistan have the same approach in this regard. They beg forcefully as if everyone owes them the money simply because they happen to be poor. They beg because they need money and want to arrange it the easy way. And, once they get it, they waste it on luxuries without



addressing the core problems. The government and the people of Pakistan are addicted to seeking loans and then wasting them on short-term projects for short-term benefits.

Africa has been receiving aid for the last several decades, but not much has changed on the ground. We are walking the same path. The government needs

to realise that the loans we receive are not meant for the present; they are meant to set our future right. Once the government makes the necessary adjustments in its approach towards loans, the people will also follow suit. Hopefully.

Ajif Akbar
Islamabad

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'Pakistan unable to launch bonds'

SBP purchases \$1.3bn from open market

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: The government's inability to launch Euro and Panda bonds could put the economy under stress, which may not help the country get improved ratings from international rating agencies, said financial experts.

"The government is yet not able to launch bonds in the international market to raise dollars due to poor country ratings given by the international rating agencies," said sources in the financial sector.

The finance minister and the State Bank of Pakistan governor met top class rating agencies in Washington last month to convince them that the macro-economic conditions of the economy have improved. However, a favourable outcome has yet to be noted.

Three rating agencies have already upgraded Pakistan's rating by one notch. On Jul 25, Fitch upgraded Pakistan's long-term issuer rating by one notch to CCC+, and on Aug 28, Moody's upgraded Pakistan to Caa2.

"Despite all efforts and hiring companies for the launching of Panda bonds in the Chinese market, the government has failed to achieve this goal," said Arif Ahmed, a banker and currency market expert.

Finance Minister Muhammad Azeem said China's Vice Minister of Finance Liao Min in Washington last week. The minister reportedly said the government aims to launch an inaugural Panda bond in the Chinese market to diversify its financing base.

Financial experts said the Chinese companies are less interested in buying Pakistan's bonds despite possibly higher returns.

The failure to sell Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) reflects that foreign investors are uninterested. Only one domestic real estate developer could qualify, but the bidding ended without a positive conclusion.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recently visited Saudi Arabia and Qatar and announced that the two countries were ready to invest billions of dollars in diversified sectors. However, there was little enthusiasm in the financial market about the possible investments from the two countries.

"What State Bank can do is to purchase maximum dollars from the local market, restrict imports, keep exchange rate stable for higher selling of export proceeds, curb and provide maximum incentives to overseas Pakistanis for more remittances," said a senior banker and expert on currency movement.

SBP reserves

The State Bank looks to have found an alternative source of dollars as it bought about \$1.3bn from the interbank market in June and July.

Despite buying from the market, the foreign exchange reserves of the State Bank fell in July to \$9.22bn compared to \$9.38bn in June. The State Bank is responsible for external debt servicing, for which the government made efforts

to restructure and rollover debts and get loans from the donor agencies as it succeeded in securing a new \$7bn Extended Fund Facility from the IMF and received the first tranche in September.

Financial experts said the State Bank has been buying dollars from the interbank market for years to protect or improve its reserves. However, in June 2023, when the country was about to default, it was decided to increase the reserves.

The SBP's reserves in June 2023 fell below \$4bn. The government has the target to increase the reserves of the SBP to \$13bn by the end of FY25.

Experts said the remittances jumped by 35 per cent to \$8.8bn in the first quarter, providing sufficient liquidity, while exporters' selling remained high due to a stable exchange rate. At the same time, the imports are still restricted, which means less spending of dollars and less pressure on the external account.

In the first quarter of the current fiscal year, the foreign direct investment inflows also increased by 48pc.

Is mini-budget inevitable amid missed targets?

Govt faces mounting pressure as IMF review looms

By Mubarak Zeb Khan in Islamabad

ANALYSIS

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) is set to begin its review of Pakistan's economic progress, focusing on the country's performance in meeting targets for the July-September quarter under the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

The review, scheduled for this month, will assess Pakistan's adherence to its commitments and set the tone for the programme's continuation.

Independent economists have criticised the PME-N's coalition government for failing to meet certain key benchmarks, including revenue targets, raising concerns that the IMF may propose some — and potentially unpopular — measures for the current October-December quarter.

A notable feature of the upcoming EFF review is its incorporation of the National Fiscal Pact (NFP), which involves the provinces in a way not seen before. The NFP aims to establish targets for provinces to increase tax revenues to cover their expenses and boost spending on health and education. Provinces like Punjab and Sindh, which currently receive substantial allocations from the federal divisible pool, will face increased pressure to raise their own revenues.

Finance ministry officials must be uneasy about the additional targets agreed upon with the IMF. Key benchmarks such as the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) collection target, large-scale manufacturing and import volume have not been met.

The failure to transfer certain spending responsibilities to the provinces, a primary aim of the NFP, adds to the concerns. Questions remain as to whether the government will secure an IMF waiver or introduce a mini-budget — or additional revenue measures — to bridge these gaps.

Former finance minister Mirza Ishaq has described the economic targets, particularly the FBR's revenue goals, as unrealistic, attributing potential revenue declines to a drop in inflation, which has slowed to single digits. He questioned why the decline in inflation wasn't anticipated during discussions with the IMF. Although he suggested the IMF might account for the inflation dip, he warned that the Fund would likely scrutinise the import slowdown.

A critical element of the IMF review will be the government's failure to implement several NFP-related measures. Mr Ishaq noted that the government had assured the IMF that cuts for the Revenue Support Programme (RSP), fertilizer subsidies and provincial development projects under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) would be shifted to the provinces.

None of these targets have been fulfilled, which the review will address in detail. The IMF has advocated for strict adherence to the 18th Amendment, seeing the NFP as a path to fiscal balance between federal and provincial governments since it is politically impossible to change the National Finance Commission (NFC) award.

During the transition phase, the provinces agreed to generate surpluses to aid the federal budget. While Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan exceeded their first-quarter surplus targets, Punjab ran a deficit of Rs65bn, likely to worsen during the review.

One primary NFP benchmark was the adoption of agriculture income tax (AIT) legislation by Oct 30, but none of the provinces have passed such laws.

The IMF has also called for higher taxes on traders, developers and the real estate sector, but the FBR, which agreed to raise Rs50bn from traders during the current fiscal year, has yet to successfully enforce tax collection from them. Former economic adviser Dr Adilaj H. Khan anticipates that the IMF will demand further tax measures to cover the Rs50bn revenue shortfall from the first four months. He stressed that Pakistan's authorities must negotiate effectively with the Fund to adjust tax targets in light of declining inflation, noting that this would depend on the support of major IMF shareholders.

The review would not be completed until more tax measures are enacted. Dr Khan stressed, questioning the tax authorities' capacity to commit to such a grossly inflated target. While the finance ministry has reported a fiscal surplus for the first quarter — thanks to central bank earnings and the petroleum levy — the FBR is looking to adjust its revenue shortfall based on shifts in economic indicators.

New wave of electric cars 'targets elite'

Can pricey NEVs really help curtail fuel imports?

By Aamir Shafiq Khan

KARACHI: The launch of expensive hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) and electric vehicles (EVs) back-to-back by old and new entrants suggests that the country has emerged from tough economic times and that the living standards have improved. However, the dynamics of the auto market are entirely different.

Without doing any demand analysis, the government is also trotting that introducing these new energy vehicles (NEVs) will curtail petrol and diesel imports.

These sleek and stylish HEVs and EVs with multiple choices are either being imported or assembled locally only for a "limited elite class" rather than for the mass population of lower or middle-income.

The rich class habitually changes vehicles in one or two years. Many of them already own costly petrol and diesel-driven SUVs and sedans like Toyota Blazer, Toyota Corolla, Honda Civic, Toyota Harrier, Kia Sportage, Hyundai Tucson, MG and Chevrolet Orlando, Honda HRV, Hyundai Elantra, Hyundai Sonata, etc.

Under such incentive-based policies, the wealthy class will be more thrilled to have expensive HEVs and EVs.

"For big shots in trade and industry, bureaucrats, landlords, growers, etc, money is not a serious issue and saving any penny from petrol and diesel-driven vehicles is not their target. They may also not hesitate in buying new HEVs and EVs," said Masood Ali Khan, an auto parts maker, exporter and industry expert.

He opined that buyers of costly sedans like Honda Civic and SUVs will mainly switch to electric vehicles.

However, the buyers of double cabin vehicles (diesel fuel) may avoid EVs and HEVs as they have a culture of moving in style with two or three guards sitting on the back.

"With no liquidity issue, they may purchase NEVs as a second option, Masood said.

The local market size of double cabin, SUVs, a few luxury cars, etc., of new and old entrants (Japanese, Koreans and Chinese) in Pakistan hovers between 25,000 and 35,000 units a year. The new buyers of EVs and HEVs will emerge from these volumes.

"It is really hard to estimate how this limited sales of EVs and HEVs will help curtail import bills of diesel and petrol," he said.

Shifting buyers from high-priced SUVs and sedans to electric vehicles will undoubtedly slow down the sales volume of these fuel-driven vehicles, which may hit their local parts makers due to low sales volume of parts and accessories, he feared.

Under the Auto Policy 2021-2026, the new entrants are either importing vehicles to test the market before local assembly or starting local assembly with negligible localisation. He said these players have two years to create demand for these electric vehicles and diversify exports to survive.

He added that the new entrants are enjoying a honeymoon period because there are no restrictions to boost localisation. However, they would need to boost localisation to keep prices under control.

Mr Masood said Japanese assemblers usually take vendors on board two years before rolling out a new locally assembled model.

New entrants need to interact with the vending industry to improve localisation before the expiry of incentives under the Auto Policy 2021-2026.

Affordability comparison

When asked why India has been offering low-priced fuel-based vehicles and also HEVs and EVs, he said foreign investors first prefer India due to soaring annual sales of over four million units of passenger vehicles coupled with the Indian government's strong focus towards higher localisation for generating local jobs. In contrast, Pakistan is a market of over 100,000 units of passenger vehicles.

A vast difference exists between taxes, duties, and exchange rates between the two arch-rivals. As per the website of the Society of Indian Automobile Association (SIAM), the general sales tax (GST) on EVs is 5pc, GST on passenger vehicles (petrol, CNG and LPG) from 1,200cc to above 1,500cc is 28pc, besides 1pc to 20pc compensation cess. Hybrid passenger (up to 1,200cc petrol and diesel engines) vehicles have 28pc GST.

In Pakistan, local assemblers claim that there are over 40pc taxes and duties on vehicles which need to be brought down to cut prices and improve sales.

One dollar is equivalent to Rs278 in the interbank market in Pakistan, while in India, the exchange parity is 84 Indian rupees.

The price of HEVs and EVs in Pakistan ranges between Rs3.5 million to Rs21.5bn.

As per the SIAM, the price of HEVs and EVs are far lower than in Pakistan. For example, in India, the starting price of Hyundai IONIQ 5 EV is Rs4.605m, while Honda City HEV carries a price of Rs2.055m.

MG 4-come EV and ZS EV in India are available at Rs2.59m and Rs1.899m. BMW EVs are available at Rs1.395m to Rs2.598m.

In the fossil fuel category, Suzuki Swift 1,200cc (2-cylinder engine and mileage of 24.8 per km) in India are sold between Rs449,000 and Rs754,500 while Ake 1000cc K10 engine has a 24km per litre mileage.

In Pakistan, 660cc to 1,500cc locally assembled cars cost Rs2.25m to Rs9.899m. GST on less than 1,400cc is 18pc and on above 1,400cc is 25pc.



LACFOE: New models of Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer BYD are on display during a launch event in August. —Reuters

Karachi industrial park to be declared model SEZ

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Privatization and Investment Akhbar Ahsan Khan said on Saturday that Karachi Industrial Park will be declared a model special economic zone (SEZ), while one SEZ would be handed over to China on a trial basis as desired by the prime minister.

Karachi Industrial Park is one of the nine special economic zones being developed throughout the country under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Karachi Industrial Park spreading over 1,500 acres is being developed on Pakistan Steel Mills land.

Ahmed Khan chaired a meeting of the focal group formed by the prime minister for the progress of industrial zones in the country. The group reviewed the development on the special economic zones and the problems being faced by the SEZs, and measures to resolve the issues.

The minister observed that special incentives are mandatory for these SEZs. While Karachi Industrial Park will be declared a model SEZ, "we have to finalise many steps, including handing over one special economic zone to China on a trial basis," he said.

Ahmed Khan said industrial zones have the potential to promote industries in the country which should have been fully benefited, but unfortunately for the last several years, industrial zones across the country have been neglected badly and these zones are suffering from various difficulties and problems to deal with for which measures have to be taken on an emergency basis.

Ahmed Khan issued directives to ensure provision of special incentives and facilities to the industrial zones and approved the preparation of final recommendations by the Focal Group so that the pending issues could be resolved expeditiously.

He further said that new industries will be established only if special privileges are given in these industrial zones by leaving the traditional old practices.

Secretaries for energy, industry and investment and other senior officials participated in the Focal Group meeting, and presented updates on the industrial zones.

It was also decided that the full agenda will be discussed and finalised in the next meeting of the Focal Group and important decisions will be approved to ensure speedy development in all industrial zones.

PBC urges cautious monetary policy

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Pakistan Business Council (PBC) urged the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Saturday to find a balance while deciding the monetary policy amid calls for a substantial interest rate cut.

The central bank should maintain a cautious and steady

approach to avoid a sudden spurt in import-led demand that can impact the current account and the exchange rate.

PBC Chief Executive Ehsan Malik said the monetary policy, to be unveiled on Monday, must also factor in the IMF's expectations of unremitted imports and market-based exchange rates.

He said the Monetary Policy Committee would take note of

year-on-year headline inflation in October, which was higher than in September, and an increase in month-to-month CPI inflation in core urban and rural areas. Further increases in power tariffs are expected under the IMF prescriptions, he added.

He feared that Pakistan has benefited from low fuel costs, but the continuing crisis in the Middle East could reverse this,

adding that the monetary policy needs to be aligned with the fiscal policy.

"Tax targets set in the budget are not being met, mainly due to demand compression. Policy rate reduction is not the only way to generate demand," Mr Ehsan said. SBP's arsenal of tools includes cash reserve and consumer loan limits, which can be revised selectively.

Value-hunting takes PSX to new highs in bullish week

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: Amid falling volume, the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) maintained a bullish spell, pushing the KSE 100 index to an all-time high near 91,000 in the ongoing week.

The rate cut expectation drove the market to new highs despite some uncertainties about the IMF review this month as the country missed some key benchmarks set for the first quarter.

Arif Habib Ltd (AHL) said the market commenced on a positive note this week on the back of the expectation of a rate cut in the upcoming monetary policy next week along with robust financial results, due to which the market reached an all-time high of 91,158

points in the intraday on Oct 29. On the economic front, Pakistan achieved a rare budget surplus of Rs1.7 trillion, the first after 2019/20. Moreover, the primary surplus settled at Rs1tr. In addition, Saudi Arabia agreed to invest a further \$600m in Pakistan, which took the total investment commitments to \$2.8 billion.

However, the market came under selling pressure on Wednesday and Thursday after the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) reported that it missed the collection target by a whopping Rs199bn for July-October.

The collection fell short of the target by Rs101bn in October owing to falling imports and a sharp deceleration in inflation. In October, tax collection reached Rs879bn against the target of

Rs960bn. However, it saw an increase of 23pc compared to Rs711bn in the same month last year. Collection in the first four months of FY25 stood at Rs3,442tr compared to an estimated target of Rs3,632tr.

However, the investors began value-hunting as the index witnessed a 1,893-point rally, the fifth highest single-day gain in absolute terms, in the weekend session, pushing the index near 91,000, on the rising hopes of a bigger cut in the interest rate in the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) Monetary Policy Committee meeting on Monday.

The Consumer Price Index-based inflation rose to 7.2pc year-on-year from 6.9pc in September, with the real interest rate comfortably above 10pc at the current SBP

policy rate of 17.5pc.

Meanwhile, the SBP reserves rose \$11bn to \$11.2bn during the week ended on Oct 25. The forex holdings of the central bank continued to increase since the last week of September after receipt of the first tranche of \$1.03bn under the 17-month \$7bn Extended Fund Facility.

The central bank also purchased about \$1.1bn from the interbank market in June and July to boost its forex holdings to meet external debt repayment obligations.

As a result, the market settled at 90,829.85 points, up 864 points or 0.94pc week-on-week.

Sector-wise positive contributions came from exploration and production (391 points), technology (319 points), cement (244 points), oil marketing companies

(189 points) and pharmaceuticals (178 points).

Meanwhile, the sectors that mainly contributed negatively were fertiliser (-331 points), leather and garments (-73 points), and engineering (45 points). Script-wise positive contributors were Systems Ltd (345 points), Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (245 points), United Bank Ltd (223 points), PBO (873 points), and Charat Cement (154 points).

Meanwhile, script-wise negative contributions came from Engro Fertiliser (209 points), Mars Petroleum (144 points), National Bank of Pakistan (119 points), Engro Corporation (109 points), and Meccan Bank (105 points).

After a break of two weeks, foreigner buying was witnessed, clocking in at \$1.97m compared to

a net sell of \$16.36m last week. Major buying was seen in all other sectors (34.7m), followed by cement (\$2.4m). On the local front, selling was reported by banks (91.1m), followed by other organisations (\$1.1m).

The average trading volume fell 35.5pc to 550m shares while the average value dipped 8.1pc to \$95m week-on-week.

According to AKD Securities Ltd, the market will stay positive next week, with a primary focus on the upcoming MFC meeting, where an anticipated rate cut could further bolster market momentum.

Despite the recent rally, valuations remain attractive, with the market trading at a price-to-earnings multiple of 4.8x and offering a dividend yield of 11.4pc.

Bangladesh rally says govt failing to protect Hindus

DHAKA: Hundreds marched in Bangladesh's capital on Saturday to demand protections for Hindus and other minorities who say they have suffered violence and threats since the ouster of autocratic premier Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina's toppling in an August student-led uprising saw a spate of reprisals on Hindus, who were seen as the proportionate supporters of her regime.

The caretaker government that replaced her, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, has acknowledged and condemned attacks on Hindus but said in many cases they were motivated by politics rather than religion.

Regular protests in the months since claim that attacks are continuing and have demanded action from Yunus' administration, an "advisory council" tasked with implementing democratic reforms and staging fresh elections.

"It's deeply regrettable that the council of advisors do not acknowledge the sufferings minorities have endured," Hindu civic leader Chandra Chandra Das Brahmachari said.

"I have witnessed the atrocities against them — their temples, businesses, and homes." Protest organisers urged the interim government to introduce a law to protect minorities and mandate a minimum share of minority representation in government, among other demands.

Tensions have been inflamed by the filing of sedition charges this week against 19 people who participated in an earlier minority rights rally in the port city of Chittagong. The group was accused of disrespecting the Bangladesh national flag by hoisting a saffron flag — the emblematic colour of the Hindu faith — to fly above it. —AFP



PROTESTERS take part in a march in Dhaka on Saturday demanding protection for Hindus and other minority groups. —AFP

Russia jails ex-US consular employee on security charges

MOSCOW: A court in Russia's far east said on Friday it had convicted Robert Shonov, a former US consular employee, of illegally and covertly cooperating with the US government to harm Russia's national security and had jailed him for nearly five years.

Russia's FSB security service detained Shonov, a Russian national, in Vladivostok in May 2023 and accused him of taking money to covertly supply US diplomats with information that was potentially harmful to Russia.

The US on Saturday condemned the conviction, calling it "an egregious injustice." "The allegations against Mr. Shonov are entirely fictitious and without merit," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a statement.

A court in the Primorsky region in Russia's far east confirmed in a statement on Friday that it had found Shonov guilty and had sentenced him to four years and 10 months in a penal colony.

Video of the verdict being read, released by the court, showed Shonov listening inside a courtroom cage as the judge sentenced him.

The FSB published a video in Aug 2023 showing a purported confession by Shonov in which he said two senior US diplomats based in Moscow whom Russia later expelled had asked him to collect information about Russia's war effort in Ukraine, its annexation of "new territories", its military mobilisation and the 2024 Russian presidential election.

In the video, Shonov said he was told to gather "negative" information on these topics, to look for signs of popular protest, and to reflect them in his reports. It was not clear whether he was speaking under duress. —Reuters

Body found on French beach near migrant crossing point

RANGITTE: A man was on Saturday found dead on a beach in northern France, from where many migrants seek to make the sometimes deadly crossing across the Channel to Britain, prosecutors said.

A morning walk on La Descoeurdes beach outside Calais discovered the body, the office of the prosecutor in nearby Boulogne-sur-Mer said. The man's identity is not known at this stage and an investigation has been opened into the cause of death, it said.

Some 20 police and members of the emergency services descended on the beach after the discovery of the body, an eyewitness said. Images taken by the photographer showed police surrounding the body of the man who was lying in the shingle of the beach.

The discovery came three days after the death of a migrant who fell into the sea off the French coast, while three other people were found dead washed up on northern French beaches on Wednesday.

At least 40 people have died trying to cross the Channel to England in increasingly overcrowded dinghies since the start of the year, making 2024 the deadliest year since migrant crossings began in earnest in 2018.

Since Thursday night, 160 migrants attempting the crossing in small boats had been rescued, the French Maritime Prefecture of the Channel and North Sea said in a statement. More than 1,500 migrants have landed on British shores over the past week, according to UK Home Office figures. —AFP

Battered Tory party elects Badenoch as new leader

Starmer congratulates her on becoming 'first Black leader of a Westminster party'



LONDON: The UK's battle-worn Conservatives on Saturday elected "anti-woke" candidate Kemi Badenoch as its new head, making her the first Black leader of a major UK party.

The combative former equalities minister replaces Rishi Sunak and now faces the daunting task of reviving a divided and weakened party organically ousted from power in July after 14 years in charge.

Badenoch, 44, came out on top in the two-hour race with former immigration minister Robert Jenrick, winning 57 per cent of the votes of party members.

She said it was an "enormous honour" to assume the role, but that "the task that stands before us is tough." "We have to be honest about the fact we made mistakes" and "let standards slip," she added.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer congratulated Badenoch, writing on X that "the first Black leader of a Westminster party is a great moment for our country." Sunak said that Badenoch would be a "superb leader", while fellow former prime minister Boris Johnson wrote that "she brings a much needed sting and zip to the Conservative Party."

Badenoch will become the official leader of the opposition and face off against Labour's Keir Starmer in the House of Commons every Wednesday for the traditional

Prime Minister's Questions. However, she will be leading a much-reduced cohort of Tory MPs in the chamber following the party's dismal election showing. She must plot a strategy to regain public trust while stemming the flow of support to the right-wing Reform UK party, led by Brexit figurehead Nigel Farage. Having campaigned on a right-wing platform, she also faces the prospect of future difficulties within the ranks of Tory lawmakers, which includes many converts.

Badenoch, born in London to Nigerian parents and raised in Lagos, has called for a return to conservative values, opposing her party of having become increasingly liberal on societal issues such as gender identity. She describes herself as a straight-talker, a trait that has caused controversy on the campaign trail.

Badenoch was widely criticised after suggesting that statutory maternity pay on small businesses was "onerous" and sparked further furor when she joked that up to 10% of Britain's half a million civil servants were so bad that they "should be in prison".

On immigration, she said that "not all cultures are equally valid" when deciding who should be allowed to live in the UK. —AFP

India denies minister plotted attacks on Sikhs in Canada

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday denied home minister Amit Shah had plotted to target Sikh activists on Canadian soil and said it had officially rebuffed Ottawa over the "abhorred and baseless" allegation.

Canada is home to the largest Sikh community outside of India, and includes activists for "Khalistan", a fringe separatist movement seeking an independent state for the religious minority carved out of Indian territory.

Sharma has previously accused India of orchestrating the 2023 killing in Vancouver of 45-year-old naturalised Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Khalistan campaigner. But this week, Canadian officials said Ottawa had traced a broader conspiracy targeting Canadian Sikh activists to the highest levels of India's government, implicating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's powerful right-hand man.

"The Government of India protests in the strongest terms to the abroad and Indian references made to the Union Home Minister of India," foreign ministry spokesman Harshvir Jatwal told reporters.

Jatwal said that a Canadian diplomat had been summoned and issued a letter to formally protest the conspiracy against Shah.

Testifying before a Canadian parliamentary committee this week, deputy foreign secretary David Morrison confirmed a Washington Post story implicating Shah in a plot to intimidate and even kill Canadian Sikhs. —AFP

10,000 troops sent to Spain's flood epicentre; residents allege inaction

VALENCIA: Spain is deploying 10,000 more troops and police officers to the eastern Valencia region devastated by historic floods that have killed 213 people, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Saturday.

Hopes of finding survivors were slim more than three days after torrents of muddy water submerged towns and wrecked infrastructure in the European country's worst such disaster in decades. Almost all the deaths have been recorded in the Valencia region, where thousands of security and emergency services personnel were frantically clearing debris and mud in the search for bodies.

Sanchez said in a televised address that the disaster was the second deadliest flood in Europe this century and announced a huge increase in the security forces dedicated to relief work.

The government had accepted the Valencia region leader's request for 5,000 more troops and informed him of a further deployment of 5,000 police officers and civil guards, Sanchez said. "It is the biggest operation by the armed forces in Spain in peacetime," Sanchez said. "The government is going to mobilise all the resources necessary as long as they are needed." Spain was carrying out its largest

deployment of army and security force personnel in peacetime, he added.

More deaths expected

Restoring order and distributing aid to destroyed towns and villages — some of which have been cut off from food, water and power for days — is a priority. Authorities have come under fire over the adequacy of warning systems before the floods, and some stricken residents have complained the response to the disaster is too slow.

"I am aware the response is not enough, there are problems and severe shortages... towns buried by mud, desperate people searching for their relatives... we have to improve," Sanchez said. In the grassroots terms of Allahyar and Sedra, agency reporters saw two soldiers while residents allowed mud from their homes and firefighters pumped water from garages and tunnels.

Politicians promise a lot, help will come when it comes," said Mario Silvestre, 61, a resident of Chiva where gaping sinkholes risked triggering the collapse of buildings.

Authorities in the Valencia region have restricted access to roads for two days to allow emergency services to carry out search, rescue and logistics operations more effectively. —Agencies



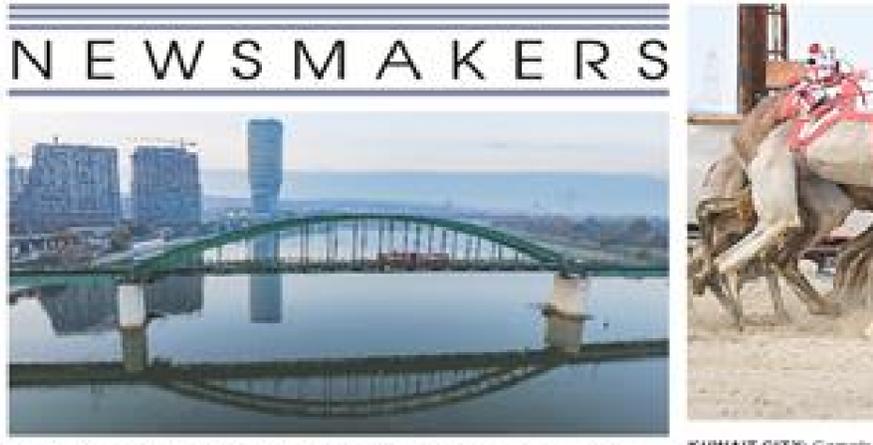
VOLUNTEERS gather at Valencia's City of Arts and Sciences monuments before heading out to carry out relief work in flood-devastated areas in eastern Spain. —AFP



BRISBANE (Australia): A view of a tornado at Kangaroo Point on Friday in this screen grab obtained from social media. —Reuters



MAPUTO (Mozambique): Protesters hold a banner that reads "People's power will save Mozambique" during a match called by a Muslim organisation on Friday to protest the results of the presidential election. —AFP



A DRONE view shows a train crossing the Old Sava Bridge, on Friday. —Reuters

Serbia to demolish 'German bridge' amid outcry

BELGRADE: A World War II-era bridge built by the Nazis was formally closed in the Serbian capital Belgrade on Saturday ahead of its demolition, amid an outcry from the public citing both history and concerns over traffic.

The Old Sava Bridge — nicknamed the "German Bridge" — was built in 1942 by Nazi forces occupying Serbia. The bridge is just one of four crossings over the Sava River that is used for vehicle traffic in the busy central city area of the capital.

The demolition of the bridge touches on multiple fault lines in the Balkan country, where issues surrounding the Second World War continue to be both political and emotional flashpoints.

Belgrade also remains one of the few major European cities without an underground mass transit system, raising fresh questions about why the bridge is being closed before a new crossing can take its place. Days ahead of its closure, hundreds

protested the closing. "We will enter a traffic collapse," said Djordje Miletic, one of the protest organisers.

On Saturday, the bridge was closed to traffic, machinery was in place, and the city traffic office said preparations for the dismantling had started.

Belgrade Mayor Aleksandar Stojanovic, who is believed to be instrumental in the bridge's closing — said a new "Serbian" bridge would replace the ramshackle structure.

According to historical sources, the Sava Bridge is one of the few river crossings that was not destroyed during the Nazi's hurried retreat from southeast Europe in the war's last year.

During the Nazi pillage from Belgrade on Oct 20, 1944 with explosives in place and the Tone III, local teacher Milutin Zoric intervened, cutting the cables and saving the bridge, according to widely shared historical accounts in Serbia. —AFP



KUWAIT CITY: Camels run during a race in Kabad district, on Saturday. —AFP



BEIJING: People visit a shopping mall as buildings are shrouded by polluted air, on Friday. —AFP

Morales supporters storm Bolivia barracks, take '200 soldiers hostage'

LA PAZ: Supporters of Bolivia's ex-president Evo Morales stormed a barracks in central Chuquiagu province and took 'around 200 soldiers hostage,' military sources said on Friday, marking a dramatic escalation in their standoff with the state.

The hostage situation comes nearly three weeks after backers of Morales — the country's first Indigenous leader — began blocking roads to prevent his arrest on what he calls trumped-up rape charges aimed at thwarting his political comeback. Morales, 65, was in office from 2006 to 2019, when he resigned under a cloud after elections marked by fraud.

Bolivia's armed forces said on Friday in a statement that "irregular armed groups" had "kidnapped military personnel" and seized weapons and ammunition in Chuquiagu. A military source said that "about 200" soldiers were taken hostage. In a video broadcast by Bolivian media, 16 soldiers were seen surrounded by protesters holding pointed sticks.

"The Chuquiagu Military Regiment has been taken over by Tigres activists. They have cut off our water, electricity and are keeping us hostage," a soldiered man is heard saying in the video.

Morales meanwhile told reporters in Chuquiagu that he would go on a hunger strike "until the government comes" to the negotiating table. Later however, he called on his supporters to consider temporarily suspending the roadblocks to "avoid bloodshed."

'Persecution' and price hikes

Despite being barred from running again, Morales wants to challenge President Luis Arce, his former ally-turned-rival, for the nomination of the leftwing MAS party in the country's August 2025 elections.

Days after he led a march of thousands of mainly Indigenous Bolivians in the capital La Paz to protest Arce's policies, prosecutors announced he was under investigation for rape, human trafficking and human smuggling over his alleged relationship with a 15-year-old girl in 2015.

Morales, who is accused of fathering a daughter with the girl, has called the accusations "a lie" and said an earlier investigation was closed in 2020 for lack of evidence. On Wednesday, Arce demanded an "immediate" end to the roadblocks and said the government would "reinforce its constitutional powers to safeguard the interests of the Bolivian people" if the protesters did not comply. His warning was interpreted by some Bolivians as a threat to use the military to end the blockade, which has caused widespread food and fuel shortages and prompted prices of basic goods to skyrocket. "If the words in the military, we are ready to fight," Carlos Flores, a 45-year-old agronomist who was part of a group blocking a bridge near Cochabamba, said.

Arce announced on Friday that the government had "taken the first step" with the "unblocking" of roads to the west of the central city of Cochabamba, without elaborating.

Chuquiagu is where Morales claimed he was the victim of an assassination attempt last week that he blamed on state agents. In a video he shared on social media, he is seen travelling in a pickup truck riddled with bullet holes near the city of Cochabamba.

The government said police fired on the vehicle after coming under fire from Morales's convoy at a checkpoint set up to combat drug trafficking in Chuquiagu, one of the country's main coca-growing regions. Coca is the raw material for cocaine.

Morales, a former coca grower, was extremely popular until he tried to bypass the constitution and seek a fourth term. His supporters initially demanded an end to what they called his "judicial persecution," but the protest movement has snowballed into a wider anti-government revolt marked by calls for Arce to resign.—AFP



SUPPORTERS of former Bolivian president Evo Morales throw rocks at riot police during a protest in Parotari, on Friday.—AFP

Fatah, Hamas meet in Egypt, discuss post-conflict measures

• Committee will include independent Palestinian figures to address the question of who will run Gaza • Hamas official claims party open to proposals that ensure cessation of aggression

CAIRO: Senior officials of the rival Palestinian groups Fatah and Hamas are meeting in Cairo to discuss forming a committee to manage Gaza's post-conflict governance, an Egyptian security source was quoted as saying by Egypt's Al Jazeera News TV on Saturday.

The talks are part of Egypt's broader mediation efforts to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and to expand humanitarian access to the enclave.

Leaders from Hamas and the Fatah faction of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met in Cairo last month to discuss forming the committee based on a proposal put forward by Egypt, but talks were adjourned for later discussions, sources close to the talks said.

The sources said the committee would be made up of independent Palestinian figures not aligned to a particular movement, addressing the question of who would run Gaza after the year-long conflict is over.

Israel rejects any role by Hamas in Gaza after the conflict is ended and has said it doesn't trust the rival Palestinian Authority of Abbas to run the enclave either.

Mediators, including Egypt and Qatar with backing from the United

States, have so far failed to secure a truce that would end the Gaza conflict and facilitate a release of Israeli and foreign prisoners held by Hamas, along with thousands of Palestinians detained by Israel.

Hamas is pressing for an end to hostilities while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stated that the conflict will continue until Hamas is dismantled.

Hamas political official Ismael Haniyeh dismissed proposals of limited or temporary truces as "unacceptable".

"We are positively open to any proposals or ideas that ensure the cessation of aggression and the withdrawal of occupation forces from Gaza," al Haniyeh said in a statement.

The conflict continues to exact a heavy humanitarian toll, with medical reports that five Palestinians were killed in an Israeli air strike on Gaza's Bureij refugee camp on Saturday.

Palestinian health officials said at least 60 people had been killed by Israeli military strikes across Gaza Strip since Friday.

Israel's retaliatory offensives have killed more than 45,000 Palestinians and reduced most

Egyptian proposal

According to Aljazeera News, the Egyptian proposal suggests forming a governing body for the Gaza Strip, named the "Co-management Committee to Support the People of Gaza."

This committee would handle civil affairs, provide and organise the distribution of humanitarian aid to the Palestinians in the Strip, and oversee the reopening of the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt. In addition, it would initiate reconstruction efforts to address damage caused by the brutal Israeli aggression in Gaza.

During their previous talks, Hamas had proposed that the new committee operate under the collective oversight of all Palestinian factions, ensuring broad representation and collaboration, Aljazeera News reported.

Meanwhile, Fatah maintained that the committee should be integrated into the Palestinian government structure and officially established through a presidential decree by President Mahmoud Abbas, making the presidency and government its permanent reference points.—Agencies

Pakistani firm apologises after advertising 'Halloween parade'

By Akiba Fakhman

LONDON: A Pakistani company has issued an apology after mistakenly advertising a non-existent Halloween parade in Dublin, Ireland, leading thousands of Dubliners to gather on the city's main street, O'Connell Street, awaiting the phantom event.

The error, attributed to a "human mistake," left thousands of people anticipating a grand parade by the Irish theatre group Maccus, known for their elaborate Halloween displays.

According to The Guardian, the blunder occurred when a team member on the website My Spirit Halloween copied last year's event listing for a Maccus Halloween parade and posted it as part of this year's events lineup.

This misleading information, which went viral on social media and ranked highly in Google searches, drew crowds to Dublin's streets on Thursday night.

Witness and event organiser accounts captured the extent of the confusion. Irish filmmaker Boris Brodsky described a packed scene: "I was there filming for 40 minutes. From Parnell Square West — both sides of the street — people were packed five to 10 deep, lined up all the way down around the corner as far as the eye could see," he told The Guardian.

Public transport, including Dublin's tram service, Luas, was also temporarily disrupted by the crowds who had gathered for the nonexistent event.

Once the Gardaí, Ireland's national police service, began dispersing the crowd, speculation surfaced among attendees, some of whom suspected a scam. However, the man behind My Spirit Halloween, Mazir Ali, has since spoken to media, including The Irish Times, expressing deep regret over the mishap. "We are highly embarrassed and highly depressed, and very sorry," Ali said.

He emphasised that the error was unintentional and that allegations of deliberate misinformation were untrue. "It was our mistake and we should have double-checked it to make sure it was happening," he explained, noting his distress over the incident.

The event has sparked conversation on social media regarding the broader issues of misinformation and the potential for more serious unintended outcomes through digital platforms.

One user on X (formerly Twitter) commented, "This is just Halloween. Now think of how many people are fed with misinformation online on other issues." Gary Gorman, a Novelist Democrat TD, highlighted the risks associated with misinformation and AI, alluding to a recent dogpoo incident where singer Taylor Swift appeared to endorse Irish politician Michael Healy-Beey.

Greek police arrest man after deadly Athens blast

ATHENS: Greek anti-terror investigators have arrested a man in connection with a deadly explosion in Athens, police said on Saturday, warning of "a new generation of terrorists" at work.

Thursday's blast in an apartment in the capital, which killed a man and seriously injured a woman, is suspected to have been caused by the accidental detonation of a homemade bomb.

Police sources said they had identified the dead man from his dismembered remains as a 36-year-old from the port city of Piraeus who had been previously arrested in Germany. His fingerprints were in the international database of Europe, the European Union's law enforcement agency, the sources added.—AFP

Russia targets Kyiv in drone attack

KYIV: Russia unleashed its latest overnight drone strike on Ukraine, targeting the capital of Kyiv in an attack that lasted into midday, city officials said on Saturday.

Debris from downed drones struck six city districts, wounding a police officer, damaging residential buildings and starting fires, according to city military administrator Serhiy Popko. A policeman was injured, the administration said.

"Another night. Another air raid alert. Another drone attack. The armed forces of the Russian Federation attacked Kyiv again according to their old and familiar tactics," Popko wrote on social media. All the drones aimed at Kyiv had been shot down, he said.

"Unfortunately, the attack by Russian drones caused damage and casualties in various districts of Kyiv," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. He said that the "constant terrorist attacks on Ukrainian cities prove that the pressure on Russia and its accomplices is not enough".

In the Kyiv region outside the capital, an 82-year-old woman suffered head wounds from shrapnel, officials said. In a village near the southern city of Kherson, a 40-year-old woman was pulled dead from rubble after Russian troops fired artillery and four were injured

including three children, the governor Oleksandr Prokudin said.

Ukrainian energy provider DTEK said a high-voltage line powering the capital and two distribution networks in the Kyiv region had been damaged. DTEK said in a statement that electricity had mostly been restored and that repairs were underway.

Correspondents reported hearing explosions in and around the city during an air-raid alert that lasted more than five hours. One drone was seen flying low over the city amid the din of automatic-weapon fire.

Ukraine's military reported on Saturday that air defences had destroyed 29 out of 71 Russian drones that had been launched, and that another 21 had been "locally shot down".

Zelenskyy said strikes were also reported in the central Poltava and northeastern Sumsy and Kharkiv regions. "This year, we have faced the threat of 'Shahed' drones almost every night sometimes in the morning, and even during the day," he wrote on social media, referring to the Iranian-made attack drones used by Russia.

The health ministry said that a hospital in Kherson was struck, damaging two wards and a laboratory.—Agencies

Buffett sells 100m Apple shares

WASHINGTON: Warren Buffett and Berkshire Hathaway extended their retreat from stocks in the third quarter, further slashing holdings in Apple and boosting cash to a record \$325.2 billion.

In its quarterly report on Saturday, Berkshire said it sold about 100 million, or 25 per cent, of its Apple shares over the summer, ending with about 300 million.

Berkshire has now sold more than 600 million of the 1990s-era stock since 2024, though Apple remained its largest stock holding, at \$69.9 billion.

It sold \$36.1 billion of stock overall, including several billion dollars of Bank of America shares, and bought just \$1.5 billion. That made the quarter the eighth straight where Berkshire was a net seller of stocks.

The Omaha, Nebraska-based conglomerate also conducted its stock buybacks for the first time since the second quarter of 2018, and did not repurchase stock in the first three weeks of October.

"Berkshire is a microcosm of the broader economy," said Carly Spillert, an analyst at CFA Research in New York. "Its hoarding cash suggests a 'risk-off' mindset, and investors may worry what it means

for the economy and markets." The Class A shares of Berkshire are up 25pc this year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 has risen 20pc.

Rising valuations have fueled concerns among some investors that many stocks have become too expensive. Berkshire's cash stake grew from \$276.9 billion at the end of June, and is more than 30 times the \$30 billion cushion that Buffett has pledged to maintain.

Buffett has made no major acquisitions of whole companies for his \$955 billion company since 2016.

Jim Shanahan, an analyst at Edward Jones in St. Louis, said the swelling cash hoard "suggests uncertainty about what Buffett thinks stocks are overvalued or an economic downturn is coming, or is trying to build cash for a big acquisition."

In May, Buffett said he expected Apple to remain Berkshire's largest stock investment, but selling made sense because the 21pc federal tax rate on gains would likely grow.

Berkshire's quarterly operating profit declined 5pc to \$10.09 billion, or about \$7,019 per Class A share, ending analyst estimates of \$7,611 per share.—Reuters

Japan orders evacuation amid storm threat

TOKYO: Nearly 200,000 people in western Japan were urged to evacuate on Saturday as authorities warned of landslides and floods, while the remnants of a tropical storm strike over the country.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said "warm, moist air... was causing heavy rainfall with thunderstorms in western Japan" partly due to Koryu, which was downgraded to an extratropical low-pressure system from a typhoon.

The city of Matsuyama "issued the top-level warning, urging 189,552 residents in its 10 districts to evacuate and immediately secure safety", a city official told AFP.

While the evacuation was not mandatory, Japan's highest-level warning is typically issued when it is extremely likely that some kind of disaster has already occurred.

Forecasters warned that landslides and floods could affect western Japan on Saturday and eastern Japan on Sunday.

Due to rain, Shinkansen bullet trains were briefly suspended between Tokyo and southern Fukuoka region in the morning before resuming on a delayed schedule.

Congress smashed into Taiwan on Thursday as one of the biggest storms to hit the island in decades. It claimed at least three lives and injured 690 people, according to the National Fire Agency, which added a migrant worker death to the toll on Saturday.

The storm knocked out power to 957,068 households, 27,781 of which were still in the dark as of Saturday.

Scientists say human-driven climate change is intensifying the risk posed by heavy rain because a warmer atmosphere holds more water.—AFP

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

"The Nation's Bank", National Bank of Pakistan aims to support the financial well-being of the Nation along with enabling sustainable growth and inclusive development through its wide local and international network of branches. Being one of the leading and largest banks of Pakistan, National Bank of Pakistan is contributing significantly towards socioeconomic growth in the country with an objective to transform the institution into a future-fit, agile and sustainable Bank.

In line with our strategy, the Bank is looking for talented, dedicated and experienced professional(s) for the following position in the area of **President's Secretariat** based at **Karachi**.

The individuals who fulfil the below basic-eligibility criteria may apply for the following position:

01	Position / Job Title	Complaint Registration & Processing Officer – SBP (OG-II / OG-I)
	Reporting to	Wing Head – Complaint Management Wing
	Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC Candidate having a Master's Degree and / or any other relevant certification(s) would be preferred
	Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 03 years of banking experience, out of which 1 year working experience in complaint management and / or service quality management and / or customer services management
	Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should have excellent communication skills Should have good customer handling / services skills Ability to prioritize and accomplish tasks Proficient in MS Office suite
	Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To register complaints received through SBP online Complaint Portal (Suras), Email or Letter etc. after verifying it from Complaint Management System (CMS) for already registered / existing complaint to avoid any duplication To ensure TAT defined for complaint registration and its compliance thereof To record complaints in CMS with brief description about complaint, information related to the complainant i.e. CNIC, contact details, under specific category and type, product area etc. To identify complaints that require special attention and generate priority notification to the concerned complaint resolution department To ensure timely complaint acknowledgement is sent to the complainant via SMS / Email / Letter with tracking number To maintain records / MIS of complaints for future reference and for maintaining the auditable trail To ensure monitoring of complaints TAT on daily basis, and to actively maintain liaison with all resolution offices for updating and closing complaints through Complaint Management System To handle SBP online complaint portal (Suras) effectively and efficiently and liaising with resolution offices from forwarding the complaints via email to update complaint on Suras portal, after getting resolution To escalate the TAT breached or prospective TAT breached complaints to the concerned Resolution office and respective Unit Head and escalating the pending complaints to their Department Head for taking corrective action(s) or follow-up with the concerned resolution team(s) To report any anomaly observed in pattern / trend of complaints to Unit Head for taking corrective actions. To forward complainant reminders received through automated modes / channels for onward follow-up with concerned resolution office (Head office / Regions / Branches) To prepare a MIS of complaints registered and closed for Unit Head on daily basis To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)
	Assessment Test / Interview(s)	Only shortlisted candidates strictly meeting the above-mentioned basic eligibility criteria will be invited for test and / or panel interview(s)
	Employment Type	The employment will be on contractual basis for three years which may be renewed on discretion of the Management. Selected candidates will be offered compensation package and other benefits as per Bank's Policy / rules.

Interested candidates may visit the website www.sidathydr.com.pk/careers and apply online within 10 working days from the date of publication of this advertisement as per given instructions.

Applications received after due date will not be considered in any case. No TA / DA will be admissible for test / interview.

National Bank of Pakistan is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all qualified individuals, regardless of gender, religion, or disability.

PO-01/2024



Israel kills 'dozens' in northern Gaza

• Two more Israeli soldiers gunned down in Palestinian enclave • Rockets fired from Lebanon wound 11 in Israel • Military claims killing Hezbollah commander

GAZA: Israel on Saturday again carried out deadly air strikes on northern Gaza, where the UN calls conditions "apocalyptic", as Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group fired rockets from its capital of Beirut.

Since late September Israel has been engaged in full-scale war against Hezbollah in Lebanon while fighting continued operations against the Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza.

Israel's military on Saturday said dozens of fighters were killed around Jabalia "in aerial and ground activity". Troops were also operating in central Gaza and Rafah in the territory's far south, it added, while witnesses said Israeli drones and boats opened fire on Al-Mawasi in south Gaza.

Medics and Gaza's civil defence rescuers on Saturday reported three people killed in a strike on Nasirat, in central Gaza, a day after AFP images showed the blood-stained stretcher of several people killed there in an Israeli strike.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said that at least 43,314 people have been killed in the year-long war between Israel and Palestinian fighters.

The toll includes 55 deaths in the previous 24 hours, according to the ministry, which said 102,019 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip since the war began on October 7, 2023.

The Israeli military said on Saturday that two more Israeli soldiers had been killed in the southern Gaza Strip, increasing the total number of soldiers killed in combat in the Palestinian enclave and Lebanon since October 2023 to 780.

The war has threatened to spiral even further after Israel and Iran attacked each other over the past few months.

Iran's supreme leader vowed on Saturday a further response to attacks against the Islamic republic and its allies.

"The enemies, both the USA and the Zionist regime, should know that they will definitely receive a tooth-breaking response to what they are doing against Iran, the Iranian nation, and the resistance front," supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said. He was referring to

Iran-aligned groups which also include those in Yemen, Iraq and Syria.

Rockets from Lebanon

Rockets fired from Lebanon wounded 11 people in central Israel on Saturday, Israeli emergency services said, after one of them hit a house, as prospects for a ceasefire dimmed.

Fighting has escalated between Israeli forces and the Lebanese Hezbollah group since September, and hopes that a US push this week for a ceasefire have faded.

"We went out and saw them, children screaming, women screaming and everyone went to the house that was struck," said Qasim Mohab, a resident of Tira, where the rocket hit. "We were able to evacuate and rescue those who were inside the house, and thank God we were blessed that there was no one killed."

Around the time the rockets hit, Hezbollah said it had targeted a military base on the outskirts of Tel Aviv.

Israel's ambulance service said that 11 people were hurt by shrapnel. Air raid sirens continued to sound in northern Israel as rocket fire and drone attacks from Lebanon continued, the military said.

Hezbollah began firing rockets at Israel in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas.

The Israeli military said on Saturday it had killed Jastar Khader Fawaz, a commander of Hezbollah's Nasser Brigade rocket unit in southern Lebanon, and said he had been responsible for multiple attacks on Israel since October 2023.

Hezbollah did not immediately comment or confirm Fawaz's death.

Israeli naval forces captured a senior Hezbollah official, Imad Arabah, in an operation in northern Lebanon on Friday, Asia reporter Barak Ravid said on X, citing an Israeli official.

After nearly a year of no-front exchanges over Israel's northern border, which Hezbollah said were in support of Hamas, Israel on September 23 escalated its bombing campaign against targets in Lebanon and later sent in ground troops.

Hezbollah has since flooded more deeply into Israel.—Agencies



PALESTINIANS transport their belongings on a donkey-drawn cart as they walk past the rubble of destroyed buildings in Gaza City, on Saturday.—AFP

Kamala, Trump toe to toe as campaign enters final stretch

Both candidates to hold rallies in swing states before election day

WASHINGTON: Kamala Harris and Donald Trump enter the final stretch of the most intense US presidential campaign of modern times with a flurry of swing state rallies that will test their stamina — and ability to persuade the country's last undecided voters.

Harris, bidding to become the country's first woman president, will rally in Georgia, North Carolina and Michigan to drive home her message that Trump is a threat to US democracy.

Trump promises a radical right-wing makeover of the government and aggressive trade wars to promote his policy of "America first."

In an interview with Fox News Saturday morning, Trump took a swipe at the state of the economy under the Biden-Harris administration, calling the disappointing job numbers released Friday "a gift to me." The candidates' frantic schedules will run right into Monday, culminating with late-night rallies — in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for Trump and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for Harris.

Election Day is Tuesday, but Americans have been voting early for weeks, with more than 72 million ballots already cast — including a record four million in

Georgia, where Democrats seek to pull out all the stops to keep the state in their column.

Opinion polls continue to show a lead race, particularly in the seven battleground states likely to determine the result in the US Electoral College system, leaving the Republican businessman and his 60-year-old Democratic rival fighting hard to peel off even slivers of support from each other's camps.

Harris is doing that by appealing to centrist voters and propelling her base to the polls with a robust ground game and get-out-the-vote effort.

Thousands of women were expected to demonstrate Saturday, under the theme "We Won't Go Back," in cities across the country in support of Harris and abortion rights.

But as she has worked to appeal to women voters across party lines, using issues like abortion and health care, Trump lashed out at a Democratic TV ad depicting wives of his supporters secretly voting for Harris. "Can you imagine a wife not telling her husband who she's voting for?" he asked on Fox News Saturday morning.

"Unpredictable environment"

Trump, meanwhile, has doubled down on his already extreme rhetoric in hopes of firing up his loyal base to turn out in massive numbers. "Kamala's closing message to America is that she hates you," Trump fumed on Friday night in

Warren, Michigan, where he trashed the economy under Biden and Harris as a disaster — despite experts saying the overall economy is strong.

He also warned that "a 1920s-style economic depression" would ensue if Harris were elected.

Speaking on Fox Saturday, Trump downed the weak employment data released Friday as "the worst job numbers," though analysts said the figures were a temporary blip.

Harris, the nation's first Black and first Asian-American vice president, meanwhile has sought to harness celebrity star power like Beyonce and Bruce Springsteen in the campaign's waning days.

Jennifer Lopez, a pop icon of Puerto Rican heritage, joined Harris onstage Thursday and a fireworks triggered by a Trump rally warm-up speaker branding the US territory a "floating island of garbage."

With the election just days away — and Trump refusing to say whether he would accept its results if he loses — businesses in the capital, Washington, have begun boarding up storefronts as city authorities warn of a "fluid, unpredictable security environment" in the days after the poll.

Trump is already alleging fraud and cheating in swing states such as Pennsylvania, laying the groundwork for what could be more unrest following the violence that erupted at the US Capitol in the wake of the 2020 vote.—AFP

No legislation on military courts in 27th amendment, says PM aide

Aqel stresses consensus for new tweak

Dawn Report

He claimed that PTI leader Salman Akram Raja's allegations that the government was bringing in the amendment to create military courts were incorrect, adding that the party was "misleading the public."

Talking about a possible timeline for the new amendment, Barrister Aqel Malik said "in my understanding, this [amendment] will go into the new year, and it's very early to say if it can be done this year as there are [just] two months left, but there are lot of international engagements, including COP [...] foreign dignitary visits."

When asked if the amendment would be tabled in 2025, the adviser to the premier said it was "possible", adding that they had "initiated a conversation" so that whoever next agrees to be a party to

it would come with "consensus". "Civil society, our allies and even the opposition [are party to it]. We haven't dissolved the [special parliamentary] committee, [and] it will continue working under the leadership of Khurshid Shah," he said.

He explained that the government wanted to build a consensus regarding the amendment.

"We want to build an overall broad consensus and I'm on record saying that whenever the 27th constitutional amendment is brought, it will be brought in with consensus."

The ruling coalition has been meeting planning to table another amendment, colloquially known as the 27th amendment, aimed at reforming local governments and "addressing issues skipped in previous [26th] legislature".

Imran's abducted lawyer recovered

By Ikram Jussidi

ISLAMABAD: As PTI founding chairman Imran Khan's lawyer Iqbal Hussain Panjotra was recovered on Saturday night, the party labelled the development as scripted and called on the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take more serious notice of the matter.

The PTI also demanded that an FIR be filed against the attorney general, who claimed in the high court that Mr Panjotra would be produced in court within 24 hours, suggesting he was aware of his whereabouts.

It is worth mentioning that the

PTI leader was recovered by police in Attock as he was allegedly being transported by his kidnappers. Police later shifted him to hospital.

PTI leader Shaukat Bhatti, while speaking to Dawn, said the party rejected the video footage and viewed it as "scripted drama".

"We demand action against those who abducted him [Mr Panjotra] on October 8 from Islamabad, and those who made these videos are all part of the abduction and coverage," he said.

Mr Bhatti questioned how the attorney general gave a statement in the court that Mr Panjotra will be produced in 24 hours.

Hussain Akbar, another PTI

leader, also dismissed police's claims. "The scripted pathetic manner in which Imran Khan's lawyer Iqbal Hussain Panjotra has been 'recovered' (read: released) is shameful. The traumatised individual was presumably forced to give a false account of his abduction even during his fragile state," he posted on social media site X.

PTI leader Amir Mehtab echoed these sentiments, rejecting the circumstances surrounding the recovery and calling for a judicial commission to investigate the matter. He added that Mr Panjotra had reportedly suffered severe torture at the hands of his abductors.

UN nature talks hit financial roadblock

Negotiators split largely between poor and rich country blocs



MEMBERS of indigenous communities react after their panel was adopted at the COP18 Summit.—AFP

CALL: The world's biggest nature conservation conference closed in Colombia on Saturday with no agreement on a roadmap to ramp up funding for species protection.

With other successes under its belt, the 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) to the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was suspended by its president Susana Muhamad as negotiations ran almost 17 hours longer than planned and delegates started leaving to catch flights.

The cracks left the summit without a question for decision-making, but CBD spokesman David Alma-worth told AFP it will resume at a later date to consider outstanding issues.

"We will continue working because this crisis is too big and we cannot stop," Muhamad said after declaring the Cop COP.

The conference, the biggest meeting of its kind yet with around 23,000 registered delegates, was

tasked with assessing, and ramping up, progress toward reaching 23 targets set in Canada two years ago to halt biodiversity's species destruction of nature's bounty by 2030.

They include placing 30 per cent of land and sea areas under protection and 30 percent of degraded ecosystems under restoration by 2030, reducing pollution, and phasing out agricultural and other activities harmful to nature.

For this purpose, it was agreed in 2022 that \$200 billion per year be made available to protect biodiversity by 2030, including the transfer of \$30bn per year from rich to poor nations.

The total for 2022 was about \$15 billion, according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

On top of that, nations have pledged about \$400 million to a Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) created last year to meet the UN targets.

In Cali, negotiators were split largely between poor and rich country blocs as they haggled over increased funding and other commitments.

The biggest ask from the summit — to lay out a detailed funding plan — turned out to be a bridge too far.

Muhamad, Colombia's environment minister, had offered a draft text

proposing the creation of a dedicated biodiversity fund, which was rejected by the European Union, Switzerland and Japan.

Developing nations had insisted on the creation of a new fund, saying they are not adequately represented in existing mechanisms including the GBFF, which they say are also too narrow.

The meeting did manage to coalesce around the creation of a fund to share the profits of digitally sequenced genetic data taken from plants and animals they come from.

The Cali agreement determines that genetic data users whose income exceeds a certain threshold should contribute one percent of profits or 0.1pc of revenue to the new fund, potentially worth billions of dollars per year.

Delegates also approved the creation of a permanent body to represent the interests of indigenous people under the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity.

Representatives of indigenous peoples, many in traditional dress and headgear, broke out in cheers and chants as the agreement was unveiled through.—AFP

Number of out-of-school down only 1pc in 10 years: Unesco

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: A new Unesco report reveals that the global out-of-school population has decreased by only one per cent over the past decade, citing chronic underinvestment in education, especially in low- and lower-middle-income countries, as a key contributing factor.

The UN agency's Global Education Report 2024 says the public education expenditure globally fell by 0.4 percentage points of GDP between 2015 and 2022.

According to the report published on Friday, enrolment at age five has stagnated at around 75 per cent for the past decade. Globally, 251 million children and youth remain out of school, a reduction of just one per cent since 2011, of which 179m are boys and 122m girls.

Since 2015, 150m more children, adolescents and youth have gone to school. Completion rates are also rising: 40m more young people are completing secondary school today than in 2015.

The share of education in total public expenditure decreased by 0.6 percentage points — from 13.2pc in 2011 to 12.6pc in 2022. Education spending per child has largely stayed the same since 1970, while the share of aid going to education dropped from 9.3pc in 2019 to 7.6pc in 2022.

The report says that climate change poses challenges to infrastructure and curricula. "Globally, almost one in four primary schools do not even have access to basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, yet governments need to also make more extensive investments to protect students and schools from rising temperatures and natural disasters."

A new indicator, which measures green education content, shows that climate change education needs to be taught more in the earlier grades and across more subjects than just science, according to the report.

The secondary completion rate has increased from 51pc in 2015 to 57pc in 2023. Globally, 650m leave school without a secondary school certificate. Wealth gaps in secondary completion rates grew between the richest and the poorest by 10 percentage points from 2010 to 2022 in low- and middle-income countries.

The percentage of adults with at least secondary education has increased on average by five percentage points in the past 10 years.

SPORT

Leverkusen stumble to goalless draw against Stuttgart as Liverpool loom

LEVERKUSEN: Champions Bayer Leverkusen twice hit the woodwork and missed a bagful of chances but could not score in a goalless draw against visitors VfB Stuttgart on Friday, dropping more points in their Bundesliga title defence.

Leverkusen dominated the duel between last season's top two sides in the league but failed to break through, with Victor Boniface, Florian Grill and Jeremie Frimpong all sparing opportunities.

The draw means Leverkusen, who dropped just 12 points last season in an unbeaten title charge, have already dropped 11 this campaign and are in third place on 36 points. They could finish the weekend seven points behind league leaders Bayern Munich and RB Leipzig.

Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso was unapologetic, saying his side delivered their most complete performance in the Bundesliga this season.

"We are unhappy. We thought we had done enough to win it," Alonso said. "We pressed well. Our players showed a lot of courage to press a lot. We created a lot of chances in the first half. But we also had chances in the second half. Maybe the most complete performance from us even though we did not score. It was a top game."

It is still early in the season," Alonso said when asked about the growing gap with the league leaders. "There are enough games. We want to keep going."

Leverkusen will travel to Regensburg before Sunday's Champions League clash with Arsenal's former club Liverpool, who are one of only two sides to have claimed a perfect nine points in the competition this season.

"From Monday we focus on Liverpool. A big game, to play in Anfield," he said.

Alonso's team had Stuttgart on the back foot from the start and in a one-sided first half the hosts missed more than half a dozen golden scoring chances and hit the crossbar with Edmond Tapscott's header.

Stuttgart keeper Alexander Nisbet was in stunning form, stopping efforts from Frimpong and Alejandro Grimaldo in the first half to keep them in the game.

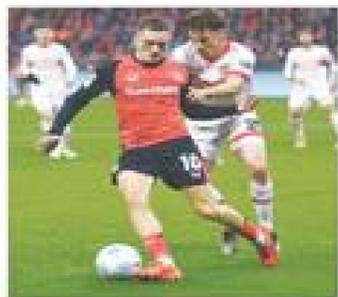
With the visitors, who beat Atlanta in the Champions League on Wednesday, not managing a single shot on or towards goal for an hour, Leverkusen kept pressing forward.

Boniface started the post with a powerful shot eight minutes after the restart as Leverkusen picked up where they had left off.

Nisbet then had to come to the rescue again, first denying Nigeria international Boniface in a one-on-one in the 73rd before blocking a Wirtz effort a little later to make sure Stuttgart got their point.

Stuttgart, last season's runner-up, finished the night in seventh place on 13 points, but coach Sebastian Hoeneß said "the table doesn't interest me that much at all — it's still too early."

"We didn't really convince, but we fought with everything we had in defence — I'm OK with it," Hoeneß said.



LEVERKUSEN: Bayer Leverkusen's Florian Grill (L) vies for the ball with VfB Stuttgart's Anthony Russell during their Bundesliga match at the BayArena. —Reuters

Monaco suffer second successive loss with Angers shock

PARIS: Ligue 1 title hopefuls Monaco slumped to a second successive defeat on Friday, losing 1-0 at home to struggling Angers.

After a 0-0 draw with Lille was followed by a 2-1 derby defeat to Nice, Monaco were undone by a fine 29th-minute strike from Jean-Eudes Makhoul.

"It's our worst match of the season," said Monaco coach Adi Hutter. "We were missing everything, especially in the first half. Angers played a very good match but above all because of the way we played — it was messy and too slow."

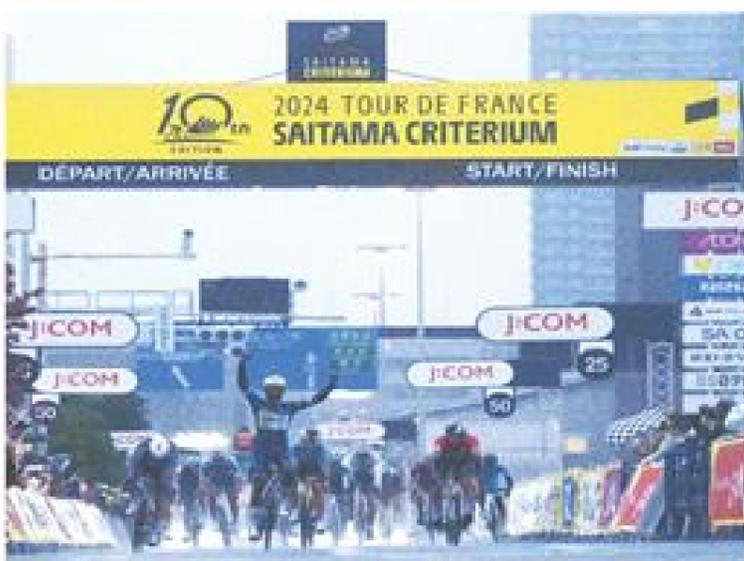
The defeat leaves Monaco, who travel to Bologna in the Champions League on Tuesday, in danger of losing second place in the table to Olympique Marseille later this weekend.

In stark contrast to Monaco's fortunes, Angers have now won two games in a row after they had drawn four and lost four of their opening eight games.

Lille stay third after drawing 1-1 with fifth-placed Olympique Lyonnais who nabbed a point in stoppage time thanks to Malik Fofana.

Jonathan David had given Lille a 17th-minute lead, converting a chance created for him by Ainsley Maitland-Niles.

Lille's next clash is a home tie against Juventus in the Champions League on Tuesday. —AFP



SAITAMA: Interim title winner's Belgian rider Brian Girmay (C) celebrates after crossing the finish line to win the Tour de France Saitama Criterium on Saturday. Girmay, who became the first African to claim the Tour de France's green jersey for most sprint points in this year's race, claimed a hard-fought victory as he edged out major competitors including Primoz Roglic and Mark Cavendish. Next full-time Honda-Motogadget rider Roglic, the four-time Vuelta a España winner and 2020 Tour de France runner-up, broke away from the pack with around 30km to go. But Girmay pulled him in to win ahead of Roglic and Cavendish, with Belgium's Jasper Philipsen fourth. The criterium, a promotional event for the Tour de France, serves as a celebratory extension of the oldest and most prestigious of the three Grand Tours aimed at bringing the excitement of the race to international fans. —AFP

Martin takes big step towards MotoGP title as Bagnaia crashes

SEPANG: Jorge Martin put himself within touching distance of the MotoGP championship after a sprint victory at the Malaysian Grand Prix on Saturday, increasing his lead over Francesco Bagnaia in the standings to 29 points after the Ducati rider crashed out.

Aprilia Racing's Marc Marquez finished second in Sepang, while Bagnaia's teammate Enea Bastianini rounded out the podium.

Martin (Aprilia Racing) is on 405 points in the drivers' standings heading into the season's penultimate race in Malaysia on Sunday, while Bagnaia is second on 436, and can seal the title on if he earns more points than the Italian two-time reigning champion.

"I think last year I wasn't ready to win," said the 26-year-old Martin, who came second in the title race behind his rival last year. "This season I am more mature. It is a privilege to be here at this point with this advantage, but nothing is over 100% is over."

The race began under dark clouds at the Sepang International Circuit and race directors waved the white flag before the start amid light showers, allowing riders to swap their bikes.

Martin's bid for the title this season has been powered by his penchant for perfect starts. The Spaniard once again had a dream launch, holding the inside line to surge past pole-sitter Bagnaia into the lead on the first turn.

"It has been an amazing weekend so far. Today was a



SEPANG: Aprilia Racing's Jorge Martin leads Ducati Lenovo Team's Francesco Bagnaia and Gresini Racing MotoGP's Marc Marquez during the sprint race of the Malaysian MotoGP at the Sepang International Circuit on Saturday. —Reuters

difficult race, actually. I started very well," Martin said, adding that he did well to hold off Marquez after Bagnaia crashed.

"Bagnaia and Marc were very, very close. As soon as I saw Bagnaia crash, I just controlled the gap. Marc was catching me, so I had to be really, really precise, really focused. It was only to make a mistake today. Tomorrow will be similar. No [I'm keeping my] head down."

Bagnaia did his best to force his way back into the lead but lost his front end in the third lap as he headed into turn nine and crashed, finding himself in the gravel.

Realizing the gravity of his error, he held his head in his hands as his shot at winning the championship all but slipped away.

"I entered the corner a bit slower but I touched the back on the apex of the corner and I lost the front," said the 27-year-old. "It's something that can happen, but all the risk I was taking to fight back

with Jorge wasn't over the limit."

Bagnaia dominated Friday's practice and checked a track record to grab pole for the sprint and the grand prix on Sunday, when 25 points are up for grabs for the winner.

"I think I will risk a lot tomorrow to win," Martin said of the Italian. "So to beat him in these conditions is really tough. He has nothing to lose now. It's all or nothing."

The season finale had been scheduled for Valencia in a fortnight but it was cancelled Friday after deadly flooding in that part of Spain.

Organisers are rushing to find a replacement venue.

A minute's silence was held in Sepang before the sprint race to remember the more than 200 dead.

Second-placed Marquez paid tribute to the victims of catastrophic flooding in Spain, adding: "I dedicate this podium to all the community of Valencia. They are in a very hard moment and we support them." —Agencies

Pakistan cueists dominate at world snooker

DOHA: A quartet of Pakistan players enjoyed a record-setting start to the IBSF World Snooker Championship in Doha on Saturday.

Awaisulhaq Mirza, Muhammad Asif, Ahsan Ali and Muhammad Naseem Akhtar recorded impressive wins to kick start their campaigns.

Awaisulhaq, who won the 6-red title in Riyadh in July, recovered from a slow start to defeat Thailand's Kritsana Lertsakornwathorn 4-2 (6-103(52), 100(68)-00, 77(83)-12, 97-00, 56-77(76), 82(76)-27).

Lertsakornwathorn took the first frame with a break of 52, but the 31-year-old Awaisulhaq fought back, compiling breaks of 68, 83, and 76, in the second, third and final frames, respectively, to seal the victory.

Meanwhile, Asif, a two-time amateur world champion, also impressed, thrashing India's Kamal Chaudhary 4-1 (135(100)-00, 114(66)-19, 01-56, 77(52)-41, 73(63)-34).

The 42-year-old Asif's century break (100) in the first frame set the tone for his victory. The seasoned veteran displayed his experience as he also registered long breaks of 66, 52 and 63 to record a commanding win.

Ahsan, the 37-year-old current national champion, outclassed India's Manish Daryel 4-1 (67-15, 100(84)-01, 79-00, 42-59, 74(51)-60(66)). The Pakistan player's breaks of 84 and 51 proved decisive, despite Daryel's resistance in the fifth frame.

Another national event, Naseem-dominated Qatar's Mississ Alshahdi 4-0, crafting breaks of 52 and 54 as he showcased his rich form (71-06, 94(52)-30, 65(54)-66, 74-14).

The championship features 48 players divided into 12 groups, with the top two players from each group qualifying for the knockout round. The top eight group winners will progress directly to the last 16, while the remaining 16 players compete in the Last 24 round.

The championship concludes Nov 7. —Agencies

Islamabad outplay Larkana inside two days to earn second straight win

LAHORE: Islamabad earned an emphatic innings and 107 runs victory over Larkana inside two days at the Diamond Ground in Islamabad as the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy second round continued at different venues across the country on Saturday.

A maiden first-class century by Hasan Nawaz and a second five-wicket haul in as many matches by fast bowler Nasirullah banished Islamabad their second consecutive win in Group 'W'.

Hasan resumed his innings with overnight score of 75 and Islamabad's 186 for four while replying to Larkana's paltry total of 140. He went on to score 140 and that helped Islamabad post a total 241. In their second innings, Larkana were bowled out for 90 in 20.5 overs.

Muhammad Karim Mirza (138 not out) and Muhammad Usman (100) smashed hundreds to help Islamabad post 448 all out, earning a massive 276-run first innings lead against Iqbal Masih Jemali (DMJ) in their Group 'C' game in Sheikhupura.

Rasooljindi were on top at home against Arad Jamana and Kashmir in their Group 'B' match, posting 375 thanks to Umar Amin (90) and skipper Shadab Khan (84) in reply to their opponent's first innings 82. AJK were replying at 92-5 in their second innings, 201 behind, after Shadab and Muhammad Faizan equally shared four wickets between them.

Fast bowler Niaz Khan's took 4-97 to help Peshawar score a 22-run first-innings lead against Bahawalpur in their Group 'B' clash in Abbottabad. Muhammad Faizan made 83 as Bahawalpur made 279 in response to Peshawar's 301. Peshawar were 57-2, to lead by 79.

In Islamabad, Muhammad Nadeem of Hyderabad cracked 90 as his side took a 7-run first innings lead against Lahore Whites, who had reached 142-5 when stumps were down in the Group 'A' fixture.

Abbottabad were in control against Faisalabad as they piled up 405 in their first innings before restricting their opponents to 189-9 in their Group 'A' meeting in Islamabad. Muhammad Ahsan took 4-58 with Ahsan also captain Khalid Usman hitting an unbeaten 139.

Multan dominated the Group 'B' encounter against Karachi Whites in Sialkot, Charnabula. Mirza dominated Karachi Whites, who were 24-1 overnight, for 170 thanks to a fine 5-47 show by Muhammad Usman and 4-36 by Wasim Akram Jr, and took a 90-run lead. Only opener Jahanzeb Sultan (72) played a worthwhile knock for the Karachi side. Mirza had made 260 all out on the first day. When play ended on Saturday, Multan were 62-2 in their second innings.

Stalton took an upper hand in their Group 'C' clash against Quetta at the Multan Cricket Stadium. Abdul Rehman scored 131 and Anam Awan contributed 78 to steer their team to 386 for four in reply to Quetta's 263.

In another Group 'C' affair, Lahore Blues' captain Imran Butt scored 111 against Karachi Blues but their pacer Talish Khan (4-66) restricted the opponents to 224 all out at the Nazim Sports City, Beedian in Lahore which gave the home side a slim first-innings lead of four runs.

At the draw of stumps, Karachi were 30 for one in their second innings. —Sports Reporter

Aryan sets new record

LAHORE: Aryan Behman Khattar of Punjab set a new national record in the 50m freestyle event of the National Swimming Championship here at the International Swimming Pool of the Nishtar Sports Complex on Saturday.

Aryan in a highly impressive performance clocked 28.47 seconds to claim victory and the record. Waqar's Haroon Asif clinched second spot followed by third-placed Aryan Zayan Din.

Army remain top of the medals table after claiming four more gold medals along with one silver and five bronze, bringing their overall tally to an impressive nine golds.

Punjab remained in second place, after adding another gold to make a total of two gold while Sindh overtook Wapla for the third position, securing two golds. Wapla were fourth with one gold.

Army also regained supreme in the women's section, as they consolidated their lead by capturing two more golds, raising their overall count to five gold, two silver and three bronze.

Sindh with four gold, three silver and two bronze, were second while Wapla and Punjab, each with two golds, finished the day in third and fourth places, respectively.

Men's
50m Freestyle: 1. Muhammad Ahsan Durrani (Army) 28.47, 2. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.62, 3. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.74, 4. Waqar Khan (Sindh) 28.81, 5. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 6. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.81, 7. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 8. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.81, 9. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 10. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.81, 11. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 12. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.81, 13. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 14. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.81, 15. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 16. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.81, 17. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 18. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.81, 19. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 20. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.81, 21. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 22. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.81, 23. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 24. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.81, 25. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 26. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.81, 27. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 28. Aryan Zayan Din (Army) 28.81, 29. Haroon Asif (Punjab) 28.81, 30. 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Salman hopes Pakistan pacers will come good Down Under

MELBOURNE: Vice-captain Salman Ali Agha is hoping Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah will be firing on all cylinders when Pakistan begin their three-match One-day International series against Australia on Monday, calling the team's pace attack "very good".

Fast bowlers Shaheen and Naseem, alongside star batsman Babar Azam, were rested from the last two matches of the three-test series against England last month and Salman said on Saturday that the duo had returned fresher to the side.

"They had been playing consecutive cricket, so rest was essential," Salman, who was only recently named deputy to newly-appointed limited-overs captain Muhammad Rizwan, told reporters after Pakistan's training session at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. "Now they're feeling quite fresh."

Salman expressed that Shaheen, Naseem and Babar had not been dropped for the Tests against England but "they'd been playing cricket for two to three years and needed that rest". "They're very excited for the series and I expect they will all perform well."

He commended former skipper Babar's involvement and influence in the team. "He was a captain for a long time and whenever he feels like, he gives his inputs to the team," added Salman.

Pakistan will also bank on insights from former Australian fast bowler Jason Gillespie, who is acting as head coach of the limited-overs series in Australia after white-ball coach Gary Kirsten's recent departure.

"It is their [Australia's] home ground and they're a very good team," said Salman. "But we also have a good team here. We're planning according to their team, the grounds and pitches and we will try to execute our plans in the best way."

"Jason Gillespie is aware of the conditions here which is helping us a lot. We have been here for the last two days and did not have any discussion regarding the playing XI [for the first game]."

With favourable conditions on offer in Australia, Salman is banking on the team's pace attack to come good. "We have a very good pace attack with all of them having the ability to clock speeds of around 140km/h."

Salman expressed that Shaheen, Naseem and Babar had not been dropped for the Tests against England but "they'd been playing cricket for two to three years and needed that rest". "They're very



MELBOURNE: Pakistan pacers Naseem Shah (R) and Shaheen Shah Afridi share a light moment with head coach Jason Gillespie (L) during a training session at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday.—courtesy PCB

Shan backs Babar to return stronger after drop

LONDON: Babar Azam could benefit from a break after being dropped from the Pakistan Test squad, red-ball captain Shan Masood said as he led the bat to roll-over his last form.

Babar stepped down as skipper in all three formats last year after Pakistan failed to make the knockout stage of the 50-overs World Cup. He returned as white-ball captain in March for the T20 World Cup, where the team did not make the Super Eight.

The out-of-form batsman, who once again gave up the captaincy last month, was then dropped for the second and third Tests against England in October after scoring just 35 runs across both innings in Pakistan's defeat in the first Test.

Babar's absence from the Pakistan set-up is set to be brief, however, with the 30-year-old named in the One-day International and Twenty20

squads for this month's tour of Australia.

Asked about Babar's future, Shan told the BBC's "Stumped" podcast on Saturday: "I think he's one of the best batsmen in the world. I'm nobody to deny him a future. He has every quality to be one of the greatest batsmen in test cricket."

"He's always there or thereabouts in the rankings. Sometimes, people need a break. I personally think this break will do him a great deal of benefit and he'll come back a stronger player."

"There's no harm in being pulled out at times and having a breather. He's played a lot of cricket and gone through a lot, and he'll always be one of the main batsmen to play for Pakistan."

Pakistan next play a Test in December in a two-match series against South Africa.—Reuters



NEWCASTLE: Newcastle United's Alexander Isak (top) scores with a header during the Premier League match against Arsenal at St James' Park on Saturday.—Reuters

City's unbeaten run snaps, Arsenal crash as Liverpool go top

LONDON: Manchester City suffered their first Premier League loss since December as Bournemouth stunned the champions, while Arsenal were rocked by Newcastle United and Liverpool seized top spot on Saturday.

City were unbeaten in their previous 12 league games dating back to a defeat at Aston Villa last year but Pep Guardiola's second-placed side saw that streak come to an unexpected end in a 2-1 loss on England's south coast.

The Cherries had never beaten City in their 21 previous meetings, losing 19 of those matches, yet Arsenal's hosts sprung a huge upset to derail the champions' push for a fifth successive title.

Bournemouth, recently damaged Arsenal's title hopes with a 2-0 win at the Vitality Stadium and they inflicted pain on City as well.

Guardiola had claimed City faced an injury "emergency" after they suffered fitness problems in Wednesday's League Cup defeat at Tottenham Hotspur.



BOURNEMOUTH: Bournemouth's Evanilson (L) scores past Manchester City goalkeeper Ederson during their Premier League match at the Vitality Stadium on Saturday.—AFP

But Arsenal's Kyle Walker and Josko Gvardiol all started against Bournemouth after injury doubts, with Kevin De Bruyne, Sadio Mane and Jeremy Doku fit enough to be named among the substitutes.

Exhausted or not, City were rocked in the sixth minute when Bournemouth winger Antoine Semenyo drilled Miles Keane's cross past Ederson from inside the area.

Guardiola's men were unable to muster a response to that lead and Ederson doubled Bournemouth's lead in the 44th minute with a composed finish from Keane's cross.

Guardiola's header reduced the deficit in the 62nd minute, but it was too late to save City from a second defeat in four days.

Newcastle put a huge dent in

fourth-placed Arsenal's title aspirations with a 1-0 win at St James' Park.

Alexander Isak netted in the 12th minute, heading home Anthony Gordon's pinpoint cross.

Injury-hit Arsenal struggled to get out of first gear and produced just one shot on target in the entire game.

Michel Arteta's team, runners-up to City for the past two years, have taken just one point from their last three games as their push for a first title since 2004 was derailed by a

second league defeat this term.

"Today we weren't our best version. It's about how you react to that. We're not going to find the right words or answers to describe how we feel," said Arteta, whose side are seven points adrift of first place.

At Anfield, Liverpool were in danger of a surprise loss of their own before regrouping to take advantage of their rivals' struggles with a 2-1 win over Brighton & Hove Albion.

Ezri Konsa gave Brighton the lead in the 14th minute with a fierce strike that cannoned in off the post

after Danny Welbeck flicked on Kaoru Mitoma's cross.

But Liverpool had beaten Brighton in the League Cup last 16 in mid-week and they repeated the trick thanks to a late revival.

Cody Gakpo bagged the equaliser in the 76th minute with a cross that looped straight into the net.

Two minutes later, Mohamed Salah put Liverpool ahead, the Egypt forward curling a free finish into the top corner for his ninth goal this season.

In Arnie Slot's first season in charge, Liverpool are two points clear of City after their eighth win in 10 league games.

Notttingham Forest are up to third place after beating 10-man West Ham United 3-0 to make it three consecutive top-flight victories for the first time since 1999.

Chris Wood grabbed his eighth goal in 10 league games as the New Zealand striker headed home after 27 minutes.

West Ham had Edson Alvarez sent off in first-half stoppage-time for two bookings.

Callum Hudson-Odoi is back in the 65th minute and Ollie Watkins sealed the points 12 minutes from full-time at the City Ground.

Jordan Ayew's stoppage-time equaliser denied Ipswich Town their first top-flight win since 2002 as Luton Town rescued a 1-1 draw at Portman Road.

Leif Davis's 55th minute volley put Ipswich ahead but the hosts had Kelvin Phillips sent off in the 77th minute.

Ayew levelled with seconds left to leave third-bottom Ipswich winless after 10 games.

Southampton earned their first league win this season as Adam Armstrong's 85th minute strike sealed a 1-0 success against Everton.—AFP

Norris cuts Verstappen's lead after Sao Paulo sprint win

SAO PAULO: Oscar Piastri obeyed McLaren team orders to gift Lando Norris a Sao Paulo sprint-race victory in a one-two finish that cut Max Verstappen's Mercedes One lead over his British rival to 45 points on Sat today.

Australian Piastri had started on pole position and led until handing over two laps from the end after Verstappen passed Ferrari's Charles Leclerc for third and became an increasing threat.

The switch came just in time, with a late virtual safety car period leaving a tense final lap with Piastri finishing 0.593 behind Norris and Verstappen a further 0.904 adrift.

Verstappen was told a four-

hour investigation for an alleged virtual safety car infringement that could cost him a five-second penalty and drop him down to fourth.

"Oscar deserved it but we're doing what we had to do," said Norris, who started second on the grid. "I think we were clearly quicker than the guys behind, so just difficult in the sprint race knowing how much to manage and push but we executed it well."

Piastri's race engineer thanked the Australian, who is out of title contention, over the radio for his "maximum support to the team".

"It was tricky and very happy and there and the racing line is very narrow, but it was a great day for the team to score a lot of points," said the Australian. "We showed we are in decent shape."

McLaren's one-two margin lifted them 35 points clear of Ferrari in the constructors' championship and ended Verstappen's run of

four consecutive sprint wins this year.

Verstappen and Leclerc had a long battle for third before the champion passed on the 19th of 24 laps and Nico Hulkenberg then triggered the virtual safety car by stopping by the side of the track in a manoeuvring Haas.

"I had to wait for some mistakes and luckily they came, and I could use that to my advantage," said Verstappen, who will have a five-place grid penalty for Sunday's race due to an engine change.

He added he would be aiming to "limit the damage" to his title defence in Sunday's race.

It was the first time this season that Verstappen has been beaten in a sprint.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz was fifth, with George Russell sixth for Mercedes and Pierre Gasly seventh for Renault as Sergio Perez secured the final point in eighth for Red Bull.—Agencies

Gill misses ton but spinners leave India on top against NZ

MUMBAI: Shubman Gill missed out on a century while Rishabh Pant scored a quick-fire 60 as India made 263 in response to New Zealand's 235 before their spinners reduced the tourists to 171-8 at stumps on day

two of the low-scoring third Test in Mumbai on Saturday.

Ajaz Patel was unbeaten on seven after Will Young's batting 51 in testing conditions, as New Zealand wiped out a slender 28-run deficit and

built up a valuable lead of 143 at the end of another sweltering day at the Wankhede Stadium.

Ravichandran Ashwin, who took 3-63 and shared seven wickets with spin partner Ravindra Jadeja, hinted the hosts would not be staring at a big target when they eventually bat on Saturday.

"We should wrap it up with one or two runs here and there. Every run scored in this innings is going to be critical for us when we chase it down," Ashwin said. "It's not going to be easy and we have to bat really well. I expected a lot more bounce and speed from this Mumbai pitch. It has been quite slow, which is surprise for me... It's not a typical Mumbai pitch."

New Zealand won the first two matches to seal their first-ever Test series triumph in India and now

eye a 3-0 sweep.

"To be honest it's [the pitch] turning quite sharply," Ajaz, who took five wickets to help bend out India, told reporters. "I suppose inconsistency in terms of how much it does turn and bounce. It has started to turn from both ends and from a batting perspective that can be a challenge."

Fast bowler Akash Deep got New Zealand under some early pressure in their second match when he bowled skipper Tom Latham for one and Washington Sundar missed opener Devon Conway for 22 at the start of an advertising final session.

Ashwin had Rishabh Pant, who hit 60, struck out as they counter-attacked in a stand of

96 while Sundar smashed an unbeaten 38 off 36 balls.

"I was honestly trying to have fun in the middle overs if it was difficult — enjoy the difficult moments," said Gill. "If I was to put ten much pressure on myself then I am losing on the art of batting."

Returning on 86-4, the batsmen came out aggressively as India look to avoid an embarrassing whitewash on home soil.

Gill survived a reprieve on 45 by substitute fielder Mark Chapman, who failed to hang on to a high catch off Glenn Phillips' bowling while running in from long on.

Gill reached his fifty with a single and Pant kept up the attack with regular boundaries to raise his ball-strike in 36 balls before Ish Sodhi



MUMBAI: Shubman Gill (R) takes a catch to dismiss New Zealand batter Devon Conway during the third Test at the Wankhede Stadium on Saturday.—AFP

trapped the batsman out to end the fifth-wicket partnership.

Off-spinner Glenn Phillips struck soon after lunch to send back Jadeja, caught at slip for 14.

Ajaz got Narfaria Khan caught behind for a duck in the next over.

Gill took on the spinners with boundaries in the next few overs before Ajaz had him caught at slip.

Patel removed Ashwin for six and finished with superb figures of 5-103 as Deep was run out, leaving Sundar unbeaten.—Agencies

Scoreboard	
NEW ZEALAND (batting) 235 (370 overs)	103-8, Phillips 30-0-64-1, Ravindra 1-2-0-0 (30), Sodhi 1-0-0-0 (10)
INDIA (batting) 263 (471 overs)	1-0-0-0 (10), Gill 60-0-0-0 (10), Patel 7-0-0-0 (10)
NEW ZEALAND (batting) 171-8 (370 overs)	1-0-0-0 (10), Gill 60-0-0-0 (10), Patel 7-0-0-0 (10)



Salman hopes Pakistan pacers will come good Down Under

KARACHI

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World Culture Festival concludes after a month of colourful activities

- Karachiites throng YMCA park to attend closing ceremony, concert
- It was a dream to bring artists from 40 countries to Karachi, says Anwar Maqsood

By Poorzada Salman

KARACHI: Scintillating music, romantic poetry and a dash of humour were the features of the closing ceremony of the World Culture Festival organised by the Arts Council of Pakistan at the YMCA on Saturday evening.

Yes, the venue, YMCA, was chosen because a mammoth number of people had registered to turn up for the event. It all began with three of the council's young singers displaying their vocal talent. Samir Hamza was the first one who began with Nasir Faris Ali Khan's *Kaali haath judan* and sang some more famous numbers such as *Abi Aslam's Aash*. Muzib Khan was next who entertained the audience with, among other tracks, *Kya has jo kari ehsos* originally sung by Nafis. The third youngster was Mustafa Baloch who performed the famous *Wastanadi*.

Then came the big guns advertised for the show. Poot Tofazzul Haq, who is popular among the young crowd, was greeted with a rousing applause. He mostly recited his ghazals. One of his verses was:

*Kar hi tum haiy hain par jo hain mubashir hai
Jo galey thi nahin lag nahin aur ghar thi*



Folk singer Akhbar Chahal performs at the event, which featured a spectacular fireworks display (right), on Saturday night. —Fatem Siddiqi / White Star

nahin in ruba
[It's 3 in the morning, what kind of beloved I have
Who neither embraces me nor leaves for forever]
The session was followed by a show-

neel was shown to highlight the council's achievements. After that, the council's President Ahmed Shah appeared on stage with writer Anwar Maqsood, Sindh Chief Secretary Anil Haider Shah and Karachi

police chief Javed Talib. Awards were given to them and to some international artists. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Ahmed Shah said the objective of arranging the festival was to keep the Pakistani flag aloft. "A few days back, I saw on the media that Pakistan is the third dangerous country in the world. [Pointing at the crowd] you are the most civilized people in the world. The country will be taken forward by you, the young ones."

He thanked the Sindh government and its administration for lending their support to the festival.

The chief secretary said when he was posted in Karachi in the month of March,

Continued on Page 14

Traffic mess angers governor

KARACHI: Expressing his anger over a traffic mess, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has asked authorities to devise a comprehensive traffic plan before organising any major events in the city.

He said this in view of a massive traffic jam on various arteries leading to the Arts Council of Pakistan and YMCA.

The governor sought a report from the inspector general of police and Karachi commissioner, asking them as to why a proper traffic plan was not made for the closing ceremony of World Culture Festival. —Dawn Report

Rs4bn city uplift contracts awarded in one year without inviting tenders, SHC told

Opposition leader in City Council seeks court permission to become party in petition against alleged violation of procurement rules by KMC

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: Leader of the Opposition in the City Council Advocate Saifuddin on Saturday informed the Sindh High Court that the provincial and local authorities had awarded contracts amounting to Rs4 billion to different contractors in Karachi during one year with-

out inviting tender and open competitive bidding on the pretext of emergency works.

The applicant, who is an elected representative belonging to the Jamat-i-Islami, also submitted that a majority of these works — carried out in various sectors, including roads, water supply, sewerage system, solid waste management, transport, etc, in the metropolis — had been ruined due to sub-standard quality.

The opposition leader filed an application through his counsel Usman Farooq in the SHC to be a party to an already pending petition which impugned the work orders issued by the KMC about various development projects in alleged violation of procurement rules.

He contended that a huge amount was being spent in the name of development works in

Karachi and the money involved in such works had been borrowed from the World Bank and other financial institutions under the Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLCK) project and the same would have to be repaid with markup from the public kitty.

The applicant also said that despite the claims of provincial and local authorities regarding such big expenditures on development, the entire infrastructure of the city particularly roads, water, sewerage and transport were in dilapidated condition and due to illegalities in awarding contracts, corruption was festering on surface of every project.

He said all these contracts had been awarded in non-transparent manner as well as in violation of the Sindh Local Councils (Contract) Rules 2015.

Selection of contractors was also made on the basis of nepotism and favoritism as the provincial and local authorities had awarded contracts amounting to Rs4 billion under the pretext of emergency works to different contractors without inviting any tender, he added.

He said a majority of such infrastructure had been damaged within months after completion of these projects.

The applicant pleaded the court to allow him to become a party to the petition in the matter and apprehended that the petition may be withdrawn due to pressure of respondents as he maintained that a lawsuit was filed in the SHC around two years ago by a contractor on similar issues of public interest, but was withdrawn later by the plaintiff.

He also asked the SHC to take

notice of the matter and issue directives to respondents to submit all details of works which had been carried out during at least last one year.

Citing the secretary of local government departments, KMC, mayor, municipal commissioner and others as respondents, the main petition was filed last month by the United Friends Contractors' Association and submitted that it was a society registered under the relevant laws and aimed to promote the practice of various kinds of civil, electrical and mechanical works related to its members' contractual and provide them protection.

The petitioner said that the contracts were awarded to the blue-eyed boys and there was no urgency shown to bypass the schemes as envisaged under the procurement laws.

Professor from Cambridge trains police officers in sexual violence investigation

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: An academic highlighted the importance of forensics, ballistics, fingerprints, etc., in the investigations of cases of sexual violence at a training programme organised for the officials of the newly established Special Sexual Offences Investigation Unit (SSOIU) on Saturday.

The session was held at the Central Police Office and Cambridge University Associate Professor Dr Susan Gurney gave online training to the officers with special reference to the case of American serial killer and rapist Ted Bundy.

The professor pointed out that Bundy had killed at least one woman a month between January 1974 and June 1975 across the US, including Washington, Colorado, Utah and Florida. He had confessed to have killed at least 35 women but he thought he murdered many more.

Gender-Based Crime and Human Rights official Assistant Inspector General Shahid Guroshi told Dawn that they studied the case of Ted Bundy, whose victim were women aged between 20 and 30 years.

Different tactics like forensics and bring marks on the body of the victims helped investigators to arrest the rapist. His mask and kit were recovered by traffic police from his car which the rapist used to wear while committing the heinous crimes that also helped the investigators, she said, adding that Dr Gurney shared tips and techniques of investigation with police officers to unearth facts in cases of sexual violence.

Speaking on the occasion, DIG-Crimes Amir Farooq on this occasion said that with effective and better investigation and presentation of a solid charter, conviction rate had increased.

DIG-Investigation Zulfikar Ali Maher said that different training programmes had been launched across Sindh for capacity building of police. He said in the first phase, the officers were being trained in all aspects of crime investigation techniques.

Fauzia Tariq and former IGP Niaz Ahmad Siddiqi also spoke.

Five hurt, arrested after 'encounters'

KARACHI: Police claimed to have arrested five suspected robbers in wounded condition following "encounters" in different parts of the city on Saturday.

They said that four suspects were arrested in two shootouts in Orangi Town, while the fifth one was taken into custody in Pak Colony.

The police claimed to have recovered illicit weapons, snatched cell phones and valuables from them. —Staff Reporter

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Azerbaijani artworks displayed at culture festival

By Pearzada Salman

KARACHI: One of the regular features of the 38-day World Culture Festival is the art exhibitions that run alongside theatrical performances, talks and music concerts. But they were hitherto confined to local art.

An exhibition titled *Second Life: The Art of Revival from Azerbaijan* that opened on Wednesday evening concluded on Saturday at the council's Ahmed Pervez Gallery.

The exhibition's concept author is Sona Guliyeva.

Talking to Dawn about the genesis of the show, the council's President Ahmed Shah said, "In 2018, I met head of the Azerbaijan Arts Council, Dadash Mammadov at a summit. We became very good friends. We discussed various aspects of collaboration between the artists and artworks of our two countries. As you know, he sent a group of ministers to take part in the initial phase of the ongoing World Culture Festival, and now this

exhibition is being held. We are also in talks for a festival in Baku in collaboration between the two councils [Pakistan and Azerbaijan]."

Mr Shah added, "Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy cordial relations. The current efforts are part of our outreach programmes. In this exhibition you will get to see carpets signifying the traditional art of Azerbaijan."

In order to obliterate the idea, a look at the note provided by the curator of the show, Dadash Mammadov, will suffice: "The project is a unique initiative focused on transforming old, damaged and unused carpets into art pieces through paintings. Artists partially paint at these carpets, preserving original elements of their patterns, thereby breathing a new life into them."

Recalling a new life may be the right claim, but even a cursory glance at the exhibits will inform the viewer on how rich and beautiful the traditional aspect of Azerbaijani art is. There are some remarkable pieces on

view and they are intricately linked to nature and land. Musical instruments, pots and pans, landscapes, animals and their relationship with humans... all are depicted in a manner that highlights the soulfulness with which they're made.



SOME of the artworks displayed at the exhibition — Faram Siddiqi / Vibe Star

KMC is authorised to take action against illegal construction: mayor

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab has announced that action will be taken against illegal construction in slum areas.

The mayor made this announcement while presiding over a meeting of the Karachi Abolition Department of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) at his office on Saturday.

He said that the KMC was authorised to stop illegal constructions, impose fines, and demolish unauthorised structures under the Slum Local Government Act.

He said orders had been issued for action against illegal constructions in Hazrat Mohani Colony, Mahmoodabad Naha, and Ghosia Colony.

He stated that constructing multi-story buildings, petrol pumps, and CNG stations in slum areas is prohibited, and immediate action should be taken against illegal constructions in these areas.

The public is advised not to engage in any illegal activities, otherwise, they will be responsible for their own losses if they participate in unauthorised construction, leasing, or related matters, he added.

He warned KMC employees if found involved in illegal activities would face anti-corruption cases and dismissal from services.

The mayor directed that maps of KMC's 202 kancha areas should be published on the KMC website.

He emphasised that public property is for public use, and all related procedures should be transparent. Any construction on drains is illegal and should be stopped immediately, he added.

17th edition of School of Tomorrow conference begins

Dawn Report

KARACHI: The 17th edition of School of Tomorrow (SOT) conference, titled "Guardians of the Future: Shaping Tomorrow with Generative AI" opened at a local hotel on Saturday.

This two-day event, organised by Beaconhouse, focuses on AI's expanding role in reshaping industries, redefining creativity, and challenging traditional concepts of ownership and responsibility, said a press release issued here.

For over 24 years, SOT has led forward-thinking discussions on societal transformation, with last year's edition also exploring AI's transformative power.

A highlight of this year is the inclusion of AI avatars as panelists, blending cutting-edge technology with real-world dialogues.

The event includes more than 30 sessions, expert paneling, debates, workshops, and keynote talks. Additionally, an immersive science exhibition created with MagnificScience offers hands-on experiences for attendees.

SOT Events chair and Beaconhouse CEO Karam Karami remarked, "As AI reshapes our lives, SOT's theme encourages us to become guardians — mentors and leaders guiding an inclusive, tech-enhanced future. This platform explores how we can thoughtfully integrate AI, balancing innovation with human values for generations to come."

Guest winner Shaheen Omar, Maha Chini, Irfanul Karim, Dr. Sohail Nagvi, Navin Zaminidar, Nafisa Shah, Dr. Andrew Hargreaves, Zohaib Lashari, Amber Rabia Siddiqi, Mohsin Navaid Bangla, Deepak Parwani and others spoke in different sessions.

'Strengthening law enforcement key to Pakistan's fight against terrorism'

Experts at PIAA session discuss SCO's role in conflict resolution, countering terrorism and promoting multilateralism

By Waqas Ali

KARACHI: Speakers at a session on Saturday said that the leading of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit by Pakistan will play an important role in terms of conflict resolution, countering terrorist groups and strengthen connectivity in the region.

They also stressed that there is a need to strengthen law enforcement agencies in the country, especially the police department, by developing their capacity through professional training, ensuring merit and, more importantly, addressing issues of funding.

The session, titled "SCO Summit: Multilateralism, Connectivity and Counterterrorism" was organised by the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) at its library. It was moderated by PIIA chairperson Dr Masuma Hasan.

Addressing the audience, Ambassador Mustafa Kamal Kazi said the SCO is a powerful and viable organisation to promote multilateralism and connectivity in the region and to play a role in conflict resolution and counter the threat of terrorism.

He said Pakistan and the SCO have a symbiotic relation by which both nations strengthen each other, adding that along with ongoing cooperation there is need to increase trade with Iran and Central and West Asian countries.

Atish Nadeem, former inspector general of police (IGP) and director general of National Police Bureau, said SCO has the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) for countering terrorism, separatism and religious extremism in the member countries.

He added that it can be very useful in intelligence sharing, which is very crucial in addressing the acid threats, especially that of terrorism.

In response to a question about whether the recent terrorist attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan could weaken the country's standing in the SCO, Mr Nadeem said there have been several such attacks and it could naturally affect the country's standing.

He said militant groups are mainly targeting Chinese investment in Pakistan. There are many such groups. Some of them are jihadist while others are separatists like the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), he said and added that there is a strong suspicion that some of these groups are being funded by India along with certain western powers but proving that often becomes a problem.

He said these groups are also afraid that their presence in the country would end if the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) succeeds.

Altogether groups operating from Afghanistan, he said "We can't expect Afghanistan to eradicate or control such groups."

He said Pakistan has to tackle these issues and for that, strengthening the law enforcement departments, especially the police, was very important. And that, he said, can be done by developing their capacity through professional training, ensuring merit and competence, and more importantly, by addressing issues of funding as per sequestered are not paid enough salary while monetary issues hamper their operational capacity.

In the end, PIIA chairperson Dr Masuma Hasan stressed the need to acknowledge the sacrifices of security personnel who have laid their lives in fight against terrorism.

World Culture Festival concludes

Continued from Page 13

Mr Ahmed Shah came to him with the proposal that he wanted to do an international festival. "I said yes. He came back after six months. At the time we were having security challenges. Such a big event was to be held, more than 40 countries and local artists and their management was required. Our

administration and Shah sahib's team observed the credit for it. But the biggest credit goes to the people of Karachi."

Azwar Majid said, "I came to Pakistan in 1948 and never left Karachi. There is no better city than Karachi. Yes, the young, should promise that you will put the country on the right path. I'm 85 years of age. But all my

life, I wanted was to bring a smile to your faces."

"The festival that's concluding today is a miracle. It was a dream to bring artists from 40 countries here. It's unbelievable. The dream has come true. When I was coming to the venue today I thought I was in Istanbul because there were containers all around. But it was for your security. I talked with

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Salman hopes Pakistan's pacers will come good Down Under Pg.20 SPORT

ISLAMABAD
Sunset 05:17pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:26am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 18°C
Maximum 30°C
Outlook Mostly Sunny

METRO North



The escalator at the Faisalabad metro bus station in Rawalpindi remains out of order much to the apathy of the relevant authorities. — Photo by Mohammed Asim

Murree civil defence 'under-staffed' to deal with snow season

Department's request for 90 additional workers remains unanswered

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: After getting no response from the Punjab government regarding the allocation of funds for the deployment of the staff to perform winter and snowfall duties in Murree, the Civil Defence Department has departed only 10 members in the city to deal with snow-related tasks.

However, the provincial government failed to provide any additional staff to the civil defence department to perform rescue services and provide first aid to the people in case of snowfall, or any untoward situation. A senior official of the department told Dawn that there was a shortage of staff in the department and it sought help from the Punjab government, particularly for the budget to deploy staff in Murree after training.

He said that the civil defence officials were supposed to perform duties at facilitation centres, health camps, sensitive junctions, the control room, and facilitating tourists in case of emergencies. At present, there are only 10 members which is negligible with regards to the task at hand.

On the other hand, the Murree administration has completed its plan for the highway and police to deploy their staff in the hill station by November 15. A senior official of the administration said that there was a shortage of staff in different departments and the administration asked them to deploy all the staff as per the contingency plan for the winter season to avoid any untoward situation.

Bail pleas of KP chief minister's aide, others dismissed

By Malik Azeed

ISLAMABAD: District and Sessions Court Islamabad on Saturday dismissed pre-arrest bail petitions of KP chief minister's special assistant and other officials allegedly involved in a smear campaign against Judge Hamayun Dildar.

They were on pre-arrest interim bail and required to appear before the court. However, the Chief Minister's Special Assistant on Anti-Corruption retired Brigadier Mohammad Muzaffar Khan along with ACP officials Siddique Anjum and Umar Siddique did not appear before Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Afzal Majeed. Due to their absence despite the issuance of two summonses the court dismissed their bail petitions on grounds of non-prosecution.

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) produced Assistant Director Anti-Corruption Umar Saadiq before Senior Civil Judge Mohammad Afzal Majeed, alleging he circulated a social media video linked to the case. The FIA sought a seven-day physical remand, citing a need to identify other suspects. Saadiq denied his involvement, claiming he was falsely accused after releasing alleged favours, and pointed out that the actual linker had received interim bail.

In a related development, Siddique Anjum refilled a pre-arrest bail petition before Judge Majeed, appearing with his lawyer Nasirullah Khan Niaz. The court granted him interim bail against bonds worth Rs20,000 and set the next hearing for November 11.

The FIA registered the First Information Report (FIR) against Anjum, Majeed, KP officials and a vigilante for allegedly attempting to discredit Judge Hamayun Dildar. The judge had earlier convicted former prime minister Inayat Khan in the Tashkhan case.



A shopkeeper arranges dry fruit in his shop at Aabpara Market in Islamabad. — AFP

Over 1,500 accidents in October claim 10 lives: Rescue 1122

One person killed in 77 fire incidents

By Mohammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: Ten people were killed and over 1500 were wounded, including 891 who were seriously injured, in 1,542 road traffic accidents in Rawalpindi district in October, according to Rescue 1122.

Most of the victims of road traffic accidents were between the ages of 11 and 40 years. Among the victims, 1,294 were males and 258 were women.

A spokesman for the emergency service released the monthly statistics for October 2024 as it had received a total of 40,971 calls on the helpline in October. Out of 40,971 calls received on the emergency helpline, 6,363 calls are related to accidents

and emergencies. The rescue service crew responded in time to all accidents, maintaining the average response time. In an effort to bring down road traffic fatalities, the emergency services launched awareness programmes, training programmes in schools, colleges and other programmes.

The spokesman said 5,363 accidents and emergencies included road traffic accidents, fires, crimes, drowning, building/room collapses, gas/cylinder explosions, medical problems, and minor harassment incidents.

and the firefighters brought the fire under control by taking timely action. The timely response averted a potential loss of Rs117 million in these fire incidents. Causes of fire included short circuits, careless use of cigarettes, gas leakage, explosion of gas cylinders, and others.

Pindi continues to receive dengue cases

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: While temperature has dropped to 10 degrees Celsius in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, there is still no end to dengue cases in the garrison city. On Saturday, 99 patients tested positive for dengue virus and landed in government hospitals from different parts of the district.

A total of 4938 people have been affected by the virus in the current season and 11 deaths from the disease while 4647 patients were discharged from hospitals after treatment. As many as 291 patients are currently admitted in hospitals and seven of them are critical while the dengue serology reports of 10 are awaited.

Officials said 66 patients were in Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 91 in Holy Family Hospital, 47 in Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital, 26 in Faqir Foundation Hospital and 63 in private hospital. Most of the patients arrived from Dhoke Murchhese, Kotla Kulan, Tench Bhutta, Satellite Town, Mangal, Ashraf Colony, Naseemabad, Shalvi Valley, Adala Road, Rahmatabad, Chakkala, Gulistan Colony, Dhamsal, Takht Pan, Ganga, Chak Jalandin and adjoining areas.

Role of Frontier Constabulary vital for ensuring peace, security: minister

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday said the role of Frontier Constabulary (FC) was of utmost importance in ensuring peace and security.

He said this during his meeting with police officers from the 49th Common who had recently been posted in Frontier Constabulary. He expressed his good wishes to the officers on their appointment in the Frontier Constabulary.

Addressing the officers, Mr Naqvi said the Frontier Constabulary was also fighting alongside other law enforcement agencies in the war against terrorism.

— Detailed story on Page 15.

PRAYER

Fajr 05:07
Zuhr 11:55
Asr 03:39
Maghreb 05:17
Isha 06:41

Starting time in Islamabad

REFLECTIONS

“**TO OVERCOME YOUR SHOWS, YOUR WORRIES AND YOUR MISFORTUNES WITH PATIENCE AND FAITH IN THE MERCIFUL LORD AND YOUR HARD WORK.**”

— HAZRAT ALE (A.S.)

7861427



A PAINTER puts final touches to a floral painting on the wall of the Zero Point Interchange in Islamabad on Saturday. — BNP

Worker falls to death

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: A construction worker died after falling from the fourth floor of an under-construction building in a private housing society near Islamabad International Airport on Friday.

The construction worker identified as Mohammad Hussain, 68, a resident of Jhang, slipped from the stairs of the fourth floor of the building and fell on the ground. He died on the spot.

Later, Nasarabad police arrived at the scene, and after carrying out paperwork, handed over the body to the family.

PMDC achieves new milestone in case processing efficiency

By Iqbal Jureidi

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has achieved a milestone in case processing efficiency through its new processing portal as 71,361 out of 75,279 cases have been processed by issuing relevant documents.

The council has made significant strides in streamlining its operations with the launch of its new licensing portal, achieving efficiency and high success rates in case processing.

“Since the portal’s inception a few months ago, on the diligent efforts of the

President PMDC Prof Dr Razaan Tal, Council has significantly expedited the processing and issuance of various certifications, demonstrating a strong commitment to timely and transparent service delivery for medical professionals across Pakistan,” a statement claimed.

“As of the latest data, 71,361 out of 75,279 cases have been completed and issued by the PMDC. These cases included change in data/licenses, extension of provisional certifications, full registration certificates, good standing certificates, provisional licenses, provisional licenses for foreign graduates, removal of license and registration of postgraduate qualifications,” it stated.

“These numbers represent a high rate of processing efficiency, underscoring PMDC’s dedication to service enhancement for the medical community. The portal’s user-friendly interface and streamlined back-end processing have resulted in quicker turnaround times and greater accessibility for medical professionals.

PMDC remains committed to continuous improvement and digital innovation, ensuring that the needs of the medical fraternity are met swiftly and effectively.

The council extends its gratitude to all stakeholders involved in making the portal a success and looks forward to setting even higher service delivery standards in the future,” it stated.

“PMDC has taken a pivotal step to streamline the recognition of teaching experience for medical professionals. A portal for the same has been recently launched through which targeted measures and accelerated processing, PMDC has reduced the time required for medical professionals to receive formal recognition of their teaching experience. This progress will not only benefit medical educators but also enhance the broader healthcare sector by recognizing and empowering skilled educators more swiftly,” it stated.

AJK water filtration company fined Rs200,000

By Our Staff Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Food Authority has imposed a fine of Rs200,000 on a Muzaffarabad-based water filtration company after finding it guilty of producing and distributing counterfeit and sub-standard mineral water.

During a routine inspection last month at the Evians Water Filter Plant in Muzaffarabad’s Upper Chatter neighborhood, the food authority officials discovered hundreds of bottles branded as Nestlé alongside the company’s own

branded bottles.

The unusual presence of Nestlé-branded bottles raised suspicions, leading the team to seal the facility and seal water samples for laboratory testing, said Akhbar Hussain Kiani, AJK Food Department Director and chief executive secretary of the food authority.

“When we contact of Nestlé, they confirmed that Evians Water Filter Plant was not authorized to use or sell their brand,” Mr Kiani said.

The confiscated samples were then sent to the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIIR) laboratory in Islamabad and the AJK

Environmental Protection Agency in Muzaffarabad for detailed analysis.

Following the lab reports, the food authority imposed a fine of Rs100,000 on Evians for counterfeiting Nestlé bottles and an additional fine of Rs100,000 for distributing unsafe and substandard water.

Mr Kiani asserted that the food authority was committed to protecting public health through strict and impartial action.

“We are rigorously enforcing standards across the food and beverage sector to uphold the orders of the AJK Supreme Court which stands fully on our back,” he said.

Iran keen on developing medical tourism with Pakistan: envoy

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Iran has shown interest in developing and enhancing medical tourism between the two nations.

This was said by Iranian Ambassador Reza Amir Moghadam while addressing participants of an event held at Maroof International Hospital during its Annual Staff Post, a celebration dedicated to recognize the work and commitment of its employees.

“Events like these not only boost morale but also reinforce the strong team spirit that is vital for any successful organization,” the Iranian ambassador said.

Highlighting the strong historical ties between Iran and Pakistan, Mr Moghadam expressed Iran’s readiness to expand scientific exchange and collaboration with Pakistan and discuss the potential for developing medical tourism between the two nations.

The hospital’s CEO, Haroon Naveed, and the ambassador discussed potential collaboration in various medical fields, including research, surgery and liver transplantation.

“In Pakistan, the nurse-to-patient ratio is approximately 1:40, significantly lower than the recommended 3:10 ratio. This shortage places immense pressure on the healthcare system. We are dedicated to addressing this issue by investing in the training and development of our nursing staff to ensure high-quality patient care,” Mr Naveed said.

The judgment was announced in an open court after considering evidence and arguments from the prosecution and the defence sides.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs500,000 on him, which is to be paid to the legal heirs of the victim.

The culprit will also face an additional 6 months in jail if a failed to pay the fine.

The same court sentenced to death Shahid Khan for killing his brother-in-law Mujahid Khan over family feud in Mohallah Daplar Kareem in the jurisdiction of Wah Suddar police station on April 12, 2022.

The judge announced his verdict after recording evidence from both sides. The judge ruled that the prosecution had successfully proved the charges against the accused, and handed down the death sentence to him.

PARAPLEGIC CENTRE PESHAWAR HAYATABAD

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Paraplegic Centre Peshawar (PCP), invites applications from dedicated and dynamic professionals holding the requisite qualification and experience to fill the following vacancies on regular basis.

S. No.	Vacancy	Gender	QPS	Required Experience and Minimum Qualification	Max. Age (Year)
1.	Physiotherapist	MF	08	• Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPT) from any HEC recognized University. • Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.	37
2.	Behavior Therapist	MF	08	• BS Behavior Sciences from any HEC recognized university with certification in ABA. OR • BS Psychology from any HEC recognized university with certification in ABA. • Preferably one year experience of working with autism spectrum disorders in recognized institution.	37
3.	Orthopedic / Prosthetist	MF	08	• BS in Orthotics / Prosthetics from any HEC recognized University. • Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.	37
4.	Occupational Therapist	MF	08	• BS in Occupational Therapy from any HEC recognized University. • Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.	37
5.	Audiologist	MF	08	• BS in Audiology from any HEC recognized University. • Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.	37
6.	Optometrist	MF	08	• BS Vision Sciences from any HEC recognized University. • Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.	37
7.	Staff Nurse	MF	07	• BSN from any HEC recognized University. • Registered with PNC. • Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.	37
8.	Nurse Assistant	MF	05	• SSC Science with Two years’ diploma in Health Technology. • Work experience of 01 year, preferably in physical Rehab.	37
9.	Sanitization Assistant	MF	05	• SSC Science with Diploma in Surgical Technology. • Work experience of 01 year, in relevant field.	37
10.	X-Ray Technician	MF	05	• SSC Science with two years’ Diploma in Radiology. • Work experience of 01 year, in relevant field.	37

INSTRUCTIONS:-

- Any candidate may be disqualified and / or excluded from interview if he/she was:
 - Convicted by the court of law (b) Dismissed from public service (c) Knowingly furnishes any false information (d) Submits forged documents/ tampered documents.
- Only eligible shortlisted candidates will be called for Test/Interview on the basis of submitted documents.
- The Centre reserves the rights to increase the number of vacancies depending upon vacant posts.
- No TA/DA shall be allowed for attending the Test/Interview.

HOW TO APPLY:-

- Application forms and job descriptions are available on: www.paraplegiccenter.org
- A Cash Receipt/Bank Draft (non refundable) of Rs.1000/- from S. No. 01-07 and Rs.500/- for S. No. 08-10, must be attached with application form. (Account no. PG298098 172100-217813000, MCB Islamic bank limited).
- Candidates meeting the above mentioned criteria are invited to send their applications (Employment Form) along with their CVs, two passport size photographs, attested photocopies of academic/experience credentials, domicile and CNIC to the HR Department, Paraplegic Centre Peshawar, Street No. 10, Sector P-4, Phase-II, Hayatabad.
- Govt. servant/ autonomous body’s employees shall apply through proper channel.
- Applications must reach on 28th November, 2024.

Chief Executive Officer INF/P/2015/024
Paraplegic Centre Hayatabad, Peshawar

Conference at Wah varsity discusses scientific, technological challenges

By Our Correspondent

TAKHLA: The Ninth Multidisciplinary Student Research Conference (MDSRC 2024) concluded at University of Wah on Saturday, which addressed emerging technological, scientific and socio-economic challenges.

The two-day conference attracted over 150 participants including scholars and researchers from different countries. Renowned speakers from Turkey and Pakistan gave informative presentations on a wide range of topics.

The discussions further encompassed areas like Data Science, Material Science, Electronics, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Artificial Intelligence and Software Engineering.

The conference included keynote addresses from distinguished Turkish scholars, such as Professor Nihal Bayraktar, Professor Necla Cakmak, Professor Yasin Polat and Professor Ismail Sarpong.

Pakistani academics, including Professor Dr Nadeem Ahmad Shahi, Professor Dr Muhammad Ashar Siddiqi, Professor Dr Mohsin Siddiqi, Professor Dr Manzoor Ali Khan Khattak, Professor Dr Abdul



A FOREIGN participant presents her paper at the Multidisciplinary Student Research Conference at the University of Wah on Saturday. — Dawn

Rashid and D Saifullah provided valuable thoughts at the conference.

In his opening remarks, the university’s vice chancellor, Professor Dr Jamshed Nadeem, accentuated the critical role of international partnerships in shaping a prosperous future.

He emphasized the need for robust scientific, economic, and cultural collaboration between brotherly countries Pakistan

and Türkiye to promote world peace.

The chief guest, Professor Dr Anwarul Haqman Gilani, fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, applauded the University of Wah for organizing a platform that encourages intellectual exchange between students and academics.

Dr Gilani also enlightened the audience with ‘Sustainable Development, focusing on Food

Security and Health.

MDSRC 2024 concluded with a resounding commitment to continued collaboration and exploration of emerging technologies and social challenges.

This commitment instilled a sense of hope and optimism about the potential for future partnerships and joint research projects initiated through the conference.

Man gets 14 years jail term for attempting to rape girl

By Our Correspondent

TAKHLA: A local court on Saturday sentenced a man to 14 years in jail for attempting to rape eight-year-old girl near her home in the limits of Wah Suddar police station in 2019.

An FIR was lodged against the nominated accused under sections 376 (punishment for rape) and 511 (attempt to commit offences punishable with imprisonment for life or for a shorter term) of the PPC on the complaint of the victim’s father.

Additional Sessions Judge Muzaffar Nawaz Malik announced the verdict after final arguments from the prosecution and defence sides.

The judge also imposed a fine of Rs100,000 on the convict and if he failed to pay the fine, he would have to undergo an additional three months of simple imprisonment.

He was remanded back to the prison to serve out the sentence.

Two sentenced to death

Two murder convicts were handed down death sentence for killing wife and brother-in-law in two different cases registered against them in 2018 and 2022 respectively in the limits of Wah Suddar Police station.

In the first case, a man was sentenced to death for killing his wife over a domestic dispute in Takhla.

Takhla’s Additional Sessions Judge Muzaffar Nawaz Malik on Friday convicted Imdadullah for the murder of his 25-year-old wife Fatima Bibi at her parent’s house located on Gatta road in the limits of Wah Suddar police station on June 22, 2018.

JKLF concerned over deteriorating health of Yasin Malik

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: The pro-independence Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) has expressed deep concern over the deteriorating health of its imprisoned chairman, Yasin Malik, and has renewed its appeal to world leaders, human rights organisations, and concerned voices in India to intervene and help save his life.

"The denial of adequate medical care to a prominent political prisoner of Mr Malik's stature by the Indian government constitutes a grave human rights violation that demands urgent attention from international bodies, particularly human rights organisations and defenders," said JKLF chief spokesperson Rafiq Dar in a statement.

Mr Malik, who began an indefinite hunger strike on Friday to protest the lack of adequate medical treatment from Delhi's Tihar Jail authorities, is a chronic heart patient requiring lifelong anticoagulants and regular INR testing following a heart valve replacement surgery in 1992.

He has also faced significant health challenges, including facial nerve paralysis since 1990, left hydrocephalus since 2010, recurrent renal stones, and a renal cortical cyst, requiring five surgeries over the past 20 years.

Mr Dar maintained that Mr Malik had been unjustly targeted by the Narendra Modi-led government despite his commitment to a non-violent, peaceful struggle for Kashmiri self-determination and his support for a dialogue-based resolution.

"A person like Yasin Malik, who believes in non-violent resistance and a peaceful resolution, should not be punished for his political beliefs," Mr Dar said.

"Peaceful advocacy for Kashmiri rights, including the right to self-determination — an aspiration supported widely by the Kashmiri people — cannot and should not be criminalised or met with inhumane treatment," he added.

He lamented that despite court directives on petitions filed by his family and verbal assurances from authorities, including a recent assurance given following his last jail protest just two months ago, Mr Malik had still not received adequate medical care based on renewed assessments of his health condition.

Mr Dar lashed at the Tihar Jail authorities further for "deliberate neglect" that had placed Mr Malik's life in serious danger.

He expressed disappointment that despite widespread awareness within Indian political, judicial, and civil society circles of Mr Malik's peaceful struggle and sacrifices, "short-sighted political and economic interests, coupled with bias, prevented them from acknowledging the truth and ensuring justice for this steadfast leader."

Mr Dar also called upon the Kashmiri people on both sides of the ceasefire line and in the diaspora to pray for Mr Malik's swift release and recovery.



VISITORS take interest in photographs on display at a wildlife exhibition in Islamabad on Saturday. — Online

Role of Frontier Constabulary vital for ensuring peace, security: minister

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday said the role of Frontier Constabulary (FC) was of utmost importance in ensuring peace and security. He said this during his meeting with police officers from the 49th common who had recently been posted in Frontier Constabulary. He expressed his good wishes to the officers on their appointment to the Frontier Constabulary.

Addressing the officers, Mr Naqvi said the Frontier Constabulary was also fighting alongside other law enforcement agencies in the war against terrorism.

Mr Naqvi said the 10 brave men of FC recently sacrificed their precious lives in Dera Ismail Khan, setting the highest example in the line of duty. He emphasised that the sacrifices of FC personnel have further strengthened their resolve against terrorism and the nation greatly valued their sacrifices.

The interior minister said the Frontier Constabulary was being equipped with modern technology and equipment. He said young officers could bring new life to any institution and stressed that they should perform their duties according

to the highest standards of honesty, discipline and moral conduct.

"You have to improve the overall reputation of law enforcement agencies in the eyes of people with your dedication and hard work," he said, adding that good behaviour with people is the trait of a good officer.

Mr Naqvi stressed the need for establishing strong relationships with people instead of traditional relationships. He said make a name for yourself in good deeds which would become your identity and go out of the way to help and serve people.

He further said officers who served people and lived in their hearts did not need any recommendations.

Interior Secretary Khuram Ali Akhla and Commandant Frontier Constabulary Riaz Nasir Gani were also present on the occasion.



INTERIOR Minister Mohsin Naqvi holds a meeting with police officers from the 49th common recently posted to Frontier Constabulary in Islamabad on Saturday. — APP

Journalists' protection top priority

In a special message on International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists being observed on Nov 2 (today), Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that the government would take all steps to protect journalists.

The federal minister said that a favourable and secure environment is crucial for journalists to perform their duties. He said journalists had a heavy responsibility to inform the public by the authentic information.

Mohsin Naqvi emphasised that journalists should clearly distinguish between truth and falsehood and focus on responsible journalism, advancing Pakistan's agenda rather than anyone else's.

He lamented that journalism

has become entangled in a whirlpool where the distinction between truth and falsehood has almost disappeared. He highlighted that a mafia, both inside and outside the field, is actively perpetrating crimes against the journalistic community, exerting influence.

Mr Naqvi said that there is a long list of crimes against journalists, and it is essential for all segments of society, along with governments, to play their part in preventing these crimes. He expressed solidarity with journalists who had become victims of crimes, reiterating the commitment to take all necessary measures to prevent crimes against journalists.

The federal minister reaffirmed the commitment to taking all necessary measures to prevent crimes against journalists.

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Kaspersky, Transworld join hands to offer online child safety App

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: With the spread of digital devices and extensive information available online, parents' concerns are increasingly about how to protect their children from inappropriate content and excessive device use.

Kaspersky, a global cybersecurity company, has announced a strategic partnership with Transworld, a leading internet and TV service provider in Pakistan, to offer Kaspersky Safe Kids — a cutting-edge parental control and child safety application.

According to a statement, the joint venture aims to deliver enhanced online safety for children while providing parents with peace of mind as they monitor and manage their children's digital activities.

It includes GPS Tracking to view children's real-time location and safe areas to create a secure perimeter with a schedule specifying when the child should be inside it and sounding an alarm when the child leaves the area during the set time.

Detailed reports on children's applications and web usage allow parents to stay informed about their online activities.

"This exclusivity solution also allows setting daily time limits for specific apps to prevent excessive screen time and device addiction.

Parents can ensure safe browsing by filtering inappropriate content.

It is part of our commitment to enhance the digital experience of the customers," IT Director at Transworld Pakistan Muzamir Kaldhani said.

"We believe App will help Pakistani parents make their children's online activities safe and positive," General Manager in the Middle East and Pakistan at Kaspersky Rashid Al Momani said.

Theft case registered after victim's complaint to DIG

By Munawar Azam

ISLAMABAD: A resident of the capital got a case registered about theft in his house after lodging a complaint against the police officials for their refusal to do so.

Tariq Mehmood lodged a complaint at the deputy inspector general of police (DIG) complaint cell after officials at the Ramna police station did not file a case about the theft.

The citizen in his complaint stated that at about 1am on October 29-Saturday, Note 8, Kamran A12, Infrax New 12, Oppo A5, iPhone 12, Samsung Galaxy, cash Rs100,000 and grocery worth Rs40,000 were stolen from his house. He approached the Ramna police station but officials there did not register a case. He requested the DIG for instruction to concerned officials to register the case

for recovery of the stolen cash and valuables and punishment to the culprits.

Officials of the capital police said in response to the complaint, directives were issued after which the FIR was registered.

However, no action was taken against the station clerk, duty officer or station house officer of the Ramna police station over their failure to receive the complaint and register the FIR.

The official said the case registration by the capital police in the current year remained 36.43 per cent. The police registered only 18,628 FIRs in response to 51,123 complaints received from January 1 to September 30.

Apparently, the police seemed reluctant to register 63.47 per cent (32,495) of the cases. Either this is an attempt to downplay the crime rate in the city or the police are not convinced that the complainants were victims.

IHC's Justice Babar not to proceed with planned leave

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Justice Babar Sattar of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has chosen not to proceed with his planned leave and will continue hearing cases according to the regular court schedule. Sattar has learnt through sources.

Justice Sattar, who had been on leave from September 30 to October 29, initially informed the court administration of his unavailability from November 4 to November 21.

However, recent updates from the registrar's office confirm that he has decided to remain on duty, and the court has subsequently

issued the cases list with cases assigned to his bench.

Justice Sattar's work has gained public attention due to his involvement in sensitive cases.

Earlier, he and five other judges submitted a letter detailing incidents of harassment by intelligence agencies.

Justice Sattar is currently presiding over the audio leak case, which involves allegations of state-authorized surveillance by state agencies.

Justice Sattar had previously submitted a complaint to IHC Chief Justice Asim Farooq, highlighting that he was being targeted due to his stance in the audio leak case.

AKU launches free, online nutrition courses for healthcare professionals

By Kalba Ali

ISLAMABAD: In view of malnutrition faced by children and adolescent girls in the country, the Aga Khan University (AKU) has launched free, online nutrition courses for healthcare professionals.

The courses will be conducted by the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) of the AKU.

These courses are part of the IGNITE initiative, a project aimed at empowering health professionals to provide essential nutrition care particularly for women, children, and adolescent girls.

The project 'Increase Gains in Nutrition by Integration, Education, Evaluation and Empowerment' (IGNITE) is a collaborative, five-year capacity-building initiative launched in 2021.

Focused on improving nutrition services in Pakistan, Ghana and Malawi, the project is funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented in Pakistan by IGHD in partnership with the Centre for Global Child Health at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), Nutrition International, and WaterAid Pakistan.

Speaking at the launch, Dr Zulfikar A. Bhutta of IGHD said the courses had been designed in context of Pakistan to address the local challenges.

These offer accessible, interactive training tailored to Pakistan's healthcare needs. It is targeted at doctors, dietitians, nurses, and midwives. The courses equip professionals with practical skills to integrate nutrition care into their clinical practices.

By highlighting the connections between gender, environment, and nutrition, the courses aim to deliver

equitable care and address Pakistan's unique healthcare challenges.

Available on the World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA) platform, these mobile-friendly courses allow participants to access content from any device with offline options for internet flexibility.

Upon completion, participants will receive certificates accredited by the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Pakistan Medical Council.

IGNITE's courses will play a vital role in strengthening child, adolescent and maternal nutrition care, contributing to improved health outcomes for Pakistan's most vulnerable populations.

Health professionals interested in the programme can register at www.education/register by selecting Pakistan and their respective organisations.



LABOURERS face tough lives on a government in a market in Islamabad. — APP

METRO

Central



Salman hopes Pakistan pacers will come good Down Under

Pg.18 SPORT

LAHORE
Sunset 05:14 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:18 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 18.0°C
Maximum 32.0°C
Outlook Sunny
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 1067

Imran should face a military trial, says Azma

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari says Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan should face a military trial.

"The mastermind (Imran Khan) of May 9 should face a military trial. The PTI suspects of May 9 should be tried in military courts," the minister asserted at a presser here on Saturday. She said the statues of martyrs were smashed and warplanes were set on fire. Even he (Khan) himself had justified military trials so why not for the suspects of the May 9, she said and added that the PTI's objective was creating chaos as it was not interested in improving the conditions of the people and development.

Ms Bokhari said the PTI should know that the courts could not be manipulated through deals.

"We are the slaves, will be a new slogan of the PTI as it has set its hopes on Trump's victory to seek Khan's release," she said.

The minister lamented that funds from the KP government, already in a financial crisis, were now being used for the security of Imran Khan's family.

"Bashra Bibi, Khan's wife, has brought her own security from the KP to Zaman Park."

Azma Bokhari highlighted a number of initiatives Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had taken up after assuming the power.

"Maryam Nawaz has launched over 80 initiatives within a year and all are being implemented," she said and added that a public sector cancer hospital in Lahore costing Rs64bn with a capacity of 520 beds would be built where no patient would be denied treatment. She said the Punjab government would establish agricultural malls in four cities: Sahiwal, Nargodha, Bahawalpur and Multan.



PAHMA YAR KHAN: An 80-foot breach in the Lakhi canal of Tilka Bangla Flood inundated crops and settlements on Saturday. Villagers said the breach was caused by poor condition of canal banks. None from irrigation staff reached the spot to plug the breach till the evening. FWW Superintending Engineer Yehaz Hussain told Dawn that he could not say anything as he was busy in a meeting. — Photo and text by Mansur Haq

Chief justice advocates developing jail reforms policy

Forms panel to inspect prisons; series of meetings to continue in other cities

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Atrifi on Saturday chaired a session in Lahore inaugurating discussion for developing "National Jail Reform Policy" focusing on prison reforms and the welfare of inmates.

The participants in the consultative meeting included Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Adia Noorhan, LHC administrative judge Justice Shamsi Muhammad Mirza, the provincial secretary of the home and prosecution departments, inspectors general of police and prisons departments, the secretary of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP), the superintendent of central prison Lahore and human rights activist Saleem

Amin Khawaja. Members from both treasury and opposition political parties - PML-N Senator Ahsan Khan Chaudhry and PTI activist Khadija Shah - who underwent incarceration in jail also attended the meeting on a special invite.

Senator Chaudhry, a former bar-at-law, was initially arrested by the NAB in 2018 following revelation of illegal assets and the Ashraf-ul-Islam Housing scheme against him. He remained in jail till 2021 when the Supreme Court granted him bail. Later, he was acquitted of the charges in all cases filed against him.

Ms Shah, a fashion designer and granddaughter of former army chief Asif Nawaz Janjira, was arrested following the registration of cases of May 9 riots against the PTI leaders and workers. She was released on bail in December last year.

Chief Justice Atrifi shared his vision for modernizing Pakistan's criminal justice system, stressing that a humane and effective prison system is essential to ensure a fair legal framework, said a statement

issued by the LJCP. He noted that data collected by the LJCP reveals a deeply concerning situation nationwide, with 108,643 inmates housed in facilities with an authorized capacity of only 46,325.

The data shows Punjab faces particularly severe challenges, with 67,837 prisoners confined in prisons built to accommodate just 36,345. Of these 36,128 are under-trial prisoners, many of whom have been awaiting trial for over a year.

The CJP emphasized the importance of addressing these urgent issues in Punjab, beginning a phased approach that will ultimately extend to the entire country. He said the series of consultative meetings, which started in Lahore, will continue across other cities in Pakistan to gather insights and build consensus on reform initiatives.

The agenda centered on the LJCP's proposed, a National Jail Reform Policy in alignment with international standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules, Bangkok Rules, and Beijing Rules,

to ensure humane and rehabilitative management across Pakistan's correctional facilities.

The meeting participants also discussed the possibility of establishing a jail reforms committee, aimed at developing strategies to reduce overcrowding, enhance inmate welfare, and improve case processing efficiency.

The CJP constituted a sub-committee comprising retired justice Shafiqur Raheem, Ms Khawaja, Senator Chaudhry and Ms Shah to inspect the jails across the province and to give recommendations to streamline processes to address the high numbers of under-trial prisoners and promote alternative sentencing options, including community service and probation.

The statement said, under the guidance of Chief Justice Atrifi, and with the dedicated data collection and analytical support provided by the LJCP, these initiatives are intended to bring about transformative, systemic improvements within

Continued on Page 14

Prosecution gets more time in Imran cases

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Saturday allowed the prosecution more time to present its arguments on the re-arrest bail petitions of PTI founding chairman Imran Khan in four cases of the May 9 riots.

Earlier, barrister Salman Sabharwal appeared before the court on behalf of the petitioner. He said the court had given the prosecution 15 opportunities to present arguments.

"Now people are questioning me on social media for the delay in the proceedings," he said. The counsel said he even received a message from jail, asking about the status of the Lahore cases.

Judge Arshad Javed adjourned the hearing till Nov 8.

Hearing on bail petitions of Imran in four other cases was postponed due to the unavailability of the judge.

PETITION: A sister of Imran Khan has approached the Lahore High Court, seeking details of the cases registered against him.

Naween Khan filed a petition, stating that her brother was being continuously targeted for political revenge through rape cases. She argued that every citizen had the right to be informed of the cases filed against them. Saying that there were unknown cases registered against Imran, she asked the court to order the authorities to furnish details of all cases against him. She also urged the court to prevent his brother's arrest in any unknown case.

— Staff Reporter

Non-bailable warrants for six PTI leaders in May 9 case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Saturday issued non-bailable warrants for the arrest of six absconding Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in connection with another case related to the May 9 riots, as they failed to appear in court.

The Gilgert police had registered a case against the PTI leaders for burning a container and police vehicles during the May 9 protests. The suspects include former federal ministers Muzaf Saeed and Hameed Azhar, former provincial minister Mian Aslam Iqbal, as well as Zubair Niaz, Hamid Raza Gillani and Wasq Qayyum.

The investigating officer (IO) informed the court that the sus-

pects had gone into hiding to avoid arrest. The IO requested the court to issue non-bailable warrants for the suspects as a prerequisite to declaring them proclaimed offenders (POs).

Granting the request, the court issued non-bailable warrants for the arrest of the PTI leaders.

Several PTI leaders, including Hameed Azhar, Muzaf Saeed, Azam Saeed, Farukh Baloch, Mian Aslam Iqbal, Anshob Abbas, Karamat Khokhar and Zubair Niaz have already been declared POs in multiple cases related to the May 9 incidents for failing to surrender to law enforcement.

Following the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan by NAB in a graft case, the police in Lahore registered multiple cases

against PTI leaders and workers, accusing them of vandalizing public and private property, including army facilities and the residence of the corps commander.

RAIL: An anti-terrorism court on Saturday extended the interim pre-arrest bail of PTI Secretary General Saleem Akram Raja in cases related to the party's Oct 6 protest in the city.

Judge Arshad Javed also directed the investigating officers to submit their reports at the next hearing. The cases were filed at police stations in Shafiqabad, Mangora, Lorry Adda and Maati Gate, with Raja and other PTI leaders named in the FIRs. The judge also extended the bail of Ahsan Khan Pata in the same cases until Nov 23.

Man, two sons killed by rivals on way to court

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A man and his two sons were shot dead allegedly by their opponents at Rawi Bridge in Shahdara on Saturday.

Police said Saeed (50), his two sons Yaseer (30) and Naeem (25) and accomplice Jafar Meo, riding a rickshaw, were going to attend a court hearing in a murder case against them when their opponents riding motorcycles approached them at Rawi Bridge.

Police said the suspects stopped the rickshaw on the bridge, pulled out their guns and shot dead Saeed and his two sons and injured Jafar. The suspects fled the scene. The rickshaw driver remained safe.

Police reached the spot, collected evidence and shifted the bodies to the morgue. The injured was shifted to a nearby hospital where he was said to be stable.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Faisal Kamran said the man and his sons were killed over enmity.

He said the deceased were facing murder charges of killing two men in south Cantonment area in 2015 while their rivals attacked them to take revenge.

He said one of the suspects was identified as Usman and teams were constituted to arrest them.

He said the suspects involved in this triple murder case would be arrested soon.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr Usman Anwar took notice of the killing of a father and his two sons and sought a report from Capital City Police Officer (CCPO). They directed the CCPO to take immediate legal action against the suspects involved in the case.



Teachers hold province-wide protest

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Grand Teachers Alliance (GTA) on Saturday held a province-wide protest against the vindictive actions of the government against the teachers for boycotting the Training Need Assessment (TNA) test.

Hundreds of male and female teachers launched the protest in every district of the province, including Multan, Khanewal, Faisalabad, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Bhakkar and Layyah.

They demanded the government and privatisation of public schools, abolish the TNA test, reinstate leave encashment and regularize senior school educators (SSEs) and assistant education officers (AEOs).

In Lahore, the teachers gathered outside the Education Complex and marched towards the GPO Chowk. They were carrying placards, highlighting their demands and chanting slogans against what they described, as the government's retaliatory actions.

As they marched, a delegation of teacher leaders—Rana Liaqat, Kashif Shahzad Chaudhry, Syed Modasser Hussain, Rana Syed, Iqbal Arshad, and Munir Sindhu—addressed the demonstrators, urging them to remain united against the government.

Medical examination of film actor conducted

Witnesses record statements in domestic violence case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Police on Saturday conducted a medical examination of the film actress Nargis and recorded the statements of her witnesses in a domestic violence case.

The Defence C police registered a case against Nargis' husband Inspector Majid Bashir and started the investigation.

Nargis was allegedly subjected to tur-

ture by her husband in Defence Housing Authority (DHA) three days ago.

Senior Superintendent of Police Investigation Muhammad Nawaz told Dawn that the suspect got a two-week pre-arrest bail and would appear in a day or two for investigation.

He said that a medical examination of the victim was conducted and the report was being awaited.

He said the investigators also had recorded the statements of the domestic help of the film actor who was a witness in the case.

He said that action would be taken against the inspector involved in the case.

A video clip circulating on social media showed the actor with multiple

bruises on her face, eyes, and other parts of her body.

The actor alleged in the FIR that her husband wanted to accommodate the former wife of a famous TV host in her (Nargis) house without her consent. She also alleged that Bashir wanted her to transfer the ownership of her farmhouse in his name. "Majid Bashir repeatedly hit my face with his official gun, leaving bruises, particularly, in and around my eyes," she said in the FIR.

She said her husband also put the barrel of his gun in her mouth in an attempt to injure her jaw.

The actor said that Majid Bashir wanted to grab a valuable nine-karat plus, gold ornaments and other properties belonging to her, at gunpoint. "He

(Majid) had also subjected me to brutal domestic violence thrice in the past, but each time I ignored the act of extreme violence just to save my marriage," she added.

On Friday, she said, her husband crossed 'all limits', dragged her from her hair, humiliated and beat her up black and blue in front of her nephew and employees. She alleged that the suspect also planned her murder and warned her that he would get the blame on her enemies.

Earlier, Punjab Women Protection Authority (PWPA) Chairperson Hina Pervez Butt met Nargis at her home and assured her of justice.

The PWPA chairperson committed to provide any legal assistance.

Man severs son's leg

By Our Correspondent

FCIA, TEK SINGH: A man allegedly amputated his 12-year-old son's leg on Saturday in Muzza Patta in the jurisdiction of Qadirpur police in Jhang.

According to reports, Khuram Shahzad is the son of the suspect from a previous marriage. It was alleged that the boy's stepmother instigated her husband, Syed Khawar Abbas, against him over a domestic issue. Abbas attacked the boy with an axe, severing one of his legs.

Police are conducting raids to arrest the suspect.

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Chief justice...

Continued from Page 13

Pakistan's prison system. By prioritising humane treatment, rehabilitation, and efficient case management, this collaborative framework will set the stage for a sustainable and just prison system that upholds human dignity and fosters rehabilitation across the nation, it concludes.

HARKING BACK

The boy from Chuna Mandi who founded Amritsar

By Majid Sheikh

If you are a wanderer in the ancient lanes and mohallas of the old walled city of Lahore, you would surely have passed through Chuna Mandi and its famous Gardnera Jassa Anandh Guru Ram Das. This is located at the exact place where Guru Ram Das was born on the 24th of September 1534.

For those unaware of Sikh history, Guru Ram Das was the fourth guru of the Sikh faith, and the person who composed 548 hymns, or about 50 per cent of hymns in the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy book. He used at least 30 ancient classical 'ragas' as the base of his poems. His importance is under-estimated, but when one studies Sikh history one is really impressed at his sterling contributions.

As a faith conceived and nurtured in the Punjab near Lahore, the role of the city is very important and needs to be understood. His father Hari Das, and grandfather Thakur Das, were both well-known shopkeepers of Chuna Mandi. On his birth, he was named Bhai Jetha, and they belonged to the Nohthi clan (guru) of Khatri. His official name was Ram Das and Jetha was probably a nickname, but it stuck. In Punjabi 'Jetha' means the firstborn. When Ram Das was a mere seven years of age, both his parents passed away. His maternal grandfather moved in to care for him and his two younger siblings. At the age

of 12, Bhai Jetha and his siblings moved to his grandfather's village at Gurdial, where he met Guru Amar Das, the third Sikh guru. He served him exceptionally well and reached a stage where Guru Amar Das married his daughter to him. He was now a member of the family of the Sikh guru. On his marriage, he was named Ram Das, which means the 'slave of the Almighty'. This was a tradition just as in the Arabic tradition people are named as Abdul, which also means a 'slave'. So impressed was Amar Das with Ram Das that he named him the fourth 'guru' after his death. It was a move that upset the guru's own children. So it was that Bhai Jetha became the fourth guru of Sikhism in 1574. Because of the hostility of the family of Guru Amar Das, Bhai Jetha moved to a village known as 'Guru Da Chak'. On becoming the fourth guru, he renamed the village as Ramdaspur. This village soon grew in size and over time was renamed 'Amritsar', or the hollow of cities. It seems that because of his own experience with the family of Guru Amar Das, from that point onward all the following gurus were named from within the existing guru family. It ended with the holy book Guru Granth Sahib being the final and 11th guru.

Jetha's grandfather was a lovely very poor woman. To make ends meet they sold home-baked grams. During this experience Jetha would sometimes meet his men, and so it happened that he met Amar Das, who took a liking for the

young boy. Over time Amar Das started giving the young Jetha work to do in religious congregations. He spent time with Guru Amar Das by accompanying him on religious pilgrimages. In those experiences, he learnt Indian classical music as well as representing Amar Das in the Mughal court. Hindu Brahmins complained about the Sikhs running free community kitchens. The Brahmins in the court of Akbar complained that this kitchen violated caste considerations. Jetha was brought before Akbar and he simply said "In the eyes of the Almighty, all humans are equal". Akbar dismissed the Brahmin complaint.

In 1553, Jetha married Bhai Khanda, the younger daughter of Amar Das. He was selected by the wife of Guru Amar Das, as the best match for their daughter. The couple had three sons, namely Prithi Chand, Mahabey and Guru Arjan. Jetha became guru on 30th of August 1574 and was known as Guru Ram Das. Among the first things he did was to repair friendship with the son of Guru Nandk, a highly educated religious and linguistic scholar. Bhai Gurdas helped advance the Sikh cause. At this point a delegation from Lahore visited the guru, asking him to return to the city of his birth. Guru Ram Das visited his original home in Chuna Mandi and in the process gained a lot of followers.

Guru Ram Das is credited with founding and building the city of Amritsar where he lived in 'Guru Da Chak'. It was here that the pond he initially built was

enlarged to become the pond of the Golden Temple. With donations he completed the pond, and the town grew to become the city of Amritsar, and the pond area grew into a temple complex. Guru Ram Das died on 1st of September 1581, in Gurdial. He nominated his younger son Arjan Dev as his successor. The guru's eldest son Prithi Chand protested and created a rival faction. He even, allegedly, attempted to kill Arjan's son Harigobind. When Arjan was killed by the Emperor Jahangir in the Lahore Fort, Prithi Chand again attempted to become the guru. But the followers of Arjan made sure that Harigobind became the guru. Among the many contributions of Guru Ram Das was the institution of the 'Langar' that is today a mainstay of Sikhism, a tradition that goes back to the 15th century. Besides this his insistence on the virtues in the Guru Granth Sahib should follow a classic music-based rhyme is an amazing contribution.

Lastly, his insistence on the guru belonging to the existing guru's family was a contribution that saw the faith in good stead. So it was that this little boy of a Chuna Mandi merchant grew up to become the founding father of Amritsar, as also the central god of the Golden Temple in 1577. His son Guru Arjan Dev was to ask the great Lahore Muslim Sufi, Hazrat Mian Mir, to lay the foundations of the Golden Temple of Amritsar, which today is the most significant monument of the Sikh faith.

Mosque cleric rapes girl

OKARA: A mosque cleric was arrested for allegedly raping a 13-year-old madrasa student.

According to the first information report, the girl had been attending Quranic lessons at the madrasa in Azam Town, Rawala, where around seven months ago, the cleric allegedly raped her and threatened her into silence.

Recently, noticing changes in her daughter's conduct, the girl's well-owed mother became suspicious. After questioning, the girl disclosed the incident.

A medical examination confirmed that she was seven-month pregnant. As the proceedings unfolded, the suspect fled to Multan but the City Rawala police managed to locate and arrest him.

Correspondent



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Conference explores significance of Harappa in Indus Valley

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The 10th Annual International THAAP Conference, entitled Rivers of Harappa, wrapped up its two-day proceedings, providing a vital platform for scholars to explore the cultural heritage and historical significance of the Indus Valley civilization. With 16 papers presented across five sessions, the conference delved into diverse facets of Harappan life, art and symbolism, enriching participants' understanding of one of the world's most enduring civilisations.

The speakers in the fourth paper reading session, Najia Karwar and Mahveen Yousof, proposed coloring historical narrative by tracing the generational legacy of indigo-dye as Harappa was the cradle of indigo cultivation. In the insightful paper, entitled "Indigo as a Millieu of Harmony and Sustainability," the researchers traced the role of indigo dye in Harappan textiles, illustrating how the ancient craft of dyeing became a unifying element within society and connected past practices with lasting textile traditions.

Architect Muhammad Abdullah presented his paper titled "Echoes of the Past: Tracing Harappan Cultural Elements in Punjab's Folk Songs." Abdullah explored the symbolic connections between Harappan motifs and Punjab's folk songs, emphasizing how Harappan culture continued to resonate in regional folklore.

The session was chaired by Dr Kamal Khaliq who highlighted conventional archaeological narratives in her own paper, "Unearthing of Learning: Dimensions of Harappan Discoveries." She argued for recognition of oral traditions and folk customs as essential sources, promoting a more holistic understanding of Harappa beyond physical artifacts.

The fifth session, chaired by Dr Tahid Ahmad Chaitra, provided insights into the artistic, cultural and symbolic significance of rivers in the Indus Valley civilization. Ayesha Latif introduced her paper, "Reading the Motif of the River in Punjab's Folk Poetry," examining how the symbol of river in folk poetry, especially in the poetic form of Shah Hussain and Bulleh Shah, mirrored reverence to water, blending ancient beliefs with later spiritual themes.

Following her, Mahveen Yousof presented her paper, titled "Transcending Boundaries of the Harappan Rivers through the Tribal Motif." She analyzed the tribal symbol, found across several ancient cultures, including

Harappa, proposing that it served as a universal emblem linking diverse societies through a common artistic language.

Dr Chaitra closed the session with his research, titled "Textile Traditions and Riverine Influence: Reconstructing A Punjab's Serapee through Harappan Designs." Chaitra focused on the lasting impact of Harappan textile patterns on the modern Punjab, presenting a reconstructed 'Punjab Serapee' indigenous design used in historical monuments such as Shalimar Gardens, homes, buildings and cultural landmarks etc that showcased the resilience of these ancient designs.

The conference concluded with a circle roundtable discussion where all the participants spoke on the relevance of oral heritage and tradition in reconstructing archaeological and anthropological narratives of Harappa. This open forum encouraged lively exchanges, emphasizing the importance of diverse perspectives in understanding the complexities of Harappan society.

Prof Feroza Vaidal and Prof Sagda Vaidal, in their closing remarks, thanked the attendees and underscored THAAP's dedication to promoting historical understanding and appreciation of Harappa's legacy.

Punjab govt transfers key officials

LAHORE: The Punjab government has transferred Sports and Youth Affairs director-general Pervaiz Miral, appointing him as secretary of Mines and Minerals Department.

Director-General (Commodities) of the Price Control and Commodities Management Department, Muhammad Khizar Afzal, was transferred and posted as DG of Sports and Youth Affairs.

DRD retired P-16 Imran Qureshi was appointed as DG of the Price Control and Commodities Management Department.

IG Excise and Taxation, Punjab, retired Capt Farrukh Arif Khan, was transferred and posted as DG of the Punjab Enforcement Regulatory Authority

(PERA) to fill a vacant post. Additional Secretary (Coordination) to the Chief Secretary, Muhammad Usar Sher, was transferred and posted as DG Excise and Taxation, Punjab. Mr Sher was also assigned the additional charge of AS (Coordination) to the chief secretary, in addition to his own duties.

The government also transferred AS of the Finance Department, Shahid Muhammad, appointing him as AS (Coordination) to the chief secretary. Staff Reporter

CORRIGENDUM

UPDATION OF DIGITIZING SYSTEM OF SHORT CIRCUIT GENERATOR FOR IWS&C LAB NDC (PUNJAB ISLAMABAD)

High voltage and short circuit lab NDC Rawal was named (IWS&C LAB) instead the IWS&C for Updation of Digitizing System of short circuit generator through tender notice published in national dailies on 30th October 2024.

The Corrigendum is to notify the following:

- The tender submission date has been extended from 01 December to 10th December 2024.
- The amended tender document is available at www.ribc.com.pk and www.psc.gov.pk
- The bids will now be opened on the December 10 at 11:00 hrs in conference room of IWS&C LAB NDC Islamabad.
- All other terms and conditions of the tender notice shall remain unchanged.

Chief Engineer
IWS&C Lab, Rawal, Islamabad

SALE OF CARS

Bank AL Habib Limited invites sealed bids for the sale of following vehicles on "As is where is" basis, which may be inspected from November 04, 2024 to November 06, 2024 during working hours from 02:00 pm to 05:00 pm at Bank AL Habib Ltd., Plot No. 222, Daudpota Road, Near Avani Tower (Hotel), Opp: Atrium Mall, Saddar, Karachi. Contact Nos. (021) 35807200-14, 0337-3173500, 0341-2216220, 0331-0100280.

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Suzuki Mehran VX	Three	2017-2018

- The bids should be submitted on the prescribed Tender Form, available free of cost at location.
- Terms and Conditions, printed on Tender Form shall apply.
- Tender Forms with Payorders should be deposited by Thursday, November 07, 2024.
- Tenders will be opened on Friday, November 08, 2024 & results displayed on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 by 04:30 p.m. at the gate of Parking Plot.
- Bank AL Habib Limited reserves the right to accept/reject or cancel any or all offers without assigning any reason.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

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- Manage financial risks and opportunities, including investment strategies and funding options.
- As a Company Secretary, ensure regulatory compliance of SECP regulations, manage and coordinate Audit Committee and BOD meetings.
- Coordinate with external auditors, regulatory bodies and stakeholders to ensure accurate and timely financial reporting.
- Supervise and mentor the finance team, ensuring continuous development and high performance.
- Manage cash flow, planning activities and other financial transactions to ensure efficient and effective financial management.
- Implement and maintain robust financial controls and systems.
- Participate in strategic planning and decision-making processes to support the organization's objectives.

Eligibility Criteria

- Chartered Accountant (CA) / ACCA / ICMA / CPA or equivalent qualification. Minimum of ten (10) years of experience in financial management with at least five (05) years service as CFO in Public Sector Company or company registered with SECP.
- Strong knowledge of financial regulations, accounting principles and financial reporting standards.
- Having proven experience to work as Secretary to the Board of Directors as per SECP guidelines.
- Proven track record of strategic financial planning and management.
- Excellent leadership, communication and interpersonal skills.
- Well-versed with government rules, regulations, audit policies and FATF. (Prefer to improve financial reporting and Auditing).
- Maximum age limit shall be 50 years.
- The salary package will be market based and competitive.
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- Only short listed candidates shall be called for test/interview
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Tutor rapes minor boy in Lodhran

By Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: A tutor allegedly raped his 13-year-old student at Banti Baghwa of village Khampar Chahvan in the limits of the Qureshbaha Police Station in district Lodhran.

According to Lodhran police spokesperson Bahadur Khan, the tutor called his student from his house and took him to nearby fields on the pretext of collecting money from somebody.

The suspect allegedly raped the boy in the fields where the victim's screams attracted the people around him who reached rescued him while the suspect fled.

Qureshbaha police, on the complaint of victim's father, registered a rape case and arrested the suspect. The boy was sent to the District Headquarters Hospital Lodhran for a medical examination.

SENTENCE: Vehari Additional District and Sessions Judge Nadeem Anjum sentenced a man for life term to a man for committing rape in the Jhal Sial Police Station area and imposed a Rs300,000 fine on him.

According to the prosecution, Rafiq Masochi had raped a girl last year and police had arrested him. His challan was submitted in the court.

In a drug trafficking case, the judge awarded nine years' imprisonment along with fine of Rs80,000 to one Niaz Mahmood who was arrested by Lodhran police in Vehari district last year.

TORTURE: A sanitary's teacher allegedly tortured his student at Vehari's Rehmat Colony.

According to the complaint, registered by the victim's father Ahs Raza Nadeem Butt, Qari Rashid had demanded money from his son, Hamza, for petrol for his motorcycle. The boy had no money, which made the Qari angry and he tortured Hamza, causing injuries.

On his complaint, Deputy Commissioner Iqbal Taseer formed a committee to probe the case and appointed ADC Syed Usman Shah as inquiry officer.

Birth anniversary of Ranjit Singh celebrated

GUJRAT: Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minorities Ramandeep Singh Arora says that the relationship between the Sikh community and Pakistan is very strong.

He praised Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for winning the hearts of the minorities by announcing the issuance of special cards for them during the Divali celebration as well as plans to eliminate the distinction between the minorities and majority.

He made the statement after cutting a cake for the 244th birth anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in Gujranwala on Saturday.

The minister directed district administration officials to complete the renovation of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Haveli at the earliest. He said, "For the first time, we are celebrating Maharaja Ranjit Singh's birth anniversary, and historically, for the first time, the Chief Minister's House was opened for the minorities during Divali".

He announced that the next year's anniversary celebrations would also take place at Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Haveli.

Deputy Commissioner Navdeep Ahluwalia said the renovation work would be completed with an estimated cost of Rs90m under the

supervision of the experts from the Walled City of Lahore Authority and the Archaeology Department. He said the district administration was taking steps to promote tourism, inviting the global Sikh community to Gujranwala that had many historical sites, including Gurdwara Arora Sahib, Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Haveli, and the samadhis of Mahan Singh and Chattr Singh.

Sardar Kanchurm Singh, Assistant Commissioner Baram Bim and representatives from the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee were also present. — Correspondent

Robbers kill man during broad daylight robbery

By Our Correspondent

NAROWAL: Robbers shot at and killed a man during a daylight robbery near a canal in Zafarwal on Saturday.

Amrat Shahzad, 1 of Mohalla Ramulpura, Shokargarh, reported to the police that he and his father, Muhammad Akram, were riding a motorcycle when two robbers on a motorcycle intercepted them on Ching Shah Rang Road. They demanded cash at gunpoint.

When his father resisted, the robbers opened fire and injured Akram. The robbers then took Rs250,000 and fled.

Rescue 1122 provided first aid to the injured man and later shifted him to Zafarwal Tebest Headquarters Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

The robbers also targeted Ching Shi driver Muhammad Ajeel and

passengers Muhammad Faryal and Muhammad Nasser, robbing them at gunpoint. Ajeel reported that the masked robbers stole Rs250,000 from them.

The Zafarwal police registered an FIR against the robbers on Amrat's complaint, under sections 302/392 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Local salesman Muhammad Asif told Dawn that two days ago on Ching Shah Rang Road, robbers on motorcycle looted him at 2pm taking Rs10,000.

ARRESTED: The Sialkot police arrested a suspect involved in the theft of Rs16.2 million and recovery of Pakistani and foreign currency along with other valuables.

The police said that Kamran Sajjad, of Bahadur Town, had lodged a complaint on Oct 23 that while he and his wife were dropping their children off at school, his home had been left locked. Upon return-

ing, they found the doors open and discovered that Rs16 million, \$12,000, 600 acres, 5,500 rials, and 2,450 Philippine pesos were missing. Kamran said that he had recently sold a house worth Rs16 million, and the proceeds had been kept in the safe.

Following his complaint, Agriki police registered an FIR against unidentified suspects.

An investigation team eventually identified and caught Muhammad Umair, of Mohalla Waterworks, Sialkot.

During questioning, Umair said that he had been friends with Kamran for 15 years and had secretly made duplicate keys to Kamran's house.

In recognition of their efforts in solving the case and recovering the stolen assets, DND Haseeb Farooq announced appreciation certificates and cash rewards for the investigation team.

Brother, nephews accused of murder over land dispute

By Our Correspondent

TORJA TEK SINGH: A man was allegedly murdered by his brother Muhammad Jamil and Jamil's two sons. Saleem was shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. Police are conducting raids to arrest the suspects.

DEATH SENTENCE: Saleem, 65, was injured after being attacked with bricks and sticks by his brother Muhammad Jamil and Jamil's two sons.

Saleem was shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. Police are conducting raids to arrest the suspects.

DEATH SENTENCE: The court acquitted four co-accused, Bani, Iqbal, Khuram, and Amin, citing lack of evidence.

All were initially arrested by Jaranwala Sadler police on July 25, 2023, for the alleged murder of Mansha Khan in Chak 121-G/8 due to an old enmity.

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Namaz e Janaza

It is sad to announce the passing away of
Khalifa Syed Muhammad Hassan
S/O Khalifa Syed Saeed Hassan on 31st October, 2024



His Namaz e Janaza will be held on Sunday 3rd November, 2024
at 2pm at H. No. 131E, Sul Gas Society, near Phase 5, DHA, Lahore.
Burial will take place in Sul Gas Society graveyard.
Soyem will be held on Monday 4th Nov. 6pm
at Imam Bargah Gullistan e Zahra Abbot Road Lahore.

BEREAVED:
Fatima Hassan (BIBI)
Khalifa Ali Syed Hassan.
Khalifa Hadi Syed Hassan.
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PESHAWAR
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Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:33am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 16°C
Maximum 29°C
Outlook Sunny



WORKERS pack cauliflower in plastic bags at Peshawar vegetable market. — White Star

1.3m URLs blocked over illegal content, reveals telecom regulator

PTA informs PHC about steps against 'blasphemous, immoral' material on social media

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has claimed that it has blocked around 1.3 million uniform resource locators (URLs) until July 19, 2024, for carrying "anti-Islam, indecent and immoral" content. In a report, the telecom regulator claimed that its web monitoring system had processed around 1.38 million URLs before blocking 93.84 percent of them (1,303 million). The report was shared with the Peshawar High Court as a petition called for a complete ban on TikTok in the country,

claiming that the PTA has failed to stop the uploading of "blasphemous and indecent" material on the popular video-sharing mobile app.

Commenting on the PTA, Jehanzeb Mehsud told a bench consisting of Justice Ijaz Ahmad and Justice Syed Arshad Ali that he had submitted a comprehensive report on behalf of PTA in accordance with its earlier order.

In the petition, lawyer Ibrar Khan requested the court to direct the respondents, including PTA, Federal Investigation Agency and the information ministry, to permanently ban TikTok in Pakistan over the "continued, recurring and consistent breach of community guidelines" and violation of the Constitution, Prevention of the Electronic Crimes Act (Peca), Rule 3 of the Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Contents Rules, 2021, and Pakistan Penal Code.

The bench put off hearing into the petition as the petition-

er's counsel was not available. The 21-page report, the PTA said it had processed 1.03 million URLs and blocked 1.02 million in the "decency and immorality" category, processed 115,401 URLs and blocked 96,622 in the 'glory of Islam' category, processed 125,114 URLs and blocked 91,889 in category of 'against security and defence of Pakistan'.

In other categories, 7,152 URLs were blocked for contempt of court, 10,729 for defamation and impersonation, 10,250 for 'porn', 53,915 for sectarian and hate speech, and 10,791 for other reasons.

The PTA said that it maintained a database of around 1.38 million URLs, with the updated blocking status for all reported URLs.

It also gave a breakdown of social media apps and sites whose URLs were blocked.

According to it, 147,569 out of 171,344 Facebook URLs, 125,600 out of 128,626 pro-

cessed TikTok URLs, 53,872 of 92,945 Twitter (now X) URLs, 53,162 of 61,719 processed YouTube URLs, 22,357 of 26,900 Instagram URLs have been blocked.

Also, it has processed 894,257 URLs on other apps and websites before blocking 888,177 of them. The PTA also said that from the year 2020 to date, the TikTok platform had blocked 111,113 contents related to the 'immoral indecent and against glory of Islam' categories.

"In the current year, TikTok has blocked 24,800 out of 25,267 suspected contents, which included 23,467 immoral and indecent material and 1,393 posts against the glory of Islam," it said.

The regulator also claimed that it had taken several steps in accordance with the high court's orders for creating public awareness about "blasphemous and immoral contents" on social media, especially TikTok.

It said that in addition to informing TikTok management about the orders of the high court, it also sent a formal letter to it on July 3, 2024, apprising it about the presence of "objectionable content of blasphemous and immoral and indecent nature" on the platform and demanded concrete measures for its early detection and removal by "enhancing the capability of the moderation teams and deploying AI measures."

The petitioner said that the statistics showed that Pakistan had almost 54.4 million TikTok users, who made it the seventh among the top seven app user countries.

He claimed that the platform was used to disseminate "anti-Islamic, vulgar, indecent, sectarian, and disrespectful content" and thereby, contravening the parameters delineated by the Constitution, Peca, PHC and the Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Contents Rules, 2021.

Seven die as van falls into Buner ravine

By Our Correspondent

SWAT: Seven people, three among them women, were killed and four others, including two children, were injured when a pick-up van fell into a ravine in Chagharzal tehsil of Buner district on Saturday.

Local residents rushed to the site soon after the incident and retrieved the injured and the bodies from the ravine in the Farah union council of Chagharzal tehsil.

Local rescue teams also reached the spot soon after receiving information about the incident and shifted the bodies and the injured persons to the District Headquarters Hospital in Daggar.

Sources said that the accident occurred due to brake failure of the vehicle on the hilly track.

Four children electrocuted in Tank

DELA ISMAIL KHAN: Four children of a family, including three brothers, died after suffering an electric shock in Garah Mitho village of Tank district on Saturday.

A police official said that the electric cables of the high transmission line were lying on the ground when the children touched them. He said that the children were grazing cattle in the fields when they came across the power line lying on the ground and touched them. As a result, they suffered a fatal electric shock and died on the spot.

The ages of the children ranged between eight and 12 years. The father of the three victim brothers was identified as Jameel Jimmy.

Residents said that the cables on the high transmission line had been lying on the ground for the past two days. They said that they had informed the Peshawar Electric Supply Company's office in Tank about the transmission line, but to no avail.

Later, the victims' relatives and locals placed the bodies on the road and staged a protest demonstration against the Peco authorities and the district administration.

Family members of the deceased children said that the deaths occurred due to the negligence of Peco staff, and demanded registration of a case against them.

The protesters announced they would continue their demonstration until an FIR was registered against the responsible officials. — Correspondent

Sports festival concludes in Wana

SOUTH WAJIRISTAN: A month-long sports festival concluded in Wana FC Stadium here on Saturday.

FC South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the sports department organised the event.

The festival included various sports competitions such as football, volleyball, tug-of-war, traditional dance and cricket matches.

The final of football was played between Wana Club of Lower South Waziristan and Shaheen Club of Upper South Waziristan. The Wana Club won the match by four goals.

The festival was aimed to promote sports in both the Lower South Waziristan and Upper South Waziristan districts, and provide a platform to young talent to shine.

Commandant South Waziristan Scouts Mohammed Tahir was the chief guest accompanied by Wana tehsil council chairman Maulana Mohammed Saleh Wazi and tehsil elders. — Correspondent

0.4m illegal Afghans return via KP in one year

UNHCR urges Pakistan to continue 'protecting those seeking safety'

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: Since the launch of a nationwide crackdown on undocumented immigrants on Nov 1, 2023, over 0.4 million undocumented Afghan nationals have returned to their country through the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Officials told Dawn that in November last year, thousands of illegal aliens left the country daily from different border crossings between KP and Afghanistan.

They added that the pace slowed down afterwards but the voluntary repatriation never stopped.

They said that all returning Afghan immigrants were documented.

On Oct 3, 2023, the then caretaker interior minister, Barfaraz Bagri, announced the Nov 1 deadline for the voluntary return of illegal immigrants from the country and warned that all law-enforcement agencies would deport them all afterward.

"We have set the Nov 1 deadline for

illegal immigrants to willingly return to their respective countries and if they don't comply, our law-enforcement agencies will expel them," Mr Bagri said in a media briefing after a meeting of the apex committee on the National Action Plan at the Prime Minister's House.

Soon after that deadline's expiry on Oct 31, 2023, a crackdown was launched on Nov 1, 2023, and 7,300 refugees, including over 800 prisoners, were deported on Nov 1, via Pak-Afghan border crossing Torkham in Khyber tribal district.

Official documents reveal that since the repatriation began, a total of 421,112 illegal immigrants had left for

Afghanistan via KP. They also show that 413,826 left for Afghanistan voluntarily and 7,286 were deported through KP.

According to the documents, 400 illegal refugees left the country on Saturday, taking the overall tally of the immigrants, who crossed Torkham, to 434,430.

Authorities have so far repatriated 5,983 and 698 undocumented aliens to Afghanistan via Angoor Ada border crossing in South Waziristan tribal district and via Kharakchi border in North Waziristan tribal district respectively, and one to China via Sam border in

Continued on Page 15

Tehreek-i-Insaf lawmaker gets another ACE call-up notice

Atif says everyone knows why he is being targeted

By Mohammad Ashfaq

PESHAWAR: The Anti-Corruption Establishment, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has issued another call-up notice to senior leader of the provincially ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf and MNA Mohammed Atif Khan in an inquiry related to a private housing scheme in his home district of Mardan.

The notice issued on Nov 1 (Friday) was the second one in as two days as a call-up notice was issued on Oct 31 as part of an inquiry into the much-publicised Malan

Jalibi land lease case, which had already been closed by the National Accountability Bureau three years ago.

The ACE has asked Mr Atif that while appearing before the inquiry officer on Nov 12 for recording statement under Section 161 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Rule 3(2) of the ACE Rules in the Malan Jalibi case, he should also bring details pertaining to Faisal Garden housing scheme in Mardan.

The fresh details sought by ACE in the second call-up notice states "clarification pertaining to your name appearing in advertisement as one of the proprietor/owner of the housing society involved in conduct of business."

It has also asked the MNA to furnish the details pertaining to ownership of the land as there is allegation that the government had been

encroached by the said private housing society, namely Faisal Garden, that agricultural land has been illegally converted into residential one despite a ban/contradiction, and that government funds have been utilised for the development of the private society.

Other details sought by the ACE in the notice include involvement made by the lawmaker pertaining to the aforementioned business and benefits accrued and any other details he may furnish as his plea to the above reflected allegations.

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

The infighting has reportedly been continuing within the ruling

party for the last many months. On August 27, two senior office-bearers, including Peshawar region MNA Mohammed Atif Khan and president for Peshawar district MNA Shoaib Arshad were ousted with the approval of the party's provincial president and Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

The removal of both the senior leaders from the party positions happened just 10 days after the demarculation of communication and works minister Shaukeel Khan over alleged corruption.

These three PTI leaders are reportedly part of a group opposing Mr Gandapur. The Peshawar region comprises Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's central districts, including Peshawar, Charsadda, Mardan, Swabi and Nowshera.

Commenting on the notices issued to Atif Khan, MNA Shoaib

Arshad, while commenting on his X (formerly Twitter) account said: "This seems to be an open goal. We cannot afford such notice and diversions as we prepare for a final push to secure (insane) Khan's release (from prison) through street movement. Atif Khan has been amongst a handful of PTI ministers who have done considerably well and remained non-controversial."

Former minister Shaukeel Khan stated in a statement posted on X that the notice issued to Atif Khan showed the desperation and fear of KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. He said that those high-lighting the misdeeds of the provincial government would not be silenced through such tactics.

He further said that Atif Khan was not alone and he (Shaukeel) and other PTI ideological workers stood beside him like a rock and condemn

the 'dirty tricks'.

MNA Javed Akbar commented on X that the provincial government should be ashamed of its actions. He said everyone knew who was corrupt and who was honest. He said that all of them were aware of one another's past and present whether they were in some organisation or government.

Division in the PTI and its provincial government surfaced when party leader Ibrar Khan sent a stern message from his jail cell to members of his party's government in KP that they all would be held accountable for corruption and governance issues in their departments.

The message was made public by the then provincial minister for communications and works department Shaukeel Khan, during a news conference at the Peshawar Press Club on August 3.

PRAYER	
Fajr	05:12
Zuhr	12:00
Asr	03:44
Maghreb	05:22
Isha	06:46
Starting time in Peshawar	

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— HAZRAT AL-FARABI

TRAHQIT

Two brothers shot dead over 'enmity' in DI Khan

By Our Correspondent

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Two brothers were shot dead over a personal enmity in village Kot Shah Nawaz area of Tribal District Khan on Friday.

A police official said as a result of clash between the two rival groups, two brothers Irfan and Muhammad Raza were killed on the spot.

According to the police, the incident took place in the lanes of Chaudhri police station. The accused fled the scene after some minutes. Police are busy in investigation.

PENSION PAYMENT: The Council University's top authorities were ordered by the Peshawar High Court to settle the pension payment dispute after consulting with the pensioners' committee and submitting a formal agreement to the court.

The Peshawar High Court Dera Ismail Khan bench heard the pensioners' suit in this regard on October 29. The bench directed the university's vice chancellor, registrar, and finance director to meet with the pensioners' committee to reach a written agreement pertaining to pension payments.

The university's vice chancellor and other senior officials assured the court in a written reply that from this month, pensioners would start receiving their full monthly pensions, along with an additional Rs 7 million each month to be provided to the pension account of the university.



VENDORS sell fish at roadside stalls in Ramdan Bazaar, Peshawar, on Saturday. — White Star

Swat residents demand early construction of bridge

Deplore traffic congestion in Mingora city has become routine

By Our Correspondent

SWAT: The residents have demanded early resumption of work on a key bridge on the Swat Bypass, deploring that severe traffic congestion on the GT Road from Gogdara to Mingora throws traffic out of gear for hours.

Once rebuilt, the bridge links routes from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Kalam and Shargha, but the construction work, initiated during the last PTI government after

demolition of the old structure, was halted in 2022.

The absence of the bridge has forced large vehicles, lorries and passenger buses to take an alternative path through the Mingora city, causing a daily bottleneck.

Bashir Khan, a lorry driver transporting goods from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Madyari, expressed his frustration over the fact that the journey through the Mingora city now took him around four hours instead of two hours previously. "It's not just a time problem; fuel costs have also shot up. We want the government to resume work on the bridge as early as possible."

Another driver, Ahmed Shah, who frequently travels between Mingora and Kalam, echoed these concerns. "The traffic jam is unbearable," he said.

"The GT Road was already busy, but with all the heavy traffic now passing through the city, it's impossible to drive. We are losing business as customers are hesitant to book trips. We can't keep this up without a solution."

Besides, the drivers, the people living along the GT Road in Mingora are also suffering due to the daily traffic congestion. Fatima Bibi, a resident of Bazar area, explained the challenges. "My children's school bus is often delayed by an hour or more. There are days when we can't even leave the house to run simple errands because of the traffic."

Fatima also highlighted the social implications: "We have elderly neighbors who need regular medical checkups. With the

constant jams, getting to the hospital or clinic on time has become a nightmare. This is more than an inconvenience; it's a serious problem affecting our health and well-being."

The residents and drivers alike are urging the government to resume construction on the Swat Bypass bridge, which once completed, will provide a much-needed alternative route for heavy traffic. The prolonged delay has not only exacerbated daily inconveniences but has impacted the local economy and social fabric of the area.

As the situation worsens, the voices of the people affected continue to grow louder, demanding a timely resolution to an issue that affects the heart of Swat's transport infrastructure.

Habib Qureshi elected SCBA vice president

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Senior lawyer Mubashir Habib Qureshi and Ayman Malik have officially been declared elected as vice president (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and senior executive committee member (KP) of Supreme Court Bar Association on Friday. According to official notification issued by the chairman of the SCBA's election board, Zafer Mahmood Mughal, Mr Qureshi

received 1,495 votes, whereas Ms Malik got 1,078 votes.

Both of them belong to Professional Group of lawyers (Drankh Khan group). Similarly, Nawaz Khan of Independent Group was also declared elected as the second seat of the executive committee from KP. He secured 1,571 votes.

Lawyers in large numbers felicitated the newly-elected SCBA office bearers here on the premises of Peshawar High Court on Friday.

They hoped that the new office bearers would strive for rule of

law and upholding constitution of Pakistan. Mr Qureshi is a former deputy attorney general who had also served as chairman of the drug court in KP.

He had earlier served as executive committee member of the SCBA, secretary of PFC Bar Association and elected member of KP Bar Council.

Ms Malik is second female from KP elected on this post. Earlier, Justice Mansoor Haliq had also been elected as SCBA executive committee member.

Ms Malik had earlier served as vice president and secretary finance of PFCRA.

Six Lakki policemen charged with killing four boys

By Our Correspondent

LAKKI MARWAT: Six police officials, including a station house officer (SHO) at the Bargaal police station, were charged on Saturday with the murder of four young boys in the Bakhmal Ahmadadi area of the district.

Marwat-Bhawan Tehreek activists, local residents, and the families of the deceased staged a daylong protest after the incident, which took place on the evening of October 25 within the boundaries of Tajori police station. At Mahang Abda point, the demonstrators blocked traffic on the Peshawar-Karachi highway and called for the filing of a criminal case against the relevant police officers.

After the incident, Tajori police registered an FIR against the deceased boys, declaring them robbers. The complainant, SHO Inayat Ali Shah of the Bargaal police station, stated that he and a police party set up a temporary checkpoint close to the Bakhmal Ahmadadi police post after learning about robbers' movements on Tajori road.

He claimed that the police officials saw some suspects on three motorcy-

cles and gave them the signal to stop. However, he asserted that the motorcyclists disregarded the signal and fired on the policemen with pistols.

SHO Inayat Ali Shah said the cops returned the fire in self defence, resulting in killing of three suspects namely Ismailullah, Manzoor Khan and Sajjad. "Another suspect identified as Amroozullah, who was injured in the exchange of fire, died during treatment at the hospital", he maintained.

The day long agitation by villagers against the killing of four boys prompted the District Police Officer Taimur Khan to take notice of the incident and he ordered a thorough inquiry into it. The inquiry report proved that SHO Inayat Ali Shah and five constables—Hanif/Rahman, Hidayatullah, Bilal, Wahabullah, and Omeran—had killed four young boys, Sher Gul Alam Khan, a resident of Bakhmal Ahmadadi, filed a formal complaint with Tajori police.

The DPO confirmed that in the light of the findings of the inquiry report and after registration of an FIR, SHO and five other constables had been suspended from service.

CNG association to challenge suspension of gas supply in court

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: All Pakistan Compressed Natural Gas Association local chapter made the decision to contest the federal government's decision to cut off gas supply to CNG stations throughout the province in December and January.

Divisional president of the association Khalid Latif told Dawn here on Saturday that they would file a lawsuit against the government in the Peshawar High Court if it didn't reverse its decision to halt natural gas supply to CNG stations in the district and the rest of the province under its gas load management for the winter. He said that their group called meetings in Islamabad on Monday, November 4, and Peshawar the following week to talk about gas loadshedding and the tariff discrepancy between compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) pricing.

"We want the government to avoid such unilateral decision of suspending gas to CNG stations for two months, and CNG's price reduction by more than 35 per cent when compared to LPG to protect the domestic production," Mr Latif said.

According to Muhammad Kamran, provincial general secretary of the CNG Association, they urged the government to rescind its decision of closing CNG stations for two months, and instead, use the loadshedding formula that was previously used to stop the gas supply to vehicles at night and in the morning.

Since only 35,000 vehicles in the Peshawar region were using CNG alone, Mr Kamran stated that if the government complied with its plan, inflation would be further increased. He also predicted that the number of these vehicles would equal that of the Hazara and Mardan regions.

Graduates urged to promote peace, Pashtun image

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Speakers at an event at Islamia College University urged the graduates to do their part in presenting a positive image of Pashtun and the nation as a whole, stating that regional peace and stability would aid in refuting the narrative of militancy.

The variety's Khyber union hall hosted a daylong celebration that had three distinct parts: a welcoming party for newcomers, the oath-taking ceremony for Pashtun Students Federation (PSF) office-bearers, and a poetic remembrance of Ajmal Khattak. The gathering was attended by a significant number of students, faculty members and political activists.

The speakers said youth should advance non-violence philosophy of Bacha Khan as he wanted an inclusive and forward-looking Pashtun society. The event also included a book fair, where stalls featuring discourses on a range of subjects were set up.

Speaking at the event, ANP general secretary Mian Hisham Hussain stated that young Pashtun students should take responsibility for promoting peace because Ajmal Khattak's poetry was a perfect replication of Bacha Khan's non-violent philosophy. Almost thirty poets praised Ajmal Khattak and called him a powerful revolutionary voice for significant social change. Shaukat Swati moderated the poetry recital session, which was led by prominent Pashtun poet Faisal Memon.

The ceremony was headed by Awami National Party (ANP) MPA Nisar Buz. In addition to highlighting Ajmal Khattak's political contributions, he also highlighted a number of facets of his student life and his groundbreaking poetry.

Prominent poets, including Farooq Raza Sarwan, Kalsoomwati, Zoha Afridi, Sajjad Ali, Rashid Khan, and Kabir Baidar Stray also performed their eloquent sonnets.

Chitral people stage sit-ins against power outages

By Our Correspondent

CHITRAL: In response to calls from civil society organisations and all political parties, local residents started two sit-ins to protest the electricity loadshedding that left hundreds of commuters stranded on both sides of the Chitral-Peshawar road.

Hundreds of people gathered at Chamarakote village on Peshawar road and Atalique bridge in the city shortly after Friday prayers and blocked the roads.

Wajiduddin (JI), Shahid Ahmed (PTI), Akhbar Wali lawyer (PML-N), Nisar Wali Shah (PPP), Faisal Hussain (ANP), advocate Sajidullah (DPA), and Naseer Ahmed Khan (Ordinary Union) were among those who spoke in Atalique Square.

The speakers said that local people joined under a single platform to oppose this injustice, and they would continue their sit-in until their demands were met. They strongly criticised the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) for the frequent and prolonged loadshedding of electricity in the district. They said that loadshedding was unnecessary because the Golen-Gul Hydropower plant produced 208 megawatts of electricity.

The protesters totally blocked the road at both locations, and they had sent back the Lower Chitral deputy commissioner's convoy that was travelling to Nambur Valley with the coffin of Harvaldar Mohammad Naseem of Chitral Levy, who lost his life in a traffic accident.

PTI activists among seven named in FIR for Bajaur cricket clash

By Our Correspondent

BAJAUR: The district police filed a first information report (FIR) on Saturday against seven individuals, including two senior PTI activists and a close relative of MNA Mubarak Zeb Khan, for violence that occurred during final of a cricket competition on last Friday night at a local sports complex.

The incident resulted in one fatality and seven injuries, including three police officers. A police official told Dawn that an FIR was registered at the Khan

police station on the complaint of ASI Lal Bahman who was on duty at the sports facility when the incident occurred.

According to the FIR, a copy of which is also available with Dawn, the seven accused included Mian Habib Gul, Faisal Anson Salarni, Salim Khan, Gul Momin Anad, Mubsh Danish Inayat Zia and Farooq Shah.

It stated that the aforementioned accused were charged under sections 325, 324, 353, 148, and 149 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) for converting a non-violent sporting event into a violent one, stealing, and destroying

barriers and other facilities at the sports complex.

The case against the aforementioned suspect had been filed in accordance with the footage of the incident that went viral on various social media platforms, another local police officer said. He indicated that in addition to the aforementioned suspects, a number of other people were also participating in the incidents; once they were identified in the video, charges against them would also be filed.

The police stated that they had intensified their efforts against everyone engaged in the Friday

incident that killed a 50-year-old named Faisal Wahid and injured seven others, including three police officers. The police sources stated that six people had been arrested so far and multiple police teams were organised to raid the homes and locations of the suspects in an effort to apprehend them as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Mian Habib Gul claimed in a social media post that a group of police officers had raided his house the previous evening. It said that even though the wasn't home when it happened, his family members had been agitated by the cops.

PARAPLEGIC CENTRE PESHAWAR HAYATABAD

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Paraplegic Centre Peshawar (PCP), invites applications from dedicated and dynamic professionals holding the requisite qualification and experience to fill the following vacancies on regular basis.

S. No.	Vacancy	Gender	CPD	Required Experience and Minimum Qualification	Max. Age (Year)
1.	Physiotherapist	MF	08	• Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPT) from any HEC recognized University. • Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.	37
2.	Behavior Therapist	MF	08	• BS Behavior Science from any HEC recognized university with certification inABA. OR • BS Psychology from any HEC recognized university with certification inABA. • Preferably one year experience of working with autism spectrum disorders in recognized institution.	37
3.	Orthopedic / Prosthetist	MF	08	• BS in Orthotics / Prosthetics from any HEC recognized University. • Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.	37
4.	Occupational Therapist	MF	08	• BS in Occupational Therapy from any HEC recognized University. • Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.	37
5.	Audiologist	MF	08	• BS in Audiology from any HEC recognized University. • Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.	37
6.	Optometrist	MF	08	• BS Vision Science from any HEC recognized University. • Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.	37
7.	Staff Nurse	MF	07	• BSN from any HEC recognized University. • Registered with PNC. • Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.	37
8.	Home Assistant	MF	05	• SSC Science with Ten years' diploma in Health Technology. • Work experience of 01 year, preferably in physical Rehab.	37
9.	Sanitization Assistant	MF	05	• SSC Science with Diploma in Surgical Technology. • Work experience of 01 year, in relevant field.	37
10.	X-Ray Technician	MF	05	• SSC Science with two years Diploma in Radiology. • Work experience of 01 year, in relevant field.	37

INSTRUCTIONS:-

- Any candidate may be disqualified and / or excluded from interview if he/she was:
 - Convicted by the court of law (b) Dismissed from public service (c) Knowingly furnishes any false information (d) Submitte forged documents/tempered documents.
- Only eligible shortlisted candidates will be called for 'Test' interview on the basis of submitted documents.
- The Centre reserve the rights to increase the number of vacancies depending upon vacant posts.
- No TA/DA shall be allowed for attending the Test Interview.

HOW TO APPLY:-

- Application forms and job descriptions are available on: www.paraplegiccentre.org
- A Cash Receipt/Bank Draft (non refundable) of Rs.1000/- from S. No. 01-07 and Rs.500/- for S. No. 08-10, must be attached with application form. (Account no. PK2290CB 171700-217813003, MCB Islamic bank limited).
- Candidates meeting the above mentioned criteria are invited to send their applications (Employment form) along with their CV's, two passport size photographs, attested photocopies of academic/experience credentials, domicile and CNIC to the HR Department, Paraplegic Centre Peshawar, Street No. 10, Sector P4, Phase-II, Hayatabad.
- Govt. servant/autonomous body's employees shall apply through proper channel.
- Applications must reach on 28th November, 2024.

Chief Executive Officer INF/PT/2015/024
Paraplegic Centre Hayatabad, Peshawar

PMDC achieves new milestone in case processing efficiency

By Iqram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has achieved a milestone in case processing efficiency through licensing portal as 71,361 out of 75,279 cases have been processed by issuing relevant documents.

The council has made significant strides in streamlining its operations with the launch of its new licensing portal, achieving efficiency and high success rates in case processing.

"Since the portal's inception a few months ago, on the diligent efforts of the President PMDC Prof Dr Kirwan Tal, Council has significantly expedited the processing and issuance of various certifications, demonstrating a strong commitment to timely and transparent service delivery for medical professionals across Pakistan," a statement claimed.

"As of the latest date, 71,361 out of 75,279 cases have been completed and issued by the PMDC. These cases included change in data/licenses, extension of provisional certificates, full registration certificates, good standing certificates, provisional licenses, provisional licenses for foreign graduates, renewal of license and registration of postgraduate qualifications, it stated.

"These members represent a high rate of processing efficiency, underscoring PMDC's dedication to service enhancement for the medical community. The portal's user-friendly interface and streamlined backend processing have resulted in quicker turnaround times and greater accessibility for medical professionals.

PMDC remains committed to continuous improvement and digital innovation, ensuring that the needs of the medical fraternity are met swiftly and effectively.

The council extends its gratitude to all stakeholders involved in making the portal a success and looks forward to setting even higher service delivery standards in the future," it stated.

"PMDC has taken a pivotal step to streamline the recognition of teaching experience for medical professionals.

A portal for the same has been recently launched through which targeted measures and accelerated processing, PMDC has reduced the time required for medical professionals to receive formal recognition of their teaching experience. This program will not only benefit medical educators but also enhance the broader healthcare sector by recognizing and empowering skilled educators more swiftly," it stated.

Man gets 14-year jail term for attempting to rape girl

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: A local court on Saturday sentenced a man to 14 years in jail for attempting to rape eight-year-old girl near her house in the limits of Wah Suddar police station in 2019.

An FIR was lodged against the nominated accused under sections 376 (punishment for rape and 511 (punishment for attempting to commit offences punishable with imprisonment for life or for a shorter term) of the PPC on the complaint of the victim's father.

Additional Sessions Judge Masudfar Nawaz Malik announced the verdict after final arguments from the prosecution and defence sides.

The judge also imposed a fine of Rs100,000 on the convict and if he failed to pay the fine, he would have to undergo an additional three months of simple imprisonment.

He was remanded back in the prison to serve out the sentence.

Two sentenced to death

Two murder convicts were handed down death sentence for killing wife and brother-in-law in two different cases registered against them in 2018 and 2022 respectively in the limits of Wah Suddar Police station.

In the first case, a man was sentenced to death for killing his wife over a domestic dispute in Taxila. Taxila's Additional Sessions Judge Masudfar Nawaz Malik on Friday convicted Imadullah for the murder of his 25-year-old wife Fatima Bibi at her parents' house located on G-16 road in the limits of Wah Suddar police station on June 22, 2018.

The judgement was announced in an open court after considering evidence and arguments from the prosecution and the defence sides.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs500,000 on him, which is to be paid to the legal heirs of the victim. The culprit will also face an additional 6 months in jail if he failed to pay the fine.

The same court sentenced to death Shabid Khan for killing his brother-in-law Mujahid Khan over family feud in Mohallah Darbar Karwan in the jurisdiction of Wah Suddar police station on April 12, 2022.

The judge announced his verdict after recording evidence from both sides. The judge ruled that the prosecution had successfully proved the charges against the accused, and handed down the death sentence to him.

Conference at Wah varsity discusses scientific, technological challenges

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: The Ninth Multidisciplinary Student Research International Conference (MDSRNIC 2024) concluded at University of Wah on Saturday, which addressed emerging technological, scientific and socio-economic challenges.

The two-day conference attracted over 150 participants including scholars and researchers from different countries. Renowned speakers from Turkey and Pakistan gave informative presentations on a wide range of topics.

The discussions further encompassed areas like Data Science, Material Science, Electronics, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Environmental Sciences, Artificial Intelligence and Software Engineering.



AN OLD man peels woods at his workplace on Charsadda Road in Peshawar. — NP

Insaf Doctors Forum cries foul over appointment of MPA's son as DHO

Demands notification withdrawal, formation of panel for health dept administrative postings

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: The Insaf Doctors Forum, an organisation of medical doctors affiliated with the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, has demanded the cancellation of the appointment of party MPA Shafiqullah's son as the district health officer in Khyber tribal district over the alleged "violation of merit."

He also urged the chief minister to constitute a high-level committee to recommend future postings to administrative positions in the health department.

In a letter to the chief minister, IDF Khyber Pakhtunkhwa president Dr Nabil Jan Afridi expressed concern about "untransparent" appointment of the Khyber DHO and demanded the revocation of the notification.

Dr Afridi noted that as a member of the Health Policy Team Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it was his prime duty to inform the chief minister that Khyber tribal district had immense potential to upgrade its healthcare system and reduce patient burden on Peshawar's tertiary care hospitals.

He said that an improved health system in Khyber tribal district could also benefit patients from neighbouring Afghanistan as well.

The IDF president, however, said that in the absence of health governance and leader-

ship, the tribal district's health performance was very poor, leading to the referral of around 90 per cent of the local patients to public and private hospitals in the provincial capital.

"This is happening despite the presence of major health facilities within a radius of 10-15 kilometres," he said.

Dr Afridi complained about the appointment of Dr Faisal Kamal (BPS-17) as the Khyber DHO (BPS-18), saying a junior officer has been asked with heading the district health system.

"His [Dr Kamal's] experience and performance in Bajaur and Kurram tribal districts cannot be justified for his posting as Khyber DHO," he said.

The IDF chief suspected that PTI MPA Shafiqullah from Lower Dir district's "interference" and

pressure on the health department might have influenced his son's appointment to the key post, as the health department and local community had reservations about it.

"We [IDF] request you [chief minister] for the withdrawal of Dr Faisal Kamal's notification as the Khyber DHO and appointment of an eligible and suitable candidate to the post on merit who can manage and uplift the district health system in the best public interest," he said.

Dr Afridi said that in order to prevent such out-of-merit postings, the CM, who was also the president of the PTI in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to form a high-level committee for appointments of DHOs, hospital medical superintendents, project directors, and directors in the health department to address the impression of nepotism.

"A dedicated committee will

help ensure a merit-based, transparent selection process, free from political interference and violation of merit. These key appointments require a focus on professionalism and qualifications to support a smooth and effective health-care system in the province," he said.

The IDF chief president said that by upholding fair standards for candidate selection, the proposed committee would enhance the integrity of our healthcare services and ensure that qualified professionals are placed in these essential roles, directly benefiting the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that he was confident in the chief minister's support for the proposal and looked forward to the positive impacts be brought about by the proposed committee on the administrative affairs of the health department.

AKU launches free, online nutrition courses for healthcare professionals

By Kalba Ali

ISLAMABAD: In view of malnutrition faced by children and adolescent girls in the country, the Aga Khan University (AKU) has launched free, online nutrition courses for healthcare professionals.

The courses will be conducted by the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) of the AKU.

These courses are part of the IGNTT initiative, a project aimed at empowering health professionals to provide essential nutrition care particularly for women, children, and adolescent girls.

The project 'Increase Gains in Nutrition by Integration, Education, Evaluation and Empowerment' (IGNTT) is a collaborative, five-year capacity-building initiative launched in 2021.

Focused on improving nutrition services in Pakistan, Ghana and Malawi, the project is funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented in Pakistan by IGHD in partnership with the Centre for Global Child Health at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), Nutrition International, and WaterAid Pakistan.

Speaking at the launch, Dr Zofiqar A. Bhutta of IGHD said the courses had been designed in context of Pakistan to address the local challenges.

These offer accessible, interactive training tailored to Pakistan's healthcare needs. It is targeted at doctors, dietitians, nurses, and midwives. The courses equip professionals with practical skills to integrate nutrition care into their clinical practices.

By highlighting the connections between gender, environment, and nutrition, the courses aim to deliver equitable care and address Pakistan's

nutrigen healthcare challenges.

Available on the World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA) platform, these mobile-friendly courses allow participants to access content from any device with offline options for increased flexibility.

Upon completion, participants will receive certificates accredited by the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Pakistan Medical Council.

IGNTT's courses will play a vital role in strengthening child, adolescent and maternal nutrition care, contributing to improved health outcomes for Pakistan's most vulnerable populations.

Health professionals interested in the programme can register at www.ighd.org by selecting Pakistan and their respective organisations.

0.4m illegal Afghans return via KP in one year

Continued from Page 13

Gilgit-Baltistan.

The documents also reveal that apart from illegal immigrants in KP, the provincial government received 1,440 illegal Afghan immigrants from other provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Islamabad.

Of them, 1,163 came in from Punjab, 194 from Islamabad, 44 from Sindh, 38 from Azad Jammu and Kashmir and one from Gilgit-Baltistan.

Resident registered Afghan refugees, including 1.3 million with Proof of Registration cards and 0.8 million with Afghan Citizen Cards, and those illegally living in Pakistan, around 0.7 million Afghans have arrived in Pakistan since Jan 2021, according to government officials.

They added that of those 0.7 million Afghans, around 100,000 had already left for resettlement in a third country.

When contacted, spokesperson for UNHCR Pakistan Qasim Khan Afridi said the Pakistani government and people had a commendable, decades long history of hosting Afghans, who fled conflict and violence in the past.

"Although every country has its own laws for regulating borders, we [UNHCR] urge Pakistan to continue protecting those seeking safety, as it has done for many decades," he said.

Mr Afridi said an Afghanistan faced human rights challenges, especially for women and girls, a forced return would have serious implications for all seeking asylum in Pakistan and could face serious issues on registration.

'Iran to develop medical tourism with Pakistan'

ISLAMABAD: Iran has shown interest in developing and enhancing medical tourism with Pakistan. This was said by Iranian Ambassador Rana Amiri Maghaddam while addressing participants of an event held at Marood International Hospital during its Annual Staff Fest, a celebration dedicated to recognise the work and commitment of its employees.

"Events like these not only boost morale but also reinforce the strong team spirit that is vital for any successful organisation," the Iranian ambassador said.

Highlighting the strong historical ties between Iran and

Pakistan, Mr Maghaddam expressed Iran's readiness to expand scientific exchange and collaboration with Pakistan and discuss the potential for developing medical tourism between the two nations.

The hospital's CEO, Haroon Nawaz, and the ambassador discussed potential collaborations in various medical fields, including research, surgery and liver transplantation.

"In Pakistan, the nurse-to-patient ratio is approximately 1:40, significantly lower than the recommended 1:70 ratio. This shortage places immense pressure on the health-care system. — Staff Reporter



A FOREIGN participant presents her paper at the Multidisciplinary Student Research Conference at the University of Wah on Saturday. — Dawn



THE LAST OF THE MAESTROS

Page 4

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

@icondawn

► **STYLE**

The recent two-day 'Fashion Week' in Karachi organised by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan reminded one of glory days gone by. And that not everything on a catwalk can be called fashion



Sanam Chaudhri

The Pink Tree Company

HSY

Yuna Hattori (Japan)

Sania Maskekiya

'AT LEAST THERE WAS A CATWALK'



Fahad Hussayn with his models

By Maliha Rehman

Seeing a catwalk, ablaze with lights, laid out in a crowded auditorium, brought on a sense of nostalgia.

There was a time when the catwalk was all in a day's work for the media fraternity, an imperative part of the multiple fashion weeks and shows that would be littered all through the yearly fashion calendar. Now, though, with the local fashion industry grappling with a moribund economy and a dearth of sponsorship, the catwalk rarely makes an appearance.

Credit goes to the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) for ensuring that a two-day 'fashion week' was part of their roster for the textile-centric TEXPO 2024. A host of foreign buyers—predominantly from prosaic textile backgrounds rather than from global fashion industries—attended the event.

It is always hoped that, even though most of the visitors may not belong particularly to the field of fashion, viewing the work of some of the country's finest ateliers may steer them towards placing orders for ready-to-

wear, embroideries, indigenous lace fabrics etc. But this has rarely happened previously and, knowing this, one always falls back on the hope that, in these tiresome times, when the world may view Pakistan as violent and terror-ridden, at least the show would be able to put forward a 'soft image' of the country.

A soft image is fine. A soft but unappealing image is not. My problem is with putting forward images of amply, inconspicuous clothes presented under the guise of 'high fashion'.

The sense of *deja vu* persisted while watching the fashion show over a span of two days, but not always in a good way. There were a few good collections amidst a plethora of lacklustre, forgettable line-ups that seemed to have been put together in a rush.

But let's start this analysis with the collections that stood out.

The Pink Tree Company flexed some serious fashion muscle with designs that ranged from quirky, carefree cotton basics and pants in white to an astronomical capsule crafted from *bandhwa* with beaded embellishments and an expansive range of formal dresses created with crushed, block-printed *muslin* and woven *jamana*.

The all-white clothes were "dedicated to people who are oppressed" around the world; the models wore *bandhwa* caps and the outfits were etched with faces of various personalities and some of their most renowned quotes. There was so much more that one noticed—such as the handcrafted brass jewellery created by Saima Haq, and pretty bags by Adeela Sultan of *Oldbird Art*. A lot of attention had obviously been given to the little details that set a collection apart.

Similarly, designer Zainab Chishti put her best foot forward, with a line-up that stood out for its detailed *khushk* threadwork and brilliant mélange of colours. Leaves and tree stamps and interwining vines signifying the tree of life stretched across the designer's canvas of pure silk, raw silk and chiffon, embroidered on to statement jackets and tunics and amplified through bright colour-blocks.

The clothes were testament to Zainab's class as a designer. She played with her strengths—colour, texture, embroidery and fusion cuts—to create a line-up that was very cohesive, very wearable and also, very memorable. Also noticeable in the show was a range of funky jewellery, all part of a newly launched line

by former model Varoona Ahmed, who was also the showstopper for Zainab.

While Zainab Chishti may not have realised it, her show also inadvertently sent out a message to her peers in the industry: just because your collection is going to be showcased on a catwalk, you don't have to go silly trying to create anglicised gowns.

In most cases, what you may consider to be 'avant-garde' only ends up looking like an ugly *deja vu* 'genre' rather than a state-of-the-art gown. Work with what you're best at, what you sell the most and you may just be able to put together a standout show.

Now that we're done with that much-needed lesson, another riveting collection was put forward by Fahad Hussayn. This was the designer's 'Faction' line—the edgy, fun counterpart to his heavy-duty *bridaals*—and what caught the eye were the separate pieces rather than the overall designs.

A quilted jacket in black with a bejewelled tiger roaring at the back, for instance, was more noticeable than the blingy, very experimental short dress that it

TDAP FASHION WEEK, PAGE 3

ICON

► CINEMASCOPE

Venom: The Last Dance is a miraculous save of the Venom trilogy

TAKES THREE TO TANGO



By Mohammad Kamran Jawaid

Venom: *The Last Dance*, according to the hype and the presumption from the title, is the final part of the Venom trilogy. However, one wonders if there ever really is a "last dance" in comic-book movies these days.

As someone who has not given a positive review to any previous Venom films — save for citing the fact that Tom Hardy, as both Eddie Brock and his alien symbiote Venom, has been a hero — I would've been inclined to say: good riddance to all Venom films... If only *The Last Dance* hadn't been a miraculous save by writer-director Kelly Marcel.

Marcel is a former actress-turned-screenwriter-turned-director. As an actress, I don't remember her work listed in IMDb, as a writer, she has written *Saving Mr. Banks* (the film where Tom Hanks plays Walt Disney), won the Razzie Award for *Fifty Shades of Grey* (she deserved it), and cobbled together the last two unimpressive Venom movies. As a director this is her debut, and one thing is undeniable somehow, she makes the fluff work better than the previous directors, Robert Rodriguez and Andy Serkis.

Once again, the story is hardly there — but then again, that's old news by now. In the opening, we're introduced to Knull, the god of symbiotes who is trapped by his creations, yet seeks a "codes" that will free him to reign the universe. Soon Eddie, being the codes (duh!), finds himself on the run from Knull's hunters, fights one of them off from the top of a flying aeroplane, runs

away on horseback (after Venom takes over and mutates the horse), hitches a ride with a hippie family (the father is played by Rhys Ifans) that wants to see Area 51 before the place is decommissioned, and then fights the big climactic fight when Knull's hunters find them there.

Side events include a stopover in Las Vegas, a dance with a fan-favourite character, and the introduction of supporting characters that include a commander (Chiwel Ejiofor) who has been tasked to nab Eddie, and two female scientists (Juno Temple and Clark Backo) — one of whom has a bit of a backstory, and the return of a semi-important character who was deemed dead (Stephen Graham).

Despite the trailer giving all of this info away, *Venom: The Last Dance* is still enjoyable. Again, other than Marcel, the credit goes to Hardy for holding together this film series. He is a first actor who, before this movie, had been the sole reason why the Venom films have made so much money worldwide, despite their ineptitude.

Although *The Last Dance* is the end of the trilogy, with the introduction of Knull — who is a really, really big villain from the comics — and the way this story culminates, one now wants to see Venom return in a team-up with Tom Holland's Spider-Man against the god of the symbiotes (it was a grand event in comics called *The King in Black*).

Now that would be a great film to wait for. If that film's writers write it well.

Reviewed by BBC and Sony, Venom: The Last Dance is rated U and is suitable for all audiences, whether or not they're into comic-book movies (the plot and continuity never mattered in this trilogy)

THE GRAPEVINE

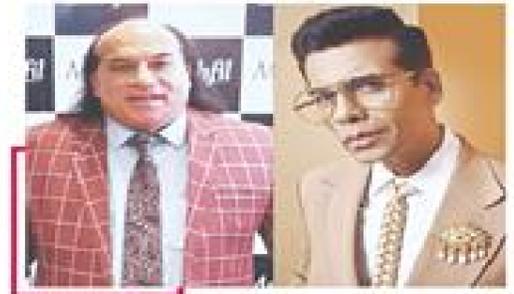
By PYT

► BUSY ACTOR



It seems that Fawad Khan is the busiest Pakistani actor these days. After the news going viral that he's doing an Indian film with Yami Kapoor as his love interest, reports now say that he's acting in two more projects, one of which is *Relieved the Scenera*, a new-screen drama executive-produced by documentary filmmaker Muhammad Ali Naqvi. The other is a movie adaptation of politician Omar Shahid Hamid's bestselling novel *The Prisoner*, which is about the violence in Karachi in the 1990s. This means that, in the former, Fawad K will bring the news to the public and, in the latter, he himself will become the news.

► MESSAGE FOR K-JO



Last week, we mentioned Indian director/producer Karan Johar's reference to Chahur F K Khan's version of the song *Tasbeeh Tasbeeh*. Apparently, it has made the social media figure (we're talking about Chahur F K Khan) so happy that he has sent the following message on Instagram to K-Jo: "It's my wish to work in your film, and I want to tell you that I will work for free. If you have confidence, let it be like Chahur's, or don't have it at all." Well, we think we know the producer/director's answer: not even for free.

► IMMORALITY BITES



Model and television host Matina has always been known for her no-holds-barred attitude to showbiz and devil-may-care attitude in front of the idiot box. So when she raises concerns about "immorality", you scratch your head and... scratch more. In an interview, she has been quoted to have said that the country has become "advanced", which is the reason for the rise in immorality, with specific reference to "improper relationships." Well, Matina, it seems that you know something about some famous people that we don't.

► FLING TIMES?



Hollywood A-lister Kajol has hopped on to the "times have changed" bandwagon as well. She starred in one of the most commercially successful films in the history of Indian cinema, the smash-hit rom-com *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (1995), alongside Shah Rukh Khan. But she thinks the film could not have been made today because, in 2024, the *DDLJ* pair would only have a "fling". To be honest, in the film as well, it was a fling for the longest period too, wasn't it?

► NOTE OF PAYNE

It's only been a couple of weeks since singer Liam Payne died after falling off a hotel building in Hammes Aires and shock all those who love music. His girlfriend,

Kate Cassidy, has opened up about her feelings for him on Instagram, which has broken many a heart. Among other things, she writes, "A few weeks ago, we sat outside on a beautiful evening manifesting our lives together. I keep your name close, even though you told me not to look at it. It said, 'Me and Kate to marry within a year/ engaged and together forever.'" What a truly sad story.



► LEO'S LATEST

Academy award winner Leonardo DiCaprio isn't cautious about his affair with the 26-year-old Italian model Viorica Carotti anymore. The two were spotted in a New York street, hand in hand, having a casual, lovey-dovey moment. Although the 49-year-old Leo DiC tried to disguise his appearance by wearing a baseball cap and a face mask, people could tell which celebrity couple was walking on the busy street. Once he sensed that they'd been seen by a lot of people, Leo DiC quickly moved himself and his latest lady love into their car. Just like a wolf on Wall Street.



► FESTIVAL

The BFI London Film Festival 2024, which ran from October 9-20, provided a glimpse into some films to look out for over the coming year

THE FILMS AT LONDON

By Louis Bayman

This year's London Film Festival boasted 254 feature and short films, with an all-time high of 44 percent of the films screened by female and non-binary directors. But the festival's most newsworthy event concerned a film that wasn't screened at all.

To the dismay of its director, Havana Marking, the documentary *Unleashing: Exposing the Far Right* was cancelled at the last minute, with festival staff citing safety concerns in the wake of the summer riots. The documentary seeks to expose the political influence of a shadowy US-UK network that promotes racist scientific views. Although it missed out on its opportunity for a theatrical showing, the film is now airing on Channel 4 and is receiving good reviews.

Like all festivals, there were prizes to be won and the festival jury awarded best feature film to *Memoir of a Snail*. This is the first time that a stop-motion animation has won the award. Directed by Adam Elliot and featuring the voice of *Sirius* star Sarah Snook, the jury praised it as "emotionally resonant and constantly surprising", adding that it "tackles pertinent issues such as bullying, loneliness and grief head-on."

This may turn out to be an unpopular decision with critics, given how many of them complained about the emotional nature of the festival's opening night gala film, Steve McQueen's wartime drama *BBC: McQueen's genius for realising the*



Memoir of a Snail | Morgan Media

restrictive nature of particular historical moments is always achieved with a special intensity, whether with Irish political prisoners in *Bangs* or the pre-annihilation US of *12 Years A Slave*.

W1A takes as its setting these days in London in 1940, featuring a child who manages to flee evacuation and has to find his way through a bombed-out London back home to his mother. The film even alludes to Charles Dickens, as the boy tries to dodge the no-go-roads of the city streets.

The boy is bi-racial and the film's

representation of the Black life of the city is a corrective to more commonplace images of a monocultural wartime Britain. But its family drama conjures more pathos than is usual for McQueen. The film thus revises, if not destroys, the myth of national unity that has grown up around the Blitz. It incorporates racial and class divisions, but the critical consensus seemed to be that its sentimentality let the film down.

Alternatively, *The Apprentice*, the true story of the rise of Donald Trump under the tutelage of cutthroat lawyer Roy Cohn,

showed considerable restraint depicting its uniquely polarising protagonist. The film finds Trump dodging lawsuits in the crisis-ridden New York of the 1970s, only to prosper in the greed-is-good real estate boom of the 1980s.

Sebastian Stan's Trump avoids caricature, almost garnering affection before eventually becoming the bubbling fountain of profound toxicity that we recognise today. With excellent performances from Jeremy Strong as Cohn and Maria Bakalova as Ivana Trump, the film succeeds most as a re-creation of the iconic images of New York's modern history through the prism of Trump. This re-creation occurs first in its retro imitation of early Martin Scorsese films, and then with the grain of a boardroom melodrama shot on VHS.

The festival also included some righteously powerful political denunciations.

The Seed of the Sacred Fig deserves special mention as an acutely powerful portrait of a family undergoing the increasingly suspenseful stirrings of rebellion amid the "women, life, freedom" protests in Iran.

I'm Still Here, a return to directing from Central Station director Walter Salles, presents the intersection of the personal and the political in a very different way. The film tells the true story of the left-wing congressman Rubem Paiva's disappearance by the Brazilian military dictatorship in 1971 and the heart-breaking reunion of his family's life-long search for answers.

Other notable returns from veteran directors included Mike Leigh's depiction

of the struggles of mental illness in *Hard Truths*, a blend of social realism and fairytale set in *Guvernement*, and Pedro Almodóvar's first English-language film *The Room Next Door*.

Two films that achieved a particular buzz among festival attendees and that are set to achieve a wide general release are *Asava*, Sean Baker's comedy drama about a mismatched marriage between a lapdancer and a Russian oligarch's son, and *Conclave*, set around the choosing of a new pope, starring Ralph Fiennes and Stanley Tucci.

I had some personal favourites of the films that garnered fewer headlines. The first is *All We Imagine As Light*, an allusive portrait of the dislocating effects of modern city life among three female friends in Mumbai. Another is *Four Mothers*, a remake of the Italian comedy *Mid-August Lunch*, transposed to Ireland. Featuring an aspiring writer whose friends go on holiday and leave their elderly mothers for him to look after, its blend of humour and sensitivity achieves exquisite delicacy.

And finally, *The Nasty* wins my award for the cinema's potential for delicious incoherence. Set entirely in a car park overlooking a beach, this comedy-thriller-folk horror explores suburban aspirational masculinity through a characteristically denuded star turn by Nicolas Cage. ■

The writer is an Associate Professor in the Department of Film Studies at the University of Southampton in the UK

Reprinted from The Conversation

► **SOUNDSCAPE**

How Black music record stores shaped the sound of the UK

SHAPING TASTES

By Amit Dinesh Patel

Black music record stores have always been more than just places to buy records. These spaces became lifelines for communities, cultural hubs where people gathered, shared stories and connected over a shared passion for music.

From the early days of the Windrush generation to the present, these stores have been a vital part of the Black cultural experience. For many, they were crucial in shaping not just their musical tastes, but their sense of identity and belonging.

I am part of a new research project, 'The Record Store and Black Music: A UK History', led by my colleague Dr Brona Martin, which is aiming to shine a spotlight on this legacy, by documenting the untold stories of Black record stores across the UK, to preserve them for future generations. Through oral histories, films and photos, we are capturing the vibrant world that flourished within these stores.

"I don't know how, especially as Black Caribbean people, we'd have survived in England if we hadn't had music," Claude Hendrickson, founder of the Clapton Youth Association Leeds, told us. His words emphasised how deeply intertwined these spaces are with the community's survival and cultural resistance.

For many Black people, these stores transcended their commercial nature to offer a sense of belonging, a space where you could learn about new artists, hear the latest sounds and connect with kindred spirits. As British DJ and presenter Trevor Nelson told us: "the first community I had in music was in a record shop." He remembered how important those early interactions with his first music community were, building connections that would shape his career.

What made these stores even more unique was their ability to foster a network of collaboration. Record shops weren't just about selling music; they were about creating it too. Artists, DJs, promoters, radio stations and music journalists used these spaces as meeting points to exchange ideas, feedback and be inspired.



Patrons shopping at Starbird Records | David Cornwell/Cherry Arts

As David Rodigan, a legendary figure in UK radio and reggae aficionado, explained to us: "The whole business of going to a record shop was very much an advent of gathering like-minded souls."

THE ORIGINAL TASTE-MAKERS

Before the age of streaming, record stores were an essential part of how music moved and evolved. Long before algorithms suggested new tracks, the person behind the counter was the original taste-maker — someone who knew their music and their community and could help shape what you listened to next.

In this way, record stores didn't just reflect musical trends — they helped create them. For example, shops that catered to soul, R&B, reggae, jungle, drum 'n' bass, UK garage, dub, hip-hop, and other Black music genres played an instrumental role in shaping the UK's music charts. They guided the preferences of their customers and, by extension, the nation.

In an era when mainstream radio and major record labels often ignored Black music, these stores provided a crucial alternative. They were the places where artists got their start and where word of mouth

helped build careers. In doing so, these stores became the heart of a cottage industry that supported independent artists and labels, allowing Black people to thrive in an industry that wasn't always welcoming or accessible.

Our project doesn't just celebrate the past — it also asks what these spaces mean in today's world. Although record shops aren't as ubiquitous as they once were, their impact on the cultural landscape remains undeniable. By documenting these stories, we ensure that the contribution of Black music stores isn't forgotten but, rather, remains an integral part of the UK's cultural heritage.

As we continue to explore and document their history, we are reminded of their immense contribution — not only to the music industry but to the very fabric of British cultural life. ■

The writer is a Senior Lecturer in Music and Sound at the University of Greenwich in the UK.

Republished from The Conversation



Humayun Alamgir



Rising Stars



Shamuel Anwar



Zahrah Chettani

TDAP FASHION WEEK, FROM PAGE 1

was paired with. The handbags were gorgeous, as were the capes, the lightly embroidered men's tunics, the short and pants with faux fur and the statement jewellery.

Fahad Hussain is an expert at delivering fashion experiences rather than just showcasing clothes, and this line-up exemplified this. Everything, from the clothes to the bags and the jewellery, was crafted in-house and the styling and the music — created by Hamza Haiday — was carefully curated.

As someone who has seen Fahad's work over the years, I am aware of his passion for design, but even someone who isn't acquainted with the designer's journey would have to admit

that his work — the occasional fashion show and the frequent shoots — are works of art rather than merely a means of selling clothes.

There were other line-ups that were fun and miss — usually more his, less mine. Shamuel Anwar worked with applique, embroidery and print to create a collection that fit into the export-centric mandate that a TDAP show should ideally follow. Saraam Chaudhari put forward her gowns, some very cool pants and jackets that dazzled with beaded tassels and embroidery.

Sania Maskariya's printed co-ords and dresses were very pretty but would have been more memorable had they not become ubiquitous, courtesy the host of copycats that have been replicating them for the past six months or so. Humayun Alamgir's styling was also well-stitched, although one

preferred the occasional spurs of print and colour to the black and white tones.

One wondered, though, if a lot of the collections showcased on the catwalk had been put together in a rush. News of this event had only filtered out about four-odd weeks ago. Designers may have had difficulty coming up with an all-new line-up while also catering to their regular clientele and meeting deadlines for their seasonal collections.

It was hardly enough time to come up with a cohesive, inventive line-up and also figure out the finer details of styling and accessories. In this scenario, did most designers simply rummage out designs that they already had in stock? This could have been the case. A lot of the collections left one wanting to be enthralled and only getting mildly pleased.

But let's move on to the many that couldn't even please. There were the

jaw-droppers shown by high-street brands who had simply rolled out whatever seasonal stock they had in store. There was the leather brand that assailed the audience with not one, but two unremarkable line-ups, on successive days. There was the designer who tends to have a student-like urge to experiment to the point that the clothes look like costumes that belong in a sci-fi movie.

There were the ones who went off showcasing suitably stitched garments in a show that was supposed to be meant for exporters from around the world. And then there was the collection that leaned towards the macabre, with clothes that were mostly unflattering.

Of course, there were models that danced and a smattering of celebrity show-stoppers but, surely, there needs to be more to fashion than just spectacle!

One could name names of the many that brought the event down but that would lead to a veritable bloodbath. So, we'll steer the topic to what the TDAP could have done to improve this show.

Surely, the authorities can't justify their way into enclaves and shake some sense into the masses of so-called designers that have infiltrated the local fashion industry. What they can do, though, is be more discerning about who to include in their line-up.

Back when fashion councils were in their heyday, the editing of collections was considered an important step in the curation of a show. Why couldn't collections for this show also get edited? A day dedicated to high-end, trendsetting fashion would have been far better than two days where, aside from a few good men and women, everything else was lacklustre or worse.

This is important even more now because very few fashion events take place at this point in time. The TDAP has a responsibility to celebrate the very best in Pakistani fashion, not just because it is being viewed by visitors from around the world, but also because the local customers are also watching avidly.

Similarly, with the current dearth of fashion shows, designers also need to ensure that, when they do showcase their work, they put together cohesive, covative collections that are memorable.

One does appreciate that the show ended early in the night, rather than go on till late. Gogi by Hassan Rizvi handled the choreography well enough, although one missed seeing certain familiar faces in the modelling pool. There were some very well-known models, though, who held centre-stage, selected by designers to wear their best outfits.

Media from key publications across the country was present to see the show, the ones from outside of Karachi having been flown in. The organisers did try their best to maximise the show's mileage.

Also, one appreciates the effort invested into Pakistani fashion at a time when most others don't seem to be bothered. As someone commiserated with me after the first day of the show, 'At least there's a catwalk.'

Well, then, at least we have that, in these tried times when sponsors are few and some of the country's best sellers are harped together with disastrous ones on a single ramp. At least we get to see a catwalk.

Perhaps, beggars can't be choosers. ■

THE TUBE

THE WEEK THAT WAS

Kahil Main Kahil Ram | ARY, Mon-Tues 8:00pm

Dominating the ratings charts and the social media conversation, Farhat Ishtiaq's magnum opus is winning hearts everywhere.

Muhsina (Fahad Mustafa) took being treated as second best with a smile because he was not an academic achiever and always loved his family. When that same family believes he could be a thief, his self-belief is shaken and he becomes obsessed with money and "success". His drive to prove himself leads him to neglect his wife Sharjeena (Hania Aamir) and isolated by her husband's prickly sense of pride, which has distanced her from her family, and his obsession with becoming wealthy, Sharjeena ends up in hospital. Meanwhile, Adeel (Ehsaan Irfani), Muhsina's controlling brother, is about to be exposed by his controlling, wealthy wife Babab (Naeema Iqbal).



Director Badar Mehmood weaves a compelling, contemporary masterpiece out of Farhat Ishtiaq's beautifully written script. The message of anti-materialism and bringing the focus of our lives back to our relationships and the family unit has hit home with every stratum of society. Emotionally powerful performances from Fahad Mustafa, Hania Aamir and Javed Sheikh are balanced by the negative but realistic portrayals from Ehsaan Irfani, Bushra Ansari and Naeema Iqbal.

Jeon Se Pyara Aun | Hum TV, Wednesdays 8:00pm

After 25-plus episodes, this story is still stuck with Jaanaid's (Zahid Ahmed) toxic sister Safina Haji (Paiza Hassan) taking over his life like a leech. Paiza Hassan effectively repulses the negative energy that made her previous drama Nard such a huge controversial hit. However, the actual villain of the story remains Jaanaid, a supposedly quiet, unassuming man who is superficially kind to everyone.

Jaanaid is set in his ways, and a demanding perfectionist. His belief in his own judgement is unshakable and, surprisingly for a man of his age, lacking in the wisdom that would allow him to see beyond appearances. Jaanaid still has a very soft corner for the ex that never wanted him, Husan Ara (Hira Salmaan), and his self-righteous nature is easily manipulated. After having accused Mina (Marviya Shajafar), Jaanaid's unfortunate wife, of murder, Safina's next move is to send her to jail.

A sluggish plot and lack of nuance in the characterisations have diminished this show's potential. As the writer runs out of ideas, the plot is now pushing Mina to somehow connect with Husan Ara's ex in the form of Umar Shehzad, in a kind of marriage medical chairs.

Sunn Mere Dil | Geo TV, Wednesdays 8:00pm

Khalid-ur-Rehman Qamar brings us a story steeped in his signature brand of romance, fantasy and flowery rhetoric. Director Baseeb Hassan has created a world of beauty and warm intimacy with lighting and

skilled cinematography to complement this script. Bilal Abdullah (Wahaj Ali) is a powerful, successful hotel magnate with the world at his feet, but spends many of his days half-drunk and full of regrets. His nights are filled with anxiety, and his restlessness is deep. Bilal's interest in Sadaf (Maya Ali) is sudden — he hardly knows her but is bound to her. Sadaf has more practical concerns: her father (Syed Mohammad Ahmed) has died and she must not only support her family but her brother's fight against leukaemia. Sadaf is a principled young woman and, despite his wealth, fears and dislikes Bilal Abdullah's reputation as a playboy.

Maya Ali and Wahaj Ali try to recreate the amazing chemistry they shared in *Jo Bichhara Gaye*, but need more screen time together to make an impact.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR (OR NOT)

Ar Rahe-J-Aarcon | ARY, Coming soon

Shaberyar Mansoor and Ushna Shah star in a thrilling new serial, seemingly full of plot twists and suspense. ■ — *Sadaf Haidar*

THIS WEEK ON SPOTIFY

TOP 10 PAKISTANI SONGS		
S.#	SONG	STREAMS
1	Jhol Maanu, Annural Khalid	381,543
2	Tu Hai Kahan AUR	153,933
3	Wishes Hasan Raheem, Umair, Talwinder	146,782
4	Regrets Jevin Gill, Umair, Talha Anjum	137,416
5	Chal Diye Tum Kahan AUR	131,134
6	COME THROUGH (feat. Abdullah Maharvi, Talha Anjum) Umair, Abdullah Maharvi, Talha Anjum	111,796
7	Bikhra Abdul Hannan, Rovalio	99,741
8	Long Time No See Taimour Baig, Raffey Anwar, AUR	96,994
9	Nahin Milta Bayaan	92,772
10	Love Lost Umair, Talha Anjum	92,225

Celebrated music director Ustad Tafu Khan passed away on October 26 in Lahore at the age of 79. His life was rich with rhythm and melody and he leaves behind an enduring legacy in Pakistani music.

THE LAST OF THE MAESTROS

By Muhammad Suhayb

In 1953, poet Tavvir Nayyar returned from India, proclaiming two songs originally intended for K. Asif's still-unfinished *Mughal-e-Azam*.

One of these songs, written with Bollywood star Madhubala in mind, found a new destination: producer-director Anwar Karam Pasha swiftly took it for his family announced film, *Anarkali*, with the legendary Madam Noor Jehan enacting the titular role.

Madam Noor Jehan was getting ready to record the song when she noticed, during a rehearsal, that the tabla player was missing. Upon her inquiring, the person in charge nervously offered his eight-year-old son as a substitute. Noor Jehan lifted the young boy into her lap, speaking words that would prove prophetic: "A *talbir*'s or a *farishta*'s (artist) blessing and curse both take root — this boy will grow up to be a great music director."

Her words carried both weight and wisdom, as the boy went on to score hit film songs such as "Suno ve bhooli aah vafayi", "Zulfena Coca-Cola peh de", "Ek baar kabhiin dilbara" and "Sashti mayhay mil gaya".

The song Noor Jehan recorded with the young tabla player was the timeless "Kalam tal suno py, kabhiin tal suno", composed by the gifted music director Mameer Inayat Hussain. The young boy she blessed was none other than his cousin, Tafu, who would later rise to fame as Ustad Tafu Khan — a legendary music director and virtuoso tabla player.

Born Akbar Hussain Khan in 1945, Tafu hailed from the esteemed Muzang *gharana* and was one of seven brothers, all masters of their craft. Known collectively as the Tafu brothers, they became indispensable to the Pakistani music scene. No recording session in the '60s — whether for maestro such as Khwaja Khairul Anwar, Rasheed Attar, Sohail Rana or Robin Ghosh — was complete without their contribution.

Tafu's family connections extended to other musical icons, including his cousins Master Abdullah and Master Asad Hussain, famed for the Sufi *dhruvan* "Dard-e-dam-e-mat qadim-e-din." Music director Sahar Ali Bagga, son of Tafu's youngest brother, would go on to become another celebrated name in the industry.

Tafu was known for his affinity with the tabla from a very young age, a skill that earned him both name and fame far and wide, with his gaining recognition as a master of the tabla. His rhythmic genius made him a sought-after collaborator, especially by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, who famously regarded Tafu as "the other name of tabla playing."

Tafu's tabla, *dhoolak* or congo drums playing was an integral part of his music, helping him bring life to his compositions when he became a music composer. Even though his skill was unparalleled, a lack of PR and marketing meant that Tafu's reach did not match his talent — a reality that left many feeling he deserved far greater fame.

Tafu was often seen complimenting Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's *alaap* with his tabla on PTV, and their association was above that of friendship. He even accompanied Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan to India and helped in composing songs for *Aur Pyar Ho gaya* (1997) and *Kuchhi Mohabbat* (1998).

Ustad Tafu was laudably praised in India, with the legendary actor Dilip Kumar, music directors Laxmikant Pyarelal, A.K. Bhattacharya and singer Kumar Sanu acknowledging his work. He also had a close bond with tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, whose father Ustad Allah Rakha Khan and Tafu were both *shagirds* (students) of the famous Shokat Hussain Khan.

Tafu's venture into music composition came by chance. When his friend, producer Khalifa Saeed, faced a financial loss from the film *Arbana* (1967), Saeed quickly planned a recovery project, with



Ustad Tafu Khan (left) and Ustad Shokat Hussain



Tafu with Madam Noor Jehan



Tafu performing at an event



Tafu with Ustad Chhotay Ghulam Ali Khan

Anwana (1970). Tafu, who had been a dedicated studio musician since playing the *dhoolak* for "Tun ho qasam mehboob mere" for *Talwar* (1978), one such by Mehdi Hassan and Nafees Akhtar.

One of the earliest Urdu films of Tafu, *Gilgami* (1971) featured "Ye jab mere dilruba, suno le yeh dil ki andaz" by Masood Rana, which hinted at the style of his later hit "Sashti mayhay mil gaya." His compositions stood out, blending folk rhythms with a contemporary sensibility. Tafu's influence went beyond compositions, however. On a tour to Indonesia with dancer Amy Mizawa, he was inspired by international sounds, bringing instruments such as the accordion and the congo drums to Pakistani music, thereby expanding the auditory palette of the industry.

Inspired by R.D. Burman, he also incorporated North African influences into his folk music compositions, drawing on his Moroccan heritage and mastery over numerous instruments. This fresh approach modernised Pakistani music, making Tafu a pioneer in the true sense of the word.

Among Tafu's other beloved collaborations with Madam Noor Jehan were "Main ahar Panchhi de" from *Kab Di Shera* (1978), "Tu ne narara tu tu rava tu" from *Narabanda* (1975), the playful double-meaning "Thori peh gayi de thori peh gayi de" from *Devara* (1977), "Teri dil se dilbar" from *Wahab Gajjar* (1979) and "Ki aam de bharonas yaar" from *Sahil Bandhab* (1996), Madam Noor Jehan's last song.

He also composed "Main hoon pyar ka dhruvan" sung by A. Nayyar, the last song filmed on the iconic Waheed Murad in *Zulfata* (1987). Additionally, he introduced the powerhouse vocalist Nareetho Lal to the industry. In Iqbal Yousaf's *Khuda aur Mohabbat* (1978), he used A. Nayyar as Waheed Murad's voice in a couple of songs — "Ek baar kabhiin dilbara" while also giving a break to Babar Sharif as a singer in "Teri dil se jali."

And who can forget the famous "Coca-Cola peh de"? The trio of poet Khawaja Pervez, director Masood Butt and music director Tafu were behind the song from the movie *Chans To Soorah* (1986). Madam Noor Jehan and Tafu joined hands for the song that was revisited years later by Coke Studio, rendered by Meetas Shah and Umar Farooq.

This song was later copied in Bollywood too, for the anti-Pakistan film *Abhi: The Pride of India*. The song featured a dance by the renowned Nona Fatchi on the vocals of Shreya Ghoshal.

A straightforward man and a friend to all, Tafu found himself unexpectedly entangled in controversy earlier this year. When a journalist asked if "Bhagwaan" (God) was

Tafu was often seen complimenting Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's *alaap* with his tabla on PTV, and their association was above that of friendship.

truly present in Mehdi Hassan's voice, as Lata Mangeshkar had once stated, Tafu gave a candid response.

"There must be some poem of *Bhagwaan*," he said, sparking a social media uproar. Approaching 80, the elderly musician faced an intense backlash and was subjected to harsh criticism, until cooler heads prevailed. Old friends, including ghazal maestro Ghulam Ali and other prominent figures in the music fraternity, intervened to help defuse the situation and defend Tafu, restoring some measure of calm around the incident.

Tafu's legacy extends through his talented children. Sajjad Tafu, an accomplished guitarist and recipient of the Tamgha-i-Intiaz, and Tariq Tafu, known for his song "Lahore Lahore Hai" and also once one of the most sought-after drummers in Pakistan. His other sons, Ajaz and Tanveer Tafu have also made their mark in music.

Tafu's life, rich with rhythm and melody, leaves an enduring legacy in Pakistani music. Tafu was bestowed the Presidential Pride of Performance Award in 2023, just a year before his death. It seems he was waiting for the official recognition, a



The financial and military support that America has offered to Israel for decades is the reason why the Zionist state is able to carry out the ongoing genocide in Palestine and war crimes in Lebanon. Regardless of whether Donald Trump or Kamala Harris wins the election on November 5, this US support for its client state will continue, making the US and its Western allies as culpable for Israel's crimes against humanity

HOW THE US SUSTAINS ISRAEL'S WAR CRIMES

By Ejaz Haider



"For generations to come, all will be told of the miracle of the immense planes from the United States bringing in the material that means life to our people."

— Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir on the United States airlift during the 1973 War

"Things did not go particularly well for Israel over the next couple days, but as Israel started to push back the daily advances, the Nixon administration initiated Operation Nickel Grass, an American airlift to replace all of Israel's lost munitions. This was huge — planesload after planesload of supplies literally allowed munitions and material to seemingly re-open for the Israeli counter effort. 587 missions were flown throughout the airlift, dropping over 22,000 tons of supplies. An additional 90,000 tons of material were delivered by sea."

— How Richard Nixon Saved Israel from NixonFoundation.org

PREAMBLE

The above quotes are facts about Operation Nickel Grass, a United States (US) airlift that was bigger than the Berlin Airlift of 1948-49, and about how Israel found itself fighting for its survival. Since the United Nations Partition Plan for Mandatory Palestine under Resolution 181 of November 29, 1947, the US has been a major ally and supporter of Israel. However, the 1973 War helped change the entire dynamic of that relationship. Since that airlift, the US has committed itself fully and unequivocally to Israel's defence.

Even when there have been differences about Israel's conduct, the US has, for the most part, ensured that there must be "no daylight" between the two sides, a phrase attributed to the outgoing US President Joe Biden who self-describes himself as a "proud Irish-Christian Zionist."

Two days after the publication of this article, the US will be electing a president. Among many other policy concerns, including domestic, a burning question for many Arab and Muslim American voters in which of the two candidates will be a better fit for bringing peace to the Middle East and force Israel to stop its savage genocidal war.

That concern, while totally justified, is largely, if not wholly, misplaced for structural reasons — the US system, which represents the current power relationships, is controlled by what political scientists John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt called "the Israel Lobby" in a 2007 book, *The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy*.

Mearsheimer and Walt call the US-Israel relationship and the US support for Israel a "unique" relationship unparalleled in US history. They also argue that this relationship is not really "based on shared strategic interests or compelling moral imperatives", as is normally assumed, but "is due

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Israel is spending much more per month on the military — from \$1.8 billion before October 7, 2023, to around \$4.7 billion by the end of last year. According to several Israeli economists, the Gaza war alone has cost the Israeli economy over \$67.3 billion.

almost entirely to US domestic politics, and especially to the activities of the 'Israel Lobby'."

There is a lot of literature on how the Israel lobby works. Organisations such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), in combination with big money, Christian Zionists and Israeli Arabots (public diplomacy techniques), work towards damaging politicians, activists and even scholars who are critical of Israel and its policies.

An October 24 report in *The Intercept* by Akela Lacy, 'How Does AIPAC

Shape Washington? We Tracked Every Dollar' says AIPAC has "embraced a new strategy" — "it would use its vast funds to oust progressive members of Congress who have criticised human rights abuses by Israel and the country's receipt of billions of US dollars in military funding."

Lacy says that "AIPAC's approach to electoral spending is bipartisan." The strategy is to support candidates that are pro-Israel and defeat those who are not. Anyone familiar with how Washington DC works knows how legislation and actions by any administration can be influenced if the right people are available in the power corridors.

In addition to financial and military support, the US has lent Israel unqualified diplomatic support since 1972. Globalaffairs.org has estimated that "The US has vetoed resolutions critical of Israel more than any other council member — 45 times as of December 18, 2023, according to an analysis by Blue Marble." Thirty-three of these resolutions "pertained to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories or the country's treatment of the Palestinian people."

It is instructive to contrast the US' actual behaviour with its platitudes about a two-state solution as an imperative for peace. The US has also, as I have noted in this space previously, consistently vetoed the push for Palestine's statehood and full membership of the UN, because statehood bestows on Palestine sovereignty and the right to self-defence. That is not acceptable to either Israel or the US.

COROLLARY

Before proceeding with further details, I want to put the proposition already proved upfront: Israel could not have sustained itself, its unending war in the Middle East and the structured violence against the Palestinian people without the unique support it gets from the US and some Western allies of the US.

That support spans the entire gamut of diplomatic, financial and military. This is also true of the current iteration of the Palestinians' generational war against Zionism. Israel could not have sustained its continuing war without the full and unconditional diplomatic, financial and military support of the US.

That fact gives us a simple reality: the US is not an honest broker and

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THE AMERICAN ENGINE FUELLING ISRAEL

SUSTAINING ISRAEL'S WAR CRIMES, PAGE 1

cannot be expected to work towards an equitable resolution of the Palestine problem. It is complicit in everything Israel does and, by shielding it from the consequences of its crimes against humanity, the US is answerable for those crimes. This is also true of the ongoing war.

This also means what I have previously said in this space: this war will continue with its many ebbs and flows. It can only end with the end of Zionism.

ISRAEL'S DESPERATION: A PAGE FROM HISTORY

At 1400 hours on October 6, 1973, Egypt and Syria launched a coordinated surprise attack against Israel, along the Golan Heights and across the Bar Lev Line on the eastern bank of Suez Canal. Egyptian forces overran the presumably invulnerable Bar Lev line in just two hours, even though Israeli defence minister Moshe Dayan had famously called it "one of the best anti-tank ditches in the world."

In the months leading up to the War, the Egyptians and Syrians had modernised their forces by purchasing Soviet Surface-to-Surface Missiles from the Soviet Union to offset Israel's air superiority. The first few days of the war saw dozens of Israeli fighter jets, tanks and APCs destroyed.

The US Department of State archives have a Memorandum of Conversation from October 9, 1973 between Israeli ambassador to the US, Simcha Dinitz, his military attaché Gen Mordechai Gur, and US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Gen Brent Scowcroft, deputy assistant to the US president for national security affairs. The contents of that conversation give a clear sense of Israeli losses and the panic that was setting in.

Dinitz: "We got a message which sums up our losses until 9am Israeli time. In planes, 14 Phantoms, 28 Skyhawks, 3 Mirages, 4 Super Mysteres — a total of 49 planes. Tanks — we lost something like 500 tanks. Some were lost on the way."

Kissinger: "500 tanks? How many do you have? (to Scowcroft) We should get Haig here. Well, we can give him the figures...."

Kissinger: Explain to me, how could 400 tanks be lost to the Egyptians?"

Gur: "We were in a very big hurry to bring them to the front line. That's why we say some were lost on the way to the battle."

Dinitz: "Some got out of commission because of moving so fast."

Scowcroft: "Do you know how many were battle losses?"

Gur: "Some were hit by artillery fire on the Suez Canal. They have heavy artillery fire. We don't know the exact numbers. I assume the biggest number were put completely out of action." (Gen Gur then pulls out a map and sits beside Kissinger.)

This conversation also coincided with the October 9 Israeli counterattack that failed. Kissinger was concerned that an Israeli defeat would increase the prestige and footprint of the Soviets in the Middle East. This was also Nixon's concern, though he also, initially, did not want to antagonise the Gulf monarchies.

The US secretary of defence, James Schlesinger, who went along with the decision, was not particularly in favour of US support to Israel. As the October 6 "Minutes of Washington Special Actions Group Meeting" show, Schlesinger said, "We can delay on this. Our stepping any staff into Israel blows any image we may have as an honest broker."

Schlesinger also sent a memorandum to President Nixon on November 1, Subject-lined "Impact of the Mideast War". Schlesinger wrote, "This memorandum provides my initial reaction to the recent Mideast crisis and to the transfer of military equipment to Israel... I am concerned... by the degradation of our conventional deterrent due to the loss of critical materiel." (Emphasis added)

Kissinger was very unhappy with Schlesinger's objections and told the White House Chief of Staff, Alexander Haig, "They [Israelis] are anxious to get some equipment which has been approved and which some SCOB [the Department of] Defence held up which I didn't know about." Golda Meir had made a panicked phone call to President Nixon. That call became the basis for the massive US airlift of materiel to resupply Israel to offset its losses in the first few days of the war.

Kissinger would bring in other arguments, particularly the broader strategic concerns about the Soviet Union but, in the end, it was about Israel itself and America's pledge to defend it. The dialogue in the Golda Meir about Kissinger (Liev Schreiber) telling Golda (Helen Mirren) that he is an American first, secretary of state second and a Jew only third, and Golda telling him that, in Israel, "we read from right to left", was not just for dramatic purposes. It was an actual conversation that Kissinger would often narrate.

That support has continued. But how does it work?

HOW DOES THE US SUPPORT ISRAEL MILITARILY?

The two countries do not have a mutual defence pact, but Israel has privileged access to the most advanced US military platforms and technologies. In cumulative terms, Israel has been the largest recipient of US foreign aid since its founding and has received over \$200 billion in economic and military assistance.

According to a Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) report, "The United States provided Israel considerable economic assistance from 1971 to 2007, but nearly all US aid today goes to support Israel's military, the most advanced in the region. The United States has provisionally agreed, via a memorandum of understanding (MOU), to provide Israel with \$3.8 billion per year through 2028."

As Meindheimer and Wolf have noted, "This largesse is especially striking, when one realises that Israel is now a wealthy industrial state with a per-capita income roughly equal to South Korea or Spain."

The CFR report also mentions that, since October 7, 2023, the US "has enacted legislation providing at least \$12.5 billion in military aid to Israel, which includes \$3.8 billion from a bill in March 2024 (in line with the current MOU) and \$8.7 billion from a supplemental appropriations act in April 2024."

The yearly military aid is actually grants under the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) programme. While Israel must use these funds to purchase US



An American Patriot missile defence system on display during a joint US-Israel military exercise on March 8, 2018. Israel has privileged access to the most advanced US military platforms and technologies | AFP

military equipment and services, it can use about 25 percent of these funds to buy equipment from Israeli defence firms. It also buys US equipment outside of the FMF facility. Until last October, as per the Biden administration, "Israel had nearly 600 active FMF cases, totalling around \$24 billion."

Separately, an annual \$500 million fund is slated for Israeli and joint US-Israeli missile defence programmes. These programmes involve joint collaboration "on the research, development and production of these systems used by Israel, including the Iron Dome, David's Shield, and Arrow II. Iron Dome was solely developed by Israel, but the United States has been a production partner since 2014."

While transfers of US military equipment to Israel are subject to relevant US laws and scrutiny by the Congress, in reality Israel gets a clear pass from US administrations. For instance, during the ongoing war, multiple rights organisations, UN bodies and the International Court of Justice have determined constant violations by Israel of International Law and International Humanitarian Law. Despite clear evidence, the Biden administration has continued to shield Israel, including from the application of US laws such as the Leahy Law.

US State Department official Stacy Gilbert quit last May and told the media that her resignation was precipitated by an administration report to Congress that, she said, falsely stated Israel was not blocking humanitarian aid to Gaza. The true picture would have brought the Leahy Law into action and prevented further US military aid to Israel.

Just days ago, Maryam Hassanain, a political appointee at the US Department of the Interior, quit over the war on Gaza, saying, "I saw a policy that was really harming Palestinians through this kind of blind, destructive support of Israel and its occupation."

While the US Congress can block a sale through a joint resolution, this has never happened in the case of Israel. In fact, since this war, as with special cases, Israel has bypassed the congressional review and used this waiver process both for Ukraine and Israel.

Additionally, the US has another special arrangement for Israel called Qualitative Military Aid (QMEA), which was formalised through a 2008 law. The law reads: "The [US] President shall carry out an empirical and qualitative assessment on an ongoing basis of the extent to which Israel possesses a qualitative military edge over military threats to Israel. The assessment required under this sub-section shall be sufficiently robust so as to facilitate comparability of data over consecutive years."

The CFR report calls QMEA "a conceptual backbone of US military aid to Israel." The 2008 law "requires the US government to maintain Israel's ability 'to defend any credible conventional military threat from any individual state or possible coalition of states or from non-state actors, while sustaining minimal damage and casualties.'"

In simple terms, it means that the US must not provide any weapons or platforms to any state in the

Middle East that could compromise Israel's QMEA. Or, if it does in some way, it must provide counter-measures to Israel to offset any disadvantage to Israel.

The US also maintains a strategic stockpile of weapons in Israel since the 1990s. Israel has been drawing from that stockpile during its ongoing war. Given Israel's consumption of interceptors, the US also "agreed to lease Israel two Iron Dome missile defence batteries that Washington had previously purchased from the country."

The military aid provided to Israel by the US, the UK, Germany and France includes tank and artillery ammunition, bombs, rockets, small arms, interceptors, surveillance drones, night-vision goggles, body armour etc. At least \$18 billion of aid, including 20 F-15 fighter jets are also in the pipeline, though that supply won't materialise for some years.

This is by no means an exhaustive treatment of US support for Israel. There are hundreds of assessments out there and most are available to any diligent researcher. The essential point is that, without this unconditional military, financial and diplomatic support, Israel could neither sustain its current war nor its place in the county of nations through the hubris it has consistently displayed. This hubris includes Israel's government declaring the UN Secretary-General persona non grata, the Israeli military targeting UN aid workers and premises, and its Knesset (parliament) legislating to ban the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) — the primary agency delivering humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza — from the areas under Israeli control.

It should also be clear that this sustenance works at two levels: the Israeli lobby's ability to influence US domestic politics sustains the presence of pro-Israel politicians within US power structures; and the presence of these politicians, in turn, helps preserve the unique US-Israel relationship, which allows Israel to sustain its wars, violate international norms and continue to repress the Palestinians.

So, why is sustenance important? What does it mean?

WHAT IS SUSTAINMENT?

Sustainment is the ability of a nation and its military to fight and maintain that fight. Sustainment in a non-kinetic sense also means the ability of a state to override international legal norms and act independently, without suffering any consequences. Since the point about sustainment at the second level should already be obvious, I will stick to military sustainment.

This point, as any student of war knows, is crucial. Attritional wars are all about sustainment. Wars are expensive; long wars are very expensive. They take a toll on men and materiel.

To quote from a 1942 US Naval College report titled "Sound Military Decision": "Success is won, not by personnel and materiel in prime condition, but by the ability of an organization to win by the strain of campaign and shaken by the shock of battle. The objective is

attained, in war, under conditions which often impose extreme disadvantages." (Emphasis added)

Initial planning can go awry. Initial supplies can run dry or troops can run low on them. Logistics are crucial — you can have the best troops and equipment, but battles take their toll. Men get killed; materiel gets destroyed. Nothing remains in prime shape.

Modern war requires a very complex logistics and supply system with multiple tiers. The Table of Organization and Equipment (TOE), a document in modern militaries, not only details the wartime mission, capabilities, organisational structure, and mission-essential personnel, but also supply and equipment requirements for military units.

Tanks, armoured personnel carriers and self-propelled artillery — all essential components of manoeuvre warfare — are very logistics-heavy. A typical armoured division would have supplies based on troop strength, such as rations, items listed and identified in the TOE (clothing, personal equipment, vehicle replacements, etc), PCM, (petrol, oil, lubricants), supply requirements for damaged equipment which cannot have a fixed quantity and would depend on attrition rates; and, yes, ammunition.

This brings us to the nexus between fighting and sustaining a war and a state's economy. To quote US Rear Admiral Henry Doolen, "logistics is the bridge between military operations and a nation's economy." The linkage is not just about existing stocks and how reduced human resources and materiel can be replenished, but also the industrial base that can supply to the fighting troops what they need.

Rations, PCM, replacement of damaged equipment, cannibalising equipment and vehicles, replenishing ammunition, evacuating casualties — the list of what needs to be done is long and everything that needs to be done gets done or doesn't under fire. But most importantly, all of it requires money and a pipeline.

Israel's extensive use of aerial platforms, including fighter jets, is a very expensive proposition. For instance, according to the US Government Accountability Office, a nonpartisan agency that provides information to the US Congress, the per-hour flight cost of an F-16 Fighting Falcon is \$26,927, while that for an F-35 is \$41,986.

The calculation metrics involve repair parts, depot and field maintenance, contract services, engineering support and personnel, plus "other things", such as sortie-generation rate, pilot training etc. This cost might differ with different air forces but is a good benchmark to roughly monetise Israel's use of aerial platforms over a year against targets in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq.

Similarly, the Tamir interceptor for the Iron Dome system costs \$50,000-100,000 per interception. According to Brig-Gen Ram Amichai, the former financial advisor to the Israeli chief of staff, "the cost of defence last night (April 13 Iran attack) was estimated at between four to five billion shekels (\$1.08-1.35B)." He was speaking to the Israeli Hebrew-language newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Israel is spending much more per month on the military — from \$1.5 billion before October 7, 2023, to around \$4.7 billion by the end of last year. According to several Israeli economists, the Gaza war alone has cost the Israeli economy over \$67.3 billion.

Yet another crucial aspect of how the US sustains Israel's war is the close cooperation between US Central Command (CENTCOM) and Israeli military and intelligence agencies.

Since January 2021, following a Permision decision to shift Israel from US European Command (EUCOM) to CENTCOM — an arrangement described by YnetNews.com in an August 24, 2024 report as "the American wall of defence around Israel" — the US is sharing intelligence with Israel and providing it complete air defence support against Iran. That support has been on display in the two direct rounds exchanged between Iran and Israel since April this year.

By all evidence, Israel does not have the stocks to fight a long war, nor can it produce them in the volumes it requires. The fact that must be known and constantly reiterated is simple: Israel's war has been sustained by the US and its Western allies.

The corollary is simple: even as the US has been mouthing its desire for a ceasefire, it has been perpetrating Israel's war. And given the savagery of this war, it is also complicit in every war crime committed by Israel.

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President Richard Nixon with Israeli prime minister Golda Meir at the White House in Washington on Sept 25, 1969; following Meir's panicked phone call to Nixon, the US airlifted materiel to resupply Israel to offset its losses in the first few days of the Yom Kippur War | AFP

► SOCIETY

HOW TO KILL THE STAGED ENCOUNTER

Police in Pakistan follow a set template when it comes to staging fake 'encounters', as shown in the recent case of blasphemy accused Dr Shahnawaz Kumbhar. A serving policeman tries to explain what drives this practice, why 'encounter specialists' get away with what they do and how to change this pernicious culture...

By Mahar Murrwat Hussain

The accused was killed (or injured) in a shoot-out with his accomplices who, after the incident, fled the scene, with teams dispatched to apprehend them. Without fail, we come across this police statement after almost every alleged shoot-out.

While circumstances may change and the area may differ, the official story remains the same. It is consistent in the sense that neither the wording nor the structure of the sentence is altered.

This template was also used in the recent killing of Dr Shahnawaz Kumbhar, a blasphemy accused, with the police saying he was "killed by his own accomplices" during a shoot-out in Mirpurkhas, Sindh. However, once the incident came under media scrutiny, the police story was torn apart within a matter of hours. As word of the 'staged encounter' spread and condemnations began to pour in, the Sindh government swung into action.

What followed is already in the public domain, but one fact worth mentioning is that the inquiry, ordered by the Sindh home minister, revealed it was a staged encounter.

WHAT IS A STAGED ENCOUNTER?

Before going into the reasons and the modus operandi employed by the police to carry out such extrajudicial killings, we need to develop an understanding of what makes a police encounter a staged encounter.

A staged encounter is one in which law enforcement agencies, particularly police, orchestrate a scenario that appears to be a legitimate encounter or shoot-out, but is, in fact, pre-planned and undertaken to kill individuals without due process. In this premeditated act, an illusion of self-defence is set up to get through the ensuing legal challenges, such as invoking the police's right-to-self-defence, as enshrined in the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860.

The modus operandi employed by the police to carry out extrajudicial killings is usually the same everywhere. The victim is first arrested and kept in illegal detention for weeks. Then, in the middle of the night, he is transported to a deserted place — often deserted graveyards, agricultural fields or riverine areas — where a volley of bullets is discharged at him.

An official statement typically follows, containing the usual platitudes, claiming that 'A' was being taken for 'recovery' of weapons or other material when, en route, his accomplices attacked the police to secure his release, the police "retaliated", but 'A' was "caught in the crossfire", resulting in his death or injury, while the attackers fled under the "cover of darkness."

Now, take any case of extrajudicial killing that ever took place in any province, region or district. You will find this same pattern — without even a single alteration of a word, full stop or comma. Troublingly, it seems to matter not one bit that the cover-up of the current template has rendered it doubtful.

'FULL FRY' AND 'HALF FRY'

The culture of staged encounters permeates the police forces across Pakistan. In fact, it is the shared belief and value amongst all ranks. There are a multitude of reasons for it being a 'favourite sport' of law-enforcers.

The phrase 'favourite sport' may sound insensitive to some, but this is how extrajudicial killings are viewed by members of the police force. Such is the height of insensitivity that the term 'full fry' is used to refer to such killings internally, while 'half fry' describes the act of shooting the victim in the kneecaps, in one or both legs, so as to leave them crippled for the rest of their life.

Sometimes it can go wrong, too, as it did recently in Punjab. The police caught an alleged bandit and decided to 'half fry' him, but the task reportedly fell to a novice, who failed to hit the bullet at the intended part of the victim's body. Instead, the bullet allegedly pierced through the lower belly, leaving the victim critically wounded, with blood flowing from the wound. Reportedly,



Illustration by Javon Duncan

he was not shifted to a hospital for quite some time and remained groaning and convulsing until he breathed his last.

Such phoney encounters also allow the police to gloss over their own shortcomings. Poor investigations, coupled with equally poor prosecutions, result in a dismal conviction rate. But instead of focusing on their own investigative practices and procedures, the prevalent perception among police officers is that the judicial system is the reason for their failure to get a conviction.

This perception provides them with the justification to take on the role of judge, jury and executioner, and to instantly dispense 'justice' via 'full fry' or 'half fry'.

THE DETERRENT THAT ISN'T

There is a strong belief among the members of the police force that only violence can be an effective response to the violence. Staged encounters are one of the tools the police use to spread 'official violence' in an attempt to deter criminals and control the crime rate. Thus, we see the number of police shoot-outs remain consistently high.

According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRC/P), a staggering 3,296 police-encounters occurred in Sindh alone in 2023 and a total of 618 people were mowed down in the country in police encounters in one year.

There were 2,544 police shoot-outs in Sindh during 2022, while this number rose to 3,286 the following year, indicating an uptick of 30 percent. It underscores the police's ever-increasing proclivity towards violence. Ironically, as the HRC/P report notes, despite the increase in encounters, the crime rate in Sindh also witnessed a rise in 2023, with street crime going up by 11 percent.

This debunks the myth about the efficacy of such killings in arresting the crime rate.

'ENCOUNTER SPECIALISTS'

Putting down people in a hail of bullets is considered a badge of honour for the perpetrators. Police officers, among themselves

and in off-the-record conversations, often proudly recount such encounters and boast about the number of people they have gunned down.

The phrase 'encounter specialist' is used to refer to the men who have expertise in killing people in staged encounters. These so-called 'encounter specialists' are given lucrative postings and are granted carte blanche to kill people. Rao Anwar, a former senior superintendent of police, according to police records, was involved in 'encounters' that claimed the lives of 444 people.

I once had the opportunity to sit down with one such 'encounter specialist.' The man, twirling his moustache and wearing a smile on his face, admitted in no uncertain terms that he had sent at least 20 people to the hereafter in fake encounters. Upon my question about how he managed to get away with it each time, he smugly replied: "Killing people in fake encounters is an art, but covering up those killings by tampering records takes even more skill."

Despite this grim reality, one struggles to find a single precedent where perpetrators of such staged encounters have been put in the dock. More often than not, such encounters hardly create any headlines. In situations where the matter does come into the limelight, cases are promptly registered and the accused are removed from their postings, but only temporarily, to placate the media.

Once the news fades from public view, not only are the accused given a free pass, thanks to the lopsided investigations in such cases conducted by their 'uniform brethren', but they also often get posted to more lucrative positions.

In some cases, where judicial inquiries are ordered, the police still manage to influence the outcome, either through record-tampering or by effecting a settlement with the heirs of the victims, either through coercion or inducement.

One legal avenue against this barbarity is the filing of a private complaint in a

magistrate's court, as laid down under Section 190 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc), 1898. However, this process is often lengthy, costly and ineffective. Furthermore, even if the family of the victim daringly takes this route, the courts ironically seek reports in the matter from the same police force that is being put in the dock by the complainant.

Even more comical is the fact that courts tend to mechanically dispose of such complaints in light of the reports furnished by the police. Consequently, convictions in the cases of staged encounters are exceedingly rare.

The case of Rao Anwar serves as an example to show the impunity enjoyed by these 'encounter specialists.' He was able to walk free from the case of the cold-blooded murder of an innocent young man, Nazeerullah Mehsud, despite much uproar in the media and civil society.

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSIONS

So can anything be done to reform the situation?

The perpetrators of extrajudicial killings often get away with their crime because investigations into such cases are carried out by their colleagues in the police. This mechanism is inherently flawed and against the principles of natural justice. There needs to be an independent investigation commission to investigate every such act of killing, whether or not it is reported by the victim's heirs.

We can draw lessons from South Africa, which has such a mechanism in place. It established the Independent Police Investigation Directorate (IPID) in 2011, through an act of parliament. The public can file complaints against transgressions committed by the officers of the South African police. In case of custodial torture, death in custody and extrajudicial killings, the station commander, an officer equivalent to the rank of assistant/deputy superintendent of police in Pakistan, is required to promptly report it to the commission.

If the investigation substantiates the allegations against any member of the force, the commission recommends action to the police leadership, which is under obligation to take action in accordance with its recommendations.

Such a mechanism is desperately needed in Pakistan to hold police officials accountable for human rights violations in general, and particularly for extrajudicial killings. There needs to be a commission in each province, comprising elected members of the provincial assembly concerned as well as members of civil society. Then, in every region, the commission can set up sub-committees to take up the matter of extrajudicial killings.

The commission so established should be empowered not only to conduct inquiries in such killings, but also to recommend both criminal and disciplinary proceedings against those found culpable.

REFINING INVESTIGATIONS, CHANGING MINDSETS

It is imperative for the police to move away from the typical investigation approach, which revolves around practices from the 19th century, as poor investigation inevitably leads to acquittals. As pointed out earlier, this is then used by the police to justify the alternatives to 'make society crime-free',

resulting in fake encounters as a 'police prescription' to circumvent due process.

To address this, upskilling of investigation officers is essential. Investigation officers should not only be equipped with modern investigation methods prevalent worldwide, such as forensic science, digital forensics and behaviour analysis, but also made well-versed in the use of technology. What is crucial is the provision of access to such modern facilities at the level of the police station. It is equally important for officers to understand data analytics to optimise the resources at their disposal.

In addition to these skills, investigation officers must have a solid understanding of substantive, procedural and evidentiary law, which a wide majority within the police currently lack. As a result, they struggle to grasp what evidence is admissible under the law, what it means to maintain the sanctity of the evidence, how to produce it in court and how to testify during trial. To this end, regular workshops for investigative officers can be arranged, engaging serving and retired judicial officers, prosecutors and eminent lawyers.

To rein in this killing spree, the police need to also undergo a thorough purge. Officers with dubious human rights records, particularly the ones who boldly and shamelessly take pride in being 'encounter specialists', should be shamed out of the department, or at least be sidelined forthwith. Field postings must not be assigned to them until they undergo targeted training and commit to upholding the inherent sanctity of human rights.

There is also a need to uproot the perception that these so-called 'encounter specialists' are in any way 'brave' or 'special', not only within the ranks of the police, but also in society. This term, which unfortunately commands a sense of vigilante machismo, needs to be made synonymous with an explosive, this perceived 'badge of honour' must systematically be turned into a 'badge of shame.'

A TIME TO ACT

This is an opportune moment for policymakers to act, as the cold-blooded murder of Dr Kumbhar has resulted in a rallying cry, reminiscent of the outrage that followed the killing of Nazeerullah Mehsud in Karachi and the tragic slaying of a family in front of children in Sialkot in 2019. The public's support for such measures will be readily amenable.

This is the time to act, as a nation, we can no longer afford to turn a blind eye to these violations of basic human rights. We must confront the issues that have devastated countless families. The emotional pain and psychological trauma endured by these bereaved families cannot be adequately measured or articulated.

While we cannot bring back the loved ones lost to this 'police mafia', we have the power to save many other sons, brothers and husbands. Let's take action for the sake of humanity. ■

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Adela Suleman's art installation Killing Fields of Karachi, which was displayed at the Frere Hall in Karachi on October 27, 2019, commemorated the 444 victims of alleged extrajudicial killings by policeman Rao Anwar despite the uproar. Anwar continues to get acquitted in cases and remains a free man | Nazim Durrani

▶ CRICKET

The recent high-stakes Pakistan-England Test series saw Pakistan finally leverage home advantage to full effect to end a three-year drought of Test wins

INTRODUCING 'AQIBBALL'

By Muhammad Abu Bakar Farooq

In a gripping turn of events, Pakistan ended a three-year-long drought of Test wins at home with a historic 2-1 series victory against England. This remarkable comeback began after a humbling innings defeat in Multan, marking what many are calling one of Pakistan's greatest Test series victories. Against all odds, Pakistan clinched back-to-back victories in the next two Tests, showcasing the resilience of their players.

The series opener in Multan had seemed like it would pave the way for England's dominance. England seemed to have picked up right where they left off in their 2022 tour, scoring a jaw-dropping 823 runs on an unusually flat Multan pitch that appeared to be a batter's paradise. After Pakistan's solid 556 in the first innings, England had come out swinging, with Joe Root smashing his second double century against Pakistan and Harry Brook producing a monumental triple ton that had left Pakistan in disarray.

Despite the placid track, Pakistan's batting then crumbled in their second innings, unable to withstand the pressure, and they eventually succumbed to an innings defeat. English fans and media had celebrated the victory, hailing it as one of England's finest Test wins, confident that the series was theirs for the taking.

However, this loss prompted deep introspection within the Pakistan camp, triggering a series of bold decisions that would prove transformative. Pakistan's newly formed selection committee — including Agh Javed, Arshad Ali, Azeem Dar, Azeed Shafiq and Hassan Chohan — wanted no time in making seismic changes, reshaping the team and strategically aligning with their home conditions.

In a move that shocked many, the committee dropped three heavyweights: Babar Azam, Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah. Many labelled it a crisis within Pakistan cricket, but the committee believed it was the shake-up Pakistan needed.

When the second Test began in Multan, a refreshed Pakistan line-up took the field. The selectors reinstated three spinners: Noman Ali, Sajid Khan and Zahid Mahmood, setting up a classic spin trap for the visitors. Karim Ghulam, a consistent First-Class performer, finally earned his long-awaited Test cap, replacing Babar Azam in the batting order.

Ghulam's debut could not have been more poetic, as he produced a century that showcased his grit and hard work. His teammates celebrated his milestone with visible joy, marking an emotional moment for a player who had been knocking on the doors of international cricket for years.

But it was Sajid Khan who took the spotlight, with his impeccable spin in England's second innings. The



Pakistan players and staff lift the trophy and celebrate after winning the Test series (Reuters)

stylish bowler from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, known for his bald head and impressive moustache, was handed the new ball by captain Shan Masood. Sajid immediately wove his magic, ripping through the English batting line-up.

England's solid start, with a partnership that put on 50 runs, quickly unravelled as Noman Ali drew first blood, dismissing the English opener. Then, Sajid unleashed his fury, dismissing key players such as Joe Root, Harry Brook, and Ollie Pope. By the end of his spell, he had bagged seven crucial wickets, and England were bowled out for a total far short of Pakistan's first-innings score of 366.

Salman Ali Agha, Pakistan's consistent performer, anchored the third innings with his classy stroke-play, helping set a challenging target for England on a deteriorating pitch. As Pakistan's spin attack struck late on day three, they removed both English openers before the day ended, setting the stage for a dramatic finish.

With Harball's biggest game, Brook and Root, still at the crease, English fans held out hope for a comeback. But Pakistan's spin pair had other plans. By the first session of day four, they had dismantled the entire English line-up, achieving Pakistan's first Test victory at home in three years.

It was an emotional triumph, with the team missing

three of its biggest stars. Pakistan's idea to reuse the Multan pitch for spin took centre-stage, and the English media raised concerns, arguing that the series had turned into a toss-dependent game.

With their newfound confidence, Pakistan prepared for the final showdown in Rawalpindi. The pitch in Rawalpindi has always been known to favour fast bowlers and batters, offering little to spinners. However, in an unexpected move, Pakistan's used batmen and large fans to dry out the surface, turning it into an unfavourably spin-friendly wicket.

As the final Test began, Ben Stokes finally won the toss, electing to bat. The English side breathed a sigh of relief, believing that the toss could tilt the odds in their favour. However, they quickly realised the challenge that lay ahead. Sajid Khan, delivering the first ball on a pitch that had been expertly prepared to offer turn, immediately set the tone. In a mere 70 overs, Pakistan had reduced England to a paltry total of 117, their batters left searching for answers.

When it was Pakistan's turn to bat, their line-up faced its own set of challenges. But Saad Shaker stepped up with a measured, elegant innings that turned the tide. His knock of 134, on a surface where every run counted, was a masterclass in patience and technique. Saad's

composed play, coupled with a record partnership with Noman Ali, gave Pakistan the breathing room they needed. Later, Sajid Khan's explosive cameo added the finishing touches to Pakistan's first innings.

The final day saw Pakistan's spinners once again wreak havoc. Noman Ali and Sajid Khan delivered with deadly precision, taking early wickets and dismissing both English openers before lunch. England's hopes were pinned on Root and Brook, who had shown flashes of resistance earlier in the series.

For a brief 40 minutes, England's counterattack looked like it might reverse Pakistan's momentum. However, Noman Ali induced Brook to play a reckless shot, sealing his fate. Noman's spell was a spectacle, describing Ben Stokes with a sharp delivery that struck him on the pads, marking the end of England's faint comeback hopes.

As Pakistan closed in on victory, the scene was electric. Shan Masood, ready to end the series with a flourish, smoothed a quickfire 25 off just six balls, sealing the game with a towering six that sent the crowd into raptures. Pakistan had not only clinched a Test series at home for the first time in three years but had done so in style, defeating one of the world's strongest teams without their star players. The series was more than just a win; it was a statement, a demonstration of Pakistan's ability to adapt, innovate and fight back when the odds were against them.

This historic series win has sparked discussions in the cricket world about 'Aqibball' — a strategy driven by Agh Javed's innovative approach of spin-heavy line-ups on reconditioned pitches. By using Multan's and Rawalpindi's traditionally flat decks as spin-favouring surfaces, Pakistan leveraged their home advantage to full effect.

While the English media voiced frustration after the second Test, questioning the series' reliance on toss outcomes, Pakistan's fans were quick to defend their team's mastery of home conditions. 'Aqibball', many argued, was simply Pakistan playing to their strengths in a high-stakes series.

For Pakistan, the series symbolised the dawn of a new era. The resurgence of forgotten talents such as Sajid Khan and Noman Ali, and the resolve of young stars such as Karim Ghulam and Saad Shaker, demonstrated Pakistan's depth and adaptability. Fans celebrated not just a victory, but a renewed hope for Test cricket's future in Pakistan.

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▶ DATA

WITHIN THE MARGIN OF ERROR

A pollster with three decades of experiences explains why the margin of error matters more than ever in reading polls about the close upcoming US elections

By Doug Schwartz

In just about any discussion of a poll about the very close [US] presidential race between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump, you'll hear the phrase "within the poll's margin of error." These words signal that it is a tight race, with no clear leader, even if one of them has a slightly larger percentage of support, like 48 percent to 47 percent.

As the director of the Quinnipiac University Poll, which has been taking the pulse of the public on policy issues and elections for the past 30 years, I've noted that people have been paying more attention to this technical term since at least 2016.

In that year, some polls in Florida, for example, indicated that Hillary Clinton was just a couple of percentage points ahead of Trump. Journalists and the public largely — and incorrectly — understood that apparent popular-vote lead to mean Clinton was likely to win.

But those one or two percentage points were within their polls' margins of error. And Clinton lost Florida. In a poll about a political race, the margin of error tells readers the likely range of results of an election.

WHAT IS A MARGIN OF ERROR?

A poll is one of more questions asked of a small group of people and used to gauge the views of a larger group of people. The margin of error is a mathematical calculation of how accurate the poll results are — of how closely the answers given by the small group match the views held by the larger group.

If everyone in the larger group were polled, there would be no margin of error. But it's complicated, difficult and expensive to contact that many people. The US Census Bureau spent \$13.7 billion over several years in its recent effort to count every person in the United States every 10 years, and it still wasn't able to include exactly everyone.

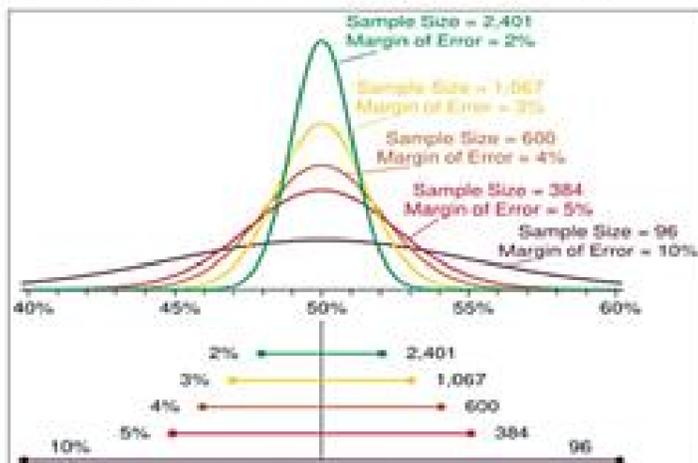
Pollsters don't have that kind of time — or money — so they use smaller samples of the population. They seek to identify representative samples, in which all members of the larger group have a chance to be included in the poll.



Donald Trump | AP



Kamala Harris | AP



The larger the sample size, the smaller the margin of error | Wikimedia Commons

THE GROUP SIZE IS IMPORTANT

The calculation of how close the poll is to the views of the larger population is based on the size of the group that is polled.

For example, a sample of 600 voters will have a larger margin of error — about four percentage points — than a sample of 1,000 voters, which has a margin of error of just over three percentage points.

The way the sample is chosen also matters. In 1936, the Literary Digest magazine polled people on the presidential election by mailing surveys to telephone owners, car owners and country club members. Everyone in this group was relatively affluent, so they were not representative of the whole US voting population. Calculating a margin of error would have been meaningless, because

the sample did not capture all segments of the population.

A CONCRETE EXAMPLE

Let's use an example of how to understand the margin of error. If a poll shows that 47 percent of the polled group support Candidate A, and the margin of error is plus or minus three percentage points, that means that the percentage in the population supporting Candidate A is likely to be between 44 percent (47 minus 3) and 50 percent (47 plus 3).

One quick note: most polls report margins of error alongside another technical term, "confidence interval." In the most rigorous reporting of polls, you might see a sentence near the end that says something like: "The margin of error is plus or minus three percentage points, at a 95 percent confidence interval."

What all that means is this: Imagine if 100 different random samples of the same size were selected from the larger group, and then asked the same questions in the poll. The 95 percent confidence interval means that 95 percent of the time, those other polls' responses would be within three percentage points of the answers reported in this one poll.

COMPARING SUPPORT BETWEEN CANDIDATES

The concept of margin of error gets more complex when looking at the differences in support between two candidates. If a margin of error is plus or minus three percentage

points, the margin of error on the difference between them is about double — or six percentage points, in this example.

That's because the margin of error here is a combined one, and refers to not just the percentage voting for Candidate A, but also to the percentage voting for the other candidate.

To look back at 2016 again, the final Quinnipiac University Poll in Florida before Election Day showed Clinton with 46 percent support and Trump with 45 percent support. The margin of error was 3.9 percentage points, which meant Clinton was likely to get between 42.1 percent and 49.9 percent of the vote, and Trump was likely to get between 41.1 percent and 48.9 percent of the vote.

The actual result was that Trump won Florida with 48.6 percent, as compared with Clinton's 47.4 percent. Those results were within our poll's margin of error, meaning we were correct to declare it "too close to call" — and we would have been wrong to say Clinton was ahead.

2024 WILL BE A CLOSE ELECTION

In the current election cycle, many media reports about polls are not including information about the margin of error.

Leaving out that information, or downplaying its significance, may help media outlets provide a quick, simple picture about the state of the race. Technology can seem precise in the modern age of the internet and artificial intelligence. But polling is not as precise. It is an inexact science. It's a pollster's job to capture snapshots of the complexities of human nature at a particular time. People's minds can change, and new information can arise as the campaign unfolds.

With the presidential election in its final weeks, our polls have been finding a fairly tight and steady race, with most voters telling us their minds are made up. Because the difference between the presidential candidates is within the margin of error in swing states, the election polling in autumn 2024 is telling Americans to hold their breath and make sure they vote, because it is likely to be a squeaker.

The writer is Director of the Quinnipiac Poll at the Quinnipiac University in Connecticut, USA

Republished from The Conversation

► KARACHI BIENNALE

The Karachi Biennale, spread across five locations and featuring the works of local and international artists, reminds us of the perils facing our planet...

ART AND SUSTENANCE

By Nusrat Khawaja

RipWick, the bilingual and homonymous title of the fourth Karachi Biennale (KIB24) is a wake-up call. It focuses attention on the threats to living world systems, which bestow *riq* (sustenance). Anthropogenic activity is increasingly its own worst enemy and is putting *riq* at risk. This global realisation is the pervasive sensibility informing the over-40 artworks included in the biennale.

Curator Waheeda Baloch intended to "spark critical conversations about intricate relationships between food security, environmental sustainability, social justice and cultural heritage."

These conversations were thematically sub-divided across the five KIB24 venues: "Multiple Voices" at the inaugural venue High Line Quasin, "Unravelling the Threads" at Sambura Art Gallery, "Our Land, Our Stories" at Freire Hall, "Riverine Resilience" at the NED University City Campus, and "Songs of Sisterhood" at the Alliance Francaise.

Spices, seeds, food imagery, soil and milk mix were among the many edible components of the art installations in Sambura Gallery. Araf Khan's work was the exception, as it relied entirely on dual video on film.

In *Once Upon a Landscape*, he presented two contrasting scenarios on facing walls, mirroring the *RipWick* title. The monumental video stills were aerial views taken with a drone camera. One wall showed Punjab farmers toiling with hypnotic rhythms as they planted rice — the *riq* for millions — in a paddy field. On the facing wall, a team with asphalt spreading equipment laid black sludge on the ground. The work underscored the contrast between earth that yields, as opposed to ground that becomes infertile.

Works by Qadir flutal and Sadqain (both works shown at NED) relied on very different dynamics to deliver their message. Qadir had transported a fishing boat to Karachi, such as the ones that ply the Indus River around Sukkur. The boat was embedded in fine sand, which had also been trucked from Sukkur.

Many vessels that enable fishermen to live for days on the water, making their boat a home as well as a means of livelihood, embellished the boat. Hand-drawings of dead migratory birds were strewn in the sand.

Fragment by their absence (which was the point of the installation) were the fishermen and the critical element of water. The assemblage addressed climate change and the political diversion of river waters that have endangered age-old patterns of subsistence for humans and birds.

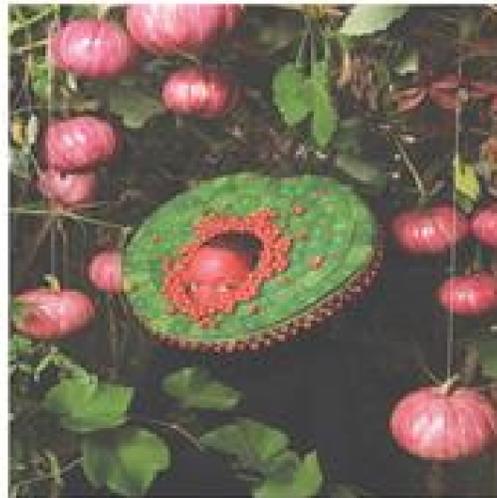
In contrast to the physical realism of Qadir's installation was Sadqain's highly conceptual work, *Water Spill and Neta*, in an adjacent room. Long, skinny Plexiglas troughs contained coloured fluids in which dye continuously dripped downwards, deepening the liquids. Plaster boards stood in a wall-to-wall trough of dye that soaked upwards into the porous boards.

The colour shifts and stains, and the strong design quality of the installations was as riveting as it was disquieting. Sadqain reaches the saturated disposal of needle dyes into water channels that seep into the Ravi River. His artwork played on the duality of purity and contamination.

Farida Hatool interrogates gender norms and politics in her art practice. Her sculpture *Daaney Pe Likha Hai* (Alliance Francaise) used clusters of shiny beaded wire to simulate upright stalks of wheat in a field. Clever



Daaney Pe Likha Hai, Farida Hatool | Humayun Memon and the Karachi Biennale Trust



Ovulation, Enora Mekan Warma | Courtesy the artist

lighting threw shadows of the "stalks" on the walls and magnified the scale of the sculpture. This work looked at the role of women in Pakistan and Gaza in the production of food. The destruction caused by war to agricultural and habitable land is being documented every day in news footage of Gaza's destruction.

Several artists from South America and Europe participated (11 countries in all) in the Biennale through artwork and/or performance. Their presentations underscored global interlinkages of history, colonial legacy, climate change, and unequal access to food and clean resources.

Peruvian artist Eliana Otta Villosio linked Pakistan and Peru in a quirky sculptural installation (Alliance Francaise). She placed unattached pairs of farmers' shoes within several mandala-like shapes that were made from corn seed and herbs. These shapes copied the form of traditional offerings made to earth by Peruvian farmers.

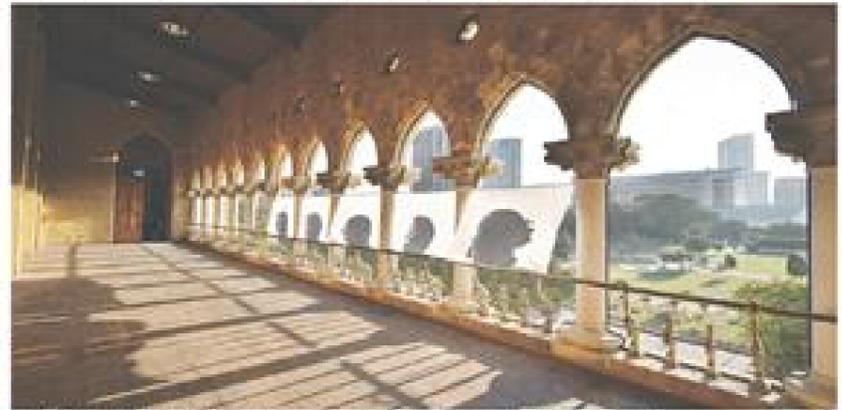
A protest banner on a social reel was converted

upright from each slide. The banners depicted agricultural produce common to Peru and Pakistan. The delicate balance of food production, climate change and farmers' rights was delineated.

Art historian Becca Vorkler from the United Kingdom drew upon rare archives on farming collectives in the 1970s, specifically from Japan and Mali. She converted her research into a film, *Growing Food and Film* (High Line Quasin), and also placed hard copies of her fascinating essay on the linkage between land and social justice for interested readers to read on site.

An exquisitely conceived installation, titled *As Proposizioni*, by Mahveen Zuberi at Freire Hall, interpreted *riq* as spiritual sustenance. Mahveen conducted research at the shrine of Abdullah Shah Qasbi. She observed how food offering was part of the process of asking the saint for deliverance.

She translated the holistic experience of sacred space and material offering into abstracted



Coal Portraits, Luis Carlos | Humayun Memon and the Karachi Biennale Trust



Three Hundred Sisters, Muge Yilmaz | Humayun Memon and the Karachi Biennale Trust



Artworks by Nazia Khan on display at Freire Hall | Humayun Memon and the Karachi Biennale Trust

geometrical forms in grey, beaten gold and white. Sugar and gram flour — ingredients in the making of sweets commonly offered to the saint — were incorporated in the installation.

Two prizes were awarded at the KIB24 opening. The Emerging Artist Prize went to Aneeka Khawajah Shahid for *Harvest's Garden: Threads of Nature*. The Juried Prize went to Nadeem Akbari of Hunza for his film *The East Art*, which accompanied the installation *Disseminating Life*. Both artworks may be found at High Line Quasin.

Climate change, in the form of an oppressive heat wave, accompanied artists, technicians, and visitors across the five venues. Despite that, everyone carried their responsibilities valiantly. The dedication of the student volunteers was noteworthy. They were punctual, polite, well-informed, and wonderful to talk to about the artworks and their own aspirations.

Each participating artist in *RipWick* was an advocate for the right to *riq*. The artworks are no less than manifestos. They were in their unique ways that the planet deserves our respect. ■

The Karachi Biennale is open to the public from 27th October - 16th November 2024

The writer is an independent researcher, writer, art critic and curator based in Karachi

SMOKERS' CORNER



The Politics of 'Anti-Politics'

The anarchic and emotional brand of politics that the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf has been engaging in is an attempt at barnstorming the mainstream political arena from the outside. But can this kind of rhetorical politics sustain over the long term?

By Nadeem F. Paracha

After his ouster from power in 2022, Imran Khan decided to roar back to power by operating from outside the country's mainstream political paradigm. According to many political commentators, there was talk within the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party about facilitating an economic downside which, according to the party, would have led to an economic collapse and triggered widespread anti-government protests, such as the ones witnessed in Sri Lanka in 2022.

When this "tactic" failed, and the current coalition government — with the help of the military establishment — succeeded in somewhat stemming the economic decline, Imran Khan and his party began to imagine setting off protests like the ones in Bangladesh, which overthrew the government of Sheikh Hasina Wajed. This "plan" fell apart too.

Before this was that audacious attempt by the party in May last year to allegedly instigate a "mutiny" in the military against the current army chief and inspire other senior officers to spring Khan from jail.

This nature of politics can disrupt certain aspects of the mainstream political paradigm. But it often fails to dismantle or demolish it. Trying to storm the paradigm from outside was viewed as a "revolutionary" act by Khan, his supporters, and by some activist lawyers and "independent" journalists who have decided to side with him.

No wonder then, one often heard these men and women using the word "revolution." They warned that the country would plunge into a civil war

if Khan were not released from jail. Interestingly though, Khan's newfound "anti-establishment" admirers know that if Khan is able to cut a deal with the establishment, he will instantly drop his anti-establishment rhetoric.

A leftist activist recently told me that their support for Khan is a "tactical manoeuvre" to oust the 'establishment' from politics by jumping on the 'anti-establishment' bandwagon, which the PTI began to construct after Khan fell out with his erstwhile supporters in the military. Khan, his supporters, and his newfound activist admirers are all trying to storm mainstream politics from the outside. They are exhibiting what political scientists refer to as "anti-politics."

The more immediate meaning of this term connotes complete detachment from politics. But it is mostly used to describe a brand of politics that takes place outside the paradigm of mainstream politics. Its aim is to dislodge and dismantle the paradigm after conquering it. Therefore, 'anti-politics' in this context is a backlash against mainstream politics, which is seen as "corrupt", static and tilted in favour of 'political elites.'

Its view of mainstream politics is anarchic and 'anti-establishment' — even though its purposes to invade the mainstream political paradigm, oust those who are rooted in the workings of the paradigm, and establish those exhibiting 'anti-politics' as the paradigm's new wielders of power. This does not always require serious civil strife. As witnessed in various countries from the early 2010s, 'anti-politics' as a populist strategy has managed to grab mainstream political power through democratic means.

This is why the concept of 'anti-politics' is closely associated with

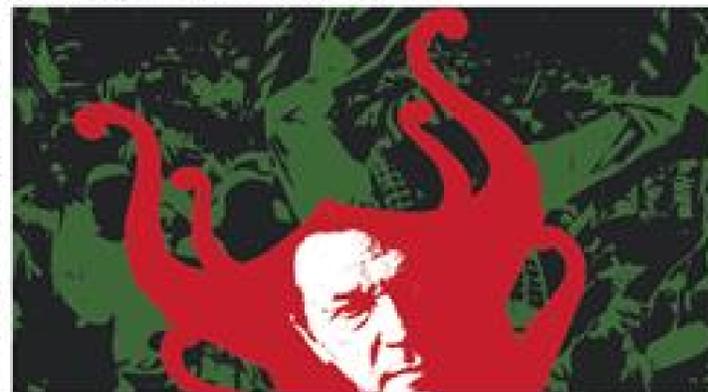


Illustration by Akram

populist forces that severely attack mainstream political players and state institutions. Populists intensely and bolster any existing 'anti-politics' sentiment in the society. Coming to power in this manner is portrayed as a moral and revolutionary act when, in fact, it's just another way of grabbing conventional power.

But purveyors of 'anti-politics', even when they do manage to breach the mainstream paradigm of politics, fail to consolidate their position because their disposition deters them from utilising the tools needed to stay in power — or tools that they detest and want to destroy. Khan is but just one example of this. Trying to destroy what a populist like him detested not only saw him struggling to retain power but, more so, after his ouster, when he wanted to jump back into the paradigm from the outside, he was left feeling isolated and hapless.

'Anti-politics', when welded to

breach the mainstream political paradigm, can only achieve bursts of emotional outcomes and commotion, but these eventually exhaust themselves, because mainstream politics has at its disposal powerful tools to retain its influence, repulse attacks from the outside and quickly repair itself. 'Anti-politics' is thus only left with useless accolades to romanticise itself — accolades such as 'heroic', 'idealistic', 'brave' etc. Power either entirely eludes it or, when this strand of politics does achieve power, it quickly loses it.

But, over the last decade, why has the world been witnessing a growth in 'anti-politics'? The sociologist Paul Bokker and the political scientist Manuel Arceles have an interesting answer. According to them, the depoliticisation of societies from the 1980s onwards is the culprit. From the 1980s onwards, neoliberalism as a political philosophy and economic

model became the dominant idea in most countries.

Neoliberalism looked to create a globalised economy navigated by the private sector and liberated from state and government interference and regulations. Governments began to outsource their countries' economics to large companies and banks, and governance was outsourced to 'technocrats'. State responsibilities and influence shrank. Neoliberalism also discouraged active political participation. This led to depoliticisation.

Neoliberalism started to come under fire after the 2008 global financial crisis. Those impacted by it began to severely criticise the private sector and the governments who were accused of protecting it. The backlash sought something 'new' or, on the other hand, a return to some wildly imagined 'pristine' past. The response to the recession was an intense critique. It did not offer any practical alternatives as such, other than rhetorical flourishes about cleansing the system.

Depoliticisation had seen a whole generation detached from politics. So the politics that the recession unleashed was rhetorical, utopian, emotional and naive. It was 'anti-politics'. This played into the hands of populists. Indeed, neoliberalism, though 'anti-politics' in its disposition as well, cleverly tweaked mainstream politics to its advantage, by striking amoral political and economic alliances.

But the 'anti-politics' that emerged as a response to neoliberalism's gradual failure was populist and only interested in lambasting mainstream politics, and offering theatrical and rhetorical alternatives that have led to some rather anarchic outcomes. ■

B&A

BOOKS & AUTHORS

► NON-FICTION

Yet another book on the late leftist leader Meraj Muhammad Khan is a comprehensive look at his life and struggles, bringing together diverse articles about him, as well as documents, interviews and his own writings

The intractable revolutionary



Nigar-i-Sehar Ki Hazrat Moaz Meraj Muhammad Khan Aur Awam Hakumat Ki Phuzaron Jidoyeh
Compiled and edited by Dr Syed Jaffar Ahmed
Institute of Historical & Social Research
ISBN: 978-999-9147-17-3
575pp.

Reviewed by Parvez Rahim

What was the charisma in the personality of Meraj Muhammad Khan (MMK) that continues to attract the writers to pen books on his life and activities? Starting his public life as a student leader representing the National Students Federation (NSF), MMK stood against Gen Ayub Khan's martial law and had Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (ZAB) nominate him as his successor before serious differences took them apart.

MMK's popularity appears to have increased after his death in 2016, with a book in Urdu on him, by Rashid Jamil. About his death, the latter wrote that the last lamp of left-wing politics had been extinguished. This was followed by another book, in 2017, by Arshad Butt, who called him a great revolutionary leader of the politics of resistance.

Recently, Shamim Ahmad, a former chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and a friend of MMK, came up with a book titled *My Friend Meraj — An Intimate Biography*. It delves into the often-volatile life and times of the leftist politician and potential activist.

Now, another book on MMK, *Nigar-i-Sehar Ki Hazrat Moaz Meraj (Longing for a Beautiful Dawn)*, has been published. It is compiled and edited by Dr Jaffar Ahmed and is based on observations and articles on MMK by a number of writers, some documents, MMK's interviews by some prominent journalists and others, his own narration of the torture and the humiliating treatment meted out to him by the police, and recollections from various sources on his love-hate relationship with Bhutto, etc. The title of the book has been derived from a verse of Sahir



Newly formed PPP in the 1960s: Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, General Akbar Khan, Meraj Muhammad Khan and Sardar Inayatullah Khan Gandapur at a rally | Meraj Muhammad Khan collection

Ladhiarvi, the famous socialist poet from the Bollywood industry.

Dr Jaffar has called the book a "Festschrift", is a volume of writings by different authors possessed as a tribute or memorial. It contains writings on MMK's more than 60 years of political struggle and his own narrative of early life in Qaim Qunj in India's Uttar Pradesh, followed by his education in Delhi.

The author has made great effort in writing and compiling this comprehensive book, which covers all aspects of MMK's challenging life. MMK was a man of such a strong character that he would always prefer to face the forces of oppression rather than compromising on his principles, which were based on ameliorating the lot of the oppressed and the marginalised.

MMK was blunt, a forceful revolutionary, possessed in-depth knowledge of history and society and had mesmerising writing and oratory skills. Having all these unusual traits, one could predict even during his education days that he would play some major role in the

country's history. In the chapter entitled *Tarsoh Boli Jar' (History Speaks)*, MMK writes that his ancestors had migrated to Qaim Qunj from Afghanistan around three centuries ago. After his initial school education in the hometown, his elder brother, Mirhaj Barna, got him admitted to Jamia Millia Delhi. This institution was run by Dr Zakir Hussain, who also later became president of India. According to MMK, seeing Dr Zakir Hussain, Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at Jamia Millia, had quite an impact on building his thinking.

After Partition in 1947, MMK's father, Maulvi Taj Muhammad Khan, had permanently settled in Quetta, but the rest of the family members shifted there only two years later. Maulvi Taj continued his practice as a *habees* and had developed a friendship with the local Sardars and other prominent persons who would come to him for treatment. He also had command over some Eastern languages and possessed oratory skills, which were inherited by MMK.

In 1962 and 1963, MMK was twice banished from Karachi, along with other students, for agitating against Ayub Khan's despotic government. As secretary-general of the NSF, he actively participated in campaigning for Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, who was the candidate of the combined opposition in the presidential elections of 1964 against Ayub Khan.

ZAB was the foreign minister in Ayub Khan's cabinet but developed serious differences with the military ruler over the signing of the Tashkent Agreement with India, after the 1965 war between the two countries. There were large-scale agitations across the country against Ayub's government, mostly by students who supported ZAB's views that the Tashkent Agreement was a "political surrender" to India.

ZAB resigned in June 1966, expressing strong opposition to Ayub's regime. On November 20, 1967, he launched the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on an 'Islamic socialist' platform, in a convention held at Dr Mubashir Hassan's house in Lahore. Several prominent left-wing politicians in the country joined hands against the rule of Ayub Khan under the leadership of ZAB. Noteworthy among them was MMK, a staunch socialist, who played a major role in developing ZAB's inclination towards socialism.

In this convention, attended by ZAB, MMK, Dr Mubashir, J.A. Rahim, Khurshid Hassan Mir, Mukhtar Rana and others, the party's name and flag were approved. On Bhutto's asking, MMK described the three colours in the flag, designed by J.A. Rahim, as follows:

"The black colour depicts oppression, exploitation and poverty; red represents the youth and labour classes, who believe in resistance and struggle; and the green portrays prosperity, high social values, restoration of human rights and the end of feudalism, capitalism and exploitative systems. The crescent and the star display the history of Muslims."

According to MMK, the slogan of '*roti, kapra aur masakari*' (bread, clothing and housing) was already used by the trade unions and adopted by ZAB as his election manifesto. Besides, ZAB had committed to the elimination of feudal and capitalist systems, along with the exploitation of workers and peasants, ending the domination of

REVOLUTIONARY, PAGE 07

► FICTION

A debut novel by a Pakistani civil servant, based on the realities of Pakistani society, has hints of autobiographical details and is a brave effort, but is also an uneven and laboured read

Raising the dead



Arise! the Dead
By Fahreen Sikander
Liberty Publishing
ISBN: 978-027-7626-150
418pp.

Reviewed by Rehana Alam

It is always a good feeling to pick up an English novel written by a fellow countryman, especially one that is published in Pakistan. *Arise! the Dead* is the debut novel of Fahreen Sikander, a member of the nation's civil service. A graduate from Karachi's Institute of Business Administration, he had also taught English after receiving a Masters in English Literature. Without doubt, therefore, the book is written by a bright, intelligent man, who has seen many different facets of life.

The novel is mainly set in Peshawar and revolves around Ahsan, a civil servant in the police force. Like the author, Ahsan has also taught English at one time and, perhaps like the author again, has chosen the civil service over teaching, only because of the greater prestige attached to it. These autobiographical touches and more are discernible in the novel, like the fact that both Ahsan and the author are natives of Peshawar and are fond of English literature.

In the author's note at the beginning of *Arise! the Dead*, Sikander calls his novel literary fiction. This immediately diminishes the importance of the plot in favour of characterisation. It is not surprising, therefore, that the story of the novel is simple and highly predictable.

The conflicted and gloomy character of Ahsan is the main force in the novel. Ahsan is a disconsolate and depressed soul, both because he has lost his lady love and because his job affords him little satisfaction. We also discover that he is highly emotional and sentimental and often requires the pragmatism of his younger

brother to steady him.

The object of Ahsan's love is Ada, a girl who studied with him at university, but with whom he lost touch after graduation. In a story replete with explanations, the reader is not quite clear why Ahsan had to suffer alone for so many years. Surely, after his induction in the police, he could have located Ada. In fact, it is only when Ada somehow finds him and phones him that he is reunited with her.

In the meantime, he becomes infatuated with another, older woman, a doctor. It takes many chapters to enumerate the details of this woman's life and even that of her nurse's. Unfortunately, even after wading through the minutiae of these women's biographies, the reader is unable to discern any material connection of these characters to the main thrust of the story.

Without giving away any spoilers, it can be said that *Arise! the Dead* is a love story. There are many obstacles in the path of the lovers, not the least being Ahsan's job. Here, the author ably sheds light on the civil service of Pakistan. According to him, it is a career where honest and conscientious officers often find themselves sidelined and even reviled. Their presence is viewed as an irritant by others of the cadre. Ahsan is thus beset with difficult choices between his heart and his conscience, and the path of love becomes a very rocky one.

Even though the novel is character-driven, the dramatic personae is not one that evokes empathy. It is difficult to be concerned about the fate of the players in the story. The characters are neither endearing nor interesting enough for the reader to become concerned about their fate.

The characters of Ahsan and Ali, the younger brother, are envisioned as two sides of a single coin. Ali is ruled by his head and Ahsan by his heart. It is a telling and, in some ways satisfying, consequence of this that Ali not only keeps his brother from making grave mistakes but ends up as a successful and rich businessman, while Ahsan continues to be dejected, dispirited and full of angst.

Ahsan is depicted as a believer in dreams and omens. His dark nature sees his future in drab colours. The long dream sequences that he experiences are dismissed by Ali as the ravings of a dismal

mind but Ahsan takes them to heart and makes plans accordingly.

The character of the female protagonist, Ada, is that of a stereotypical Pakistani woman. Even though she is in her mid-thirties, as she is a classmate of Ahsan's, she is made out to be persistently weepy, whiny and helpless. Ada is in tears whenever she makes an appearance in the story. Her red and swollen eyes are often commented upon. It is only near the end that she shows some grit.

Arise! the Dead is an uneven read. It is slow and laboured. On the one hand, Sikander makes many literary allusions and uses obscure vocabulary. But, on the other, the writing is stilted and repetitious and marred by ubiquitous errors of grammar, usage and syntax.

The author's lengthy and recurrent discourses on the social evils rife in Pakistan are also distracting for the reader. Weaving the story so as to show the negative effects of these societal ills rather than orating about them would have increased the impact of the novel. The telling just disrupts the rhythm of the story.

Better editing could also have eliminated gaffes, such as a child contracting smallpox in the 21st century, and typographical errors overlooked by spell check. It could also have reduced the length of the book and made the story more gripping.

Arise! the Dead is Fahreen Sikander's first foray into fiction. It is a valiant attempt and as such needs to be applauded. The story is based on the realities of Pakistani society. The difficulties of marrying for love, the challenges of government jobs and the lowly position of teachers in the eyes of the public are all part of the Pakistani landscape that are brought forth in the book.

Sikander also talks of mental illness, the deplorable treatment of minorities, the *bradari* culture and the evil nexus of landlords and politicians. So, even though *Arise! the Dead* does not present any stirring revelations, the author is fearless in laying out the truth as he sees it. ■

The reviewer is a freelance writer, author of the novel *The Tea Trolley* and translator of *Toofan Se Pehlay*; Safana-Europe Ki Diary

► NON-FICTION

Blending humour, personal anecdotes and correctives on history, an engaging autobiography offers a roadmap to those let down by Pakistan's system

Against the odds



Iftikharnama
By Iftikhar Ahmed Sandhu
Qalam Foundations International
ISBN: 978-9697461912
272pp.

Reviewed by Muhammad Suhayb

Often in life, we come to understand harsh realities only when it is too late — after time has passed us by and opportunities have slipped away. For many, especially those who have been raised with a distorted understanding of history and have been led through an education system that feeds directionless, the consequences can be debilitating.

These individuals, despite their immense potential, often find themselves adrift, uncertain about how to channel their talents in a meaningful way. *Iftikharnama* is an answer to those problems: it is not just a book about one man's rise, it is a beacon of hope for all who have felt lost in a system designed to fail them.

The book under review is a memoir that follows the rise of Iftikhar Ahmed Sandhu, a man from a modest village in Punjab, who went from poverty to becoming a well-known property dealer, a scholar and a neo-politician. His journey is a testament to perseverance, intelligence and the ability to adapt to a rapidly changing world. The readers, through Iftikhar's life story, are given tools to question the narratives they have been fed, in order to find their own path to success.

Born in July 1965, Iftikhar has reviewed history from the very start. In August of the year of his birth, his mother was forced to leave the hospital, as the threat of an India-Pakistan war loomed large. At the time, the Pakistan Army was engaged in Operation Gibraltar in India-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and the possibility of an all-out conflict was imminent, dispelling the idea — often taught to children — that India had launched a sudden attack on September 6, 1965.

The creation of Bangladesh, as Iftikhar saw it, was the result of a profound injustice: the western wing's refusal to let East Pakistan form its rightful government, despite its electoral win, shattered the nation. What struck Iftikhar most was how East Pakistan's people were branded as traitors and stripped of their rights, enduring brutal repression.

Iftikhar firmly believes that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who later became the prime minister of what was once West Pakistan, played a significant role in both the wars that shaped Pakistan's trajectory — the 1971 war leading to the creation of Bangladesh as well as the earlier conflict with India. He argues that Bhutto's political ambitions and refusal to compromise were key factors.

The book offers a much-needed sense of direction by exposing the inaccuracies in the history which the youth have been taught, while challenging the purposeless approach to education. It provides a clear and practical roadmap for those with untapped potential, showing them how to navigate Pakistan's often-overwhelming social and political complexities.

The book presents Iftikhar's journey as that of a common person facing various life challenges, detailing his experiences, emotions and observations. It emphasises the untold stories of Pakistan's history and critiques the societal issues stemming from various mafias. Written in an engaging style, it blends personal anecdotes with broader reflections

on poverty and success, aiming to inspire others and highlight the importance of truth in recounting history. By brilliantly connecting history with reality, the writer adds a layer of depth, making the same both engaging and impactful.

As a law student who has seen the inner workings of the judiciary and bureaucracy, Iftikhar has become a passionate advocate for justice — not just in the courtroom or in his work with real estate, but in how history is understood and taught.

As a scholar who frequently appears in the media and writes on contemporary issues in various newspapers, he offers a comparative view of the Qasbi-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Mustafa Abul Kalam Azad. By offering a contrast of their approaches, values and leadership styles, Sandhu highlights the differences in their political strategies and visions for the Subcontinent. His observations invite readers to reflect on the broader implications of their leadership on Pakistan's formation and its subsequent historical trajectory.

A devout Muslim, Iftikhar Sandhu's deep love for both his family and his faith is a constant theme throughout *Iftikharnama*. His expressions of gratitude towards his parents and the heartfelt praise he bestows upon his children, evoke a sense of warmth and reverence. The way he honours his parents for their sacrifices and cherishes his children's accomplishments, will resonate with readers and remind them of their own parents' need for care and devotion. His reflections on family not only show his personal values but also highlight the importance of familial bonds in shaping one's character and life journey.

For correcting wrongs, Iftikhar did himself step into the world of politics, but only for a brief period. His encounter with Gen Pervez Musharraf led to disillusionment and a change of ideas.

The jovial writing style of *Iftikharnama* adds a refreshing dimension to the narrative, making it not just informative but also engaging and entertaining. By weaving humour into each anecdote, the book invites readers to reflect on serious themes without feeling overwhelmed.

The humour allows readers to digest challenging ideas about history, politics and social issues with a lighter heart, while jokes and humorous observations can make stories more memorable, ensuring that the lessons embedded in them stick with readers long after they've turned a page.

For someone who has been in the property business for over three decades, Iftikhar's experiences with the law give him a unique insider's perspective on how Pakistan's judiciary operates — or, more often, fails to operate effectively. His frequent trips to the courts expose him to the inefficiencies, delays and corruption that plague the system. He sees firsthand how cases drag on for years, how justice is often inaccessible to ordinary people, and how the bureaucracy stifles progress.

What concerns Iftikhar the most is the growing disillusionment among the public. He fears that, if the judiciary continues to fail in delivering timely and fair justice, people will lose faith in the system entirely, turning instead to alternative means of resolving disputes — sometimes through unlawful or violent means. This potential collapse of trust in the courts represents a deeper threat to the rule of law and the stability of society.

The book serves as a deeply personal memoir and a broader social critique and calls on individuals to challenge the narratives they've been taught and to find their own path to success in a society often marred by corruption and injustice. With humour and humility, the book provides a roadmap for those who have a lot to offer, but get lost in the system. ■

The reviewer writes an old film and music and loves reading books. X: @suhayb101

CONTINUATIONS

REVOLUTIONARY, PAGE 06

imperialist powers by coming out from military pacts such as SEATO and CENTO, and the abolition of the oppressive Press and Publications Ordinance, which did not allow journalists to challenge the actions taken under it, before a court.

The PPP won a landslide victory in the general elections held in December 1970 in the then West Pakistan. MMK did not contest the elections but was assigned the portfolio of Minister of State for Public Affairs. His writings, published in the book, pertain to the years 1972 and 1973, which was also the peak period of his political life.

These writings consist of criticism of ZAB as a leader and his style of running the government. According to MMK, ZAB did not fulfil the promises made to the public during his election campaigning and there was no change in the status quo, despite the nationalisation of industries. Being disgruntled with the situation, MMK resigned from ministry in October 1972 and from PPP's membership in November 1973.

MMK was arrested in May 1974 and the Hyderabad Tribunal sent him to jail for four years. He was set free during Gen Ziaul

Haq's government, which had banned the formation of political organisations.

Many years later, MMK joined Inam Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) in December 1997. He felt PTI's manifesto was almost like that of ZAB before he had taken over the government. He was greatly disappointed by the failure of PTI in the 2002 elections, in which it won only one seat. He had told Inam that his organisational capabilities were quite weak and that his party had gradually become a "fan club." He also told Inam that cricket could be by chance but not politics. MMK resigned from PTI in May 2003.

Seeing such a detailed narration of MMK's life, thoughts and activities, one can draw the conclusion that he was, perhaps, himself responsible for his failure in politics. Having so many admirable qualities, he could have made some contributions towards the betterment of the country by participating in bringing about changes in systems rather than just criticising and ridiculing his peers and leaders. ■

The reviewer is a consultant in human resources at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi and Vital Pakistan Trust



COLUMN



Adieu, Rahat Saeed

By Harris Khalique

The prolific and leading English author from the past century E.M. Forster famously wrote: "Two cheers for democracy, one because it admits variety and, two, because it permits criticism. Two cheers are quite enough; there is no occasion to give three."

From my earliest meetings with Rahat Saeed I remember him raising his cup once and saying: "Three cheers for socialism, one because it distributes wealth and, two, because it brings dignity to all. Two cheers are not enough; the third cheer is for us, who believe in creating a just and egalitarian world."

Saeed remained committed to his ideals until his last breath. On October 23, 2024, in Karachi, he lost his battle against galloping cancer that had been diagnosed just a little more than a year ago.

They must have met before, but it was about 40 years ago when Rahat Saeed first came to our place to see my father. My father was then writing his memoirs, which were initially published in the literary magazine *Afkaar*. Saeed, along with his literary and trade union friends Wahid Bashir, Faqeer Muhammad Lashari and Dr Mohammed Ali Siddique (who also wrote a literary column for Dawn for many years under the pen name of Ariel), was planning to launch a quarterly academic-cum-literary journal *Irtiga* and wanted my father to contribute to that journal. Poet Hasan Abdj joined the editorial board after Lashari passed away. Later, Dr Syed Jaffar Ahmed, along with a few others, kept the lamp of *Irtiga* shining.

In any case, that first home visit was the beginning of a close personal association between Saeed and my father, which very soon turned all of their family members into each other's friends. Until the time my father was alive, Saeed would see him at least once a week. Speaking of our family friendships, I have an interesting anecdote to tell. I have even been a matchmaker — and a proudly successful one — for Saeed's younger daughter.

It was maybe 1997. I was visiting one of my dearest friend's mother in Gujranwala. She had not been keeping well and she asked me to find a suitable girl for her boy before she passed on. I did, although she couldn't live to see them tie the knot. Today, both Dr Argumand Bano and Dr Bahar Ali Kazmi are academics teaching in European universities, with occasional research and tutoring stints in Pakistan.

Saeed was a committed labour rights champion and a cultural rights activist all his life. On a personal level, he was steeped in poetry and our classical music. His organisational and networking skills were also impeccable. When I was still an undergraduate student in the late 1980s, he roped me in to help establish the *Irtiga* Institute of Social Sciences. Those were the times when the Soviet Union was coming apart and China had considerably changed its course to the over-Party regulated market economy.

Under his tutelage and leadership, Kaleem Durrani, Sajad Mehd, Ali Yavar and myself organised a two-day, highly representative and elaborate conference at the PMA House, Karachi, titled "Crisis of Socialism." From Dr Egbal Ahmed to Raza Kazim to Abid Hasan Minto to Akhtar Hussain to Nasir Bizenjo to Saleem Raz, all participated.

In 1986, Saeed was also instrumental in celebrating 50 years of the founding of the Progressive Writers' Association in the Subcontinent. Although the political emergency imposed by the state had been lifted at that time, those were still Gen Ziaul Haq's martial law years. But Saeed, along with his other comrades, ensured that those celebratory events happened.

Over the last few years in Islamabad, Saeed led the efforts to organise two Afro-Asian writers' conferences, with active support from poet Imdad Akash and other friends, including Naqem Mirza and Naseer Memon. He brought together anticolonial and anti-imperialist poets and writers from across 15 countries to meet in the Pakistani capital and mull over the crises faced by humanity, the working classes and the oppressed nations of the global South.

Even during his service with Pakistan International Airlines, Saeed did not refrain from working with trade unions and progressive literary organisations. However, after his retirement, his main passion — which almost turned into an obsession — was the revival and re-organisation of the Progressive Writers' Association. He travelled far and wide in the country and visited India multiple times to meet his counterparts. He also invited the Indian PWA to meetings in Pakistan to foster cross-fertilisation of ideas and to learn from their more sustained experience. Besides, he reached out to other like-minded people internationally.

The differences between progressive individuals, groups and associations working under the same name — less for ideological reasons and more out of ego — couldn't be mended that easily. Nevertheless, Saeed worked hard to bring all under one umbrella.

The most successful event in this regard happened in Multan, in 2008 if I remember correctly. With the help of Dr Anwar Ahmed, Dr Najeem Jamal, Hameed Akhtar and Zahida Hina among others, Saeed was successful in reviving the PWA at a broader level. Unfortunately, the differences reared their heads again after a few years. Perhaps, a time has come when different groups of like-minded people in different parts of the country create issue-based networks instead of trying to merge into one organisation.

Another passion that Saeed espoused all his life was bringing Sindh- and Urdu-speaking Sindhis together. In later years of his life, even after being enfeebled by old-age health issues, he would travel across Sindh in buses and meet all kinds of people. He always either had an *arak* (the traditional shawl worn in Sindh) wrapped around his shoulders or was clad in a waistcoat made of an *arak*.

Rahat Saeed, you will be dearly missed. ■

The columnist is a poet and essayist. His latest collections of verse are *Hairan's Sami-Bazaar* and *No Fortunes to Tell*

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► EPICURIUS

A contemporary spin on the age-old Korean practice of cooking meat on an open fire for a sweet, savoury and tender grilled dish

FIRE MEAT WRAP

By Mumtaz Mustafa and Laura Klynstra

Pan-Asian cuisine brings together a variety of culinary traditions from across the diverse regions of Asia. It began with simple exchanges of recipes among Asian communities, growing over time into a shared culinary identity. As travel and migration became easier after the 1950s, the appeal of Pan-Asian cuisine reached beyond Asia, allowing people worldwide to enjoy a blend of Asian flavours. Today, this cuisine continues to contribute to the global food culture, showcasing the rich history and traditions of Asia through every dish.

KOREAN-INSPIRED BEEF BULGOGI LETTUCE WRAP

The journey of bulgogi is rooted deep within Korean history, tracing back to the Goguryeo era (37 BC – 668 AD), evolving over centuries into the savoury, sweet and tender grilled dish we savour today. The very term "bulgogi" translates to "fire meat", a tribute to the traditional cooking method over open flame. Our rendition pays homage to this age-old practice, preserving the iconic sweet and soy flavour profile, while introducing a contemporary spin with the lettuce wrap.

INGREDIENTS LETTUCE WRAPS (MAKES 12-14)

- 2 pounds flank steak
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 3 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons toasted sesame oil, divided
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh grated ginger
- ½ Asian pear, grated
- 1/8 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 tablespoon gochujang paste
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds
- ¼ cup finely sliced spring onion
- Iceberg lettuce leaves, washed and drained and dried



Photo by Laura Klynstra

GOCHUJANG DIPPING SAUCE

- 3 tablespoons gochujang paste
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 tablespoon light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon sesame seeds (for garnish)

GARNISH

- Fresh cilantro
- 1 carrot, cut into matchsticks
- 1 green onion, finely chopped

METHOD

1. To prepare the beef: Partially freeze the flank steaks. This should take around one to one and a half hours. This will make it easier to cut. Using a sharp knife, slice the partially frozen flank

steak against the grain into thin strips.

2. To prepare the bulgogi marinade: In a mixing bowl, combine the soy sauce, rice vinegar, light brown sugar, two tablespoons of the toasted sesame oil, garlic, ginger, Asian pear, pepper flakes, gochujang paste, and two tablespoons of sesame seeds. Whisk the ingredients until the sugar dissolves and the marinade is well combined.

3. Add the sliced beef to the bowl and ensure each strip is well-coated with the marinade. Cover the bowl and refrigerate for a minimum of one hour. For best results, marinate for at least four hours or overnight.

4. To cook the bulgogi: Heat the remaining two tablespoons of sesame oil in a large pan or skillet over medium-high heat. Add the marinated beef strips, ensuring not to overcrowd the pan. You might need to cook the beef in batches.

5. Cook each side for about two to three minutes or until they are nicely browned and cooked to your desired level. Once cooked, remove the beef strips from the pan and set them aside.

6. Alternatively, you can grill the beef on a gas or charcoal grill. Ensure the grates are clean and lightly oil with vegetable oil to prevent the beef from sticking. Preheat it to a medium-high heat. Once the grill is heated, lay the marinated beef strips individually across the grates. Ensure you don't overcrowd them to get proper char and grill marks. Grill each side for about two to three minutes. Once they have a nice char on each side and are cooked to your preference, remove them from the grill and set aside.

7. To make the gochujang dipping sauce: In a small mixing bowl, combine the gochujang paste, soy sauce and toasted sesame oil. Stir until the ingredients are well blended. Add water one teaspoon at a time until you achieve your desired consistency. Then stir in the light brown sugar until it's completely dissolved in the sauce.

8. To serve: Take a leaf of the iceberg lettuce, place a couple of beef bulgogi strips in the centre. Top with some sliced spring onions, matchstick carrots and a sprinkle of sesame seeds. Garnish with cilantro. Serve with Gochujang Dipping Sauce. ■

This excerpt has been taken, with permission, from the section Pan-Asian Table in the book Oatler & Grace, authored by Mumtaz Mustafa and Laura Klynstra, and published by Skyhorse Publishing in 2024

► GARDENING



Easy to assemble and extremely user-friendly, the spray gun is essential for kitchen gardeners to keep pests at bay...

ANNIE GET YOUR SPRAY GUN

By Dr Khwaja Ali Shahid

This weekly column, while promoting kitchen gardening, focuses on providing double, easy and inexpensive alternatives to the readers' gardening needs. It includes a series of articles on the life cycle of any particular fruit, vegetable or herb, which also always mention the probable pest attacks and diseases that these plants may be prone to.

The column also outlines probable remedies and different spray combinations, usually organic alternatives, which might need to be sprayed, along with their required frequency and other relevant details. Sometimes, however, this part can be demotivating for a person who has recently adopted gardening as a pastime.

But it's as important for home gardeners as it is for large-scale farmers. Just before the flowering and fruiting season of different crops, you may have come across TV advertisements, by agricultural and crop sciences organisations, aired just before the prime-time news slot. These advertisements, while enticing farmers to buy the insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, pesticides and chemicals, also scare them with the possibility of an unwanted pest attack on their crops — which are worth months of effort and fortune.

A typical advertisement features a farmer walking through his farm, easily spraying the crops, usually with a backpack pesticide spraying machine, while pumping it with one hand and directing the spraying nozzle with the other. Another option, not usually depicted, is for the farmer to use a spray trolley, which is a vehicle with a small tank attached to it, containing the required pesticide.

Bigger farms and matching resources would cut down this manual labour and replace it with more advanced machines. One such solution could be a sprayer vehicle, which would cover a large area on either side in a single go. Such vehicles reduce the time required for the activity and improve the chances of an equitable amount of the solution reaching the plant, due to their systematic mist sprays. Similarly, options such as spraying drones and robots are also being used successfully to achieve better efficiency



The plastic spray gun is easy to assemble and use | Photos by the writer



The nozzle can be adjusted for spraying mist or jet stream of the solution

and effectiveness while combating the possibility of any pest attack.

In this column, though, we will focus on one of the most handy and affordable options to spray water, insecticides and pesticides to fulfil your home-grown plant's needs on a small scale.

One of my favourites and a regularly recommended option is the spray gun. This spraying option is almost entirely made up of plastic, which means it is very lightweight compared to almost every other option, apart from the spraying pump. This feature makes it a good

choice for children, women and elderly gardeners. It is also beneficial for those gardeners who suffer from back or joint pain.

The spray gun is extremely easy to assemble, which makes it user-friendly as well. The spray gun is mounted on a bottle top, which already contains the mixture to be sprayed. For this, screw-top bottles are required. Any locally manufactured plastic bottle of a soft drink would do. The grip part of the spray gun, which is at its bottom, is then wound up and tightened on the bottle top.

The parts to assemble also include a valve and a straw-shaped tube, through which the solution enters the spray gun from the bottle from the negative pressure that is created through pumping. The nozzle can also be adjusted, from spraying a jet stream to providing a mist of the solution.

The spray gun is easily available throughout Pakistan and can be bought from your local plant stores. They are also available at some roadside plant nurseries and on different social media pages dedicated to gardening. The price of this spray gun ranges from Rs300 to Rs500, depending upon the place it is being purchased from. A two-litre gardening spray bottle is also available at gardening stores, with its price ranging between Rs1,000 to Rs2,000.

Those who have a smaller space dedicated to gardening or own only a few plants can always opt for the basic plastic spray bottle, which is available for as little as Rs200. These bottles are easily available at almost all grocery stores. I still find the spray gun to be the most flexible and optimal option for any kitchen gardener.

Regardless of your choice, please keep it in mind that these spray guns and bottles must always be kept out of the reach of children. ■

Please send your queries and emails to doctor@4thatmail.com. The writer is a physician and a host for the YouTube channel 'TheTree Gardening' promoting organic kitchen gardening.



ADVICE



AUNTIE AGNI

'Am I Just Being Led On?'

Hello Auntie,

I am 27 years old and have completed my master's degree. I am currently struggling to find a government job. I've been in a relationship with someone for seven years and we've met only once.

He is 10 years older than me and works as a police sub-inspector. He says he wants to buy a house in Karachi and will send a proposal after that. However, he doesn't show much interest in doing things for me, such as taking me out for lunch or dinner. When I insist, he agrees, but never follows through, always giving the excuse that he's busy with work.

He's been in Karachi for the past three months but, for the first seven years, he lived in rural Sindh. Although he is very romantic, he doesn't share much about other aspects of his life.

I wonder if I should still wait for him. What should I do?

Waiting Heart

Dear Waiting Heart,

This is a challenging situation for you, especially given the cultural and social expectations involved.

Long-term relationships, especially when they aren't leading to a formal proposal or marriage, can be emotionally taxing and even stressful for those involved. After seven years together, it's natural for you to want clarity and actions that reflect his commitment.

If he keeps delaying without a concrete timeline, it is likely a sign that he isn't fully ready to move forward. Buying a house is a big step, but I wonder why he thinks it is a prerequisite for discussing a proposal, if he's truly committed to you and your future together.

Relationships need mutual support and understanding and it's essential for both of you to feel valued. Let him know that, while you understand his work demands, you also need his time and attention. Surely he could have found more time to meet you in seven years!

Ask him openly about his plans, as well as why he feels buying a house must come before taking the next step in your relationship. Having met only once in seven years, it must be difficult to fully understand each other's personalities and values. Also, long-distance relationships require extra transparency.

At 27, you're at a point where it's essential to prioritise your own goals in both your career and your relationships. Waiting indefinitely will affect your personal happiness and also limit your future choices. Take some time to consider if this relationship truly aligns with the future you see for yourself. I know you have invested a lot of time here, but it is fair for you to set a timeline for when you expect things to move forward. Doing so is not about rushing him; it's about respecting your own journey.

If he continues to remain vague or hesitant after you've shared your thoughts and needs, it might be worth thinking about whether he's genuinely ready for marriage and commitment. Please remember that your happiness and peace of mind are as valuable as his and deserve to be prioritised. ■

Disclaimer: If you or someone you know is in crisis and/or feeling suicidal, please go to your nearest emergency room and seek medical help immediately. Auntie will not reply privately to any query. Please send concise queries to auntieagn@gmail.com

STATIC CLING



WHILE PEOPLE WERE GENERALLY APPRECIATIVE OF BRINGING GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNANCE, NOT MANY WERE CONVINCED THAT THE RULING PARTY TELEGRAPHING THE HUNGER RUMOURS IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S STOMACH TO THE WORLD WAS THE BEST WAY TO CONVEY THIS.

SEEKING MARRIAGE

KARACHI

CARACIAN, Pakistan, best-matched, slim, smart, handsome, divorcee, 38 years, 5'10", B.A. graduate, email: shahidkarachi@gmail.com (1102273144)

SEEKING a suitable match to Marry age 23-35, BBA, MBA in Finance, Working as a Senior Deputy Manager in a leading Oil and Gas company. Open to proposals from educated ladies living abroad, aged between 25 to 35, of any marital status. Should have a strong educational background and family values. Email: shahidkarachi@gmail.com (1102273144)

POSITION OPEN

KARACHI

ACCOUNTS

A PROGRESSIVE SERVICES COMPANY REQUIRES FEMALE CUM COMPUTER OPERATOR HAVING WORK EXPERIENCE OF INDIVIDUALLY FORMULATED FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS WITH KNOWLEDGE OF TAX RETURNS EXCELLENT IN OPERATION OF EXCEL SHEETS AND FORMULAS. LIMITED VACANCIES HANDSOME SALARY, FRINGE BENEFITS, APPLY WITH CV & PHOTOGRAPH LAST AND EXPECTED SALARY. EMAIL CV hr@progressiveservices.com WHATSAPP CV: 0300-822828 (1104273176)

A Restaurant requires an Accountant experienced in dealing with Income Tax. 5 years experience please send CV at hr@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

ACCOUNTANT WANTED

Leading Construction & Interior company seeks experienced Accountant with Construction & Interior background. 5+ years job. Job Title: Experienced Accountant - Construction. Service Industry Location: Karachi. Job Type: Full-time. Responding salaries will be in the range of 100,000 to 150,000. Bachelor's degree. Apply: hr@progressiveservices.com & accounts@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

WANTED Accounts Clerk

preferably trained NCO of around 40-45 years not more than 45 years experience in office. Salary: 120,000-150,000. Send CV to hr@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

ENGINEERING

TRANS Group (<http://transgroup.pk/home/>) is recruiting professionals for the position of Production Supervisor for iron ore export and importation plant in LDA. Qualification: Diploma in Chemical and Mechanical Engineering. Minimum 3 years experience in similar capacity. Must have relevant experience of production supervision from the plant or exports or imports. Market competitive salary + benefits. Interested candidates should send their resumes at hr@transgroup.pk. Contact No: 0213-5658724 & 0213-5658716 (1102273176)

ENGINEERING

A well reported businessman requires a COORDINATOR / PROJECT ASSISTANT. Should be female. INDOORS AND OUTDOORS. Graduate. Market competitive salary. Candidates from (MBA & Civil) are preferred. Graduate should have knowledge of office related work as well as outdoor coordination. Candidate having a site is preferred. Age requirement: not above 35 years if interested, please contact: 0300-8227771 (1102273176) & 0213-5658716 (1102273176)

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SALE OF CARS

Bank AL Habib Limited invites sealed bids for the sale of following vehicles on "As is where is" basis, which may be inspected from November 04, 2024 to November 06, 2024 during working hours from 02:00 pm to 05:00 pm at Bank AL Habib Ltd., Plot No. 222, Daudpota Road, Near Awan Tower (Hotel), Opp: Afrim Mall, Saddar, Karachi. Contact Nos: (021) 35807200-14, 0337-3173800, 0341-3216220, 0331-0100280.

Make	No. of Cars	Models
Honda City MT	Forty Nine	2016-2019
Suzuki Mehran VXR	Eighteen	2015-2019
Suzuki Culfuran VX	Three	2017-2018

- The bids should be submitted on the prescribed Tender Form, available free of cost at location.
- Terms and Conditions, printed on Tender Form shall apply.
- Tender Forms with Payorders should be deposited by Thursday, November 07, 2024.
- Tenders will be opened on Friday, November 08, 2024 & results displayed on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 by 04:30 p.m. at the gate of Parking Plot.
- Bank AL Habib Limited reserves the right to accept/reject or cancel any or all offers without assigning any reason.

Group Head IT & Administration Divisions
Bank AL Habib Limited, Principal Office, Karachi

ENGINEERING

A leading sophisticated manufacturing company located at SITE area is looking for the following multiple positions:

ENGINEERING & MAINTENANCE: Requires: Bachelor's or Diploma holder. Graduate or Diploma holder. 5-7 years of working experience in relevant required domain. B.E. Mechanical Engineering for power Department. B.E. Mechanical Engineer for maintenance Department. Supervisor for HVAC Department. B. Filters for Compressor packing. kindly send your CV at hr@progressiveservices.com with subject mentioned above (1102273176)

ENGINEERING

WANTED: experienced in service development and electrical design. Join us to work on ground-breaking projects. Apply at hr@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

GENERAL

IMMEDIATE HIRING OF STAFF

ENGINEERING AGENCY

REQUIREMENT: **EXPERIENCED MERCHANTS WITH KNOWLEDGE OF KNOTS AND WOVEN GARMENTS MUST HAVE PAST EXPERIENCE IN EXPORTS. EMAIL CV-RESUME TO: BIAZHMYG@GMAIL.COM** (1102273176)

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A

CONSISTENT FEMALE WRITER who speaks CLEAR URDU AND ENGLISH TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS FOR OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, PLEASE COMMENT 'ABLE IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA AND HAVE STRONG COMMAND OF URDU AND ENGLISH, EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS, ABILITY TO ENGAGE WITH INTERVIEWEES NATURALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY. CONTACT HR: careers@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

A steel metal unit looking for 5 to 6 years experienced person in Bulk Card Designing & Solid Work. Email your CV to hr@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

A well reported businessman requires a COORDINATOR / PROJECT ASSISTANT. Should be female. INDOORS AND OUTDOORS. Graduate. Market competitive salary. Candidates from (MBA & Civil) are preferred. Graduate should have knowledge of office related work as well as outdoor coordination. Candidate having a site is preferred. Age requirement: not above 35 years if interested, please contact: 0300-8227771 (1102273176) & 0213-5658716 (1102273176)

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EXPORT factory in Karachi

requiring cutting machine operators. Interested candidates should send their resumes to hr@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

HUMAN RESOURCES

HR Coordinator for Overseas Employment Promoters required. Bachelor's degree in HR and 2+ years relevant experience required. CV send to hr@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

REQUIRE A Agriculture Graduate

with 2 to 5 years field experience for Plant in Bahin / Muzhina District. Interested candidates should send their resumes to hr@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

MARKETING

A Spinning Mill is required **TARN MARKETING MANAGER** in Karachi. An experienced must have worked in relevant large textile spinning unit. Minimum 10 years experience required. We offer handsome salary package with fringe benefits and excellent working environment. Apply your resume to hr@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

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REAL ESTATE MARKETING

EXPERIENCED person who can market our commercial property for sale. Property is in prime location. Email: hr@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

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THE LADY DUFFERIN HOSPITAL

one of the largest women's hospitals of Pakistan having 200 beds and specialists in Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Non-surgical Paediatrics. We are looking for the following positions:

SENIOR REGISTRAR - OBST & GYNAE: Candidate should be PGD (Obst & Gynae) SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER - OBST & GYNAE: Candidate should be PGD (Obst & Gynae) SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER - PAEDIATRICS: Candidate should be PGD (Paediatrics) SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER - OBST & GYNAE: Candidate should be PGD (Obst & Gynae) SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER - PAEDIATRICS: Candidate should be PGD (Paediatrics)

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CITY INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCE COLLEGE NURSING

requires a Marketing Manager with experience working in Website, Facebook, YouTube etc. and in physical marketing field. City Institute of Health Science COLLEGE OF NURSING Karachi head Office Nursing Building Address: 15, 16 Block 18, Federal B Area, Karachi. Phone: 0213-2599020, 0213-2599021 (1102273176)

REQUIRE Sales Executive

for spare parts sales, having at least 1 year experience in industrial sales. Please send CV at hr@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

TEACHERS

A Progressive School requires Principal and Teachers for Math, Science & Urdu. Candidates should be PGD (Math, Science & Urdu) and have at least 5 years experience in relevant field. Please send CV at hr@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

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WANTED experienced, qualified FEMALE teachers

for all classes (Montessori to O' Level) to be based in England. Apply with CV to the Principal, Qureshi Academy, D-26 Block 8 Ch. Khayal of Zaman Road Clifton, Karachi. hr@progressiveservices.com (1102273176)

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HALCON
For Health. With Humanity.

Sealed tenders are invited for the supply of the machines and equipment on an "As is where is basis" on the HALCON Plant address: Sardoz Nagar, Pafiro Road, Jamshoro, (Sindh, 76100, Pakistan).

S. No	Lot Description
1	Lab Equipment's
2	Production Machinery
3	Printers
4	LED Screens, Projectors, Scanner & Coffee Machine
5	Generator
6	Container QTY 5
7	INTENSIVE MIXER GRANULATION
8	FBD VACUUM UNLOADING & MILL
9	Tree Woods
10	Spare Parts of different machines

Tenders can be inspected at the above-mentioned address during working days (Monday to Saturday) between 10:00am to 04:00pm from 04-Nov to 08-Nov 2024.

The last date for submission of the tender is 15th Nov 2024.

The company reserves the right to reject/accept any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever or cancel all the bids.

Contact Details:
Telephone: 0323-2550323 / 0326-8147388 (10:00am to 04:00pm)

Terms & Conditions:

- Interested parties can visit at given address between 04th to 08th of Nov 2024, during working days (Monday to Saturday). They must wear their own safety shoes during visit.
- All offers to be submitted in name of Head of Admin. Bid received last date is 15th Nov 2024.
- All bids to be submitted in sealed envelope.
- All offers to include pay order of 10% of the amount of offer value, in the name of Halcon Pakistan Limited. In case of offer rejection, pay order will be returned to the vendor.
- Offer should be proposed as mentioned in the advertisement.
- In case of selection, vendor to submit the full payment by cheque or pay order in the name of Halcon Pakistan Limited within five days. Failure to submit proposed payment may lead to penalization of submitted amount.
- After Clearance, vendor must lift the lot from prescribed site within a week, considering all company safety measures and certified lifting equipment.

HALCON Pakistan Limited (Formerly known as Glass Smith Kline Consumer Healthcare Pakistan Limited)

ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
(Sector H-8, Islamabad)

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS/FIRMS TENDER REF. NO. 07/DOW/2024

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIQU) intends to prequalify Contractors/Firms through e-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (e-PADS) (<https://eprocure.gov.pk>) registered with Pakistan Engineering Council having valid Registration Certificate for the year 2024-25, and must be active Taxpayer with taxation Departments for the project "Construction of Examination Halls and Guest Rooms at Skardu"

Pre-Qualification Documents containing all information are available on PPRA e-PADS portal free of cost. Interested Contractors/Firms are requested to register themselves on e-PADS (<https://eprocure.gov.pk>) and are required to submit their documents in accordance with the instructions in the pre-qualification document on-line through e-PADS at <http://eprocure.gov.pk> or before 19-11-2024 at 10:30 A.M. The same will be opened on e-PADS at 11:00 AM on the same date in the presence of representatives who shall choose to attend the opening session to be held at Committee Room of Directorate of Works, AIQU Main Campus, Sector H-8, Islamabad. Manual submission of documents is not allowed.

This advertisement is available at the website of PPRA & AIQU at www.ppra.org.pk and www.aiqu.edu.pk respectively.

Deputy Director Works
Directorate of Works
Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad
Phone 051-9290100, 051-9572145

GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SOCIAL WELFARE
SINDH SECRETARIAT BLOCK 79

P. No. 11-1932/GULSHAN-E-SURJANI/DGVA/2015/1927 Date: 26th October, 2024

NOTICE FOR COMPLIANCE

"Gulshan-e-Surjani Welfare Association" bearing Registration No. DSW(S) 1932 dated 1st Sep 2015

You are hereby informed through this NOTICE that a Show Cause Notice issued on 10-09-2024 and a Final Show Cause Notice issued on 18-10-2024 at your Association at your available address, S.B-10, Block-B, Gulshan-e-Surjani, District West Karachi, by Director General, Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi, but not received.

Now, you are hereby given a last chance / opportunity to appear in the office of Director General, Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh, located at 1st Floor, SINDH SECRETARIAT, BLOCK 79, KARACHI within (07) days after publication of this Notice for clarifying your position to defend allegation levelled against your Association. In case of failure, it will be finalized for Dissolution / Cancellation to your Association under Section 10 of Voluntary Social Welfare (Registration & Control Ordinance 1961).

(ATHAR HUSSAIN MIRANI)
DIRECTOR GENERAL
SOCIAL WELFARE, SINDH

Ref: DSW No. 30/1924

ادارہ ترقيہات کراچی
اطلاع برائے پیش
 ادارہ ترقيہات کراچی کے تمام معزز پیشتر کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ مورخہ 4 نومبر 2024 بروز پیر سے پیشتر کی تصدیق کا آغاز کیا جا رہا ہے۔
 پیشتر سے درخواست کی جاتی ہے کہ سب سے پہلے اپنی کارکردگی اور ایجنسی کے بارے میں اپنی کارکردگی کا جائزہ لیں۔ پیشتر کی تصدیق کا مورخہ 4 نومبر 2024 سے شروع ہوگا۔
 (1) ڈرائیور (بیس)
 (2) ٹیکس کالکٹر
 (3) ایجنٹ برائے کاروبار (بیس)

رئیس ایجنسی (بیس)
 کراچی ایجنسی
 سرورہ ترقيہات کراچی

SINDH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
THANDI SARAK, HYDERABAD

ADVERTISEMENT NO. 08/2024 DATED 01-11-2024

MANUAL APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR VARIOUS POSTS IN SINDH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

A. SINDH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Sl. No.	Name of Post with Basic Scale	Qualification as per Recruitment Rules	No. of Post	Quota				Age Limit
				R	U	T		
01	DRIVER (BPS-04)	1. Possession of a valid LTV/HTV license. 2. Must be able to maintain the Log Book. 3. At least five years' experience as a Driver.	08	Open Merit (Male)	04	03	07	23-35
				Minority Quota (Male)	01	00	01	
				TOTAL	05	03	08	
02	NAIB GARD (BPS-01)	Preferably Literate	07	Open Merit (Male/Female)	03	03	06	18-28
				Minority Quota	01	00	01	
				TOTAL	04	03	07	
03	GENERATOR / RISOGRAPH OPERATOR (BPS-01)	Preferably Literate	01	Open Merit (Male/Female)	01	00	01	18-28
				TOTAL	01	00	01	
04	SANITARY WORKER (BPS-01)	Preferably Literate	02	Open Merit (Male/Female)	02	00	02	18-28
				TOTAL	02	00	02	

FINANCE DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

INVITATION FOR BIDS

PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF I.T. HARDWARE AND MACHINERY EQUIPMENT FOR THE OFFICES OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SINDH, SECRETARIAT, KARACHI

Reference No.: FD (CTC-I/03/03/2024-2025)
 Date: 2nd November, 2024

Government of Sindh (the "Government") has solicited the bids for providing operational services to the Finance Department (the "Procuring Agency"), which it intends to apply part of the proceeds of the obligatory funding toward the engine payments under the procurement contract mentioned below:

Line Item No.	Item Details	Total Qty	Delivery Timeline
1.	Desktop Desktop Computers with LCD Screen	80 Units	Within 100 business days following the date of award/acceptance of the contract & after issuance of final Purchase Order.
2.	Laptop Tablets	50 Units	
3.	Laptop Printer	20 Units	
4.	Handy UPS for Desktop Computer	80 Units	
5.	Image Copier Machine	20 Units	
6.	Index Mail Machine Split to Customers	20 Units	

2. Procuring Agency may wish to visit the site of the above mentioned equipment before the bidding process and having at least one (1) operational office in Karachi City for supplying the above goods on contract basis with ancillary services, as further detailed specified under the bidding document issued for the said procurement.

3. The procurement will be conducted through an open National Competitive Bidding using Single Stage - Two Envelopes Procedure as specified under Rule 1(b) read with Rule 10(2) of the Rules, 2010 (amended from time to time) and is open to all the eligible bidders qualifying the eligibility criteria as further detailed in the bidding document.

4. Bidders may bid for one or all items mentioned thereunder. The contractor will be awarded to the bidder offering the most advantageous bid under each item, provided the bidder(s) meet the required pre-qualification and evaluation criteria and other terms & conditions mentioned under the bidding document.

5. Interested bidders may seek further information by contacting the bidding document upon submitting a written application along with a pay order / demand draft amounting to Rs. 1500/- in favor of the Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Finance Department Government of Sindh from the procuring agency's office, Islamabad office, with effect from 28th November, 2024 to 28th November, 2024 at 10:00 AM (Part File) from the website of the Procuring Agency www.psc.gov.pk or www.psc.gov.pk.

6. Bids containing requisite or supporting documents must be submitted electronically and bidders shall have only option to submit bid till 11:00 AM on 28th November, 2024 through designated procurement system i.e. E-Procurement and Contract System (EPCS) of Sindh Public Procurement Regulatory Authority by registered tender company / organization in advance of www.psc.gov.pk and to the bid opening date. Physical bids shall neither be allowed nor be accepted. Late bids will not be opened. Bids will only be opened in presence of bidders designated representatives who may attend to be present in person at the address specified in the bidding document at 11:00 AM on 28th November, 2024, however, in case of a public holiday or any unforeseen event on the bid opening date, the bid shall be opened and opened on the next business day at the same time and date.

7. All the bids shall remain valid for a period of ninety (90) days effective from the bid opening date and must be accompanied by a corresponding bid security amounting to 5% of the total amount bid in shape of Pay Order/Demand Draft/Bank Guarantee, valid for a period of ninety (90) days against the bid security period, issued by a recognized bank or financial institution in favor of Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Finance Department, Government of Sindh, Islamabad. Bid or other bid security instrument as a part of financial bid shall be deposited physically in a separate sealed envelope from all the prospective bidders on or before the bid opening date and a copy of the same instrument without opening the bid security amount, to be deposited electronically in a technical bid as well. Non-compliance will result in the rejection of the bid.

8. The Procuring Agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids or cancel the bidding process, in whole or in part, at any time before accepting a bid, without giving any reasons therefor.

9. The address referred to the above for issuance of the bidding document is required to be submitted and submission of requisite bid security is mandatory.

Address: Room No. 171, Core Tower Cell-I, Ground Floor, Finance Department, Government of Sindh, Building No. 04, A.C. Lodi Road, South Secretariat, Karmal Abad Road, Karachi, Pakistan. Telephone No.: 358-21-8862/1112. Website: www.finance.gov.pk. Email: procurement@finance.gov.pk

(MUHAMMAD ASHRAF)
 SECTION OFFICER (B&A) / CTC

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

- The candidates must possess required age, qualification and experience with relevant certificates on closing date of the advertisement.
- The experience shall be reckoned from the date of acquiring minimum academic qualification required for the post.
- Ineligible candidates and those not fulfilling the conditions or submitting incomplete applications will not be considered.
- The number of post is subject to variation without any prior permission/information.
- The candidates serving in Government and Semi Government Organizations shall apply through proper channel.
- The Commission reserves the right to modify / correct any error at any stage, if detected later on.

NOTE:

- Manual applications may be submitted at the office of Assistant Director Administration, Sindh Public Service Commission, Thandi Sarak at Hyderabad.
- General age relaxation is applicable as per the Government of Sindh Services, General Administration & Coordination Department Notification No. SOH(SGA&CD)S-64/2011 (Part File) dated 16.10.2024.
- Other details can be viewed in "General Instructions" available at SPSC's Official Website: www.spsc.gov.pk

CLOSING DATE: 30.11.2024

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (GRS)
 Phone: (022) 9200694, 9200248
 Website: www.spsc.gov.pk
 Email: info@spsc.gov.pk

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DAWN the complete newspaper

DIRECTOR / CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATIONS, SINDH MEDICAL FACULTY, KARACHI

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADMISSION FOR PUBLIC SECTOR INSTITUTIONS / HOSPITALS

Director/Controller, Sindh Medical Faculty Karachi has announced the Admissions for following Paramedical (Certificate and Diploma) Courses for the year 2024-2025, which will be conducted in the following public sector institutions / hospitals.

Note:

- For admission in BSc Tech Course One Year Anatomical Tech Course Certificate from Sindh Medical Faculty in mandatory.
- For admission in BSc Tech Course One Year Ophthalmic Tech Course Certificate from Sindh Medical Faculty in mandatory.
- Students are directed to confirm the availability of desired course before apply for admission in concerned institute.

Name of Certificate Course Duration One (1) Year			
1. Dispenser	52	NDU Technician	23
2. Operation Flexible Technicians	53	NDU Technician	24
3. Laboratory Technician	54	Phlebotomy Technician	25
4. X-Ray Technician	55	Ultrasound Technician	26
5. Blood Transfusion Technician	56	Cardiac Surgery Assistant	27
6. Dental Surgery Assistant	57	Oncology Technician	28
7. I.C.U. Technician	58	CT Scan Technician	29
8. Physiotherapy Technician	59	Food Inspector	30
9. Dialysis Technician	20	Sanitary Inspector	31
10. Anesthesia Technician	21	Laboratory Technician	
11. Ophthalmic Technician	22	Clinical Technician	

Name of Diploma Course Duration Two (2) Years			
1. Dental Hyg. Technology	7	Cardiac Technology	13
2. Lab Technology	8	ICU & Anesthesia Technology	14
3. D.T. Technology	9	Radiation Therapy Technology	15
4. Neurophysiology Technology	50	Medical Physics Technology	16
5. Cardiorespiratory Technology	11	Med. Toxicology Technology	17
6. Radiography Imaging Technology	12	Diagnosis Technology	18

Public Sector Institutions			
01. J.P.M.C. Karachi.	17. Paramedical Institute, Larkana.	33. PM & Health Technicians School, Mirpurkhas.	
02. Dr. Ruth Plaza RMC, Civil Hospital, Karachi.	18. Paramedical Institute, Sukkur/ Rohri.	34. Syed Abdullah Shah Institute, Bahawalpur.	
03. N.U.H. Karachi.	19. G.M.U.H. Larkana.	35. SG Hospital, Muzaf Miran Goth, Karachi.	
04. Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, Karachi.	20. P.M.C.H. Harnabshah.	36. Sindh Inst. of Optics & Visual Sc., Hyderabad.	
05. SG Unswellabad Hospital, Karachi.	21. Civil Hospital, Daska.	37. Karachi Medical & Dental College, Karachi.	
06. SG Qaiser Hospital, Karachi.	22. Civil Hospital, Daska.	38. CHQ Hospital, Tanko Muhammad Khan.	
07. SG Hospital, Near Karachi.	23. Civil Hospital, Thatta.	39. Paramedical Institute Tharparkar at Mithi.	
08. SG Hospital, Korangi-2, Karachi.	24. Civil Hospital, Mithi.	40. Sharda Hospital of Medical Sciences, Karachi.	
09. SG Hospital, Sandabad, Karachi.	25. Civil Hospital, Nasirwahro Feroze.	41. Sindh Inst. of Child Health & Neurology, Karachi.	
10. Sindh Institute of Health, Karachi.	26. Civil Hospital, Sanghar.	42. Sindh Institute of Trauma, Karachi.	
11. SG Lyari General Hospital, Karachi.	27. Civil Hospital, Sandabad.	43. Taluka Hospital, Mithi Daska.	
12. COOH Leprosy Hospital, Karachi.	28. KMC - Civil Hospital, Khairpur.	44. Taluka Hospital/THC, Thar Mirwah, Khairpur.	
13. Karachi Inst. of Heart Diseases.	29. G.M.C.C - Civil Hospital, Sukkur.	45. Lyman Health Centre, SO-3, North Karachi.	
14. Liaquat University Hospital, Hyderabad.	30. CHQ Civil Hospital, Mirpur Mathelo.		
15. Paramedical Institute, Havelockshah.	31. RSUT Hospital, Shikarpur.		
16. Paramedical Institute, Jamshoro.	32. PM & Health Technicians School, Sukkur.		

Armed Forces Institutions			
01. PNS Shaheed Hospital, Karachi.	04. CMH, Hyderabad.	07. Pakistan Army DGMS Eng. Area, Karachi.	
02. Pakistan Rangers (BSP) Hospital, Karachi.	05. Pakistan Coast Guard Hospital, Karachi.		
03. CMH, Para Aft Cant.	06. Pakistan Air Force, Base Mazar Hospital, Karachi.		

ELIGIBILITY

CIVILIAN CANDIDATES	DEPARTMENTAL CANDIDATES	ARMED FORCES EMPLOYEES
For Certificate Courses: Matric Science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry Subjects and Computers) with minimum 45% Marks from any Educational Board of Sindh.	For Certificate Courses: Matric Science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry Subjects and Computers) with minimum 45% Marks from any Educational Board of Sindh.	AF Employees - PAF Base Hospital, Karachi Navy Employees - PNS Shaheed Hospital, Karachi Rangers Employees - ADMH Range, HQ RA, Army Employees - DGMS Eng Area, Karachi Coast Guard Employees - CG Coast Guard, Karachi
For Diploma Courses: Matric Science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry Subjects and Computers) with minimum 45% Marks from any Educational Board of Sindh.	For Diploma Courses: Matric Science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry Subjects and Computers) with minimum 45% Marks from any Educational Board of Sindh.	For Certificate Courses: Matric Science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry Subjects and Computers) with minimum 45% Marks.
• domicile (Only Sindh Province) Concerned Candidates will be given priority.	• domicile (Only Sindh Province) Concerned Candidates will be given priority.	For Diploma Courses: Matric Science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry Subjects and Computers) with minimum 45% Marks.
• Age limit up to 35 years.	• Age limit up to 35 years.	• Age limit up to 35 years should be with in days.
• In case of Male-Female priority will be given to male.	• In case of Male-Female priority will be given to male.	• 05 years service certificate in AFC.
		• 1 year training in respective field.
		• Training Certificate will be submitted.

Note: The selection of candidates will be on merit basis (Minimum passing marks in written test will be 50%). The applications of candidates not fulfilling the above mentioned criteria will not be considered. Prospective applicants will not be considered. Sindh Medical Faculty reserves the right to cancel the admission if any candidate is found to be ineligible. The application for the public institutions is Rs. 5000/- The last date for submission of applications is 28/11/2024. The written test of the candidate for public sector institutions will be held on 17/12/2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at following centers:

Sl. No.	Name of Institution	Address
01	Al-Farooq Hospital & A.C. Hospital, District Office, Karachi.	Al-Farooq Hospital, Hyderabad.
02	Civil Hospital, Thatta.	Liaquat University Hospital, Hyderabad.
03	Civil Hospital, Daska.	Paramedical Institute, Jamshoro.
04	Paramedical Institute, Sukkur/ Rohri.	Paramedical Institute, Havelockshah.
05	Paramedical Institute, Larkana.	Paramedical Institute, Havelockshah.
06	Paramedical Institute, Mirpur Mathelo.	Paramedical Institute, Havelockshah.
07	Paramedical Institute, Sukkur/ Rohri.	Paramedical Institute, Havelockshah.
08	Paramedical Institute, Sukkur/ Rohri.	Paramedical Institute, Havelockshah.
09	Paramedical Institute, Sukkur/ Rohri.	Paramedical Institute, Havelockshah.
10	Paramedical Institute, Sukkur/ Rohri.	Paramedical Institute, Havelockshah.
11	Paramedical Institute, Sukkur/ Rohri.	Paramedical Institute, Havelockshah.

Note: The admissions in private sector institutions / hospitals will be announced separately later on.

DR. MUHAMMAD KHAN SHARIF
 DIRECTOR / CONTROLLER
 Sindh Medical Faculty, Karachi



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WEST) ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
KARACHI METROPOLITAN CORPORATION

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

(Single Stage - One Envelope Procedure as per S.P.P. Rules, 2010 (to be filled))

Sealed tenders are invited on Single Stage - One Envelope Procedure for the following works. The bidders having experience in similar nature of works and registered with PEC in relevant category having up-to-date renewal license of PEC, Valid Professional Tax, NTN Certificate, Registration with Sindh Revenue Board, copy of CNIC or Proprietors / Partners are required to purchase tender documents and submit their bids as per schedule given hereunder:-

Table with 6 columns: S.No., Name of Scheme, Estimated Cost (Rs. M), Contractor Category, Specialized Code (if any), Tender Fee, and Bid Security. It lists various construction and maintenance projects with their respective costs and categories.

- TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1. In case of any revision, if the tenders are not responded on the above date, the next date of submission and opening of bids will be 11:00 AM, and the tender documents will also be available upto 10:00 AM. 2. The bidding documents will be issued to the interested bidders / contractors / party... 3. Bidders in sealed cover mentioning name of work should be dropped in the tender box kept at the place and time mentioned above.

- 15. Eligibility Criteria: a. Copy of CNIC. b. Valid PEC 2024 and Category relevant field of specialization code (where applicable). c. Valid NTN Certificate (The bidder shall be on Active Register List of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)). d. Valid Sindh Registration Certificate (The bidder shall be on Active Register List of Sindh Revenue Board (SRB)).

Table with 3 columns: SCHEDULE, DATE & TIME, and VENUE. It provides details on when and where tenders can be obtained and opened.

- 10. The completed authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received by the relevant provision of SPPRA Rules 2010 mentioned here in time. 11. Tenders will not be received after the scheduled date.

Chief Engineer (West) Karachi Metropolitan Corporation. Includes contact information and a signature line.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS DIVISION MIRPURKHAS

NO. TCRG-56/3835 of 2024

Dated: 31-10-2024

NOTICE INVITING SEALED TENDERS

Sealed tenders are called as per S.P.P. Rules 2010 (Amended upto date) from the contractors / companies / firms / incorporated persons on Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs) for procurement of the following works:-

Table with 6 columns: S.No., Name of Work, Estimated Cost (Rs. Million), Contractor Category, Specialized Code, Tender Fee, and Bid Security. Lists various road and infrastructure projects.

- 1. Last date of receipt of application and issuance of tenders after publication of N.O in newspaper up to 10:00 A.M. 2. Tenders will be received till 10:00 A.M. and will open on the same day at 11:30 A.M. 3. Bid Security: Valid Registration Certificate upto June 2025 and awarded with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category and registration code as mentioned in tender form.

- 15. In case of any revision of Procurement Committee happens to be out of headquarters on the date of opening of bids, the bids will be submitted and opened on the next working day on same schedule. 16. Joint-venture will not be allowed. 17. Work should be done in such a manner that the documents/records/information submitted herewith are true and correct in case of inspection or less information/information provided by the contractor shall be taken to be incorrect at any stage.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE, KHAIRPUR

No. ADMIN/DA/SJ/16739

Khairpur dated: 31-10-2024

SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited from eligible candidates having the academic qualifications and experience shown against each post for filling up the following vacancies in the District & Sessions Court, Khairpur, Sindh.

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Post with Grade, No. of Post, Educational Qualification/Experience, and Age Limit. Lists various court-related positions like stenographer, data coder, hardware technician, etc.

- PROCEDURE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS: 1. Initial test for the posts mentioned as Sr.No.1 to 8 shall be conducted through Sukkur IBA Testing Service (STS). 2. After submission of online applications the candidates may download the system generated challan of Rs. 1500/- (Rupees Fifteen Hundred only) and deposit it in any branch of ABL/MCB Bank Ltd. 3. Candidates are required to upload CNIC, Domicile, PRC-D, one fresh passport-size photograph, NOC (in case of Government servant), academic documents, and experience certificates (if any) at the online portal.

Tabba Heart Institute | FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS JAN '25

ADULT CARDIOLOGY
IMM Cleared/FCPS Medicine/American Board of Internal Medicine/MRCP Medicine or Equivalent.

03 YEARS

CARDIAC SURGERY
MRCS/FCPS-I (Surgery) and IMM cleared/American Board of General Surgery.

03 YEARS

INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY
FCPS (Cardiology)/Diplomate American Board of Cardiology/Cardiology Certification (Completed) from UK.

02 YEARS

COMPREHENSIVE ADULT ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY
FCPS (Cardiology)/Diplomate American Board of Cardiology or Equivalent.

01 YEAR

LAST DATE TO APPLY
NOVEMBER 10, 2024

Interested candidates may submit their online application via scanning QR code

Human Resource Dept. - Tabba Heart Institute
27 - 01, Block 02, Phase 02, Arna, Karachi - 75100.
☎ 0300 99 844 844 (Ext: 1032, 1034 & 1035)



SIUT

SIUT is a 1500 bedded, tertiary healthcare teaching organization. Established five decades ago with a mission to provide free-of-cost medical cover to a diverse set of patients. The ambit of the Institute entails surgical specialties, oncology and transplant.

We are looking for energetic and enthusiastic professionals who have passion and a desire to make a positive difference in patient care.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR / ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/PROFESSOR PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC ANAESTHESIOLOGIST

FCPS or equivalent in Anaesthesia plus Fellowship in Cardiac Anaesthesia with minimum 3 to 10 years post second fellowship experience respectively in a teaching environment.

FCPS (clear) or equivalent in Cardiac Anaesthesia along with substantial experience in Paediatric Cardiac Anaesthesia will be preferred.

REGISTRAR PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC INTENSIVE CARE

MBBS, One year house job completed, FCPS-I cleared and must have completed four years residency training in General Paediatrics. Fresh FCPS-II or equivalent in Paediatrics is preferable. Additional experience in Paediatric Cardiology / Paediatric Intensive Care is desirable.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR NEPHROLOGY SUNKUR / LARKANA

FCPS or equivalent in Nephrology with 2 years post fellowship experience.

MANAGER PHARMACY

Pharm-D and PhD, preferably with 20 years of experience in General and Oncology Pharmacy, including a Managerial role in a reputable Hospital.

Knowledge of hospital formularies, computerized drug management, drug quality control and medical supply inventories is required. The candidate will be responsible to manage the department of pharmacy, generating drug / supplies requirements for purchase and ensuring the proper storage and inventory of all drugs / supplies along with prompt and optimal delivery of medicines / supplies to the end users.

SENIOR LECTURER PAEDIATRIC UROLOGY

FCPS/MS or equivalent qualification in Urology or Paediatric Surgery.

SERVICE ENGINEER BIOMEDICAL

BE / BS in Biomedical / Electronic Engineering with 03 years experience in the field of repair/maintenance of medical equipment is essential.

SENIOR LECTURER

- Urology
- Gastroenterology
- Radiology
- Nephrology
- Ophthalmology

FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective discipline.

SERVICE TECHNICIAN / TECHNICIAN BIOMEDICAL

B-Tech in Biomedical / Electronic Engineering with 10 to 15 years experience in Biomedical equipment in a hospital or a firm.

RMO / SENIOR RMO

- Urology
- Paediatric Nephrology
- Paediatric Cardiac ICU
- Nephrology
- Gastroenterology
- Cardiac Anaesthesia

FCPS/MS/MS/DCH/MCPs Training completed in respective discipline as applicable.

REGISTRAR RADIOLOGY

MCPs qualified in Radiology

SIUT offers a market-competitive salary, perks, and a growth-oriented work environment.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in joining our dynamic team, please send your updated resume to the Human Resource Department, Sindh Institute of Urology & Transplantation, Civil Hospital, Karachi, 74300 or email at hrd@siut.org, hrd.siut@gmail.com latest by November 13, 2024. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

JOB OPPORTUNITY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Heavy Mechanical Complex intends to hire the services of Chief Financial Officer / Company Secretary on contract basis for the period of three (03) years extendable on satisfactory performance. The terms and conditions of service, qualification, experience, including eligibility criteria are as follows:-

Key Responsibilities:

- Oversee the financial operations of the company, including budgeting, forecasting, and financial reporting.
- Develop and implement financial strategies, policies and procedures to ensure the financial health of the organization.
- Ensure financial compliance with applicable laws, regulations, internal policies and IRS standards. Prepare and present financial statements, report and analysis to senior management and the board of directors.
- Manage financial risks and opportunities, including investment strategies and funding options.
- As a Company Secretary, ensure regulatory compliance of SECP regulations, manage and conduct Audit Committee and SOG meetings.
- Coordinate with external auditors, regulatory bodies and stakeholders to ensure accurate and timely financial reporting.
- Supervise and mentor the finance team, ensuring continuous development and high performance.
- Manage cash flow, planning accounts and other financial transactions to ensure efficient and effective financial management.
- Implement and maintain robust financial controls and systems.
- Participate in strategic planning and decision-making processes to support the organization's objectives.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Chartered Accountant (CA) / ACCA / FCMA / CPA or equivalent qualification. Minimum of ten (10) years of experience in financial management with at least five (05) years service as CFO in Public Sector Company or company registered with SECP.
- Strong knowledge of financial regulations, accounting principles and financial reporting standards.
- Strong proven experience to work as Secretary to the Board of Directors as per SECP guidelines.
- Proven track record of strategic financial planning and management.
- Excellent leadership, communication and interpersonal skills.
- Well-versed with government rules, regulations, audit policies and POHA (Project to improve Financial Reporting and Auditing).
- Maximum age limit shall be 50 years.
- The salary package will be market based and competitive.
- Candidates having experience in steel manufacturing industry shall be given preference.

How to Apply:

- Interested candidates are invited to submit their application alongwith a detail CV within fifteen (15) days of publication of this advertisement via:-
Email: jfocareer@pmc.com
- Only shortlisted candidates shall be called for test / interview
- The Competent Authority reserves the right to review or cancel the recruitment process at any stage.

Head (HR)
Heavy Mechanical Complex
Hafiz Road Tadda, Dist. Rawalpindi
Ph: 051-9314181, Ext: 637

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NICOD CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited for the following positions at NICOD Karachi

Position	Grade	Regional / Provincial Quota	Required Qualification and Experience
Staff Nurse	18	South	B.Sc.N (General) / Post RN B.Sc.N / Diploma in General Nursing with one year specialization (DIPCARD, Feeds, ER, ICU & Midwifery) with 01-02 years of experience in relevant field.

How to Apply:

- Interested candidates must apply through online NTS Link <https://portal.nts.org.pk/AdmMkt/96A20000>
- No hard copy will be entertained.
- Incomplete online application form will be rejected.
- NTS written test fees of Rs. 8000 may be paid via 1 Link & 1 QR online application portal for fee paid status.
- Dispatch paid voucher to NTS headquarters, Plot # 05, Street No. 54, Sector H-6/4, Islamabad.
- Candidates in Government service should apply through proper channel.
- The Management reserves the right to accept/reject any application without assigning any reason.
- Applications submitted by hand will not be entertained.
- The last date of submission of application is November 18, 2024.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES
info@nicod.org | www.nicod.org | www.facebook.com/nicod_karachi | www.instagram.com/nicod_karachi

WANTED

Experiences for District Therapist

Name of Post	Qualification
Project Manager	MPhil/PhD in Social/Political Science with 3 years Experience in Public Health Projects.
Deputy for Government Dispensary	MBBS with 1 year Experience in Public Health Projects. 1 year as MBBS in the Government Dispensary or Community Health.

Experiences of Services for District Therapist

Service on Post	Qualification
1. Lead State of epidemiology	1. Public Health Graduate Degree (MPhil/PhD) or MSc in Public Health or MSc in Health Services Research and MSc in Health Services Research and MSc in Health Services Research.

Health, Education & Livelihood Programme (HELP)
Address: T-2, Commercial Lane, T-2, Phase 2, Commercial Block, Block 2, DHA, Karachi, Contact No: 35222444

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Contact: 0300 99 844 844 (Ext: 1032, 1034 & 1035)

MEDICARE CARDIAC & GENERAL HOSPITAL

Online Applications for Deputy Medical Director

Requirements: FCPS (Any Specialty) OR MBBS with Additional management Degree will be preferable.

Experience: 03 to 05 years relevant experience.

Assistant / Associate Professor (Cardiac Surgery)

Requirements: FCPS & Post Fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery

Experience: Relevant experience

Eligibility Criteria: According to PMDC Regulations.

APPLICATION PROCESSING INFORMATION

Interested applicants should submit CV latest by 18th November, 2024 or hrd@medicare.org.pk send by post at HR Department, Medicare Cardiac & General Hospital, 22-23, Shalimar-e-Millat Road, Karachi.

MAN # (2021) 111-501 794, PH # 34931883-9, Ext # 3115

INDUS HOSPITAL & HEALTH NETWORK - KARACHI JOB ADVERTISEMENT

DEPARTMENT	PROGRAM	QUALIFICATION	EXPERIENCE
Pediatrics Hematology & Oncology	2 Years Fellowship Program	MBBS & Passed FCPS-II in relevant specialty	Requires 1 year House Job & 4 years Post Graduate Training in relevant field from a QSP recognized institute.
Interventional Radiology			
Pediatrics Neonatology			
Molecular Pathology & Cytogenetics	3 Years Fellowship Program		
Gastroenterology			
Emergency Medicine	4 Years FCPS Residency Program	MBBS & Passed FCPS - I in relevant specialty	Requires 1 year House Job from a recognized institute.
Anesthesiology / Internal Medicine / Family Medicine / Obstetrics/Gynecology (ENT) / Obstetrics & Gynecology / Diagnostic Radiology	4 Years FCPS Residency Program	MBBS & Passed FCPS - I in relevant specialty	Requires 1 year House Job from a recognized institute.
Orthopedics & Traumatology / Pediatric Surgery / Urology			
Orthopedics & Traumatology	5 Years FCPS Residency Program	MBBS & Passed FCPS - I in relevant specialty	Requires 1 year House Job & 1 years Post Graduate Training in relevant field from a QSP recognized institute.
Nephrology / Pulmonology	3 Years FCPS Residency Program	MBBS & Passed FCPS - I in relevant specialty	Requires 1 year House Job & 2 years Post Graduate Training in relevant field from a QSP recognized institute.
Microbiology / Hematology (Lab) / Chemical Pathology / Histopathology / Immunology / General Surgery / Pediatrics	5 Years FCPS Residency Program	MBBS & Passed FCPS - I in relevant specialty	Requires 1 year House Job from a recognized institute.
General Surgery / Internal Medicine	2 Years IMM Residency Program	MBBS & Passed FCPS - I in relevant specialty	Requires 1 year House Job from a recognized institute.
Family Medicine / Anesthesiology	2 Years MCPs Residency Program	MBBS with valid IMDC	Requires 1 year House Job from a recognized institute.

Please apply online at <https://admissionreport.ih.org.pk/POME/Admission.aspx>. The last date to apply for the Fellowship program will be November 14, 2024 & for the Residency Program is December 04, 2024. For any queries, please email to pgpe.office@ih.org.pk. The Program would commence on January 01, 2025. Note: Submission Fee is non-refundable and incomplete forms will not be acceptable. All positions are Karachi based. If Government officials apply for the residency program, they must bring a NOC from the relevant department. Please enter your email address and cell number correctly. All information will be sent via email. Entry Test of Residency Programs will be held on December 14, 2024 Physically in Karachi. The test details will be provided via Admit card and E-mail.

KHARADAR GENERAL HOSPITAL

POSTGRADUATE RESIDENCY PROGRAM JANUARY 2025

Kharadar General Hospital, Karachi is a tertiary care post graduate training center recognized by College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan CPSPP. Applications are invited for Postgraduate Residency Program commencing from January 1, 2025.

- FCPS Residency Program (4 Years):
 - Obstetrics & Gynecology
 - Paediatrics
- Eligibility: MBBS, FCPS-I passed.
- MCPs Residency Program (2 Years):
 - Obstetrics & Gynecology
 - Paediatrics
- Eligibility: MBBS

Last date of submission of application is Nov 25, 2024. Application Forms may be obtained from HR Department between 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Kharadar General Hospital, Aga Khan Road, Kharadar. Ph: 021-32512055, 021-32510113-16, Ext: 173. Email: kgh.hospital@gmail.com Web: kgh.org.pk

Hoechst PHARMA

WE ARE HIRING PHARMA ASSOCIATES

Company: Hoechst Pakistan Limited (Formerly Sanofi Aventis Pakistan Limited) Reporting to: District Manager Location: All over Pakistan

Key Accountabilities:

- Effective product detailing to the Healthcare Professionals (HCPs)
- Achievement of agreed sales targets within the defined territory
- Implementation of marketing strategies resulting in Return on Investment (ROI)
- Good rapport with the Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs)
- Keep yourself up-to-date on product/disease knowledge & selling skills
- Take customer identification and development

Education:

- Graduates preferably in science / Pharm D

Experience:

- Fresh graduates (including women) in Pre-Medical or Pharm D are encouraged to apply. 2-3 years of experience would be an added benefit

Required Skills:

- Fluent in verbal and written communication (Urdu and English)
- Ability to communicate effectively with healthcare professionals and interpersonal and relationship skills
- Have self-initiative drive and be a team player
- Ability to develop Opinion Leaders as Advocates/Speaker for the Company
- Planning and organizing events such as seminars, symposia, round table meetings etc
- Willing to travel extensively

If interested, kindly apply on the QR code below, please fill up all the fields in the form & upload your updated CV, latest by November 15, 2024.



We are an equal opportunity employer.

WANTED

For SOCIAL MEDIA CREATIVE SHORT STORY WRITER

Walk-in interview at 10:00 a.m. along with application.

Contact: Chhopa Head Office, FTC Bridge, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi. ☎ 1020