



# SJC to expand consultations on 'meddling' allegations

- Council reviews letter complaining of spy agencies' interference, written by six IHC judges
- Addresses 10 complaints against judges, finds no substantial evidence
- Decides to hold monthly meetings to address pending complaints against judges
- JCP endorses proposal to nominate all SHC judges for constitutional benches

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on Friday reviewed the March 25 letter from six Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges, in which serious allegations were raised regarding interference by intelligence agencies in judicial affairs, calling for a thorough investigation.

The SJC, chaired by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Atrifi, who also heads the council, considered different options concerning the letter and agreed to expand consultations, noting that the code of conduct of judges applies to heads of different institutions as well as judges.

The council also decided to revisit the matter at the next meeting and will now hold regular monthly sessions to clear the backlog of outstanding complaints against superior court judges on fast track.

The SJC meeting, which began at 11am, was attended by senior justice judge Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Mansoor Akhtar, IHC Chief Justice Asim Farooq, and Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan.

The letter in question had previously prompted former CJP Qazi Faez Isa to initiate two more proceedings after former CJP Tas-

daq Hussain Jilani declined to head a one-man inquiry committee investigating allegations of intelligence interference by the six judges.

Ever since the letter had surfaced, there were widespread calls from different circles that the apex court should take suo motu notice of the issue.

However, CJP Atrifi, when he was a Supreme Court judge, had refused himself from hearing the suo motu case, arguing that invitation by the chief justice or judges of the IHC should not lead the Supreme Court to impose its jurisdiction under Article 184(3) of the Constitution.

"This may affect the functioning of the worthy chief justice and judges in their discharge of judicial functions and would amount to interference in the independence of the high courts," Justice Atrifi suggested at the time.

He stressed that high courts are constitutionally independent bodies responsible for managing their administrative functions and protecting judicial officers.

10 cases against judges reviewed

Meanwhile, the SJC, which has received over 100 complaints against superior court judges, reviewed 10 cases on Friday under

Continued on Page 5

# PCB chief rules out 'hybrid model' for Champions Trophy

Nagvi's comments follow Indian media claims their team wants to play its matches at 'neutral venue'

By Muhammad Yaqoob

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has ruled out the "hybrid model" in vane India request to send its team across the border for next year's ICC Champions Trophy. Aerial political tensions between the two neighbours, the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) has stood firm by the government's policy of not engaging with Pakistan in terms of bilateral cricket over the years.

However, a five-year playing the last bilateral series against each other in 2012, Pakistan and India have competed in international Cricket Council (ICC) tournaments and the Asia Cup.

Pakistan, in fact, visited India to feature in the ICC World Cup last year.

The visit, if anything, heightened expectations of India not using the venue for touring Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, which is set to be held in Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi from Feb 19 to March 9 next year.

India's refusal to travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup, which the latter hosted last year, saw the PCB compromise by implementing the "hybrid model", which saw Rohit Sharma's side play its matches in Sri Lanka, with only four matches of the tournament played in Pakistan, including the final.

The model, Mohsin claimed, would not be an option this time around. "No discussions have been held regarding a hybrid model as of today, and we are not ready to discuss such a model," Mr Naqvi told reporters here at the Goldfish Stadium on Friday, hours after Indian media had reported that

Continued on Page 5



ADELAIDE: Pakistan pacer Harris Rauf (centre) celebrates with teammate Saad Ayub after dismissing Josh Inglis during the second ODI at Adelaide Oval, on Friday. Harris took five wickets before Saad started a swashbuckling 82 as Pakistan demolished Australia by nine wickets to level the three-match series 1-1 — AFP Report on Page 18

# Punjab doubles restrictions as Multan AQI tops 2,000

- 'Smart lockdown' in place as PM2.5 concentration way over WHO limit
- Smog envelops other south Punjab cities too
- Govt closes parks, museums; sections of motorways shut
- Officials continue to blame India for poor air quality

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: The smog situation in Punjab continues to aggravate as the air quality index (AQI) reading in Multan crossed the 2,000 mark on Friday morning.

The provincial government has also closed parks and museums till Nov 17 as air quality worsened to record level in all major cities of Punjab.

Multan, the largest city in south Punjab, recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) reading of 2,135 between 8am and 9am, according to IQAir, a Swiss air quality monitor.

The concentration of PM2.5 — fine particulate

matter in the air that causes the most damage to health — was 942 micrograms per cubic metre, which is 180.4 times above the WHO

mark. These air quality monitors in the city at the WWF-Pakistan Office, Shaheed Colony and Multan Cantonment showed AQI readings of 2,116, 1,635 and 1,527, respectively, at 10pm.

The smog situation in Multan's surrounding districts of Bahawalpur, Muzaffargarh, and Khushab was also the same, resulting in reduced visibility on roads.

The administration of Nishtar Hospital, Multan's biggest medical facility, has established two smog counters in the OPD and Emergency wards due to hazardous air quality.

However, these counters did not receive any patients until the filing of this report.

Multan Deputy Commissioner Wassam Hamid Siddiqui on Friday imposed a 'smart lockdown'. The markets have been directed to close till 8pm and traffic police to take strict action against vehicles emitting smoke.

The city administration has also directed a crackdown against straddles and waste burning and brick kilns operating without bag technology.

Ran Noorhaid, a resident of Multan, said that the rules were being flouted as children were

Continued on Page 3

# Aurangzeb stresses expansion of tax net over merely raising taxes

- Calls population explosion and climate change impacts 'existential problems' for the country
- Says IMF team coming for 'stock-taking', claims country is 'way ahead' of its target for new filers

By Syeda Shehbaz Kazim

ISLAMABAD: Admitting that the national clean is already overhauled, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday said that increasing taxes was not a solution, rather the expansion of the tax net should be the ultimate goal.

Speaking during a session of the Islamabad Literature Festival, which began in the capital on Friday, the finance star said that countries "do not and cannot run on charity or donations", maintaining that economy needed taxes to sustain long-term growth.

"As a country our hand has been forced," he said, adding that if the

taxation regime was not extended to real estate and wholesale retailers or the agriculture side, the government would have to keep coming back to the national clean and industry for more.

He admitted, however, that these segments were already beyond the saturation point. "We cannot afford to tax more the same [class] who have been taxed at a level which is not sustainable anymore," he said.

His remarks came during a conversation with Vajpey Ahmed in a session titled 'Economic Stabilisation and the

Journey to Growth', held at the Citizens Club in F-9 Park.

Existing tax issues

Referring to a population explosion as an existential issue for Pakistan, he said when the country was facing difficulties with a population of 240 million, imagine what would happen if this number rose to 400 or 450 million.

"This is not a ticking bomb, this has already exploded," he said, adding "I court child wanting and learning poverty — especially among girls and young women — among these issues".

He also mentioned the climate change challenges, referring to the aftermath of the 2022 floods and the

Continued on Page 5

# Govt unveils winter package to boost power consumption

- Users to get 18-50pc discount on additional usage over previous years' levels
- Minister says package announced after IMF approval

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday announced cheaper electricity rates for residential, commercial and industrial consumers on incremental usage over three winter months (December to February) in an effort to stimulate power consumption amid high tariffs and economic downturn.

Under the Baji Sahab Package, consumers will receive an 18-50 per cent discount on additional usage over previous years' levels, with rates varying based on category and consumption slabs. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was consulted by

the government before the announcement and it approved the incentive package, according to Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hailed the package as a "big good news for the country" at an Iftar Eby function. Earlier in the day, Power Minister Owais Ahmad Khan Leghari was scheduled to announce the package at a press briefing, but the event was abruptly cancelled without notice to attending journalists.

Electricity tariffs in the country have increased by more than 50pc over the past two years on average while industrial output has declined due to escalating energy costs and challenging economic con-

ditions at home and abroad. Many consumers have switched to cheaper alternatives like solar power, while others have struggled to cope, leaving policymakers in a difficult position amid tough IMF

Deaths signed with Abu Dhabi Ports for infrastructure Page 9

conditions, rising circular debt and unaffordable electricity costs.

The resulting drop in electricity demand has led to a sharp decline in consumption, making demand forecasts unpredictable. Power generation in September was reported to be 9.9pc below projections,

with demand 6.4pc lower year-on-year and 5.3pc lower than in August. Overall, electricity generation for the first quarter (July-September) of this fiscal year was 8pc below the same period last year.

The cheaper rates under the incentive package would be limited only to the incremental consumption for three sectors, meaning that the historical consumption would be charged at the existing rates without any discount.

Moreover, the package will apply only to incremental usage up to 25pc above the reference benchmark. Any consumption exceeding this threshold will be billed at the standard government-subsidised tariff.

The additional consumption

would be worked out under a formula based on last three years' billed units. For this, historical consumption for the last three years will be higher than last year's consumption or average weighted average consumption on a rolling basis, with 50pc weight to FY24, 30pc to FY23, and 20pc to FY22.

At present, base rates for domestic consumers range from Rs37.49 to Rs52.07 per unit. Under the new package, additional consumption will be charged at Rs26.07 per unit, providing savings of 30-50pc compared to existing rates.

For commercial consumers, base rates range from Rs35.53 to Rs48.78 per unit, while incremental usage will be

Continued on Page 11

# New cases in Sindh, KP push polio tally to 48

By Ikram Juraidd

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported two more polio cases, with the latest victims of crippling virus being found in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, bringing this year's number of cases from across the country to 48.

Also, the country has detected wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in environmental samples collected from two more districts in Balochistan and Gilgit.

According to an official of the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health, the lab has confirmed the detection of two WPV1 cases.

"The victim is a male child from Ghoski district of Sindh."

Ghoski borders the districts of Sukkur, Rahim Yar Khan and Shikarpur where the virus has been reported earlier this year.

"This is the first polio case from Ghoski. Second case has been reported in a 28-month-old male child from Deys (small Khan district of KP). Khan is among the polio-endemic districts in southern KP. This is the third polio case from Deys (small Khan and 4th case from Pakistan at large this year. Genetic sequencing of the samples collected from the child is under process.

"So far, 23 cases have been reported from Balochistan, 13 from Sindh, 10 from KP and one each

Continued on Page 5



# Notorious ringleader killed

Shahid Lund, the ringleader and member of a gang operating in the Kutchha area carrying Rs20 million bank money, was killed in an operation jointly carried out by the Faisalabad Police and Punjab Police on Friday.

Dr Usman Anwar called it a major success. However, some locals of the Kutchha area claim Shahid had been killed by the police after a verbal clash. Page 2



# Amsterdam scrambles to control unrest

Five people were taken to hospital and 42 held after violence, centered around supporters of an Israeli football club, erupted in Amsterdam following a fixture against home team Ajax.

The clashes were provoked by the fans of Maccabi Tel Aviv, the Israeli club. Videos posted in social media showed the fans chanting racist slogans about Palestine and waving down a Palestinian flag. Page 12

Plus... **Young World**

# Tenants to resist handover of land to corporate farming company

Pass resolution to stand their ground; 3,979 kanals leased to firm for Rs100,000\*

By Shaqib Butt

SAHRAWAL: Landless tenants have decided to resist the takeover of their 4,193 kanal land at Muhammad Nagar Seed Farm at Chak 163/EB, Arifwala, saying they were the fourth generation of farmers cultivating the land legally and irrigation in higher judiciary is going on against the cancellation of their lease and transfer of their land to a corporate farming company.

They say they have been cultivating the land since 1928 and if this land is to be leased out, they have the first right to it and their land must not be handed over to 'the private company' for so-called corporate farming.

A resolution was passed in a joint meeting called by Anjuman Mianwan Punjab, (Mahar Ghulam Abbas Group) and representatives of Pakistan Kisan Rabta Committee (PKRC) held at Chak 163/EB on Friday. More than 250 tenants and repre-



SAHRAWAL: Farmers take part in a meeting at Chak 163/EB, Arifwala. — Dawn

sentatives of the AMP from Kot Addu, Sahiwal, Hasilpur, Vehari, Jalandhar, and Kahrawal, attended the meeting.

Qamar Abbas and Hussain Jamil from the PKRC as well as Mahar Ghulam Abbas,

Shameen Bhatti, Akbar Jutt from the AMP condemned the Punjab government's high-handedness and recent actions where tenants' land in different areas of Punjab was awarded to private companies in the name of corporate

farming. On other hand, Lahore High Court on Nov 5 transferred writ petition of tenants against govt and others to the court of Justice Shamoon Mahmood Mirza who is already hearing a writ petition of the same

nature. Chaudhry Muhammad Adnan and M.A. Ghafar Ali, the counsel for tenants, told them the next hearing would be held on Nov 15.

The cases were filed by the landless tenants whose lease was cancelled by the Board of

Revenue and 3,979 kanals of the same land was leased to M/s Green Corporate Initiative Private Limited for just Rs100,000 lease agreement.

Ch Adnan, the counsel for tenants, informed them by phone the land lease case was going on between tenants and the Punjab government, secretary Colonisation, secretary Agriculture, director general Agriculture, Punjab, DC, Pakistan and manager Muhammad Nagar Seed Farm.

On other hand, the situation remained calm and none from the administration or police intervened with tenants' gathering on Friday.

The situation was tense when a stand-off occurred between 700 police cops and 1,000 tenants of the farm on Nov 3. Report said an escalation started when 700 policemen with 60 vehicles, including a prison van, invaded Muhammad Nagar and started to vacate a 300-year-old land allocated to 34 landless farmers families in 1928 under the Colonization of Government Land Act, 1952. Since then, 34 landless tenants' families have been cultivating the said piece of land. Now the village tenants' population had gone up to 1,200 with fourth generation cultivating the same land.

Election Commission of Pakistan data shows around 775 registered voters enlisted as registered voters in Muhammad Nagar Seed Farm. It is learnt Pakistan Deputy Commissioner Sadia Mehar ordered the vacating of the land which is allocated to the Green Corporate Initiative Private Ltd under the Land Acquisition Act 1884. On that day, police leveled the land with tractors and destroyed the standing crops of wheat, mustard and flaxseed.

Report said police used heavy machinery and leveled standing crops at six kanals owned by Muhammad Akram and Ali Muhammad Gajjar.

Ch Adnan, the counsel for tenants, said the land transfer record data showed out of total 4,193 kanal, 3,979 kanal and 10 kanal land in Arifwala, owned by Colonisation Department, had now been transferred on lease to the Green Corporate Initiative Private Limited under certified registry No. 4820240003881 at the rate of Rs100,000 on 05/09/2024.

Those who address the farmers' gathering include Chaudhry Akram, Sharif Syed, Muzammar Hussain Baloch, Mirza Ahmed Baloch, Chaudhry Usman Ghani, Muhammad Shaukat, Muhammad Akmal and Muhammad Ishaq, convenor AMP Muhammad Nagar.

## Gangster having social media following killed in 'police operation'

By Ifarah Haq

RAHIMYAR KHAN: Shahid Lared, the ring-leader of Lared gang operating in Katraha area of the river Indus and YouTuber carrying Rafim Seed money, was killed in a joint operation by Rafim Yar Khan and Rajapur police on Friday.

Punjab police chief Dr Usman Arif declared it a major success and expressed the resolve to eliminate gangsters and root them from the area.

Some locals of Bangla Sahib area where the gangsters had assembled to sort out their internal issues, claimed Shahid Lared was killed by his close relative Umar Lared after a verbal

clash. They claimed Umar was later killed by some accomplices of Shahid.

A Punjab police statement said Shahid Lared was wanted in 28 cases of killing of policemen, justices, kidnap for ransom and terrorism in Rafim Yar Khan and Rajapur districts.

Shahid Lared was a top TikToker and YouTuber among dozens with a significant following.

The R/P said Shahid Lared was a constant threat to the people of Rafim Yar Khan and Rajapur districts. He said the police carried out the operation after proper planning. "Police had been preparing for this day for the last two months," he said.

## LHC for closure of commercial activities in Lahore for 15 days

Directs commissioner to shut down businesses on Sundays

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Friday (LHC) ordered the commissioner of Lahore division to convene a meeting with all stakeholders for the purpose of closing down all commercial activities, at least within the provincial metropolis and its periphery, after 8pm for the next 15 days.

Justice Shahid Karim also directed the commissioner to take a decision to shut down all commercial activities on Sundays for the next two weeks in the city, which could be extended depending on the situation at the relevant time.

Conducting a weekly hearing of the petitions related to the environmental issues, the judge observed that the matter regarding smog is drastic and had reached dangerous proportions.

"It seems that the measures being taken by the government are not sufficient to control the menace of smog," the judge

ruled in his written order. The judge instructed the advocate general of Punjab to convene a meeting with all stakeholders, the secretaries of the relevant departments, the capital city police officer (CCPO) as well as the chief traffic officer (CTO) of Lahore.

Justice Karim observed that after 8pm, heavy traffic was allowed to enter Lahore and the trucks and the trucks carrying construction material were the major cause of emission of polluting smoke. He said, "This is not being controlled and has gone unheeded."

Therefore, the judge remarked, tough measures needed to be taken against the smoke-emitting vehicles on an emergency basis.

The judge ordered the government that regular police, Dogpina Force as well as traffic police should be deployed and any vehicle found emitting smoke should be impounded.

He directed the transport department to authorize its officers to visit the bus stands to check

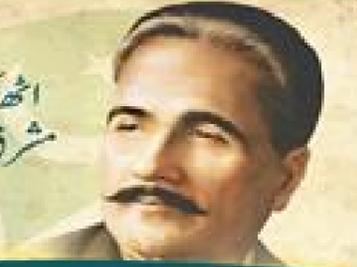
the maintenance and fitness of these buses and lorries.

The judge maintained that any of the lorries or buses found unfit would not be allowed to ply on the roads.

Justice Karim directed the government to engage the ring road authority for similar actions. He instructed the National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) to make its responsible officer attend the meeting to be convened by the advocate general, so that the motorway police were also engaged in such a way that all vehicles entering the toll plaza at M-2 and all of her motorways be inspected and impounded, if found emitting smoke.

Justice Karim observed that an out-of-the-box solution would also include limiting the marriage functions as well as capping the number of persons attending these functions.

The judge sought reports on the matter on Nov 11.



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مشرق و مغرب میں تیرے دور کا آغاز ہے  
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**PROGRAM MANAGEMENT UNIT**  
**NATIONAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROGRAM-SINDH**  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**GOVERNMENT OF SINDH**

No. PM/NSHP/PP/2024/0004 Date: November 8, 2024

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  
**FOR HIRING OF INDIVIDUAL, CONSULTANT / SPECIALIST**

Assignment Title: Selection of Individual Consultants  
Credit No: IDA 7145-PS

The Government of Sindh (hereinafter called Borrower) has received financing from International Development Association (IDA) (The Bank) in the form of credit (hereinafter called Credit) for the cost of strengthening National Health Support Program in Sindh Province. The Program Director, Sindh Health Support Program (SHSP) Health Department, Government of Sindh, supported by World Bank (WB) intends to apply part of proceeds of the credits for payments to the following individual Consultant Services to be procured under the project.

The Consultant Services to be procured on contract basis are as follows:-

S. No.	Name of Post with PPS	No. of Position	Qualification	Experience & Skill
1	Public Health Specialist PPS-10	01	MPhil with or Master in Health Policy Management / Public Health / Health Care & Hospital Management or Equivalent	Minimum 10 years of relevant experience in health services delivery public Health Program development or program implementation is essential. Knowledge of relevant health regulations and health systems. Must have a computer knowledge with research and analytical skills. Understanding of Health Department and health systems is essential.
2	Surveillance and Research Specialist PPS-09	01	MPhil with / Master in Health Policy Management / Public Health / Epidemiology / Biostatistics or Equivalent	He / she should 10 years of related in Health Program Research and Surveillance. Ability to use SPSS, SAS, STATA, or equivalent program. Good command of written and spoken English with an equally good command over communication report writing and analytical skills.
3	Communication Specialist PPS-09	01	Masters in Media, Communications, Public Administration, or related Administrative or Social Sciences	10 years of relevant experience in government or non-governmental organizations. Must have a skill in developing and promoting health messages, including SBCC / ICC material.
4	Financial Management Specialist PPS-09	01	Masters Degree in Finance / Economics preferably ACCA / CA / CMA	At least 10 years experience in Financial Management, Audit or Accounts. Prior experience of donor sector projects will be considered the advantage. Must have a computer knowledge with developing financial demand and expenditure plan as well as knowledge of public audit and account control. Good command over written and spoken English with equally good command over communication, financial report writing and analytical skills.
5	Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist PPS-09	01	Masters in Statistics / Economics / Social Sciences / Public Health or Public Administration / Management Sciences or equivalent	10 years of relevant experience in government or non-governmental organizations. Must have a computer knowledge with monitoring, evaluation and research skills ability to use SPSS, SAS, STATA, or equivalent program. Good command over written and spoken English with equally good command over communication, report writing and analytical skills.
6	Gender-eqn Training Specialist PPS-09	01	Masters in Gender Studies / Sociology / Anthropology	10 years of relevant experience in government or non-governmental organizations. Knowledge and experience in gender base violence, grievance management and violence against women / girls will be considered an asset. Must have a computer knowledge with developing gender-specific strategy and training plan.

4. The Project Management Unit (PMU), National Health Support Program (NHSP) Sindh now invites interested eligible individuals to their interest against above mentioned services.

5. The eligibility criteria and Terms for each position are in accordance with the World Bank Guidelines and can be seen at <https://health.sindh.gov.pk/idea-24>

6. Interested applicants must send their "Expression of Interest" (EOI) application along with their detailed financial Curriculum Vitae highlighting qualifications and experience in carrying out similar assignments for possible awards, along with 2 photographs (Passport Size) CNIC, Degrees and Experience Certificates to the mentioned below address (in person or by registered mail services) within 14 days after publication of this notice.

7. Only eligible shortlisted candidates will be considered for interview.

8. No TA / DA will be admissible to the candidates appearing for interview.

9. Those already in the government services may apply through proper channel.

10. Those who previously applied for the above consultancy services announced vide advertisement PKR-KFY/ 1817/24 should apply afresh.

11. Individual Consultants will be hired on contract basis, which will be extended subject to satisfactory performance.

12. Applicant applying for multiple positions are required to apply separately for each position.

13. Application must mention the position in CAPITAL LETTERS on top right side of "Envelope".

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**  
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## Two more petitions land in SC against 26th amendment

Fehmida Mirza, Akhtar Mengal, Moinin Dawar and Mustafa Khokhar seek probe into alleged coercion of parliamentarians during amendment's passage

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Two more petitions landed before the Supreme Court on Friday, challenging the 26th Constitutional Amendment on the grounds that it violates salient features of the Constitution and disrupts the foundational structure built upon it.

One of the joint petitions was filed by BNP-M chief Akhtar Mengal, Dr Fehmida Mirza, Moinin Dawar and Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar through their counsel Salahuddin Ahmed, who also filed a separate petition independently.

The petitioners requested the apex court to declare the 26th Amendment as having been passed in a manner that contravenes the Constitution and the law, thus rendering it inoperative, void ab initio, and without legal effect. The petitioners urged the court to strike down all acts, decisions, notifications, proceedings or instruments by any person, authority or body that is based on the same.

The petitioners said they asked the Supreme Court to order an independent inquiry into the manner in which votes were allegedly coerced and procured in parliament in relation to the Act, particularly regarding the factual events in the present petitions.

Without prejudice, they said, the court should also declare that sections 7, 14, 17 and 21 of the 26th Amendment are ultra vires and void ab initio being violative of the independence of judiciary since it destroys the salient features

of the Constitution.

They also sought a declaration that sections 7, 14, 17 and 21 of the Act are incapable of being given legal effect due to impossibility and that the so-called Judicial Commission and the so-called constitutional benches, and all their proceedings and acts were null, void, nullity and void ab initio.

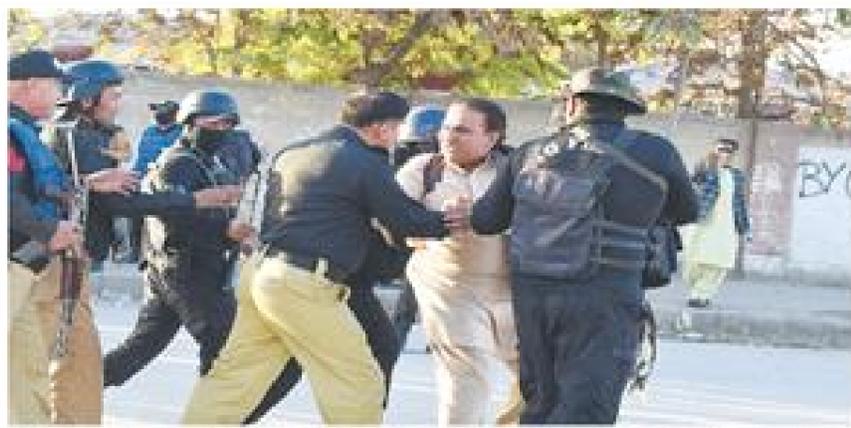
The petitioners requested the top court to declare that sections 7, 14, 17 and 21 of the Act were required to be interpreted harmoniously and in light of the salient and essential provisions of the Constitution guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary and tribune of powers and to avoid conflict with the same.

The petitioners contended that Pakistan was a federation and federalism has been the guiding ideology of the state long before the promulgation of the 26th Constitutional Amendment and even prior to the creation of Pakistan.

"The Pakistan Resolution of March 23, 1940 demands an independent state to which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign. The autonomy of the federating units is enshrined in the preamble of our Constitution. All twelve parts of our Constitution refer to the federating units and contain provisions protecting their representation and autonomy," the petitioners emphasised.

The petitioners feared that the constitutional benches in the Supreme Court and high courts will be forced to live with the principle of seniority and for fixed terms of not less than two years to prevent arbitrary or motivated removals.

"Any deviation from the seniority principle shall only be for cogent reasons recorded in writing which shall be justifiable. Moreover, it is for the benefit of the Supreme Court hearing any appeal to decide whether the same involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution requiring referral to the constitutional benches," the petitioners said.



QUETTA: Policemen arrest a PTI supporter during a protest to demand the release of former prime minister Imran Khan, on Friday.—AFP

## 14 injured as PTI workers, police clash in Quetta

• Pitched battles erupt after permission for rally cancelled • DSP among eight personnel hurt as party demands Imran's release

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Fourteen people, including eight cops, were injured when clashes erupted between the police and PTI supporters on Friday after the administration cancelled permission for the party to hold a rally at Railway Hockey Ground (RHG) to demand release of Imran Khan citing security threat.

A senior police official said most of the officers were injured when enraged PTI supporters opened fire and threw a vehicle into them.

PTI had announced a public meeting to press for the release of Imran Khan, who is detained in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail in various cases.

However, Deputy Commissioner Saad Bin Asad cancelled the permission, saying they had received intelligence reports about a terrorist attack in Quetta.

The PTI ignored the threat alert and the warning, and insisted on holding the public meeting. The PTI workers gathered on Zarghoun Road and attempted to reach the RHG which the police had already barricaded.

The administration had also sealed the roads leading to the Red Zone and venue of the public

meeting by placing containers on various points.

However, PTI supporters and workers including women tried to enter the RHG. They started pelting the police with stones and resorted to gun fire after the police deployed on Zarghoun Road and adjacent streets fired tear gas shells to disperse them.

The PTI workers gathered in front of Quetta Railway Station where more people — who had reached from Chaman, Qila Abdullah, Pishin, Ziarat and other areas — joined them.

The PTI supporters again made an attempt to enter at Zarghoun Road to reach the venue of the rally.

However, police blocked their way by resorting to tear gas shells and baton charge and dispersed them. Pitched battles between the two sides left 14 people injured.

A senior police officer received a gunshot.

The clashes intensified when an enraged individual reportedly drove a vehicle into the police injuring several officers and a journalist.

Police rounded up about a dozen people.

The injured were shifted to civil hospital. "We have received 14 injured in the Trauma Centre. Eight of them are police personnel

and six others," hospital spokesman Dr Waqar Baig told Reuters, adding that most of the injured had received gunshot.

SSP Operations Muhammad Baloch said that police had intervened to prevent the unauthorised rally, leading to a violent response from the PTI supporters, who allegedly fired on the police and attempted to run over officers with a vehicle.

The injured personnel were identified as DSP Masood, Abdul Qader, Muhammad Waqar, Samadullah, Izzatullah, Naghbulah, Ahmad Mustafa, and Ahmadullah.

Among the civilians admitted were Arifullah, Saqsoq, Ghulam Habibullah, Mohammad Iqbal, Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Khaliq.

Three officers and four civilians sustained gunshot wounds, police said.

The dispersed crowd later gathered in front of the Railway Station where PTI leaders, including Nawaz Shab, Naveed Khan Khilji, Zaki Khan, Javed, and MNA Muhammad Muneer and others in their speeches condemned the government for not permitting to hold the public meeting.

They demanded an immediate release of Imran Khan, saying he is the only politician who could lead the country towards progress.

## £190m case against Imran, Bushra nears conclusion

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The high-profile 190 million pound case involving the former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, has entered its concluding stage as the accountability court handed over their questionnaire seeking their final response on the prosecution evidence.

On Friday, Accountability Court Judge Naveed Javed Raza provided over the hearing at Adiala Jail, where key developments unfolded.

As part of the proceedings, the court issued a detailed questionnaire under Section 342 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

The questionnaire, containing 79 specific questions regarding allegations and financial details in the 190 million pounds case, was presented to Mr Khan and his wife.

The questionnaire was received on their behalf by their lawyer, Barrister Saleem Sarwar, who contended that his clients were prepared to respond to central components progressively to the questionnaire.

The court has directed Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi to submit their responses by November 11, the date of the next scheduled hearing.

The questionnaire aims to address various aspects of the case, potentially shedding light on key details that may take the court to the final decision.

Meanwhile, Special Judge Central Shafiqul Arshad has received the verdict on acquittal petition filed by Mr Khan and Bushra Bibi in the case related to obtaining expensive Bangalore Jewellery set from Toshakhana at three-way price.

During the hearing, the former prime minister was brought into the courtroom, while Bushra Bibi arrived at Adiala Jail for the hearing.

Defense counsel and the prosecution of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) argued their respective cases.

The court reserved its verdict, scheduling its pronouncement for November 12.

## BLA exploiting kids for arms smuggling, attacks: CTD

Former 'militant' surrenders, says he was misled into helping labourers from Punjab

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: The banned militant group Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) is using children and teenagers for weapons smuggling and militant attacks, the head of Balochistan police's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has said.

In a press conference on Friday, CTD DG Aftab Ahmed Goraya claimed his department has uncovered "comprehensive details" of BLA's chain of command, planning, logistics, and those who provided supplies and hideouts.

The under custody BLA members have disclosed that the group "strategically use minors to transport weapons" since children are less likely to be searched at checkpoints, the DG claimed.

DG Goraya claimed the BLA "exploited" financially vulnerable children by offering them cash incentives of up to Rs50,000.

Similar claims were made by Tahir Aziz, a former Punjab University student who joined BLA but has now surrendered.

Mr Aziz told the media that he was "tricked" into joining the banned outfit where he was also made a "commander".

He said he was convinced to join the group "under promises of a new life on the mountains" and received training at BLA's camps.

He said militants were trained to carry out attacks against workers from Punjab and "discussed plans for breaking up the country".

"Despite being educated in Punjab, I was misled into believing that I should

harbour hatred towards Punjab, which I now realize is baseless."

Mr Aziz advised the police of Balochistan to "avoid extremist influences", stating that he was misled to the point of "disregarding his own and his family's dignity".

**Role in Daskai, Musakhail attacks**

The CTD DG hinted at BLA's involvement in the killing of 21 coal miners in Daskai last month.

He said the banned outfit was also collecting extortion money from mine owners in Daskai and other areas.

After the attack in August when more than 20 passengers were killed in different parts of Balochistan, the federal and provincial governments issued orders to arrest the attacker.

He said a joint operation by CTD, intelligence agencies, Frontier Corps, police and Levies in Musakhail led to the killing of three alleged terrorists while two were arrested who divulged "important details" during the investigation.

DG Goraya claimed that the arrested militants confessed to direct involvement in attacks and weapons supply.

As per the investigation, the BLA had "partnered with another armed group" for the supply of weapons.

He noted that Musakhail had previously seen to terrorist activity, and even from recent events helped uncover a recruitment network of BLA.

The provincial minister for Public Health, Sardar Akhbar Khan, emphasised the state's resolve to counter terrorism.

He questioned the violent methods employed by these groups under the guise of "freedom" and assured that the government would work to counter the narrative of hatred toward Punjab.

He added that Mr Aziz, who has surrendered, will now resume studies with the Punjab government's support.

## Rising crime in Kashmir alarms Senate panel

Senator Saifullah says 10 people kidnapped in three days

By Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: A Senate panel on Friday raised alarm over rising criminal activities including kidnappings in Kashmir district of Srinagar and decided to take up the issue with higher authorities.

The Senate Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, met here with Senator Taj Haider in the chair.

Speaking on a privilege motion moved by him against the SSP Kashmir, Senator Saifullah also said that he attempted to contact the SSP over 50 times but received no response.

He expressed concern over daily kidnappings of people in the region, emphasising that Kashmir has become a hub for criminal activity. In the last

three days alone, 10 people have been abducted, he said.

He further informed the committee of a case in which a local police inspector demanded a ransom of Rs10 million and four officers for a victim's release.

"This incident is part of a disturbing pattern of lawlessness in the region, where such heinous crimes have become alarmingly frequent and remain undeterred by local authorities," he remarked.

Senator Taj Haider recommended that the committee take up the matter with the Sindh chief minister and called for a disciplinary action against the SSP of Kashmir, given the seriousness and frequency of such incidents.

He also advised that recommendations be shared with the IG and relevant officials.

Senator Saifullah, also, supporting this approach, suggested that the committee address the issue with the Establishment Division, noting that criminal activity in these four districts was

damaging Sindh's reputation.

The privilege motion moved by Senator Saadia Abbasi in the Senate on September 9 about an article titled, 'The South Cost of Legislators' published in Daily Dawn, authored by the Assistant Chief (Policy) of PIDE, Islamabad was also taken up by the committee.

Senator Saadia Abbasi stated that this article was intended to malign lawmakers and deserves condemnation. The Vice-Chancellor of PIDE refuted the objections raised by the senator and said that the institution focuses on research and analysis.

Senator Haider said that labelling this as an "academic exercise" was objectionable, as true academic exercises are grounded in objectivity, where conclusions are drawn from facts.

The committee chairman recommended that the document be corrected and redistributed by PIDE in newspapers where was published.

The committee recommended disciplinary action against the

vice chancellor.

Regarding the deliberation on the matter referred by the Senate chairman concerning the introduction of Constitutional Amendment bills by members in the Senate without seeking instructions or approval from their respective parliamentary parties, in light of Article 53A, a thorough discussion was held among the committee members.

Senator Abbasi expressed the view that the privileges of political members should be considered.

She said that she did not endorse applying National Assembly laws to the Senate and that members should introduce bills only with the approval of their parties.

Senator Dost Ali Jعفر, on the other hand, opined that at least a 20 per cent consensus should be required for an amendment to pass, while the chairman of the committee suggested that a 30 per cent consensus and approval from the political party be required.

## Punjab doubles restrictions as Multan AQI tops 2,000

Continued from Page 1

playing in the grounds and sports on the schools were closed.

The also complained of a new threat due to bad air quality.

**'Winds from India'**

The AQI in Lahore was also reported above 1,000 at 12am, making it the most polluted city in the world leaving behind Delhi.

A "complete ban" has been imposed on the entry of people in parks, zoos, playgrounds, museums, mosques and play lands in Lahore.

Shrikhagan, Kaur, Nankana Sahib, Gujranwala, Gujrat,



PASSENGERS wait for the train at the Multan Cantonment station, engulfed by thick smog, on Friday.—AFP

Hafizabad, Muzil Bahadur, Sialkot, Narowal, Faisalabad, Chiniot, Bhug, Toba Tek Singh, Multan, Lodhran, Vehari and Khanewal.

An official notification issued on Friday said the violators would face action under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code, which criminalised disobedience of government orders.

Public and private schools in 18 districts of the province have already been shut.

Meanwhile, officials in Punjab continue to blame India for the worsening air pollution and attributed the "unprecedented" situation this year to wind pat-

terns.

Punjab Environment Protection and Climate Change Department (EPCCD) Secretary Raja Jahanzeb Arora told Dawn that a cross border wind phenomenon was creating heavy smog in the south Punjab cities including Bahawalpur, Multan and Rajmapur.

He said the "wind pool" entered south Punjab from cities of Bikaner and Jaipur in India's Rajasthan states which share the border with the region.

Even though industrial and vehicular emissions and stubble burning were resulting in smog, this wind pool also had turned the situation worse,

according to the EPCCD secretary.

Punjab's senior minister Maryam Azeemoglu said steps were being taken to curb the smog and all cargo trucks have been directed to cover their loads with tarps.

She urged the public, particularly children, to not go outdoors as a "precaution to safeguard lives".

Ms Azeemoglu said actions were being taken against private generators and vehicles causing pollution in Lahore.

The authorities seized 47 vehicles, issued fines to 31, and imposed penalties totaling Rs550,000.

Additionally, several

food stalls and outlets have been closed for "violating environmental regulations".

**Reduced visibility**

Several key roads were closed on Friday as visibility in north and central regions was badly affected due to the thick smog.

The Lahore-Ahwal Bahawalpur M2 Motorway was closed from Lahore to Jaranwala and Patigar to Darkhana while no traffic was allowed between Sialkot and Gujrat at the Faisalabad-Pindi Bhattara M4 Motorway.

The Lahore-Islamabad M2 Motorway was also closed for traffic from Lahore to Shikohpura.

# Islamabad Literature Festival begins

By Syeda Shahrbano Kazim

ISLAMABAD The 10th edition of the Islamabad Literature Festival (ILF), 'Sustainability: Words change Minds', opened at the Gandhara Citizens' Club in Feroze Jinnah Park on Friday.

Organised by Oxford University Press (OUP) Pakistan, the inaugural session featured keynote speeches by British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, former permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Maloeba Lodhi and Zehra Nigah, poet and scriptwriter.

Managing Director, OUP Pakistan, Arshad Saad Husain welcomed the speakers and audience to the three-day event, saying, "In this age of constant innovation, understanding the minds shaped by the digital era becomes paramount. We must move beyond traditional systems to build one that meets the evolving needs of a world torn by conflict yet striving for connection."

Drawing attention to the troubling numbers of out-of-school children in Pakistan, where some 26 million children are out of school, Mr Husain said, "Today Pakistan spends only 1.5% of its GDP on education, which is half that of the rest of the world and less than a third of the developed world. These are worrying statistics and require immediate attention."

High Commissioner Jane Marriott spoke eloquently about sustainability and resilience and how climate change and learning climate will be



(L-R) British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, Deputy Chief of Mission, US embassy, Nadia Baker, poet Zehra Nigah and former permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Dr Maloeba Lodhi attend the inaugural session of Islamabad Literature Festival on Friday.—Photo by Tanveer Shahzad

expedited," Ms Marriott said. Maloeba Lodhi stated, "Utilisation of the underused soft power is needed for navigating the terrain of global environment today. News agility we risk being marginalised, and therefore we must work with the technology in the increasing digital world and utilize the outreach of social media to maintain a positive image."

Zehra Nigah appreciated the OUP for the space given to Urdu literature at the festival. "Literature festivals have shown a remarkable resilience; amidst all chaos—the words of literature have proudly held

their place. OUP's history has been illustrious, reflecting a legacy where English runs parallel with Urdu—a tradition shaped by many leaders of the subcontinent who attended Oxford University," Ms Nigah said. The inaugural session concluded with riveting classical dance performance celebrating diversity through a medley of Bharatnatyam and Kathak, titled 'Jang', by Samiya Maroof and Adnan Jahangir.

Mr Jahangir said, "We specially made this dance piece for this festival in 10 days. The last poetry recitation along with the writing is done by Samiya Maroof, who performs Bharatnatyam while I do Kathak. The whole piece is about the human journey and finding connections from other people. The message is to spread love and peace."

In the session titled, 'Zindagi, Shauri, Zindagi', Zehra Nigah and Inaam Nadeem explored the nuances of Urdu poetry, highlighting the concerns for new writers and poets to innovate and transcend beyond the traditional.

The day ended with Wajir Ali Shah, Shahida Shah and Iqbal Hussain Akbar in discussion with Afraziab Khosravi sharing their insights into state and value of Urdu literature.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony as the guest, the interior minister said that the facility of issuance and renewal of driving license, character certificate, police verification, missing person report, tenant registration, foreigner registration, domestic worker registration, volunteer registration, vehicle verification, FIR copy would be available at this centre.

He highlighted that in line with the prime minister's vision, every possible step was being taken to ensure the convenience and security of diplomatic community and foreign nationals.

He said that this centre reflects the government's commitment to provide security and services to diplomats and foreign nationals.

# Modern facilitation centre inaugurated at Diplomatic Enclave

By Ihtisham A. Khan

ISLAMABAD On the direction of Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, a state-of-the-art "Casualty Facilitation Center" has been established in the Diplomatic Enclave.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday inaugurated the centre aimed at facilitating diplomats and foreign nationals.

The centre will provide more than 12 services under one roof to the diplomatic community and foreign nationals.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony as the guest, the interior minister said that the facility of issuance and renewal of driving license, character certificate, police verification, missing person report, tenant registration, foreigner registration, domestic worker registration, volunteer registration, vehicle verification, FIR copy would be available at this centre.

He highlighted that in line with the prime minister's vision, every possible step was being taken to ensure the convenience and security of diplomatic community and foreign nationals.

He said that this centre reflects the government's commitment to provide security and services to diplomats and foreign nationals.

Interior minister further said that beautification of the Diplomatic Enclave and the entire capital was one of the priority areas of his ministry.

He added that the establishment of the service centre will strengthen ties and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the diplomats.

He also mentioned that over 1,500 police and FC personnel, along with 20 police vehicles were deployed for the security of the Diplomatic Enclave.

On the occasion, the interior minister also visited the facilitation centre along with diplomats and inspected various counters and reviewed the facilities.

IG Islamabad Police Ali Nasir Rizvi gave a briefing regarding the facilities being provided at the centre. Diplomats and foreign nationals attending the ceremony thanked Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for establishing this facilitation centre in the Diplomatic Enclave.

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# Government advises precautions as air quality worsens in capital

Children, elderly asked to wear masks while going out in the open

By Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD The government on Friday said that children, elderly and patients of asthma must wear masks when stepping in the open after the federal capital's air has become vastly polluted.

"The situation is not as bad as Lahore and the cities is not bading on all. However, particulate matter (PM) 2.5ug per meter cube has risen significantly and can be injurious to health of children, the elderly and patients," Director, National Environmental Quality Standards, Pakistan Environment Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) Dr Zaigloom Abbas told Dawn.

Several simultaneous construction projects including Saryna and the PTCL, check interchanges combined with vehicular pollution have raised the PM 2.5 ug per meter cube in the atmosphere making the air residents in Islamabad breathe poisonous.

Daily air quality index recorded by the Pakistan Environment Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) showed that PM 2.5 in the air over



SMOG hangs over Jinnah Avenue in Islamabad on Friday.—Photo by Mohammad Asim

Islamabad on Friday was 186 ug/meter cube and was declared "unhealthy". "This is much higher than the safe limit of 35 ug/meter cube set by national environmental quality standards (NEQS)," said the official.

Dr Abbas, who is a senior environmental official, said that his office had appealed to the deputy commissioner to halt the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) practice of burning garbage in the public bins. Instead, he has called for proper waste dumping at designated sites.

"We have raised con-

cerns about the burning of waste, which includes highly toxic materials like plastics and disposable diapers," Dr Abbas said.

He also pointed out that barbecue points had been identified as significant contributors to the city's air pollution and requested the local authorities to address the issue.

Air quality in the capital continued to deteriorate, with sources pointing to emissions from unshared brick kilns on the city's outskirts that have not yet adopted environmental friendly aging technology.

Additionally, pollution

from neighboring Rawalpindi was adding to the increasing levels of PM2.5 particulate matter in the air, posing a health risk to Islamabad's residents.

Dr Abbas said that Pak-EPA had initiated preventive measures, imposing fines on heavy diesel vehicles at Saba Mandi for violating environmental laws.

"Pak-EPA has also called a meeting of over 40 officials of public and private offices and universities who are operating heavy diesel vehicles for transportation of their employees and students. Several such vehicles

contributing excessively to worsening air quality in Islamabad in violation of environmental laws. "We will instruct them to take necessary measures otherwise environmental protection orders (EPO) will be issued and the vehicles will be banned.

According to a source in the Ministry of Climate Change, the developers of the Saryna and PTCL interchanges have not submitted environment impact assessment (EIA) reports for the two mega projects, which is a prerequisite for starting the construction work to ensure mitigation measures.

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# Punjab police chief seeks details of cases against Imran

**KAWALPINDI:** The inspector general of Punjab has asked the Rawalpindi regional police officer in to provide details of cases, including those related to the May 9 violence, filed against former prime minister Imran Khan, following a writ petition filed by his sister in a court.

In response to the IG's directive, RPO Babar Sarfaraz Alpa issued a reminder to the Rawalpindi city police officer and district police officers (DPOs) of Attock and Jhelum, seeking reasons for the delay in submitting challans for cases filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

The RPO expressed dissatisfaction with the police responses, deeming them "unsatisfactory". Upon reviewing the report submitted to him, the RPO found the reasons for the delay in submitting challans for cases filed under Section 173 CrPc to be inadequate, with many citing incomplete challans.

According to sources, the RPO asked the DPOs to submit detailed reports based on their investigations into the cases against the former prime minister.

These reports will be submitted to the police legal branch by Thursday, for presentation in court. The RPO also sought a comprehensive report on cases related to the May 9 violence, warning that police officials would be held accountable if the reports were found to be incomplete.

The court had directed the submission of a report explaining the reasons for the delay in these cases, irrespective of whether

the challans were complete or incomplete.

Earlier, RPO Alpa had already sent reminders to the DPOs, urging them to submit interim challans for the cases registered under ATA. He expressed concern over the non-submission of numerous reports under Section 173 CrPc despite a considerable amount of time passing since the FIRs were filed.

According to the law, after an FIR is registered and witness statements are recorded, the investigating officer is required to submit either a complete or incomplete report within 15 days.

The ATC judge warned that failure by the police to submit the report would be considered willful disobedience, which could result in punishment for contempt of court.

The ATC judge directed the RPO to address the issue of non-submission of challans in ATA cases. Following the notice on Oct 23, the RPO sought explanations from SSP (Investigation) Saba Sattar, and the DSP (legal) regarding the delay in submitting the challans.

RPO Alpa directed them to investigate and submit the required reports.

Additionally, the RPO sent letters to the DPOs and SSP Rawalpindi, seeking details of cases filed under the ATA from 2020 to 2024, including the reasons for delays in submitting challans and the status of cases that remained pending or untraceable.—*Muhammad Asghar*



QUETTA: Students of Homoeopathic Medical College stage a demonstration on Friday. They were demanding government jobs and interest-free loans to set up clinics.—*IMP*

## New cases in Sindh, KP push polio tally to 48

Continued from Page 1

from Punjab and Islamabad. Genetic sequencing of the samples collected from the child is under process," he said.

"The oral polio vaccine is essential to keep children protected from disability from a polio infection. The Polio Programme brings the oral polio vaccine to citizens' doorsteps multiple times a year, while the Expanded Programme for Immunisation provides vaccines against 12 childhood diseases at nearest health centres free of charge," he said.

"We urge parents across the country to ensure multiple doses of the oral polio vaccine for all children under five in their care and ensure that their routine vaccination doses are also complete," he said.

Meanwhile, the NIH lab has confirmed the detection of WPV1 in environmental samples collected from two new districts as well as 15 other districts where samples had tested positive previously.

"As of Nov 8, 2024, sewage samples collected from Gujrat, Multan, Bahawal, D.I. Khan, Tank, Rajauri, Nusrabad, Bahawal, Quetta, Daska, Dera Bugti, Khuzdar, Suk, Qila Maudhah, Mastung, Karachi East and

Karachi Malik tested positive for WPV1."

These are the first WPV1 detections of the year from Rajauri and Gujrat, while the remaining 15 districts have previously reported virus detections in either humans or sewage samples, he told Dawn.

Replying to a question, the official explained that if virus was found in the sewage, the sample was called positive and whenever a child was paralysed with the virus, it was called a positive case.

"A sewage water sample from an area is the basic parameter to determine if polio vaccination campaigns are being carried out properly. After detection of samples, immediately polio campaigns are held to eradicate the virus from the area," he said.

Polio is entirely preventable with the help of multiple doses of an easily accessible oral polio vaccine.

"The Pakistan Polio has concluded the first phase of a nationwide polio vaccination campaign that reached 44.9 million children under five with the vaccine," the official said, adding that the second phase would be held in six districts of KP — Kurrum, Lakki Marwat, Tank, D.I. Khan, Upper and Lower South Waziristan from Nov 11 to 15.

## Aurangzeb stresses expansion

Continued from Page 1

current situation of energy in Lahore and the rest of Punjab. "De-carbonisation and air pollution, these are the issues that all of us should be talking about."

"Whether I remain or not... we may be able to get out of the IMF [cycle] in three years, but if we don't address these issues, where will be as a country," he asked.

When asked about the reasons behind a visit from an IMF team next week, he said that as far as he was concerned, the delegation was just coming for "stock-taking".

However, he expressed confidence that the country was "in a good space in terms of quantitative... and restructuring benchmarks".

"We are way ahead on the number of new firms in the country," he said.

"We will not move forward and not look back. We will fix the system soon," he said, adding that the figures were visible to all.

Mr Aurangzeb also stressed that the time for talking about reforms was over. "State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) must undergo reform and should be privatised," he said, adding that the private sector must take the lead in this process, and the dependency on the government must be reduced to allow for more efficient and effective management.

There are many organisations in the public sector which are for profit and there are various ways to privatising them — full privatisation, phased privatisation and outsourcing.

## Nation urged to follow Iqbal's teachings

**ISLAMABAD:** Acting president Syed Yasuf Fazal Gillani and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in separate messages on the birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal urged the nation to renew its commitment to follow the philosophy and teachings of the ideological founder of Pakistan, and work for unity, peace and prosperity.

In his message, the acting president called for embodying Iqbal's ideals and continued strides for building a better future for the country. He said the nation pay tribute to the services and legacy of the President's national poet, whose vision and thoughts kindled the spirit of independence among Muslims of the Subcontinent.

He said Iqbal's message emphasised values of Islam, advocating for spiritual and cultural revival. "Iqbal's poetry and philosophy remain a testament to his intellectual brilliance and spiritual depth. Through masterpieces like *Asar-i-Khudi* (Secrets of the Self), *Rumuz-i-Bekhudi* (Mysteries of Selflessness), and *Bang-i-Dara* (The Call of the Marching Drift), he explored identity, spirituality, and the pursuit of freedom. His words continue to resonate, inspiring generations worldwide with a powerful blend of philosophical insight and poetic beauty," the acting president mentioned.

While addressing an event to celebrate Allama Iqbal's birth anniversary, PM Shehbaz Sharif motivated the youth and children to remain resolute in their ambition to achieve a glorious future for the nation.

He paid tribute to Iqbal's enduring philosophical contributions, which, he noted, continue to inspire global leadership, determination, and hard work. He encouraged the youth to embrace Iqbal's ideals to help steer the country towards a prosperous future.—*APP*

## PCB rules out hybrid model

Continued from Page 1

Sharma and his men would not be travelling to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy and that they wanted to play their matches at a neutral venue.

The reports claimed that BCCI had communicated their decision to the PCB and other stakeholders, and that there was a high possibility of some matches being played in Dubai.

The matter still has been active since Pakistan were awarded the hosting rights of the Champions Trophy in 2021. However, in the past few months, reports suggesting India would stick to its years-long stance have been on the rise.

"Well, for the past few months, reports have been coming out in the Indian media that the Indian team is not coming," Mr Nayvi noted against the backdrop of an under-construction site at the Gaddafi Stadium, undergoing renovation in order to be prepared for the Champions Trophy.

The PCB chief, who is also the country's interior minister, said the board valued a "written" communication by the BCCI or the BCCI over speculation on the media.

"Last night, when I saw this news, I discussed it with the team," added the PCB chief. "We are very clear on this matter if

anything like this happens, we will need it in writing. It will be acceptable to us only if we receive something in writing."

"As far as Indian media is concerned, if they are reporting it, there must be a letter from the BCCI or the Indian Board regarding this, but to date, neither I nor PCB have received any such letter."

While Mr Nayvi spoke on behalf of the PCB, he suggested that in case of India's refusal to travel to Pakistan, the matter could be moved to the government's jurisdiction.

"If something like this happens, and if there is such a situation, we will need to discuss it with our government," he said. "Whenever the government decides, I will have to act on it."

"Pakistan has been showing good gestures in recent years, but people shouldn't expect us to keep doing that."

According to several reports, the BCCI is set to announce the Champions Trophy schedule on November 11 but Indian media said it remained to be seen how much time the global cricket body would need to make the necessary amendments.

A day earlier, the Press Trust of India news agency reported that the PCB was willing to make "adjustments" in the Champions Trophy schedule.

## SJC to expand consultations on 'meddling' allegations

Continued from Page 1

Article 209 of the Constitution. While the council's official announcement did not specify which judges were involved, sources revealed that some complaints concerned Supreme Court judges, some non-retired, although none pertained to the DHC.

The council noted that no substantial evidence had been provided in these complaints and warned that action could be taken against those filing frivolous complaints.

The council also considered different agenda items, including the establishment of BCCI's Secretariat and the formulation of council rules. A proposal from the registrar to initiate rule-making was approved, with a draft expected at the next meeting.

Furthermore, the council authorised the chairman — the CJP — to hire a competent individual as secretary for a three-month term to assist in council meetings, rule-making and setting up the council's infrastructure and human resources.

The agenda also included discussions on amending the judge's code of conduct under Article 209B of the Constitution.

**SJC constitutional bench**

Meanwhile, a second meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) convened under the 24th Constitutional Amendment was also held in the Supreme Court.

Presided over by CJP Afridi, also the JCP's chairman, the commission considered a single-point agenda to form a constitutional bench within the South High Court (SHC).

Following an extensive exchange of views, the commission unanimously endorsed the proposal put forth by SHC Chief Justice Muhammad Shah Siddiqui that all the existing high court judges were nominated to clear the backlog of cases.

This arrangement will remain effective until Nov 24 and the matter will again be taken by the commission the next day.

The meeting was attended by Supreme Court justices Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Munir Akhtar, Amirul Hasnain and Justice Khairuddin Khan (via a video link); SHC Chief Justice Siddiqui; Law Minister Anam Nawaz Tarar; Attorney General Mansoor Usman Anwar; senators Farooq Nadeem and Syed Waheed Farooq; MNAs Sheikh Afridi, Ahmad and Umar Ayub Khan; Sindh Law Minister Zawal Hussain Langari; and Sindh Bar Council member Qur'an Ali Memon.

Pakistan Bar Council representative Akhtar Hussain was unable to attend due to personal commitments.

Two gunmen were killed by Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Balochistan police during an operation in Gidder area of Surab district on Friday.

A CTD spokesman said the force foiled an attack by the banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) in Gidder area of Surab district, killing two terrorists in an intelligence-based operation (IBO).

He said the CTD had received information that two men, Bar Jan, a resident of Mashkay, and Abdul Khaliq, a resident of Kasat, have been tasked with carrying out a terrorist activity against a sensitive installation in Surab and its surrounding areas.

The insurgents left Parood camp in Kasat on a motorbike to carry out the attack.

However, the CTD Khuzdar conducted an operation that began from slums of Gidder and concluded in its Bazaar area.

During the CTD action the security personnel signaled two people on a motorcycle with their faces covered to stop, but the suspects opened fire on the CTD team.

The CTD personnel returned fire and a gun battle continued for some time, resulting in the killing of the two terrorists.

The bodies of the two suspects were taken to Khuzdar district hospital.

"We believe the two terrorists killed in the operation were also involved in the 28-28 August terrorist attacks," the spokesman asserted.

The CTD recovered arms and ammunition and mobile phones from the suspects.

A case has been registered with CTD Khuzdar police station and further investigation is under way.

## Two militants killed in Surab operation: CTD

By Saleem Shahid

**INVITATION TO E-BID**

THROUGH SAP ARIBA DISCOVERY

E-Bids are invited through SAP-ARIBA Discovery for the service/material given below under competitive bidding procedure as per public procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules:

S.#	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-OB-PRD-269542253-2024	RENTAL CARAVANS/FORAS CABINS WITH LAUNDRY SERVICES, AT OGDCL WELL DHAMACH-1	26.11.2024 AT 1030 Hrs
2.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-OB-PRD-269549991-2024	CATERING SERVICES, AT OGDCL WELL DHAMACH-1	26.11.2024 AT 1030 Hrs

**EXTENSION IN BID CLOSING & OPENING DATE**

Reference our Tender Notice published in this newspaper on 08.10.2024, it is notified that the bid submission/opening date is extended as follows:

S.#	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	Revised Closing Date/Time
1.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-OB-PRD-269546805-2024	SERVICES FOR INTEGRATED STUDY FOR KALCHAS EXPLORATION LEASE (E.L)	26.11.2024 AT 1030 Hrs

- Bidders who have already submitted/ sent their proposals (bids) may take them back and re-submit the same before the revised closing date and time mentioned above.
- All bids will be opened 20 minutes after the revised bids closing date/ time.
- Tender Notices/ detailed instructions are available on PPRA website at [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk).
- Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through e-procurement portal at <https://eppcl.com/sap-ariba-tenders> or <https://discovery.ariba.com/profile/AN/1562899623> for details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents.
- OGDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule-33.

**General Manager**  
(Supply Chain Management)  
**OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED**  
OGDCL House, Jinnah Avenue, Islamabad, Pakistan.  
Phone No. 92-51-42002340/2795

**COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS PAKISTAN**

**TENDER NOTICE**

FOR THE SUPPLY OF REVOLVING AND WOODEN ARMS CHAIRS AT CPSP RC HYDERABAD

Quotations are invited from reputable suppliers/dealers & distributors for the following:

S. No	Requirements	Tender Fee	Tender Opening & Submission Date	Tender Submission Time	Tender Opening Time
1	REVOLVING LOW-BACK CHAIRS	PKR. 2,500	25th November, 2024	10:00 AM	10:00 AM
2	REVOLVING HIGH-BACK CHAIRS				
3	WOODEN CHAIRS WITH ARMS				

Interested parties may please obtain Tender documents at the above mentioned call for each Tender (non-refundable) from CPSP, Purchase Department CPSP Karachi. Phone No. 021-99246400-10 (Ext 237-330)

Two separate sealed quotations (Technical & Financial) should reach the Secretary CPSP, 7th Central Street Phase-II, D.H.A. Karachi, according to the above date & Time. The Tenders bids for will be opened as per the above schedule in the presence of the bidders.

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

**PAKISTAN SCOUTS CADET COLLEGE BATRASI MANSEHRA KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA PAKISTAN**

**ADMISSION CLASS 7TH AND O-LEVEL (GCE) YEAR 2025**

Applications as prescribed forms are invited for admission to class 7th and O-Level (GCE) for the Academic Year 2025.

**ADMISSION FORM & PROSPECTUS**

Application Form alongwith Application Form can be obtained by hand from the College or cash payment of PKR. 1000/- or by post on the payment of PKR. 1000/- (including postal charges) through Bank Draft in the name of Principal, Pakistan Scouts Cadet College Batrasi Mansehra U.S. Islamabad Branch Code-2419 or through online deposited in IBK Bank, Branch Code 1049 Account No. 28174254

**Bank Details of Rs.2000/- an amount of Entrance Test Fee must be enclosed with Application Form. Last date to apply is December 1st, 2024. Bank Details can be downloaded from the College website [www.pscs.edu.pk](http://www.pscs.edu.pk)**

**Details:** Some marks are reserved for the specified quotas in class 7th only. The required certificates/attested copy of Certificate is attached and specific quota to be indicated on the top of Application Form, failing which the candidate shall be considered against Open Merit Seat.

**CRITERIA PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSIONS**

S.No	Class	Eligibility	Age Limit	Written Test Subjects
A.	7th	Studying in Class 6th/7th	11 to 13 Years upto 31st March 2025	1) English 2) Urdu 3) Maths (English Medium)
B.	O Level (GCE)	Studying in Class 7th/8th	12 to 14 Years upto 31st March 2025	1) English + G.Knowledge 2) Urdu + Islamiat 3) Science (English Medium) 4) Maths (English Medium)

- Written Test will be held on 08 December 2024 at Batrasi, Islamabad. Professor Sybil Hayer (JMC), Waggon Road, Lahore, Multan, Bahawalpur, Sukkur, Karachi and Quetta depending on the number of candidates appearing in the above centres.
- Score-rank of the Candidates qualifying written test will be held in the first week of Jan 2025.
- The finally selected candidates will be called to join the college in April 2025.
- It is essential for the candidates applying against any quota, only for Class 7th in Mansehra, Faisla, Mulla-i-Quran, Dighan Road, Attock, Bahawalpur, Pungul and Dandi Rural Areas that they are permanent residents of the specific area and have been studying in 6th/7th class for at least one year in any school of that area.
- Scout Leaders can apply for the admission of their sons only in Class 7th against Scout Quota through the provision of certificate of Blood-Group Certificate duly attested by the Provincial Headquarters.

**Principal, Pakistan Scouts Cadet College Batrasi Mansehra**  
Phone No. 0997-550281/350284, Fax No. 0997-550283

# Wake-up call

THE United Nations Human Rights Committee has sent a clear message to the government: it must work to bring the country's laws in line with international human rights standards. The committee's findings, released after its latest review of Pakistan's compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, paint a distressing picture of the state of human rights in the country. The gravest concerns raised by the committee revolve around the use of military courts to prosecute civilians. This practice not only violates the right to a fair trial, as the committee noted, but also represents a troubling expansion of the establishment's jurisdiction into the civilian sphere. The committee rightly urged Pakistan to abrogate such jurisdiction over civilians. The committee's other findings are equally worrying. It noted the absence of broad, transparent consultations on judicial independence reforms, especially related to the 26th Amendment. Concerns were also raised about the intimidation and harassment of judges and prosecutors, especially in sensitive cases.

The authorities' ability to access and retain personal data without proper oversight was another observation. Such unchecked surveillance is a serious affront to privacy rights and must be remedied with strong privacy laws, as recommended by the rights body. Furthermore, the committee noted the continued use of enforced disappearances, as well as threats and attacks against journalists and human rights defenders. It has demanded immediate action against such violations. Another critical area discussed in the review is the death penalty. The committee stressed that although some limitations have been introduced, Pakistan's continued use of capital punishment, even for non-violent offences requires reconsideration. Its call for a moratorium on executions is especially relevant given concerns about age discrimination and juvenile justice. The committee also highlighted severe detention conditions and the prevalence of torture, urging Pakistan to take stronger measures to prevent abuse in custody. The rights of children were stressed, with recommendations to end forced conversions and marriages of minority girls.

While the committee acknowledged some positive legislative developments, such as laws addressing gender-based violence and protecting transgender persons, it is clear that much more needs to be done. This cannot be a cosmetic exercise. True reform requires meaningful, transparent consultations with all stakeholders — judges, prosecutors, lawyers, civil society — to ensure the independence and integrity of key institutions. Pakistan must heed this wake-up call and embark on a concerted effort to bring its laws and practices in line with its international human rights obligations. Failure to do so will not only undermine Pakistan's global standing, but more importantly, will deprive its citizens of the rights and freedoms they are entitled to under the ICCPR and the country's own Constitution.

# Foreign banks' exit

WHY are foreign banks leaving Pakistan? In the last couple of decades, we have seen a number of global banking companies — Barclays, AIBN-AMRO, Royal Bank of Scotland, HSBC, Credit Agricole, Societe Generale, etc — force into the Pakistani market only to exit it after a few years just like most foreign airlines. Other international banks like Samba, owned by the Saudis, too are trying to wrap up operations and dismount their assets here, or scale down their business and branch operations. There is no denying that some of them have left Pakistan as part of a strategy to consolidate their global operations in the aftermath of the international financial meltdown of 2008. However, most have exited or are considering leaving because it is not sufficiently profitable for multinational banks to continue their operations in Pakistan for several reasons. For example, multiple economic shocks, leading to abrupt and large currency depreciation, restrictions on outward remittances of bank dividends and profits by their shareholders, inconsistent policies, and huge taxes on the banks' earnings are challenging for them. This is the message a foreign banker tried to convey at a business conference in Karachi recently, saying that foreign banks are gradually withdrawing due to the country's declining credit profile. Last but not the least, banks operating out of Pakistan are being closely watched due to the risks of money laundering and terrorism financing in spite of the green chit given by FATF to Pakistan a couple of years ago after Islamabad took extensive actions to strengthen its AML/CFT regime in line with the global watchdog's requirements.

In the past few years, Pakistan's business climate has declined rapidly due to worsening economic conditions, especially the recurring balance-of-payments crisis, and policy inconsistency. This has resulted in several foreign companies — drug manufacturers, airlines, oil marketing firms, oil and gas exploration companies, etc — quitting the Pakistani market to cut their losses. It is possible that these companies might not have left Pakistan had the multinational banks chosen to stay. The latter's presence in any country is important because it inspires confidence among foreign investors in the strength of the state's economy and its financial policies. Thus, when a foreign bank leaves a market it hurts the host economy more than the exit of an oil marketing company or any other firm.

# Kurram protest

FICED up with the state's apathy towards their plight, the people of Kurram tribal district took to the streets on Thursday calling for security and freedom of movement. While the arterial Thall-Parachinar road has been closed for three weeks, other thoroughfares connecting Kurram with the rest of KP have been inaccessible for nearly a month. Local officials have attributed the roads' closure to 'security concerns', a reference to the deadly tribal and sectarian clashes that have rocked the region over the past several months, as well as the presence of heavily armed militants in the area. Since July, as per one count, over 80 people have been killed in clashes, while vehicles have been targeted. The latest incident occurred earlier this week; two passengers were killed when unidentified culprits fired upon vehicles. Due to the closure of roads and insecurity, the people of Kurram are facing food and medicine shortages, while educational and economic activities have also been severely hampered. The protesters have two basic demands: peace in the region and security for travellers. Sadly, all state institutions have up till now failed to provide either of these to the people.

The closure of roads in this sensitive area is nothing new. In fact, the Thall-Parachinar road remained closed from 2007 to 2011, and locals had to transit through Afghanistan to reach other parts of Pakistan. Back then, it was said that local and Afghan militants had created the security situation. Today, claims of rival tribes over land, as well as the presence of militants, are said to be fuelling the cycle of violence. The KP Apex Committee recently said it was giving "special consideration" to the situation in Kurram and utilising "all available options" to restore peace. It is hoped this is not mere rhetoric, and that solid steps are taken to ensure that the local people can move freely and are protected from militants.

# OPINION

BY TARIQ PARVEZ



# Terror in Dukki

Cases of extortion and terrorism in Dukki district, Balochistan, have been increasing.

RECENTLY, a horrific incident of terror took place in the far-off district of Dukki in Balochistan, where 21 poor miners, mostly Pakhtuns, working in the coal mines, were mercilessly slaughtered by an unknown group of armed men. The incident created a stir at the national level, albeit for only 24 hours and then it vanished from public discourse. That is the tragedy of Balochistan. Unimaginable atrocities carried out there by the terrorists, criminals or the state agencies, don't stay in the spotlight for long, hence, do not get the attention they deserve. According to the FIR, on the night between Oct 20 and 21, 2024, a group of 40 to 50 armed men raided the Jamal coal mines in Dukki-Dariga. During their attack, they not only massacred 21 miners but also set on fire nine engines of the mines. It is disconcerting to know that during the one-hour carnage, neither the Frontier Corps Balochistan (FC) nor the police or Baluch levies, based in nearby Dukki town, turned up to challenge the raiders. While the police inspect the Baluch Liberation Army (BLA) for this attack, the banned group has denied it. After this terrible incident, instead of being deterred, on Nov 3, an armed group set on fire three trucks carrying coal in Dukki district. The ramp-up continues.

In recent years, Dukki district has been witnessing an increase in cases of extortion and terrorism. There were, reportedly, two armed attacks on the Dukki mines in 2022, two in 2023 and 12 so far in 2024. Also, the number of miners killed in these attacks has shot up to 26 this year as against two in 2023.

There are many reasons for the armed attacks on these mines. It is generally believed that the most common motive for these attacks is the demand of extortion or protection money by armed groups, from the mine owners. When they fail to pay it, the poor miners are abducted or killed to put pressure on the owners. The phenomenon is, however, not confined to one district alone. Similar incidents of extortion and killings

have also been reported in Machi, Quetta, Bolan, Harmsi and other places in Balochistan.

In fact, extortion from the mines is one of the main sources of funding of BLA and other militant groups in the province, which they are reported to claim on a fixed rate on per ton of coal extracted. As per one estimate, BLA earns up to Rs1 billion per year from the mines in the entire province. Interestingly, such is the impurity of militant organisations that at times, the mine owners are asked to deposit the extracted amount in specific bank accounts in Quetta or elsewhere, and there is no action by the law-enforcement agencies! A reflection of mine owners' dissatisfaction with the prevailing insecurity and extortion was the huge protest in January this year, blocking the road connecting Loralai with Punjab, demanding the arrest of the extortionists as well as the killers in such cases.

As far as responsibility for security of mines in Dukki is concerned, there is a bit of duality. According to the law, the security of the mines and investigation of cases of all armed attacks on the mines is the responsibility of the police. However, according to reports, the mine owners, through a local written arrangement with the paramilitary FC, have made the security of the mines the exclusive domain of the FC. For instance, an HRCP report on Balochistan, issued in 2022, states: "mine owners and union representatives were particularly bitter about the role of the FC, which they claim collects millions of rupees in the name of security but have failed to maintain peace in the area".

Under these circumstances, the police role in Dukki district is confined to investigating cases of armed attacks and extortion in the mines. Interestingly, Dukki was declared a district in 2017 and the then chief minister approved a numerical strength of 425 police personnel for the district. The Balochistan Finance Department, however, sanctioned only four posts for the district police — one SP, two DSPs and one clerk,

claiming non-availability of funds for the rest of the posts. No posts were sanctioned for manning the two police stations in all. The IG Police was asked to manage the district by transferring police officers from other districts on a temporary basis. What is even more ridiculous is that this "temporary" arrangement has been ongoing for the last seven years. The protection of lives of miners and the extortion from mine owners seems to be low on the priority list for the allocation of funds to police in Balochistan.

As the way forward, a four-dimensional approach is suggested.

One, a joint security committee should be set up at the district level to deal with such attacks, headed by the district police officer, with the deputy commissioner, the FC wing commander and representatives of mine owners and miners' union as members.

Two, if reports of FC getting money from the Dukki mine owners for the security of their mines are true, then it must devise plans to ensure fool-proof security.

Three, the police strength of 425 personnel approved by the Balochistan chief minister in 2017 should be immediately sanctioned and recruited to enable police to fulfil their laudable duties in the district.

Four, a well-planned, concerted effort should be launched by CTD Balochistan in conjunction with PIA and Natta, to address the issue of terrorist financing through extortion from coal mines in Dukki, and elsewhere.

The most important takeaway from the Dukki massacre is not only the need to secure the miners from armed attacks, but also to address the challenge of terrorist financing based on extortion from the coal mines. The security of mines of Balochistan should be ensured to choke the funds of terrorist organisations like the BLA in Balochistan. ■

The writer is a former police officer who was Machi and national coordinator.

# PAKISTAN EYES STRONG TIES WITH TRUMP ADMIN



BY GHAZAN JAMAL

# Broken promises

IT has now been more than five years since the Federally Administered Tribal Areas were merged into KP. The reason the five-year mark is significant is because the government's plans (and to justify the merger, most notably, the August 2016 Report of the Committee on Fata Reform, headed by Sartaj Aziz, recommended a five-year transition period. During this transition, a number of necessary "complementary objectives and prerequisites" were to be fulfilled before the merger could be truly achieved. To quote the aforementioned report, it was important to envision the "mainstreaming of Fata as a process and not an end in itself".

The moral and ethical debate around having a committee with no member belonging to ex-Fata to deliberate over the future status of the people of that area or the legality around the committee's proposal to merge Fata with KP notwithstanding, it is beyond the scope of this article to assess the arguments for and against the merger itself. At this point, it is important to look at what has actually transpired; therefore, I focus on the key commitments that were supposed to occur during this transition period.

As per the report itself, the highest priority (after the restoration of peace) was the rehabilitation of the tribal people. Up until recently, relative peace had been achieved in most of the merged areas. However, the rehabilitation process is a different story. For all practical purposes, large numbers of ex-Fata still remain displaced even though the target date for repatriation was set for the end of 2024. A meagre Rs400,000 was set as the compensation amount for destroyed homes — inadequate for clearing up the debris let alone undertaking any sort of reconstruction. The programme was discontinued in 2023 even though many are still waiting to receive compensation. The KP government estimates an additional Rs60 billion would be needed to complete the process.

Given the local population's financial constraints and lack of government support, many tribes like the Mehsuds in Waziristan and Mamundis in Orakzai remain displaced. As for compensation for destroyed shops, promised in the report, except for a couple of towns in North Waziristan district, shops were excluded from the

compensation programme. This led to many business that were once commercial hubs and centres of livelihood still looking like desolate wastelands.

Perhaps the biggest impediment to the successful mainstreaming of ex-Fata and its development has been the lack of funding. In addition to the existing Rs2.65 annual development programme pre-merger, ex-Fata was to receive a three per cent share in the NIC divisible pool. Contrary to what some might believe, this share was based on the population and area metrics of Fata, similar to the share being determined for the provinces. It was not an additional favour. However, to date, this

Perhaps the biggest impediment to the successful mainstreaming of ex-Fata and its development has been the lack of funding.

amount has not been given by the provinces or the federal government. This was supposed to be Fata's 'Marshall Plan'. Instead, the regions formerly comprising Fata, continue to be robbed of this fundamental right.

Among other things, there were also promises of doubling quota seats in universities and health institutions across the country and an additional 20,000 jobs in the police (Levies). In addition, the jurisdictional extension of the High Court and Supreme Court, the introduction of the 'Tribal Areas (River) Act' based on the region's customary law for civil and criminal cases, development of urban centres as engines of growth, GIS-based land settlement and the withdrawal of security forces from Fata in five years were all promised.

However, instead of the doubling of quota seats, attempts have been made by some other provinces to abolish even the existing quota seats for ex-Fata students. Notably, in 2023, the Punjab govern-

ment's attempt was only blocked after the intervention of the then Punjab governor Chaudhry Sarwar on the request of ex-Fata parliamentarian and former minister of housing by students. Meanwhile in KP, ex-Fata students are still barred from competing in open merit seats and the same low number of quota seats remain. In the local police, let alone fulfilling the promise of creating 20,000 new vacancies, many existing spots in ex-Fata, vacated by retired personnel, remain unfilled. The Tribal Areas (River) Act never saw the light of day, while land settlement and the development of urban centres remain abstract ideas at best. The recent worsening security situation in ex-Fata has meant that the footprints of the security forces in the area, and there is no indication of a withdrawal as envisaged by the committee.

What the merger has achieved though is reducing the representation of members from ex-Fata in the National Assembly from 12 to six and abolishing the eight Senate seats held by Fata residents. While KP's administrative and judicial systems struggle to establish a set-up in ex-Fata, the old system has been dismantled, creating a vacuum that has further disrupted daily life for residents. On top of that, electricity privatisation is meticulously being pursued and various federal and provincial taxes are being extended.

While residents of ex-Fata are still yearning for the state to fulfil its promises, the real tragedy is that the committee's recommendations were never given any legal backing, meaning that these promises will likely remain just words on the piece of paper they were written on. Contrary to what the merger was supposed to achieve, it has only increased the ex-Fata population's sense of abandonment, desperation and resentment towards the state. With the region once again on the brink of being overwhelmed by militancy, there is an urgent need for key stakeholders to come together to chalk out a new development pathway for the area. However, this time it is imperative that the people of ex-Fata are involved in this process in a decision-making capacity. ■

The writer is a development practitioner and a former parliamentarian.

# OPINION

BY NAZIR A. JOGEZAI



## Quality learning

BALUCHISTAN has consistently found itself at the bottom of the development pyramid. Most surveys show that the province ranks lowest in education in both access and standard. While the recent District Education Performance Index (DEPI) reports disparities in inputs, expectations remain impractical. The latter demands that results from Sherani and Awazari be on a par with the ones from Islamabad and Lahore.

In the list of critical factors for human capital development, inclusive education is paramount. But inclusion is impossible without equity, particularly in countries where development is polarised. Hence, underdeveloped regions deserve more investment from developed territories. According to Unicef, the rate of Baluchistan's out-of-school children (OOSC) is 47 per cent, Punjab's is 14%, KP's 24% and Sindh's 15%. Pakistan Education Statistics 2022-23 reveal that only 23% of Baluchistan's primary schools have access to potable water, 39% have a boundary wall and a mere 15% have electricity.

Baluchistan also receives the most minor slice of the NEP award, which makes bridging the gap between learners and schooling unachievable. Equality demands equal distribution of resources; it also requires recognition of heightened deprivation with the allocation of a generous 3:1 share for the hungry. Thus Baluchistan's education sector is in dire need of an equitable share in the financial pool. An alarmingly inequitable educational management is also reflected in DEPIs. However, let's analyse whether DEPIs address educational disparities adequately. It seems to lack deeper insights and comprehensive measures for educational progress, quality pedagogy, learning and assessment methods.

First, the sustainability and effectiveness of a longer tenure, as suggested for education secretaries, is questionable. The culture of transfers of subordinate officials and principals, along with their leadership capital, is linked to district indexing. Similarly, the quality parameters in the index measure dropout and school participation — issues related to access — partially.

DEPIs assesses digital technology availability in schools as ICT in education, whereas empirical evidence contradicts this view. According to recent research, technological tools in Pakistani schools are mostly unused because their usage is discouraged by school administrations. Therefore, the presence of ICT in academic facilities cannot be seen as an integral part of education. It could be more beneficial to integrate ICT into class

rooms, assessment methods, teachers' professional development and school management.

There is no doubt about the importance of data for appropriate educational supervision, decision-making, formulating policies and planning. However, relevance, validity and reliability are central factors for any valuable database. There is a need for accurate and modern measures for quality learning: first-hand information that captures the contextual realities as well as maintains objectivity in its analysis is a prerequisite. Otherwise, the result can have a disproportionate impact on the planning, implementation and evaluation of educational outcomes, particularly in terms of access, learning and educational governance.

Our collective approach towards dealing with education-related issues, such as OOSC, without taking the broader educational ecology into account is flawed. This educational ecology includes the cultural, socioeconomic and sociological landscape, and solutions to OOSC do not reside in effective educational management alone because socio-cultural, socioeconomic and sociopolitical well-being is the real remedy.

The higher OOSC rates in some parts of the country too cannot be attributed solely to ineffective educational management and parental awareness about the importance of education. It is also an outcome of their economic security through better job opportunities and social mobility. Baluchistan, as the least developed society in the country, has child labour and parental financial incapacity to enrol children in schools.

In addition to reliable data, an intersectoral approach to data collection, analysis and its integration in policies is essential. For instance, the integration of DEPI with schooling under the Benazir Taleemi Wazari is a good step. A comprehensive social security net and economic growth will go a long way in resolving the OOSC issue. But the absence of quality is a far more severe concern, which demands looking beyond conventional educational research, planning and development. The long-standing need for bottom-up planning should be addressed urgently. There must be true devolution of power not just to the provinces but also to the districts and schools. ■

The writer is an educator.

BY BISMA TIRMIZI

## The real issues

THERE is nothing complicated about Donald Trump's win as much of the mainstream media would like the world to believe. If you live in America you know the truth, and if you watch TikTok anywhere in the world, you know the truth and more.

While the liberals have a tantrum and try to complicate the reasons behind why the Americans chose to point their country back this time, and in essence decided to copy up to the Democratic ideal, the reality is easy to decipher for first-time voters, seasoned baby boomers and all generations in between.

It was as simple and down to earth as 'yes, let's get on with it'.

Election 2024 is a clear indication that after all is said and done, after all the soap operas, the theatrical and manufactured issues, dramatic hyperbole, staged debates, and woke issues that need no oxygen or air time, politics is still about only the real issues.

One may choose to hate Trump for his crassness or his politics, but he ran on what matters to an average American — no foreign wars, no inflation, no crime, no illegal immigration and the impact on a household. In contrast, Kamala Harris ran on feelings, vague abstract ideas, oxygenating fears, a high horse with a Hollywood saddle, constant virtue signalling, appearances on CNN, and a zero-sum issue-driven campaign. Being uncharismatic didn't help. She lacked authenticity and charisma and the Democrats' overall message was focused on vilifying Trump and the Republican vote. That backfired.

She clearly chose not to separate from her base on moral grounds. Plus the constantly invoked moral high ground — 'We are better than the Republicans' — did not work when tens of thousands of interested people were being alienated in a genocide on her watch. And endorsements from the likes of war-monger Dick Cheney, which should have caused revulsion, were worn like a badge of honour. Bizarre!

Flashback 2020: Biden picked a losing vice-president in order to ensure he would do eight years. Her campaign had zero momentum from the get-go and a late arrival left no runway time for the campaign to take flight. She is no Barack Obama. And while Obama's politics may not be ideal, his persona was absolutely dynamic.

It seemed Harris only ran on the abortion issue, and despite her calls from the pulpit, the country figured out that Trump is not really pro-life, as the Democratic rhetoric would like them to believe. Trump ran an intelligent campaign and perceptively pulled ahead of the Democratic

rhetoric by clearly rejecting a country-wide abortion ban.

What was Harris left with? She lost the dream of 'very woff', when the wolf wasn't really there. The wolf wasn't interested in eating the sheep.

Another sensitive issue that Harris championed was the gender choice for minors — an issue that did not sit too well at the ballot box regardless of what the pundits or the extreme left wing might have had the campaign believe. The Red sweep clearly told the Democrats that if a child can't get a tattoo before the age of 18 without parental presence, then something as controversial, life-shaping and momentous as gender change has to be off the table.

And here we are today and America has made its choice. It chose to let a felon into the White House, and as a friend (who hails from occupied Kashmir, and has faced persecution) said, 'America decided it did not want uneducated immigrants no matter how persecuted they feel in their country of birth.'

Ministry does not bother the majority, hate speech and derogatory rhetoric isn't that bad, reproductive rights for women aren't that big of a deal after all, and the list goes on.

But nothing, and I mean nothing, compares to normalising

a year-long genocide. Liberals worked overtime to make a fascist social norm to the people who do not agree with what has been going on this past year. They thought we could focus on safe abortion instead.

He might turn out to be just like his predecessor and continue America's Middle East policy, but he won't lead the world less about it. Those who did not vote for Kamala or simply abstained as an act of defiance or for the lack of a better choice, you have my respect.

Case the Muslims in the US who chose to make their voice heard.

While in 2024 there was a feeling of deep depression at Trump winning, this time it was all about making sure that Harris lost. America voted, and it voted for a better life by turning out the noise.

And while the mainstream media looks for more rhetoric as to why Trump won, the answer is simply, real issues always trump vague feelings. Period. ■

The writer has published two books and is a freelance journalist.

## FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

### New provinces

**BAHAWALPUR:** The present Government would under no circumstances concede the demand for the creation of a new Bahawalpur or a Karachi Province, an emergence of new provinces militated against national integrity. ... A categorical declaration in this behalf was made by Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto while addressing a ... public meeting ... here this afternoon (Nov 8). The [PM] also declared: "No adjustments to the existing boundaries of the provinces would be made, because these are the Provinces which have a history behind them". ... He said the demand for a Bahawalpur Province ... could never be accepted as long as he was in power. ... He said the Constitution ... had given the Provinces their ultimate shape and determined their complexion. Any change in the complexion of provinces would be disastrous for the country. ...

Thumping the podium ... and raising his voice, the [PM] ... said: "Let everybody be clear ... that the Bahawalpur Province would in all likelihood never come into being, nor will there be a Karachi Province and consider them to be against the national interest". ... The [PM] reminded the people that Pakistan had been achieved for Muslims and not for having Provinces here and there. ... — News agencies

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

### New Sindh cabinet

**KARACHI:** Pakistan Foreign Office has received a proposal for the settlement of the inter-Dominion canal water dispute from the Indian Foreign Ministry, it was learnt from an authoritative source in Karachi on Tuesday (Nov 9). The proposal ... was made at Secretariat level. The proposal ... envisaged an inter-Dominion experts' committee to discuss the entire problem area. The Indian proposal is reported to be under active consideration of the Pakistan Government. A reply will be sent to India "very soon". — Staff correspondent

[Meanwhile,] the National Bank of Pakistan will be launched with five pay offices in West and East Pakistan today (Nov 9). ... The bank will primarily provide credit facilities to June and Cotton trade. Later on the Bank would take up other banking business, it was announced in a Press note. ...

According to news agencies from London, Marshal Stalin's absence from the big Soviet anniversary day celebrations ... revived speculation about his health. He will be 70 years old next month and has reportedly admitted to western visitors since the war that he is getting to be an old man.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@dawn.com

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

## The livestock sector has great potential



THIS is with reference to the report 'Growth Impacts in Asia' from meat experts to Malaysia (Oct 4). The government's hope is based on a remark by the Malaysian prime minister to the effect that his country would import meat from Pakistan. This is expected to flourish the livestock sector of the country and increase foreign exchange earnings.

The sector has a lot of potential to boom the country's exports because Pakistan possesses breeds of livestock that are among the best in the world, and have the traits of early maturity, adaptability to climate, and quality meat. If reared, managed and fed properly, Malaysia does not have quality livestock meat for meat production, and has routinely imported cattle from developed countries to meet its requirements.

To increase the production of meat, the local livestock sector is to be organised on a scientific basis. The country's arid and semi-arid areas are suitable for livestock rearing as they are thickly populated with high-yielding cattle, goat and sheep breeds. About 90 per cent of population in the desert of Sindh and Cholistan area of Punjab depends on livestock rearing, as there is no other suitable means of earning available to these people.

Desert and surrounding areas of Sindh possess the best cattle breeds. Their partner has Karachi cattle, while Punjab possesses Cholistani, which is one of the best cattle breeds. These cattle breeds have higher fertility and calving rates. Male calves of these cattle breeds grow at a fast pace as they are kept on natural grazing. The grazing fields have quality pastures with higher protein.

The relevant areas in Sindh and Punjab are providing beef as well as mutton to bigger cities, like Karachi, Lahore, Multan and Islamabad. But due to lack of training and resources available to the farmers, most of the animals supplied are immature, weak and underfed. Most produced by these animals lacks quality.

Well-fed, well-managed and adult animals, when slaughtered, can provide quality meat having the key characteristics of digestibility, higher nutrition and better taste.

To achieve the target of existing and future meat exports, arid and semi-arid regions in the country need to be developed through the establishment of meat development companies on a cooperative basis under an umbrella corporation or authority, which should target providing more facilities to the farmers on breeding, management, nutrition, disease control and marketing aspects.

Further, an export development fund, recovered from the export proceeds of meat and allied products, may be invested in the development of livestock, farmers' training, and small credit facilities for the poor farmers. This will allow the farmers to rear, manage and fatten the male animals properly. Besides, cattle markets should be established with all the required facilities, including the installation of weighing bridges to upgrade the system of selling meat on a weight basis.

This way, the farmers will fatten their animals properly to ensure higher weight with the aim of fetching a good price when they are sold in the market. This will increase the production of meat, and, in turn, the income of the farmers.

The proposed meat company may also develop ostrich farming, which is also a good source of meat production in semi-arid areas. If we are able to develop meat production in the country, more systems for meat export may open up for us regionally and internationally.

**Dr Fayyaz Muhammad Jamali**  
Ex-Secretary, Livestock and Fisheries,  
Sindh  
Hyderabad

## Ground reality

THE livestock sector, contributing 61.84 per cent to the agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) and 14% to the national GDP, faces alarming challenges, especially since the monsoon rains earlier in the year that devastated the rural areas, spreading viral diseases, like rinderpest, among the livestock.

A recent visit to the veterinary hospital in Larkana exposed a shocking level of insufficiency. The hospital was virtually deserted until 11.30am. This is despite the fact that the staff strength is more than ideal. The deputy director arrived late around noon, and that, too, after I called him on his phone.

Staff members with their sleepy eyes offered flimsy excuses for the state of affairs. As I explored the matter further, a disturbing revelation emerged; medicines and vaccines are routinely sold to private stores for a profit, while

the local farmers are sold the narrative of shortages and lack of funds. This blatant corruption and mismanagement is a serious threat to the national economy.

As per estimates, about nine million families in rural areas rely on livestock for 35-40% of their income. Mismanagement of resources — both human and financial — is putting at stake the future of this large segment of population.

The provincial government must strengthen institutional frameworks across the agricultural sector, promoting transparency and accountability, and ensuring effective management of resources. The higher authorities must intervene to investigate all corruption allegations, implement accountability measures, provide training to veterinary staff, and ensure timely availability of medicines and vaccines. The country's economic future seriously depends on revitalising the critical livestock sector.

**Tasneem Aqsa Maria**  
Larkana

## Iqbal's message

AS the nation is celebrating Iqbal Day today (Nov 9), it is appropriate to remember Allama Iqbal's message for the youth, which, in a nutshell, is about the capacity of the powerful to create the environment, and the helplessness of the feeble to adjust to it. He warned Muslim youth to be physically, intellectually and spiritually

Using the eagle as a metaphor for dignity, pride and resilience in his poetry, Iqbal urged teachers and scholars to groom the young in a manner that may put them on the path of self-actualisation. On the one hand, Iqbal acted as a catalyst for intellectual activity in young Muslims, while, on the other, he introduced them to the need of spiritual preparation. Science has proved that tiny subatomic particles can generate enough energy to destroy the whole world, and, likewise, human soul is a tremendous reservoir of energy that can change one's fortune in the physical world.

Today, as we celebrate Iqbal Day, the young in Pakistan are searching for spiritual vigour and intellectual guidance. Thoughts of Iqbal, reflected in his verse and prose, can fulfil this task of guiding our youth. There is a need of extensive and intensive work on the message of Iqbal to further introduce him to the Western world.

**Farrukh Shahab**  
Lahore

## Factual errors

THIS is with reference to the article 'Bachar's colonial charm lost to the years' (Oct 21), which carried some factual errors about the area in Rawalpindi. Aca matter of record, the American Centre Library was

located originally in Kamran Market. As a student of grade XI in 1953, I was a member of the library. It shifted to Kashmir Road much later in the building that is presently known as Karogah.

The 'Pakistan Secretariat' mentioned in the write-up means the building in which the Ministry of Defence is currently housed. In preparation days, it used to be the office of Military Accounts, carrying the official title of Command Controller Military Accounts (CCMA). People used to call it the 'Chakrta Dabbar' because most of the clerks there used to be Bengalis. They were called 'dabbar' and the majority lived in the street called Babu Mohalla.

After partition, the building became the office of Military Accountant-General (MAG). When the capital was shifted from Karachi in the 1960s, the building was taken over by the Ministry of Defence, MAG and Military Accounts offices were shifted to the place where they are located at present.

**Muhammad Ijaz ul Haq**  
Ex-Military Accountant-General of  
Pakistan  
Islamabad



## A smog trigger

EVEN though farmers have been burning crop residue for decades, it is only now that the problem has grown so bad in Punjab, especially the provincial capital. Even as recently as a decade ago, there was practically no smog in Lahore, and the city's weather was noted as being the best in the country. So, what happened?

It is the record increase in the number of industries and vehicles. In most parts of the world, industries are set up in coastal areas. In Karachi, on most days of the year the air quality is not as bad as it is in Lahore. This is because the strong sea breeze drives away the polluted air.

Since we cannot shift Lahore to the coast, the next best thing to do is to shift smoke-emitting industries and factories elsewhere, preferably to the coastal areas of Baluchistan. Having said that, it would also help if faulty vehicles are grounded during winter.

**Shahid Jadhani**  
Karachi

► **WATER SHORTAGE:** Nearly 60 per cent of the families in Drangal Town do not have access to piped water and rely on costly water tankers. Many low-income families spend about 20% of their monthly income on water. This severe shortage of water has affected local sanitation and hygiene in addition to raising health hazards. Residents find it difficult to obtain even the smallest quantity of water for everyday use. The illegal water connections worsen the supply problems. The Drangal Town water pipeline network must be repaired and expanded immediately, and water distribution should be regulated to provide fair access to everyone.

**Milbar Khan**  
Karachi

► **CASH REFILLING:** Most automated teller machines (ATMs) in Karachi either run out of cash or remain out of service for long periods. Additionally, many users face the frustrating issue of cards getting stuck, leaving them without access to their deposits. These issues create unnecessary stress, especially for those relying on ATMs for urgent cash withdrawals. Banks need to ensure regular maintenance and timely cash refills for ATMs. They should also improve customer service response time when issues like card jams occur.

By taking these simple steps, we can ensure smoother banking experiences, and avoid the unnecessary disruptions caused by malfunctioning ATMs.

**Ahmed Aamir**  
Karachi

► **A STRANGE PRACTICE:** The law-enforcement agencies in India have initiated a new practice of demolishing the houses of accused. According to media reports, the Indian Supreme Court has raised objection against it, but the practice is continuing. Practically, it is an overthrown law. Muslims are disproportionately affected by it. Nowhere in the world are the accused punished with demolition of their residential places. Governments and international human rights bodies have to take notice of this gross violation.

**Qasim Akbar**  
Toronto, Canada

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

### Four officers including PDA DG transferred

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Friday transferred four officials, including the director general of Peshawar Development Authority (PDA). A notification issued by the establishment department here said that Sheriff Hussain (BS-20), chairman Higher Education Regulatory Authority (HERA), had been transferred and posted special secretary health department. Besides, Captain retired Khalid Mahmood (BS-19), director general PDA, has been transferred and posted chairman HERA, and Mohammad Naasim Khan (BS-19), director social welfare department, has been transferred and posted DG PDA. Abdul Ghaffoor Shah (BS-19), special secretary health, has been transferred and posted to report to the establishment department.

### Kurram people end protest after talks with officials

By Our Correspondent

KURRAM: The people of Kurram called off a protest march after successful negotiations with the district administration and security forces here on Friday. A 50-member jirga represented the Kurram people in the talks with the administrative and security officials. According to sources, the tribesmen had started a massive march from Parachinar on Thursday to protest the prolonged closure of roads linking the district with other areas. After covering a distance of 20 kilometres, the march turned into a sit-in in Sameer area, and the protesters announced they would march to Peshawar and Islamabad. During the talks, it was decided that in the first phase, vehicles would be allowed on the main highway through convoys, and traffic would be allowed to ply on other roads after making them 'safe' for travel. It was also decided during the talks that additional checkpoints would be established and CCTV cameras would be installed on the main highway. Kurram deputy commissioner Javedullah Mehsud said that after the firing incident on passenger vehicles of Marghal tribes on October 12, the main highway was closed for traffic due to security concerns.

### Firing on Levies post leaves two dead in Malakand

MALAKAND: Firing on a checkpoint in Musa Maina locality here left two Malakand Levies personnel dead and another injured on Thursday night. The incident sparked a protest with residents blocking the main Dargal-Mardan Road for traffic on Friday. Sources and locals said a Malakand Levies man, identified as Saddam Hussain, and his brother, Ziaullah of Gudar Kullay, Kopper area, allegedly opened fire on personnel manning the Musa Maina checkpoint, killing Havaldar Fazal Karim and sepoy Fiaz Ahmed, and injuring sepoy Alamzeb. They managed to escape after committing the crime. The injured man got registered FIR with the Dargal police station against Saddam and his brother, Ziaullah. Fiazul Rahman, in-charge of neighbouring Wazirabad Levies post, reported that on Thursday night when he along with other personnel reached the Musa Maina checkpoint during routine patrol, he found Havaldar Fazal and sepoy Fiaz lying in a pool of blood and Alamzeb in injured condition. He said they shifted the bodies and the injured to a hospital. He said injured Alamzeb told them that they were performing duty at the checkpoint when Saddam and his brother, Ziaullah came on a motorcycle armed with Kalashnikovs and started shooting at them on Thursday night. As a result, he said Fiazul Karim and soldier, Fiaz died on the spot, while he himself suffered injuries. — Correspondent



Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur holds a dancing horse during the opening ceremony for a three-day horse and cattle show at Sher Khan Shahzad Stadium in Peshawar on Friday. — Photo by Sherbaz Bull

## KP opposes extension of 7th NFC award, says won't forgo due share in resources

Complains finance ministry didn't reply to repeated communications on matter

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has warned that it will not agree to any further extensions to the 7th National Finance Commission award over changes to the province's population and poverty numbers following the merger of the Federal Administrative Tribal Areas (now tribal districts) with the province. "We made multiple contacts to the finance ministry, including phone calls and letters, on the NFC issue, with the most recent communication on Sept 27, but got no reply," advised the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief

minister on finance Musammi Akram told Dawn. He said that though the provincial government's budget had posted a surplus, it won't forgo its due share in the NFC award. In a letter, a copy of which is available with Dawn, the finance department informed the finance ministry that the province faced financial issues after the merger of the federally and provincially administered tribal areas with it in 2018. It complained that for the last almost six years since the Pata-KP merger, more than 5.1 million residents from the merged districts hadn't been accommodated in the intergovernmental funds transfer mechanism under the NFC award. The department added that provincial Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, in a tribal jirga on Sept 5, highlighted the problems facing the residents of tribal districts fol-

lowing the 25th Constitutional Amendment. It pointed out that besides discussing other financial and administrative issues, the jirga also advocated for engaging with the federal government to claim the province's share in national resources justified after the Pata-KP merger as well as ensure the timely provision of funds. "The legal framework made NFC a principal forum, a robust feature of the federal structure but it was observed with grave concern that the intended process of continual consultation hadn't been materialised. "It is also in our knowledge that the 25th Constitutional Amendment is based on the premise of mainstream and addressing the historical development lag that these areas have faced in the first 70 years of the country's history. The task given to this province is not only daunting but also beyond our present financial

capacity," the finance department argued in the letter. It added that the federal government had promised to fast-track the "herculean task" but that "resolve" appeared to have lost steam over the years. The department pointed out that not only were the allocations and releases in the 10-year development plan, Accelerated Implementation Programme, shrinking but the province was also being left cash-starved on many other sources of federal final transfers. It argued that the 7th NFC award did not allocate any designated funds to Pata though it remained a federally administered territory, while the award reallocation provided higher per capita allocations to Balochistan and recognised various needs of other provinces in the formula. "While all four provinces started receiving higher amounts of funds under the 7th NFC award, Pata, by and large,

continued with its historical level public expenditures, resulting in much lower levels of development," the finance department complained in the letter. It added that the discrepancy was calculated for the period from 2010-11 to 2023-24 using the per capita funds available to Balochistan. The department insisted that Pata received meagre investment under the NFC award, leading to underdevelopment, low economic base and fewer job opportunities in the region. It also pointed out that even if the case of low investment in Pata was not calculated for seven decades before its merger with KP, the matter needed an urgent correction. The finance department urged the finance ministry to convene a NFC meeting, saying it is a matter of grave concern that the 7th NFC award is no longer compliant with the Constitution.

## High court extends stay order against closure of Ulla Dam project

Asks govt not to encash bank guarantees of contractors

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has extended a stay order in favour of the contractors of the Ulla Dam project, directing the provincial government not to encash their bank guarantees to the tune of Rs111.66 million. A bench consisting of Justice Syed Muhammad Anwar Shah and Justice Sabiruddin Aslam issued the order on two petitions of the contractors, who challenged the winding up of the Ulla Dam project for supplying drinking water to Swabi and cancellation of its agreement with them. It directed counsel for the petitioner, Alamzeb Khan, to produce a rejoinder to the comments filed by the respondents, including the provincial government, to the petition. The hearing will be fixed later. The petition was filed by a joint venture of Qalandar Box Alero and Co and Yaqoob Shah and Sons with a request for stopping the government from taking any action against them and about the encashment of their bank guarantees.

The petitioner has requested the court to declare illegal the decisions taken on July 29, 2024, during a meeting chaired by the additional chief secretary (planning and development). The meeting had tasked the public health engineering department with submitting PC-II for a new feasibility study to explore alternative drinking water options, while the irrigation department was asked to immediately cancel the agreement with the contractor or consult him as the scheme wasn't reflected in the ADP 2024-25. The petitioner also requested the court to declare illegal a letter sent to them by the directorate general (small dams) of the irrigation department on Aug 7, 2024, declaring that the Ulla Dam project has been 'closed down' and the contractor should immediately refund the remaining mobilisation advance of Rs111.66 million to prevent the encashment of the bank guarantees submitted by the petitioner in favour of the government. Advocate Alamzeb Khan said that in light of the original PC-I of the scheme, Rs2.5 billion was approved by the PDWP to provide 3.5 crores of drinking water to 45 villages. The lawyer said that the petitioner was given the acceptance letter by the deputy director (small dams) on July 29, 2018. He said on the directions of PDWP in its

meeting on Jan 4, 2021, a panel of experts was constituted to technically examine the design, estimates and certain other observations regarding the project. The counsel said that after considering all the aspects, the design and estimates were reviewed by the PDWP on Jan 25, 2022, and the cost of project was enhanced to Rs2.2 billion. He said the experts declared that there was no alternate source, which could be explored for addressing the issue of drinking water to the area. The lawyer said on Dec 28, 2023, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the additional chief secretary (P&D), wherein it was recommended to cap the work done at the site and the irrigation department should move a summary for deletion of the scheme from the ADP. He said that after the petitioner had challenged that decision the advocate general had informed the court in Feb 2024 that the government hadn't taken any decision on the matter and the matter would be decided in the next cabinet meeting. The lawyer argued that despite recommendations of a technical committee to review the decisions taken in the meeting of Dec 28, 2023, about the winding up of the project, no review had been made and instead, respondents were bent on closing the project.

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## PTI to announce future course of action in Swabi

By Our Correspondent

SWABI: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leaders here said that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur would announce the PTI's future course of action during a public meeting scheduled to be held near the Swabi Interchange of the Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway here on Saturday. National Assembly former speaker Anas Qaiser said: "Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur will announce a new line of action for the party in the rally and our entire focus is on the release of the party's founding chairman Imran Khan from the jail." Meanwhile, the PTI has completed all arrangements for holding the public meeting. PTI local leaders said that the party's workers from across the country would participate in the public gathering.

**CDA CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
(Procurement & Contracts Agreement-8)

**CORRIGENDUM - II**

**CONSTRUCTION OF THREE (03) SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND RELATED SEWERAGE SYSTEM TO TREAT THE WASTE WATER FALLING INTO KORAND RIVER, RAWAL LAKE AND THEIR AREA OF ICT PHASE-1**

With reference to the published advertisement in Daily Dawn & Jang through PFD (I) 2629/24 dated 12-10-2024. Member (Engineering), CDA has approved the following corrigendum:-

Sl. No.	For	Read
1.	Proposals (Technical & Financial) accompanied with Bid Security as mentioned in the RFP documents and complete in all respects should be uploaded on or before <b>18th November 2024 at 11:30 AM.</b>	Proposals (Technical & Financial) accompanied with Bid Security as mentioned in the RFP documents and complete in all respects should be uploaded on or before <b>04th December 2024 at 11:00 AM.</b>

2. Other terms and conditions indicated in original RFP will remain unchanged.

**Dy. Director (E&M)**  
**P&CA-II, CDA**

PDC23/09/24

## Interest-free loan, internship programmes for youth launched

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Friday launched an initiative to provide interest-free loans and internship opportunities to the youth.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur launched the Ehsas Nasojwan and Chief Minister Youth Internship programmes during a ceremony held at the Chief Minister's House, according to a statement issued here.

Mr Gandapur also launched the Ehsas Nasojwan online portal, through which youth from across the province can apply online for interest-free loans to start their own businesses under the Ehsas Nasojwan initiative.

On this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding was also signed among the department of youth affairs, Bank of Khyber, and Akhwan Microfinance Bank to implement the programme. The Ehsas Nasojwan programme, a three-year project, would be implemented at a cost of Rs1 billion.

Under the first component of this programme, interest-free loans worth Rs1 billion will be provided in partnership with the BOK. Under this component, clusters of three to five young men aged 18 to 35 will receive interest-free loans ranging from Rs1 million to Rs5 million.

The repayment period will span eight years, with the first 20 months as a grace period, during which, no repayment will be required.

The second component of the programme would be implemented in partnership with Akhwan Microfinance Bank at a cost of Rs2 billion. It will provide interest-free loans ranging from Rs50,000 to Rs500,000 for small-scale businesses to individuals aged 18 to 40. A subsidy of 15 per cent has been reserved for young women, 7.5pc for differently-abled persons, 5pc for Madrasah students and 2.5pc for minorities.

Notably, the Ehsas Nasojwan programme will continue in the future as a revolving fund, allowing the amount repaid by beneficiaries to be made available to assist more youth for starting new businesses or expanding existing ones.

Additionally, the Chief Minister Youth Internship Programme will offer internships to 400 students annually, each lasting three months and providing a monthly stipend of Rs25,000.

Over three years, a total of 1,200 students will benefit from this programme. Young individuals aged up to 20 with 10 years of education or an equivalent degree recognised by the Higher Education Commission will be eligible. Upon completion, interns will be provided with employment opportunities in various public and private sectors.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr Gandapur said that party's founder Imran Khan's vision was to empower the people to stand on their own feet. He said the initiatives like Ehsas Nasojwan, Ehsas Huzar, Ehsas Roggar, and Ehsas Agra Ghar were practical steps towards realising that vision.

He said these initiatives aimed at providing loans for starting businesses and helping individuals to achieve financial independence. — Bureau Report

# BUSINESS

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## Deals signed with Abu Dhabi Ports for infrastructure

### Prime minister reiterates commitment to achieving \$2.5bn in IT exports over the next three years

By Syed Irfan Haq

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Abu Dhabi Ports Group on Friday signed four memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to enhance cooperation across various sectors, including rail, airport infrastructure, maritime shipping and logistics.

The Prime Minister's Office said that the MoUs were signed during a visit by a high-level UAE delegation led by UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, who met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

PM Shehbaz witnessed the exchange of MoUs, which involved the ministers of maritime affairs, aviation and railways and the Federal Board of Revenue with the Abu Dhabi Ports Group.

These agreements will help the two sides explore potential collaborations in customs, rail, airport infrastructure and maritime shipping and logistics.

Under the MoUs, Pakistan and Abu Dhabi Ports Group aim to improve digital customs control, develop dedicated freight rail corridors, upgrade Pakistan's maritime fleet and marine services and enhance international airport facilities.

During the meeting, PM Shehbaz expressed gratitude to UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for their steadfast support to Pakistan, highlighting the longstanding ties between Pakistan and the UAE rooted in shared history and culture.

He emphasized that the visit underscored the UAE's commitment to increasing its investment footprint in Pakistan and noted that these investments would play a key role in boosting Pakistan's economy.

Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi thanked the prime minister for the warm welcome and hospitality. He expressed satisfaction with AD Ports' existing investments in Pakistan and a strong interest in expanding involvement in shipping, port efficiency improvements, aviation and customs digitization.

The UAE delegation included Sheikh Ahmed Dalmeida Al Maktoum, chairman of Kabeel Group, Capt Mohamed Al

Sharifi, managing director and Group CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports Group, UAE Ambassador to Pakistan Hamad Othman Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, and senior officials from AD Ports.

The Pakistani delegation included Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan, Finance Minister Muhammad Atarraqchi, Minister for Maritime Affairs Qasim Ahmed Sheikh, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi and senior government officials.

### IT exports, 5G development

In a separate development, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated the government's commitment to achieving \$2.5 billion in IT exports over the next three years, highlighting the government's efforts to promote the telecommunication sector.

He highlighted the Information Technology Park project, expected to significantly boost the country's exports, as a milestone towards this target.

Chairing a meeting to review ongoing IT projects and digitization efforts, the premier expressed satisfaction with progress on the IT Park in Islamabad and instructed officials to consult Korean experts on realising the project timeline, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

During another meeting on Friday with a five-member delegation from the Holland-based VEON Group, led by Chairman Angie K Fabula, PM Shehbaz discussed the government's plan to introduce 5G internet services to provide high-speed connectivity nationwide, including in remote areas. "The 5G service will also help the government realize its vision of a Digital Pakistan," he added.

The telecommunication sector has a significant role in promoting a cashless and digital economy, he said, adding that the government was willing to collaborate with VEON Group in 5G, digitisation and artificial intelligence.

VEON's delegation appreciated the government's efforts towards achieving economic stability and said that Pakistan had become an important investment destination for the IT and telecom sectors.

Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shah Fiazma Khawaja, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Noor-ul-Malik, Coordinator for the PM House Elham Afzal and other relevant senior officials also attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the exchange of MoUs between Pakistan and Abu Dhabi Ports, on Friday — AFP

## Remittances jump by 35pc in July-October

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: Remittances from overseas Pakistani workers surged 35 per cent in the first four months of the current fiscal year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data showed on Friday.

The country received \$11.8 billion during July-October FY25 compared to \$8.6bn in the same period last year, an increase of 34.7pc. Inflows in October rose year-on-year 24pc, and month-on-month 6.7pc to \$3.05bn.

The country is struggling to average \$2bn in net external debt repayment obligations in the current fiscal year. The higher inflows of remittances usually used to meet the trade deficit. With a meagre \$98 million current account deficit, this inflow would help easing pressure on external debt servicing front.

Recently, the governor SBP expressed the hope that the country would be able to secure \$14bn debt rollover while arrangements were being made for \$4bn.

Financial experts believe if this bud-

ish trend persists, the country could receive unprecedented remittances in FY25, breaking the \$32bn record hit in FY22. The country received about \$30bn in remittances in FY24.

During the calendar year 2023, one million Pakistanis — skilled and semi-skilled — went abroad, suggesting inflows would be higher in future. According to the data, the highest inflows came from Saudi Arabia but the highest growth was noted in from USA.

The State Bank reported the inflows from Saudi Arabia and UAE were \$2.92bn and \$2.3bn during July-October, showing a growth of 27pc and 55.8pc, respectively.

The inflows from the US and the UK were \$1.19bn and \$1.77bn, up 14pc and 38.7pc. Remittances from GCC states and EU countries rose 19.3pc and 27pc to \$1.18bn and \$1.45bn.

The rising inflows would also boost SBP's forex holdings. The central bank is a regular buyer of dollars from the interbank currency market. It purchased \$1.2bn from the market in June and July.

## Roadmap to formalise SMEs

By Our Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The International Labour Organisation (ILO) launched a new project on Friday to develop a comprehensive roadmap to drive regulatory changes and simplify process to facilitate enterprise formalisation in Pakistan.

The project, "Facilitating the Transition to Formal Enterprise for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

(SMEs) and Home-Based Workers in Pakistan" launched in Islamabad together with SME Development Authority (SMDA) will engage with large enterprises in the textile and automotive sectors to create tools that ensure their suppliers formalize their operations.

Additionally, it will provide capacity-building opportunities for suppliers to adapt to evolving market conditions associated with digitalisation and just transition.

## Climate crisis demands urgent action: Jamil

### SBP provides Rs95bn for renewable energy projects

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan Governor Jamil Ahmed said there is a need to substantially increase credit allocation to projects that enhance climate resilience and promote environmentally sustainable growth.

"It is essential that we leverage our financial sector's power. We reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the Paris Agreement, which includes reducing emissions by 15pc by 2030, with an additional 35pc reduction contin-

ued upon external financing. He also noted plans to generate 50pc of all energy from renewable sources.

He elaborated on the significant strides made by Pakistan despite macroeconomic challenges, and the critical role played by the central bank.

He shared that the SBP has introduced refinancing schemes for renewable energy, disbursing Rs44.7bn by end of June 2024, financing more than 4,500 renewable energy projects with a cumulative energy generation capacity of almost 2,061 megawatts.

"The SBP has issued comprehensive Green Banking Guidelines to enable regulated entities to recognise and manage

## 'US fiscal risks increase after Trump election'

NEW YORK: The US fiscal health is at higher risk after the election of Republican Donald Trump as the next US president and given the likely composition of Congress, said rating agency Moody's.

US budget deficits and government debt levels were largely projected to surge under either candidate in the Nov 5 election, according to several estimates, although Democrat Kamala Harris was expected to add less debt than Trump.

Trump's victory has contributed to a selloff in government bonds earlier this week as key elements of his economic plans such as an exit and tariffs are expected to lead to faster growth as well as higher inflation and wider budget deficits.

As of Friday, Trump's Republicans appeared set to possibly win control of both chambers of Congress, a scenario that could allow for a faster implementation of new policies.

"In the absence of policy measures to help limit fiscal deficits, the federal government's deteriorating fiscal strength will increasingly weigh on the US sovereign credit profile," Moody's said in a Nov 7 note.

"Given the fiscal policies Trump promised while campaigning, and the high likelihood of their passage because of the changing composition of Congress, the risks to US fiscal strength have increased," it added.

Moody's remains the last of the three major rating agencies to maintain a top rating for the US government.

It lowered the outlook on its triple-A US credit rating to "negative" from "stable" in November last year, and it typically "revises" an outlook, meaning in case of a negative outlook it either brings it back to stable or goes ahead with a rating downgrade, within 18 to 24 months.

"With Republican control of the Legislature and the Executive, policy shifts could be implemented quickly," said the agency.

"This raised the risk of 'potentially abrupt and sweeping changes in tax, trade, immigration and climate policies that could particularly affect manufacturing, technology and retail,'" it said.—Reuters

## Oil falls over 2pc

NEW YORK: Oil prices fell more than 2 per cent on Friday as traders grew less fearful of prolonged supply disruptions from a hurricane in the US Gulf of Mexico, while China's latest economic stimulus packages failed to impress some oil traders.

US West Texas Intermediate futures led the decline, down 2.8pc, or \$2.01, at 78.35 per barrel by 1:12 pm ET (08:12 GMT). Global benchmark Brent crude futures fell 2.3pc, or \$1.77, to \$73.86 per barrel.

Energy producers shot in more than 22pc of oil output in the US Gulf of Mexico by Thursday as a precautionary measure to brace against Hurricane Rafael, helping lift oil

prices by more than 1pc in the prior session.

However, the latest forecasts on Rafael's trajectory and intensity reduced the risk to oil production from the US Gulf.

"Threats of supply outages due to Hurricane Rafael are subsiding as the storm shifts to circling in the center of the Gulf of Mexico for the next 5 days or so," Alex Rodas, analyst at brokerage firm ScotiaMcLeod, told clients in a note.

The storm, which left a trail of destruction in Cuba this week, had weakened to a Category 2 hurricane on Friday, according to the US National Hurricane Centre's latest advisory.—Reuters

## Weekly inflation stays above 13pc

ISLAMABAD: Short-term inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Index (SPI), rose 13.89 per cent on an annual basis in the week ending Nov 7 due to an increase in the prices of perishable products.

The upward trend in short-term inflation is due to an increase in the prices of perishable food products such as onions, tomatoes, potatoes and LPG cylinder. The petrol price slightly increased during the previous week.

The SPI-based inflation decelerated compared to 14.45pc in the preceding week. However, it increased by 0.24pc week-on-week, official data showed on Friday.

The items whose prices saw an increase week-on-week included LPG (3.37pc), eggs (2.79pc), potatoes (2.63pc), onions (2.61pc), meat and oil (2.56pc), tomatoes (1.67pc), diesel (1.54pc), vegetable ghee (kg) (1.49pc), five-litre cooking oil (1.37pc), pulse moong (0.93pc), petrol

(0.54pc) and washing soap (0.47pc).

The items whose prices declined the most over the previous week included bananas (2.43pc), sugar (1.49pc), chicken (1.23pc), ghee (0.99pc), pulse mung (0.72pc), pulse gram (0.66pc), rice (BR1) (0.44pc) and pulse masoor (0.27pc).

However, on an annual basis, the items whose prices increased the most included gas charges for Q1 (57pc), pulse gram (80.57pc), pulse moong (40.44pc), powdered milk (25.74pc), beef (23.44pc), onions (20.87pc), shrimp (15.34pc), garlic (16.06pc), cooked dal (15.36pc), raisins (14.92pc), ladies sandal (12.52pc) and firewood (12.43pc).

In contrast, the prices of wheat flour dropped 33.26pc, followed by tomatoes (28.98pc), electricity charges for Q1 (23.32pc), chicken powder (20pc), diesel (15.77pc), petrol (12.26pc), sugar (8.91pc), rice basmati broken (7.98pc), cooking oil 5-litre (6.08pc), bread (5.55pc) and tea Lipton (3.33pc).—Staff Reporter

## SOE dominance hinders power sector competition

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has said that the strong presence of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in the transmission and distribution sectors leaves little room for private firms, creating barriers to entry and limiting market competition. A research report titled "State of Competition in the Key Markets in Pakistan: Power Sector", released by the CCP on Friday, highlights the extensive role of SOEs and the resulting impact on competition within the power sector.

At the report's launch, CCP Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Siddiqi emphasized the critical role of a competitive power sector in driving economic growth and providing affordable energy to consumers. He said the report would be a catalyst for policy discussions to foster a competitive and efficient power sector.

The report details structural, regulatory, and strategic challenges within the power sector, long dominated by SOEs. It identifies barriers to competition such as high capital requirements, monopolistic frameworks, outdated infrastructure, and geographical constraints, which collectively hinder the entry of new players.—Kafra Ali

<b>US DOLLAR</b> BUYING: PKR78.83 SELLING: PKR79.74	<b>EURO</b> BUYING: PKR297.13 SELLING: PKR299.70
<b>GBP</b> BUYING: PKR207.65 SELLING: PKR209.70	<b>YEN DOLLAR</b> BUYING: PKR76.36 SELLING: PKR76.07
<b>INR DOLLAR</b> BUYING: PKR73.52 SELLING: PKR74.14	<b>GOLD</b> 24 CARAT: PKR239,000 10 GMS: PKR239,000

## Stocks surge past 93,000-point milestone

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) extended its record-setting streak for the second straight day on improved economic indicators, toasting the benchmark KSE-100 index above 93,000 for the first time supported by robust stability with rising remittances and SBP forex reserves.

The benchmark KSE-100 index hit an intraday high of 93,514.56 and a low of 92,546.49. However, it settled at 93,291.66 after gaining 778.19 points or 0.84pc day-on-day.

Ahmad Mubarrat of Arif Habib Corporation said stocks hit an all-time high amid bull run in global equities and MSCI revised higher standard index weight at 4.4pc inviting foreign interest.

He added that falling bank lending rates and government bond yields contributed to the bullish spell. Topline Securities Ltd

### PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

GAINERS		LOSERS		LEADERS*	
Hoodair Pakistan	172.93	Pak Engineering	42.29	The Bank of Punjab	66.48
Unilever Foods	113.00	Shifa Int'l Hospital	33.81	WorldCall Telecom	51.31
Attock Refinery	39.48	Sapphire Fibres	31.48	Pak Electron	44.15
Colgate Pakistan	37.40	Bata Automotives	26.83	IGT	33.95
Khyber Textile	34.18	Service Industries	25.88	Flying Cement	33.00

INDICATORS	Price	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points)	93,291.66	▲ 778.19
KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Points)	28,806.87	▲ 265.09
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	11,977,699	▲ 101,487
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	30,209	▲ 6,376

The trading volume rose 12.44pc to 763.25m shares and its value also increased by 21.66pc to Rs30.20 day-on-day. Stocks contributing significantly to the traded volume included Bank of Punjab (95.48m shares), WorldCall Telecom

(51.31m shares), Pak Electron (44.15m shares), Pakistan International Bank Terminal (33.95m shares) and Flying Cement (33.00m shares). The shares registering the most significant increases in their prices in absolute terms were

Hoodair Pakistan (Rs172.93), Unilever Foods (Rs113.00), Attock Refinery (Rs39.48), Colgate Pakistan (Rs37.40) and Khyber Textile (Rs34.18).

According to Topline Securities the investor interest in ATRI could be

attributed to the corporate briefing session where the company stated that it had raised when tax issue with the Special Investment Facilitation Council, which has given the Petroleum Division a deadline to resolve it by Nov 10.

The management was confident that the sales tax issue would be resolved and ATRI would sign implementation agreement to upgrade and expand their infrastructure.

The companies that suffered significant losses in their share prices in absolute terms were Pakistan Engineering Company (Rs42.29), Shifa International Hospital (Rs33.81), Sapphire Fibres (Rs31.48), Bata Automotives (Rs26.83) and Service Industries (Rs25.88).

Mutual funds continued their value-betting and picked shares worth \$5.49m while foreigners turned net sellers as they offloaded shares worth \$2.51m.

# Judge rules against US legalisation plan for spouses of immigrants

WASHINGTON: A judge ruled on Thursday against President Joe Biden's programme offering a path to citizenship for certain immigrant spouses of US citizens, a blow that could keep the programme blocked through Biden's final months in office.

District judge J. Campbell Barker found the programme, which offers a path to citizenship to around 500,000 immigrants who entered the United States illegally if they are married to US citizens, exceeded Biden's executive authority. The initiative, known as Keeping Families Together, launched in August but was blocked days later by Barker, who left it frozen while he considered a legal challenge brought by Texas and a coalition of states with Republican attorneys general.

Biden, a Democrat, announced the programme in June before dropping out of the presidential race and paving the way for Vice President Kamala Harris to face Republican Donald Trump, an immigration hardliner. Trump is expected to launch a wide-ranging immigration crackdown that would likely include rolling back Biden's initiative for immigrant spouses, which the Trump campaign called a "mass amnesty" that would encourage illegal immigration. Americans are expected to take office in January, and a large majority believe he will order mass deportations of people living in the country illegally, a Reuters/Ipsos poll that closed on Thursday found.

The Biden administration could appeal Thursday's court ruling. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

—Reuters



URSULA von der Leyen (left), President of the European Commission, shakes hands with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, next to European Council chief Charles Michel, after a press conference at the end of an informal meeting of European Union leaders in Budapest, on Friday.—AFP

# Trump win prompts EU leaders to tackle 'urgent' reform agenda

BUDAPEST: Reforming Europe's economy is all the more urgent following Donald Trump's US election win, warned the author of a black leather report, Mario Draghi, ahead of talks with EU leaders in Budapest on tackling the challenge.

Although Europe's public reaction to the Republican's return has been cautious, officials are on full alert over the implications for the EU economy if he delivers on his threats and slaps higher tariffs.

Ex-European Central Bank head Draghi has warned that failure to heed his recommendations could lead to the bloc's "slow agony" of decline.

Arriving for Friday's summit, EU chief Charles Michel said Draghi's report formed an "excellent basis" for talks and that "everything is on the table," especially financing.

"Take time"

The report's big takeaway is that Europe must invest up to 850 billion euros (\$963 billion) more a year to avoid falling further behind the United States.

But there is a lot in the 400-page tome for the leaders to digest before lunch.

Besides his call for more investment to improve economic output, Draghi controversially called for common borrowing — an idea torpedoed by Germany — as well as reforming the EU's approach to competition policy to encourage big spending.

In a draft declaration, the leaders stress "the pressing need for decisive action" and back Draghi's proposals to deepen the single market, build the capital markets union that would better mobilise private capital as well as a trade policy that defends Europe's interests.

They agree on "modernising both public and private financing", adding they would explore "all instruments... to match our goals", a controversial inclusion that will likely spark long discussions.

Germany and other frugal northern European countries strongly reject taking on joint debt to finance investments despite the success of the post-EU 800-billion euro Covid recovery plan and Draghi's proposal, backed by France.—AFP

# Iran's Guards kill four militants in Baluchistan

TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards killed four more militants during an operation in the country's southeastern region, state media said on Friday.

The deaths were part of an "ongoing operation" in Sistan-Baluchistan province, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps spokesman Ahmad Shafaei said, adding that a soldier was also killed.

Iranian forces launched a crackdown after militants from the Jaish Al Adl group killed 10 police officers on Oct 26, one of the deadliest raids in the region in recent months.

Sistan-Baluchistan is one of Iran's most impoverished provinces and one of the few mainly Sunni provinces in the country.

It has for years faced unrest involving drug-smuggling gangs and rebels from the Baluch minority.

"The operation in Sistan-Baluchistan will continue until the terrorists and criminals are eliminated," Shafaei said on Friday.

On Tuesday, the Guards said eight members of Jaish Al Adl had been killed during security operations there.

Local media reported that the mastermind of the Oct 26 attack had already been killed.

Formed in 2012 by Baluch separatists, Jaish Al Adl is designated as a terrorist organisation by both Iran and the United States.—AFP

# Austin says he hasn't changed position on 9/11 suspects plea deals

MIAMI: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Thursday he still believed he should be the one to decide the fate of plea deals for the men accused of masterminding the Sept 11 attacks and two accomplices held at the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Earlier this year Austin decided plea deals that the Pentagon had entered into with the trio, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

This week a US military judge ruled that Austin had acted too late on revoking the plea deals and they were still valid.

Austin did not say whether he would formally appeal the decision by the judge, but said his views had not changed on the issue.

"What I told you (a few months ago) was that this is a very important issue, and I thought at that point in time it was important enough that I should be the person that made the decision on this," Austin told reporters.

"And I will feel that same way."

In a statement, Pentagon spokesman Air Force Major General Patrick Ryser said Austin was reviewing the decision by the judge.

The Pentagon has said Austin was surprised by the plea deals and the secretary was not consulted because it is an independent process.

Many Republican lawmakers, including House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, had strongly criticised the plea deals.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed is the most well-known inmate at the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, which was set up in 2002 by then-president George Bush to house foreign suspects following the Sept 11, 2001, attacks.—Reuters

# 5 Indian cops face probe after eating samosas intended for CM

SHIMLA: Missing samosas sparked a police probe in India and five officers faced disciplinary action for allegedly eating a plate of the savory treats intended for a senior politician.

Samosas, pockets of meat or vegetable filling cooked inside a blanket of deep-fried pastry, are a mainstay of Indian snack culture, served on train carriages and street corners across the country.

They are also a staple of government receptions, including one staged last month by police in Himachal Pradesh for an official visit by the northern state's chief minister, Sukhvir Singh Sokhalia.

A helping of samosas specially intended for Sukhalia's retinue instead allegedly found their way into the mouths of five police officers.

The resulting high-level inquiry culminated in a report by the state's crime investigation agency that dubbed the affair an "anti-government act".

"The report added that all personnel involved acted according to their own agenda, raising concerns about intentional misconduct," the Economic Times reported.

The Indian Express newspaper said the five police personnel accused of feasting on the chief minister's samosas had been served notices demanding they explain their conduct.—AFP

# Racist texts targeting black Americans draw condemnation

WASHINGTON: A civil rights group said the White House considered racist text messages referring to slavery that were sent anonymously to black Americans this week as a contentious election drew to a close in the United States.

The messages urged recipients in multiple states, including Alabama, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia, to report to a plantation to pick cotton, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) said on Thursday.

The message is an offensive reference to past enslavement of black people in the United States.

High school and college students were among the recipients. Some school districts warned students about the racist messages and urged them to report any such texts received to school staff or local authorities.

Federal and state authorities were investigating, the White House said on Friday. The FBI said it was in touch with the US Justice Department and other federal authorities about the offensive, racist messages.

"These actions are not normal. And we refuse to let them be normalised," NAACP chief Derrick Johnson said in a statement from the organisation, which advocates for racial justice and rights for black Americans.

Johnson said the messages were a reflection of Republican Donald Trump's presidential election victory over Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democrat, which sent shockwaves through black American communities.

Many black Americans say they anticipate a rollback of civil rights after Trump pledged to end federal diversity and inclusion programmes.

A spokesperson for the president-elect did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Thursday and Friday. Donald Trump denies he is racist and has said his economic agenda will benefit all Americans.

An exit poll conducted by Edison Research on election day showed Kamala Harris winning 85 per cent of the black vote nationwide while Trump won 13 per cent, up one percentage point from an exit poll in 2020 when he lost to Joe Biden.

"We strongly condemn these hateful messages and anyone targeting Americans based on their ethnicity or background," Robin Patterson, a White House spokesperson for President Joe Biden, said in a statement on Friday.

"Racism has no place in our country, Period."

The run-up to Tuesday's election included the biggest rise in political violence since the 1970s, including some racist attacks on Kamala Harris's supporters.

Kamala, the first woman of colour at the top of a major party ticket, also faced personal attacks, including by Trump, over her race and gender.—Reuters



FOLSOM: This Oct 17 file picture shows Tesla chief Elon Musk, who supported former president Donald Trump in the Nov 5 election, speaking about voting during a town hall meeting in Pennsylvania.—Reuters



BUENOS AIRES: Argentinian President Javier Milei speaks to businessmen during commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Argentine Chamber of Commerce, on Thursday.—AFP



MOSCOW: A view of IKEA logo on a closed store in Kolotki, outside Moscow.—Reuters

# NEWSMAKERS



SINGER Beyonce speaks during a rally for US Vice President Kamala Harris at Shell Energy Stadium in Houston, Texas, in this file picture dated Oct 25.—AFP

# Singer Beyonce tops Grammy nominations with 11 nods

LOS ANGELES: Popstar singer Beyonce dominated the list of Grammy Award contenders unveiled on Friday, earning 11 nods including an album of the year nomination for her venture into country music, Cowboy Carter.

Behind Beyonce, Billie Eilish, Charli XCX, Kendrick Lamar and Post Malone tied with seven nominations each. Pop phenomenon Taylor Swift and newcomers Chappell Roan and Sabrina Carpenter scored six each.

Women dominated the album of the year category, the top Grammy honour. Beyonce, winner of more Grammys over her career than any other artist, has never taken home the album trophy.

Swift has won the honour four times and is in the running again with her breakup album, The Tortured Poets Department.

At the awards ceremony in February, the Beyonce and Swift records will compete with Carpenter's *Moon* at *Moon*, Brit from Charli XCX, Eilish's *Hit Me Hard and Soft*, and Roan's *The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess*. The two male artists nominated in the album field were rapper Andre 3000 with *New Blue Sun* and jazz artist Jacob Collier.

Winners will be chosen by the roughly 13,000 singers, songwriters, producers, engineers and others who make up the Recording Academy.

Beyonce's *Cowboy Carter* was viewed by experts and fans as a reclamation and homage to an overlooked legacy of black Americans within country music and culture. It became the first album by a black woman to land at No 1 on the *Billboard* Top Country Albums chart when it was released last spring.—Reuters



MASSANASSA: Volunteers walk on a mud-covered street in Spain's Valencia region in the aftermath of deadly floods. The European nation's worst floods in a generation killed more than 210 people, left dozens missing and submerged entire towns in mud.—AFP



GATTERICK: Gurkha recruits check their rifles before their passing out parade at the end of their infantry training in northern England, on Friday. All Gurkhas are recruited from Nepal, with thousands of young applicants attempting selection every year for only a few hundred job opportunities.—AFP

# UN peacekeepers accuse Israelis of damaging position

BEIRUT: United Nations peacekeepers on Friday accused the Israeli army of damaging one of their south Lebanon positions in a "deliberate and direct" action against their forces.

The incident which occurred on Thursday, is like "seven other similar incidents" carried out by the Israeli army, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said in a statement.

It "is not a matter of peacekeepers getting caught in the crossfire, but of deliberate and direct actions by the Israeli army," it said.

Israel sent ground troops in to southern Lebanon against Hezbollah in late September.

Two excavators and one bulldozer "destroyed part of a fence and a concrete structure in a UNIFIL position in Ras Napara", the force said.

"We also note with concern the destruction and removal this week of two of the blue barrels that mark the UN-declared line of withdrawal between Lebanon and Israel," it said, noting that peacekeepers "directly observed" the Israeli army removing one of them.

UNIFIL, currently with more than 9,300 troops, has been stationed in southern Lebanon since 1978 and is tasked with monitoring the "blue line" of demarcation with Israel.

UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the 2006 hostilities in Lebanon, stipulated that only the Lebanese army and UN peacekeepers should be deployed in south Lebanon.

Last month, a UNIFIL spokesman said the force had recorded more than 30 incidents last month, resulting in property damage or injury to peacekeepers, about 20 of them from Israeli fire or action.

"Despite the unacceptable pressures being exerted on the mission through various channels, peacekeepers will continue to undertake our mandated monitoring and reporting tasks," the UN force said.—AFP



A COAST Guard boat patrols outside the Mar-a-Lago Club, president-elect Donald Trump's residence in Florida.—AFP

# Republicans widen majority in Senate, on track to win House

Trump wins 301 electoral votes, Kamala 226

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's Republicans were projected to pick up another US Senate seat on Thursday and appeared to be retaining their narrow hold on the House of Representatives, putting them on track to control both chambers of Congress next year.

Several media outlets projected that Republican Dave McCormick would defeat Democratic Senator Bob Casey in Pennsylvania, giving Trump's party at least 53 seats in the 100-seat chamber next year. That margin could climb as high as 55 seats if Republicans win close races in Arizona and Nevada, which remain unclear.

In the battle for the House, Republicans were edging closer to victory after adding one seat to their 220-212 majority, though 25 races have yet to be called. Republicans had secured at least 211 seats, seven short of a

majority in the 435-seat chamber. Democrats would have to win 19 of the remaining uncalled races to take a House majority and maintain a foothold on power in Washington.

The final House result may not be known for some time, as 11 of the outstanding races are in California, which typically takes several days to count ballots.

With control of the Senate, Republicans will be in a position to confirm Trump's personnel and judicial appointments, though they will still be short of the 60 votes needed to quickly advance most legislation.

If they control the House as well, they would be able to help Trump deliver on campaign promises like cutting taxes and dramatically restricting immigration.

The other uncalled competitive Senate races are in Nevada, where incumbent Democrat Jacky Rosen led Republican challenger Sam Brown by just under 1 percentage point with 54 per cent of the estimated vote count, and in Arizona, where Democrat Ruben Gallego was leading Republican Karl Lake

by 1.7 percentage points with 24 per cent of the vote counted.

Trump wins 301 electoral votes

The final state calls are coming in for the US presidential election, with President-elect Donald Trump at 301 electoral votes, well past the 270 needed for victory, and Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris at 226, US networks said.

Nevada was the latest to be called on Friday, with six electoral votes going to Trump — yet another flip of a swing state that voted for Joe Biden in 2020.

US media have declared Trump the winner in more than half of the 50 states, including key battlegrounds Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, all of which voted for Democrats in the last election.

Trump's crushing defeat of Democrat Kamala Harris is already shaking up US and world politics, just two days after election day and two-and-a-half months before he returns to the White House.

Putin, the Russian president, hailed Trump as "courageous" for the way he handled himself following an assassination attempt at a rally in July, and said he was "ready" to hold discussions with him.

Trump later told NBC News that he had not talked to Putin, the Russian leader whom he has repeatedly praised over the years, since his victory but "I think we'll speak". It marked a seismic shift from the icy silence that has existed between Biden and Putin since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, and underscored Trump's criticism of US support for Kyiv.

The president-elect has previously said he would push through a peace deal in that conflict — but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who spoke to Trump on Wednesday, said calls for a ceasefire were "dangerous". Chinese President Xi Jinping had earlier joined the list of foreign leaders congratulating Trump, who was criticised by Harris during the election campaign for being too friendly with "autocrats".—Agencies

# Scholz ready for talks on early polls

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, tried in crisis after his three-party coalition collapsed this week, said on Friday he is open to talks on whether to move the second snap elections.

The embattled chancellor has signalled new polls by March — half a year earlier than scheduled — but all opposition parties have regularly demanded they be held as early as January to restore stability.

Two-thirds of German voters agree, a survey showed, demanding a new government quickly at a time when Germany faces deep economic woes and geopolitical instability.

Germany's crisis erupted on Wednesday, just as Donald Trump won the White House race with an yet unknown consequences for transatlantic trade and the crisis in Ukraine and Middle East.

Scholz's political rivals have threatened to block his minority government from passing laws unless he immediately asks for a confidence vote that would allow for a speedy election.

But Scholz threw the ball back into their court by demanding they first help him pass key legislation, in a message aimed

chiefly at the CDU-CSU conservative opposition.

Speaking in his trademark unadorned style on the sidelines of an EU summit in Budapest, Scholz urged a "calm, deliberate" first among parliamentary groups on what laws can be passed this year.

This "could help answer the question of when the right time is" for a confidence vote leading to an early election, he said.

He added that "the election date is not a purely political" decision but must also "allow sufficient time for the organisation of a fair and democratic election".

"Clear the way" In Berlin, the debate has signalled but calm.

The conservative opposition seems to have rejected Scholz's offer of talks out of hand.

"First the vote of confidence, then we can talk about issues," conservative MP Alexander Dobrindt told the Rheinische Post newspaper.

The popular Bild daily called for Scholz to "clear the way" for a new government. "You, Mr Scholz, have tried and failed," Bild editor Marion Horst wrote in a blistering commentary.—AFP

# Musk calls Scholz a 'fool'

BERLIN: German officials on Friday brushed off such billionaire Elon Musk labelling Olaf Scholz a "fool" on his social media platform X after the dramatic collapse of the chancellor's coalition government.

In a comment on Thursday above a post about the implosion of Scholz's long-troubled coalition, the world's richest man (retweeted in German) "Olaf ist ein Narr" — "Olaf is a fool".

Asked about Musk's comment, government spokeswoman Christiane Hoffmann took a playful dig at the US tycoon, saying that "on X, you have Narrendebatte", which translates to the freedom to act like a fool.

The word refers to revellers during Germany's traditional carnival season, which starts next week, having the freedom to act without inhibitions.

Historically, the term echoes the notion of the "jester's privilege" — the right of a court jester to mock those in power without being punished by the king.

Asked later about the comment, a tight-lipped Scholz simply called it "not very friendly", adding that internet commentary are "not organs of state and I did not even pay it any attention".

Musk supported US election winner Donald Trump and is now positioned to take up a role in his administration as a deputy tasked with restructuring government operations.

It is not the first time the Tesla boss has had run-ins with German officials online.

Last year he said Berlin-based migrant rescue operations in the Mediterranean could be seen as an "invasion" of Italy, sparking a terse response from the German foreign ministry.

He has also expressed sympathy for some of the positions of Germany's far-right AfD party, which has reached up a string of recent electoral successes and is riding high in the opinion polls.—AFP

# Govt unveils winter package

Continued from Page 1

demand peaked during summer and significantly dropped in winter and hence the package aimed to encourage higher consumption during the low-demand winter season by offering reduced electricity rates.

Giving an example, the power division said that if an industrial consumer, currently paying Rs40 per unit for 100,000 units, increases its consumption by 25,000 units at Rs26.07

per unit, the average cost of electricity for that consumer would come down to Rs17.21 per unit, lower by 7.5pc.

The power division hoped that the package would be an attractive option for winter and space heating and other energy needs that would otherwise rely on gas or other sources. It said it was an attempt to balance electricity demand across seasons and provide economic advantages to consumers.

# Buried for 14 hours, Lebanese toddler gets second life

SIDON: Rescuers did not expect to find two-year-old Ali Khalifeh alive after an Israeli strike on southern Lebanon killed his entire family and left him trapped under the rubble for 14 hours.

Amputated, bandaged and hooked to a respirator in a hospital bed that was way too big for him, "Ali is the sole survivor of his family," said Hussein Khalifeh, his father's uncle.

The toddler's parents, sister and two grandmothers all perished in a strike in Lebanon on Sept 29.

The strike on Sarafand, some 15 kilometres north of the coastal city of Sidon, flattened an apartment complex and killed 15 people, many of them relatives, according to residents.

"Rescue workers had almost lost hope of finding anyone alive under the rubble." 45-year-old Khalifeh said from the hospital in Sidon where his two-year-old relative was being treated.

But then "Ali appeared among debris in the shroud of the bulldozer, after we all thought he had died", he said.

"He emerged from the rubble, barely breathing, after 14 hours."

An escalating Israeli air campaign, after nearly a year of low-intensity cross-border fire, has killed more than 3,000 people across Lebanon since Sept 23, according to health ministry figures.

"Psychological scars"

Signs of the violence were apparent even at the hospital in Sidon where Ali was rushed to following the strike on Sarafand.

The toddler, under a medicaly induced coma after doctors amputated his right hand, has since been transferred to a medical facility in the capital Beirut where he is due to undergo pre-prosthetic surgery.

"Ali was sleeping on the couch at home when the strike hit. He is still asleep today... we

are waiting to complete his surgeries before waking him up," said the relative, Hussein Khalifeh.

Other family members were also fighting to stay alive after the Sarafand strike.

One of Khalifeh's sisters, 22-year-old Zainab, was trapped under the rubble for two hours before being rescued and transferred to the nearest hospital, said the man.

It was there that she was later informed that her parents, her husband and three children, aged between three and seven, had all been killed.

The strike left her with only one, severely injured eye.

Zainab said she "did not hear the sounds of the minutes that raised down on her family's home", according to Khalifeh.

"She only saw darkness and heard deafening screams," he said.



YEMENS take part in an anti-Israel rally in Sarona, on Friday.—AFP

hered are much greater than her physical injury".

He has also tended Zainab's sister Fatima, 10, who was wounded in the same strike.

Both had injuries "throughout their bodies, with fractures in the feet and damage to the

# Fourth Muslim elected to Congress

By Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: Lateeq Jalee Simson has made history as the fourth Muslim American elected to the US Congress, winning California's 12th district seat in the Nov 5 elections.

An announcement on Friday confirmed her victory, adding to the growing representation of Muslims in American political life.

Simson joins Representatives Andrew Carson of Indiana, Rashida Hall of Michigan, and Ihan Omar of Minnesota. Her election brings the count of Muslim Americans in the 119th Congress to four.

Simson, a prominent figure in California's Bay Area, currently serves on the board of directors for the area's rapid transit. Her career includes leading the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights in the San Francisco Bay Area and an appointment to the California state university board of trustees by former governor Jerry Brown.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CA), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights group, highlighted Simson's victory as "a historic milestone for Muslim representation", providing her a powerful platform to advocate for communities nationwide.

# UK bomb victims get 45,000 pounds in damages

LONDON: Two survivors of the 2017 bomb attack on an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, on Friday won 45,000 pounds (\$58,000) in damages from a former TV producer who claimed the attack was a hoax.

Martin Hibbert and his daughter Eve sued Richard Hall over claims made in videos and a book that they were "crisis actors" employed by the state as part of an elaborate deception.

Hibbert sustained a spinal cord injury in the attack, and his daughter suffered severe brain damage.

Hall argued that he was acting in the public interest by filming Hibbert's daughter outside her home, but the High Court in London agreed with Hibbert's claim for harassment.

Judge Karen Steyn called Hall's behaviour "a reckless, indeed reckless, abuse of media freedom" and on Friday ordered him to pay Hibbert and his daughter 22,500 pounds each in damages.

"The claimants are both vulnerable. The allegations are serious and distressing," said the judge.

Jonathan Price, lawyer for the claimants, said that Hall "insisted that the terrorist attack in which the claimants were catastrophically injured, did not happen and that the claimants were participants in a state-orchestrated hoax, who had repeatedly, publicly and egregiously lied to the public for monetary gain."—AFP



# 70pc of Gaza war dead are women, children: UN finds

By arming Israel, West encouraged belligerents, HRW chief says

GENEVA: The United Nations on Friday condemned the staggering number of civilians killed in Israel's war in Gaza, with women and children comprising nearly 70 per cent of the thousands of deaths it verified.

In a fresh report, slammed by Israel, the United Nations human rights office (OHCHR) detailed a raft of violations of international law since October 2023. Many could amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and possibly "genocide", it warned, demanding international efforts to prevent "atrocity crimes" and ensure accountability.

"Civilians in Gaza have borne the brunt of the attacks, including through the initial 'complete siege' of Gaza by Israeli forces," the UN said.

"Caused by Israeli forces has caused unprecedented levels of killings, death, injury, starvation, illness and disease." It pointed to "the Israeli government's continuing unlawful failure to allow, facilitate and ensure the entry of humanitarian aid, the destruction of civilian infrastructure, and repeated mass displacement".

Israel's mission to the UN in Geneva "systematically" rejected the report, describing "the inherent omission of OHCHR with the dissemination of Israel".

"Gaza is now a rubble-strewn land scape," Ajith Srivastava, head of the UN rights office's activities in the Palestinian territories, said via video link from Amman.

"Within this dystopia of destruction and devastation, those alive are left injured, displaced and starving."

**"Systematic" cleansing**

The report also tackled the contentious issue of the proportion of

civilians among the nearly 41,500 people killed in Gaza so far, according to the health ministry in the Palestinian territory.

The UN has reportedly said the figures are reliable despite Israeli criticism by Israel. During the first six months of the attacks, the rights office said, it had managed to verify around 10,000 of the over 31,500 people reportedly killed. "We have so far found close to 70 per cent to be children and women," Srivastava said, highlighting the stringent verification methodology that requires at least three separate sources.

He said the findings showed "a systematic violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law". At least 4,700 of the verified fatalities were children and 2,461 were women, he added.

**Residential buildings attacked**

The report found that about 80pc of all the verified deaths in Gaza had occurred in Israeli attacks on residential buildings or similar housing. Children aged between five and nine made up the largest group of victims, with the youngest victims a one-day-old boy and the oldest a 90-year-old woman, it said.

However, Israel claimed its operations in Gaza only targeted combatants and were in line with international law.

Friday's report stressed that the verified deaths largely Gaza's demographic makeup rather than that of combatants.

UN rights chief Volker Turk called on all countries to work to halt the violations and to ensure accountability, including through universal jurisdiction. "It is essential that there is due reckoning with respect to the allegations of serious violations of international law through credible and impartial judicial bodies," he said.

"The violence must stop immediately, the hostages and those arti-

trarily detained must be released, and we must focus on flooding Gaza with humanitarian aid."

**Arms supply to Israel**

The head of Human Rights Watch (HRW) said that states supplying weapons to Israel as it presses combat in Gaza and Lebanon despite evidence of violations of international law are complicit in belligerent acts.

HRW's executive director Tirana Hassan said that countries like the United States, Germany and Britain could influence Israel's actions and should do so by ending arms sales.

"If there continues to be military support to the Israeli Defense Force and they (Western governments) know that these weapons are being used in the commission of war crimes, then that should be enough for weapons sales and transfers to stop," she told Reuters in an interview.

"At this stage, the parties that could have some sort of influence and curb the behaviour of the warring parties, when it comes to Israel, it's the UN, the UK, and Germany, and it's through weapons sales and transfers."

She said that when states which abused rights saw there were "no consequences", they felt emboldened to continue.

**Credibility at stake**

The HRW chief said governments supplying them with weapons were undermining their credibility as defenders of international law and human rights as well as the credibility of the international system.

"It sends a message that those rules apply differently to us and our allies as they do to others, and that has really serious consequences," she said.

"There is really no justification for the killing of children," she added.—Agencies

# Modi rejects calls to restore status of held Kashmir

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly backed his government's continuation of the 2019 decision to revoke the partial autonomy of held Jammu and Kashmir by changing the territory's newly elected lawmakers removed call for restoration of its special status.

"Only the constitution of Jammu and Kashmir will operate in Kashmir. No power in the world can restore Article 370 (partial autonomy) in Kashmir," Modi said, referring to one of the founding fathers of the Indian constitution.

He was speaking at a state election rally in Maharashtra, where Ambedkar was from.

The disputed region, where Kashmiris have fought Indian security forces for decades, is a Muslim-majority area.

However, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party government revoked partial autonomy of held



SHIMLAGAR: BJP legislator being taken out of the house by marshals amid a protest against the resolution to restore special status for India-held Jammu and Kashmir during an assembly session, on Friday.—AFP

Kashmir in 2019 and split the internationally recognised disputed state into the two federally administered territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

While the held Jammu and Kashmir recently conducted its first local

election in a decade, the newly-elected lawmakers passed a resolution this week seeking immediate restoration of the status.

Under the system of partial autonomy, India-held Kashmir had its own constitution and the freedom to make laws on all

issues, except foreign affairs and defence.

However, after the controversial amendment to the Indian constitution, new lawmakers of held Jammu and Kashmir cannot legislate on matters regarding public order and policing.—Reuters

# Indian diplomat meets Taliban ministers, Karzai

Meeting highlights both sides' willingness to develop bilateral ties

By Our Correspondent

NEW DELHI: In what is said to be the first such meeting, a senior Indian government functionary held talks officially with the acting Taliban defence minister of Afghanistan, The Wire said on Friday.

It said the meeting took place between the joint secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, J.P.

Singh, who is in charge of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran desk, and acting defence minister of Taliban Mawla Muhammad Yaqoob Mujahid.

According to the report, the meeting took place in Kabul on Nov 5.

Mr Singh also met Taliban acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and former Afghan president Hamid Karzai, a report by Times of India notes.

This was his second visit to Kabul this year.

Reports said the meeting highlighted both sides' willingness to develop bilateral relations, especially on humanitarian cooperation and to strengthen interaction

between Afghanistan and India.

India in alignment with international consensus, does not recognise the Taliban regime.

In May 2023, The Wire had been the first to report that the Taliban government tried to replace the Afghan ambassador to India, who was appointed by the previous Islamic Republic, with another diplomat, Qadir Shah, as charge d'affaires.

Following the departure of Afghan ambassador Farid Mansurovi and most Afghan diplomats last year, several months of the large Afghan community in India, including students, had been thrown into uncertainty, The Wire said.

# New UN report calls for swift scaling of climate financing

By Amin Ahmad

ISLAMABAD: A new report has called for the urgent need of increasing climate financing to help at-risk nations better prepare for future calamities.

The report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Thursday called for significantly scaling up adaptation this decade to address the impact of climate change.

It said these adaptation strategies are being hampered by the "huge gap" between the financial requirements and existing flows.

The report called upon nations to pledge their commitment to climate financing at the COP-29, opening in

Baku on November 11.

"Given the scale of the challenge, bridging the adaptation finance gap will also require innovative approaches to mobilise additional financial resources," the report said, calling not only for more financing, but also a "strategic approach to investment".

The UNEP report said international public adaptation financing to developing countries increased from \$22 billion in 2021 to \$28bn in 2022 which was the "largest absolute and relative" year-on-year increase since the Paris Agreement.

"This reflects progress towards the Glasgow Climate Pact, which urged developed nations to at least double adaptation finance to developing countries from circa \$19 bil-

lion (2019 levels) by 2025."

However, even achieving the Glasgow Climate Pact goal would only reduce the adaptation finance gap — estimated at \$187 to 200bn per year, by about 5 per cent.

The report also said that developing countries which are experiencing loss and damage due to climate change are "already struggling with increasing debt burdens."

"Effective and adequate adaptation, incorporating fairness and equity, is thus more urgent than ever," the document added.

The UNEP report called for a shift in adaptation financing from "short-term, project-based and reactive action" to anticipatory, strategic and transformational adaptation.

# Dutch authorities scramble to protect Israeli football fans after clashes

• Five in hospital, 62 arrested; European and Israeli leaders quick to voice concern • Maccabi supporters chant racist slogans, tear down Palestinian flags

Monitoring Desk / Agencies

AMSTERDAM: Five people were hospitalized and 62 arrested after unprecedented violence, centered around supporters of an Israeli football club, erupted in the Dutch capital following a fixture against home team Ajax.

The clashes, which have been dubbed 'anti-Semitic attacks' by Dutch PM Dick Schoof, were reportedly provoked by fans of Maccabi Tel Aviv, the club that lost Thursday's match 5-0.

Footage from the stadium during the game also showed Maccabi fans jeering and whistling during a minute's silence for those killed in floods in Valencia.

According to BBC News, video posted to social media sites showed Maccabi Tel Aviv fans chanting racist slogans about Arabs and Palestine, as well as climbing on a building to tear down a Palestinian flag on display. The outlet quoted social media users as saying the video were from before the attacks on Israel.

A fan who attended the game with Ajax said Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters were seen on the Amsterdam metro "going up and down the carriage three or four times looking for a fight".

"Everyone was going into the city so everyone



A PERSON is detained by the police as supporters of Maccabi Tel Aviv demonstrate in Amsterdam.—Reuters

know what was going to happen," the fan told BBC News.

The fan BBC spoke to said he was "shocked by the portrayal" of the incident in the media, adding that the attacks were "completely provoked" and "start down the night before".

At a presser, Amsterdam police chief Peter Hoffs said the events of the last 36 hours "really shocked" him. He said fans had already had minor scuffles on Wednesday night, 24 hours before the match between Ajax and Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Supporters of the Israeli club had torn down a flag, destroyed a taxi and burned a Palestinian flag on the city's main square on Wednesday night, he said.

Police had to intervene

to prevent clashes between Israeli fans and taxi drivers at a casino, but officers escorted the Israeli away and "major confrontation was avoided," said Hoffs.

He then said that following the match on Thursday evening, Maccabi supporters faced "hit-and-run" attacks as they were walking through the city centre.

Speaking about reports of mistreating Israeli supporters, he said the police have "no information that there are obstructions or mistreating people", but they will treat these reports seriously and investigate them.

In the wake of the violence, Amsterdam mayor Femke Bassemir said emergency measures had been put in place for the entire city, allowing police to carry out searches and place a ban on demonstrations. Face coverings will also be banned, BBC News reported.

A reporter subsequently challenged her version of events, asking about the Palestinian flag being burnt and videos showing Israeli fans chanting racist slogans against Arabs, saying the mayor was "not describing this context" and that the incidents are "part of the story" not being told.

Defending her words, the mayor claimed she did describe the context, but added that "What happened last night is not a protest. It has nothing to do with protest or demonstration".

**Israeli evacuation**

Following the violence in Amsterdam, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered two planes to be sent to the Netherlands to bring the Israeli fans home, with the first flight of evictees landing on Friday afternoon, the Israeli Airports Authority said.

Netanyahu also ordered Israeli's Mossad spy agency to draw up a plan to prevent street or sporting events in the future.

European and Israeli leaders were quick to condemn the violence, describing it as "anti-Semitic attack" and a "pogrom".

European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen also said she was "outraged" by "vide attacks targeting Israeli citizens in Amsterdam".

## GOOD NEWS

DGP Driving License Sindh has now started issuing online license for all citizens of province under the vision of Sindh Government and directives of IG Sindh. Citizens can get their learner's license issued, renewal of car and motorcycles permanent license and international driving permit online.

<https://disonline.sindhpolice.gov.pk>

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# SPORT

## Second consecutive victory for Pakistan

By Our Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan continued their dominant performance at the inaugural Arab Baseball Classic by securing a commanding 10-3 win over United Arab Emirates in Dubai on Friday.

Having already defeated Bangladesh 10-0 in their opening match, Pakistan extended their unbeaten run with another resounding victory.

While UAE showed some resistance, managing to score three runs, they were ultimately overwhelmed by Pakistan's superior play, resulting in a comfortable win.

Key contributors for Pakistan included Syed Muhammad Shah, Azeem Anwar, Muhammad Hussain, Wasim Akram, Musa, and Zain, all of whom played pivotal roles in ensuring their team's easy victory.

With two consecutive wins, Pakistan comfortably lead their group, reinforcing their strong position in the tournament.

## Diamond Paints advance into final

LAHORE: Diamond Paints crushed Pak Army Green 8-0 to confirm their berth in the final of the 10th TFL Battle Axe Polo Cup here at the Jinnah Polo Fields on Friday.

Diamond Paints will now face Nawaja Club, who already qualified for the final, on Sunday at the Pakistan Polo.

Raja Jalal Anwar scored four goals while teammates Mir Haseeb Ali and Raja Tameer Nadeem recorded two goals apiece for Diamond Paints. Anwar Vani registered three goals for the losing side.

The subsidiary final will take place between IS Polo and Hijaq/Bary's teams at Jinnah Polo Fields on Saturday.

## Asif moves into quarters

DOHA: Pakistan's Mohammed Asif edged closer to a historic double after surviving a thrilling quarter-final match against Thailand's Dechaawat Prompong at the IBSF Master World Snooker Championship on Friday.

The veteran came out 4-3, with frame scores of 64-45, 33-68, 35-72, 94-94-D, 65-54(53), 14-96(55), 68-35.

Asif struggled initially, losing two of the first three frames, but a break of 94 in the fourth frame revitalized his campaign.

He then took the 6th frame, despite Prompong's 52-break. However, the Thai player forced a deciding frame with a dominant 55-break in the sixth. In the nail-biting seventh frame, Asif held his nerve to seal the match.

Asif, fresh from his World Snooker Championship triumph, will now face Philip Williams of Wales in the quarter-finals.



LONDON: Chelsea's Christopher Nkunku scores from the penalty spot past North goalkeeper Ogrjen Cancarevic during their Europe Conference League match at Stamford Bridge.—Reuters

## United end winless run as Spurs suffer first loss

PARIS: Manchester United earned their first Europa League win with a 2-0 victory over PSOK Thessaloniki, Tottenham Hotspur's perfect start ended with a 3-2 loss at Galatasaray and Lazio top the standings after a 2-1 victory over Porto on Thursday.

Ajax struggled to a 5-0 win over Maccabi Tel Aviv, Athletic Bilbao came from behind to beat LaLiga's Real Sociedad 2-1 and Anderlecht were denied joining Lazio on top as a late own goal left them with a draw in Latvia as RFS.

Two second-half goals from Amad Diallo gave United their first success in this season's competition, coming under interim manager Rudi Garcia's previous three games with Erik ten Hag was in charge.

United's last win in Europe was against Copenhagen in the Champions League on Oct 24 last year.

"We addressed that in the dressing room and it was time to change that, we've said," Van Nistelrooy said. Diallo, often overlooked by Ten Hag, put United ahead five minutes after the break at Old Trafford when he met a Brian Fernandez cross with a looping header which found the far corner.

The Ivorian winger secured the first in a much-needed three points with 13 minutes remaining with a deflected shot from outside the area that nestled into the bottom corner.

"He [Diallo] has been incredible in training, he always trains well and is asking me to do more," Van Nistelrooy said.

It's two wins from three games for United under Van Nistelrooy, who has one more match

against Leicester City on Sunday — before handing over to Robert Amorim after the international break.

It is not clear if there will be a role for the Dutchman after his temporary reign, but he is doing what he can to ensure that United is in the best possible position for when Amorim takes charge.

"Sunday is another one and I'm focused on doing that so I'm not thinking of what is next."

Ten Hag was fired last week after a woeful start to the campaign left the team in 16th place in the Premier League and without a win in Europe's secondary competition.

Amorim was quickly hired in his place, but it has been left to Van Nistelrooy to fill the gap while the Portuguese serves a notice period at Sporting Lisbon.

He has delivered wins in the English League Cup and the Europa League either side of a draw with Chelsea in the league.

United have six points in the standings, three behind Spurs who despite going down to 10 men almost made a dramatic comeback in Istanbul where Victor Osimhen scored twice for the hosts and Will Lockwood grabbed his first goal for Spurs before being sent off.

"We expected it to be a difficult match. We encountered a team as we expected. They have dangerous players," said Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou. "We lost because we could not show what we wanted in the first half. Both teams are doing well in Europe."

Galatasaray took an early lead when Yuray Akpinar smacked a sensational long range volley into the top corner in the sixth minute.

But the visitors hit back just 12 minutes later as teenage striker Lankolani marked just his second first-team appearance with a goal by tapping in Brezdan Johnson's pass across the stayd yard box.

Galatasaray took control before halftime, though, as Osimhen scored twice in the space of eight minutes.

Rado Dragovic was caught napping at the back in the 31st minute and was dispossessed by Masro Icardi. The ball fell to Denis Mertens who slipped a pass to Dimitris Salpingidis and the Nigerian striker found the bottom corner for his first goal in Europe for Galatasaray.

Osimhen struck again six minutes from the break, cleverly volleying Denis Mertens' cross past Tottenham goalkeeper Fraser Forster. He has now scored six goals in eight appearances for Galatasaray since joining on loan from Napoli.

The home side pushed up several opportunities to put the game out of sight for their opponents, but Spurs' keeper of a comeback were hit when Lankolani was sent off for two yellow-card offences in quick succession in the second half.

Dominic Solanke back-headed Pedro Pablo's cross into the net to pull one back in the 69th minute, shortly after being brought on by Postecoglou, but Galatasaray held on with relative composure.

The Turkish champions have 10 points from four games and have all but secured qualification for at least the knock-out play-off round.

### LAZIO TOP

Lazio are the only team with four wins from four games after

Pedro Rodriguez scored an injury-time winner against Porto.

The Italian side went ahead at the end of the first half through Alessio Romagnolo's header but Porto drew level through Stephen Elanga.

It looked like Lazio would have to settle for a draw but with time running out Pedro turned a cross from Gastao Bakker into the net.

Anderlecht could have joined them on 12 points, with Mario Struelens putting them ahead five minutes from time but RSN matched a draw deep into added time when Moussa Ndiaye put the ball into his own net.

Bilbao moved on to 10 points with their comeback win in Bulgaria against Ludogorets after Gorka Williams and Nicolas Serrano scored second-half goals in quick succession.

Ajax are also on 10 after cruising to victory over Maccabi with goals from Bertrand Traoré, Kenneth Taylor, Mika Gustafsson and Kevin Fatajima. Omar Marmouh's 11th goal of the season clinched Eintracht Frankfurt, who are fourth behind Galatasaray on goals scored, a 1-0 win against Slovan Prague.

The Egyptian clipped a superb free-kick in all the crossbar shortly after the break.

AS Roma's disappointing form this season continued as they were held to a 1-1 draw at Union Saint-Gilloise where Gianluca Mancini put the them ahead before Kevin MacAllister equalised for the Belgian side, which leaves the Italians down in 20th on five points.

Elsewhere, Rangers held last year's Conference League champions Olympiakos to a 1-1 stalemate in Greece, while three substitutes netted for Alkmaar in its 3-1 victory over FC Twente, the first loss of the competition for Jose Mourinho's team.

Hoffenheim and Olympique Lyonnais both scored deep into added time in a dramatic 2-2 draw, while Qarabag upset Rostov 2-1 in Norway to earn their first points.

Nice drew 2-2 with Torino with both teams finishing the game reduced to 10 men.

In the Conference League, a much-changed Chelsea romped to an 8-0 thrashing of Armenian Noah at Stamford Bridge.

Joao Felix and Christopher Nkunku both netted doubles for the Blues, with Mykhailo Mudryk, Axel Disasi, Marc Guen and Tadi Artanovski all also on the scoresheet.

Chelsea are one of six teams with three wins after three games. Villarreal beat Mladá Boleslav 2-1, Jagiellonia defeated Middlesbrough 3-0 and Hibernian won 2-0 at Hearts.

Earlier, Legia Warsaw routed Dinamo Minsk 4-0 and SK Rapid eased past Petrolul 3-0.—Agencies



MANCHESTER: Amad Diallo (C) of Manchester United scores during the Europa League match against PSOK Thessaloniki at Old Trafford.—AFP

## Faisalabad rout Hyderabad for first Quaid Trophy win

By Our Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Faisalabad romped to an innings and eight-run victory over Hyderabad in two days to register their first victory of the ongoing Quaid-e-Azam Trophy at the Diamond Cricket Ground in Islamabad on Friday.

Starting from their overnight score of 212-8, Faisalabad posted 239 to take a significant first-innings lead of 134 thanks to Mohammad Farooq's 81.

In turn, Asad Raza (4-37) and Shahid Ali (4-37) repeated their first-innings heroics to take their tally of match figures to eight wickets each as they bowled Hyderabad out for 126. Hyderabad posted a poor 96 in the first innings.

At the National Cricket Stadium in Islamabad, Larkana closed the day trailing by 38 runs in their second innings with Mohammad Nawaz unbeaten on 58 after Alibababhai took a solid first-innings lead of 168 runs. Larkana's Mashiq Ahmed bagged 5-70 to restrict Alibababhai to 211 after they recovered from the overnight score of 83-2. Mashiq was backed well by Aamir Ali Bhatti who claimed four wickets.

In the fixture between Islamabad and Lahore Whites at the Marghar Cricket Ground, Islamabad led by 82 runs in their second innings with two wickets in hand when stumps were drawn.

Earlier in the day, Lahore Whites took a 47-run first-innings lead as they were bowled out for 214 with Kaleem Iqbal taking 5-66. Islamabad were reduced to 129-8 by the close of play as Ahmed Danish took 4-24.

At the Abdull Ghaffar Stadium in Charsadda, Asad Jammal and Kashmir's Faizan Saleem started with 5-50 as Peshawar were dismissed for 213 but they managed to take a first-innings lead of 42 runs.

In turn, AJK's Hassan Raza remained unbeaten on 62 as they were bowled 108-1 in their second innings as the close of play to move ahead by 58 runs.

Karachi Whites were sent packing for 145 in their first innings at the Shaheed Jinnah Cricket Stadium in Islamabad after they began the day at 28-1 as Rawalpindi's Mohammad Faizan (5-59) and Muzir Riaz (4-43) shared the bowling honours. In reply, Rawalpindi closed day two with 196-9 to take a 51-run lead thanks to skipper Shadab Khan's 46.

At the Alibababhai Cricket Stadium, Bahawalpur dismissed Multan for a 147 after posting 297 to take a 150-run lead.

Bahawalpur's Mehruan Sarwar (4-28) and Shoaib Mansoor (4-47) shared eight wickets among them.

Bahawalpur faced only three balls in their second innings before play was called off due to bad light.

Skilak's Ashir Mahmood (172) and Azam Arain (130) matched a record 312-run opening stand on a shortened day as Skilak closed their first innings at 370-5 against Dera Mirad Jamali Region at the Rana Nawaz-ul-Hassan Academy ground in Shikarpur.

Lahore Blues recovered from an overnight score of 36-5 to post 150 all out in their first innings in reply to Quetta's first innings score of 101 as only 41 overs were bowled at the Saad Sports City, Bedian in Lahore. Quetta's Gohar Feroz (4-49) and captain Jalal Khan (3-32) were the prime wicket-takers.

No play was possible due to bad light in the games between Karachi Blues and Fata in Multan. Karachi Blues will resume from 221-5 on Saturday.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy third-round match between Islamabad and Lahore Whites at the Marghar Cricket Ground on Friday.—courtesy PCB

## Invincibles, Stars clinch openers

KARACHI: Iqbal Javed's half-century led Invincibles to a 45-run win over Stars at the HPC Oval Ground in Karachi on the opening day of the National Women's One-Day Tournament 2024-25.

Meanwhile, in the second match in the day, Stars defeated Challengers by two wickets.

Battling first, Invincibles were dismissed for 195 in 41 overs with Stars' Zainab Akhbar Nattar bagging five wickets for 46 runs. For Invincibles, Iqbal Javed coming to bat at number five top-scored with a 76-ball 81, which included nine fours and two sixes.

In turn, Stars were bowled out for 150 in 43.2 overs with opening batter Gull Farzana top-scoring with a 64-ball 59, smashing eight fours and a six. For the winning side, Saiba Malik bagged three wickets, while Ghulam Fatima, Omaira Sohail and Tania Saad managed to pick two wickets apiece.

At the URI Sports Complex, Natalia Parvati 59 helped Challengers post 164 in 49.4 overs. Stars' Ramoon Sharmim bagged three wickets, while Anusha Nasir and Waheeda Akhtar took two wickets each.

It took Stars 45.2 overs to achieve the target leading eight wickets in the process.—Sports Reporter

## Deserving players overlooked for UAE tri-series, U-19 Asia Cup

By Our Sports Reporter

LAHORE: An underperforming player besides two others despite having controversial age records have been selected in place of deserving youngsters as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday announced the national squad for a tri-nation event and the ACC U-19 Asia Cup being held in the UAE from Nov 13 to Dec 8.

Tayyab Araf, a batter who failed in the last seven international matches averaging a scanty 18.08, has been selected for the continental event.

On the other hand, Yabira bin Abdul Rahman, Ali Hassan Baloch and Usaid Shahid, all batters, have impressive performance to their credit at the domestic level. They were called for the trial matches, which were held to select the team for the Asia U-19 Cup, but were ignored.

Yabira scored two half-centuries in the trial matches but was included only as a non-travelling reserve.

Interestingly, Muhammad Riazullah, who on the PCB website is mentioned as 19 years 134 days old while in another record on the same website is mentioned as 17

years 34 days of age has been selected for the said event. Abdul Subhan's age on the PCB website is mentioned as 20 years 25 days but he was also selected.

"The PCB today [on Friday] confirmed the squad for the 50-over tri-series and ACC U-19 Asia Cup 2024-25 set to take place in the UAE from Nov 13 to Dec 8," the PCB said in a press release issued on Friday.

"Saad Bhatti, who led the Pakistan U-19 team in the last edition of the U-19 Asia Cup and the U-19 World Cup 2024, has been appointed the captain of the 15-player squad which will be trimmed to 14 for the

Asia Cup beginning on Nov 28," the statement added.

In the 50-over U-19 Asia Cup, Pakistan are placed in Group 'A' and will take on arch-rivals India on Nov 30 in their first match of the tournament before taking on the UAE and Japan on Dec 2 and 4, respectively at the Dubai International Stadium.

The top two teams from Group 'A' and 'B' will take on each other in the semi-finals.

Squad: Saad Bhatti (captain, wicket-keeper) (Karachi), Abdul Subhan (Abbottabad), Ali Raza (Skilak), Faham-ul-Haq (Lahore), Farhan Yousaf (Lahore), Haroon

Ahmad (Karachi), Hassan Khan (Rawalpindi), Mohammad Ahmad (Lahore), Mohammad Hussain (Bahawalpur),

Mohammad Riazullah (Abbottabad), Naveed Ahmad Khan (Karachi), Shadab Khan (Abbottabad), Tayyab Araf (Skilak), Umar Zaib (Abbottabad) and Usman Khan (Fata).

Non-travelling reserves: Ahmed Hussain (Peshawar), Mohammad Hussain (Bahawalpur), Rizwanullah (Karachi), Yabira bin Abdul Rahman (Lahore).

Support staff: Ghulam Ali (head coach-care manager), Agha Sabir Ali (assistant fielding coach), Mohammad Azeem Bajwa (physio),

Mohammad Talib (analyst), Rehman Riaz (bowling coach), Saiboo Ahmed (strength & conditioning coach), Syed Naeem Ahmed (media and digital manager)

Players involved: (The names of all players to be played at ICC Academy, Dubai)

Team 19 Pakistan vs UAE Team 15 Pakistan vs Afghanistan Team 20 Pakistan vs Nepal Team 22 Pakistan vs UAE

Team 28 India Team 29 (U-19) to be played at the Dubai International Stadium

Team 30 Pakistan vs India Team 31 Pakistan vs UAE Team 32 Pakistan vs Nepal

Team 33 India Team 34 (U-19) to be played at ICC Academy, Dubai Team 35





Zheng beats Krejckikova to reach WTA Finals decider

Pg.18 SPORT

KARACHI

Table with weather information: Dawn, Karachi, Sun, Moon, Next 24 Hrs, Minimum, Maximum, Humidity, Outlook.

METRO South

Mayor okays proposal to convert 9,000 KMC shops to solar energy

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI With over 9,000 shops in more than 50 markets under its management, the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) plans to convert all these commercial facilities, including the historic 19th century Empress Market, to solar power, in a move to reduce electricity costs and promote environmental sustainability.

The decision was announced by Mayor Saad-ul-Munir Wahab while chairing a meeting of KMC directors on Friday, where he issued directives to initiate the project of solar conversion of KMC markets from Bahadur Shah Zafar Market on M.A. Jinnah Road.

"Alongside this, the physical and internal conditions of these markets will be improved, and all records, including those related to shop licenses and other transactions, will be digitised," a statement issued after the meeting quoted Mayor Wahab as saying.

Municipal Commissioner Atal Zaidi and senior officers from the KMC estate department attended the meeting.

Reviewing a detailed briefing on revenue collection for the current financial year, the statement said the mayor directed the estate department to meet its revenue targets for 2024 and 2025. The target for 2024-25 was Rs150 million, and for 2025, Rs155 million has been set, it added.

"The 11-month execution period for KMC shops will see an increase based on market value," said the mayor. "The records for Bahadur Shah Zafar Market, Machhi Miani Market, Mohammed Ali Miani Market, and Empress Market by digitised, with the process extended to other markets over time, aiming at quick completion. The KMC oversees more than 9,000 shops, but their costs are minimal, despite the fact that these markets are located at prime locations. Therefore, an increase in rental revenue from these markets is also essential," he added.

He also issued directives that all records for Empress Market's shops and related matters be digitised within the next 30 days to prevent any irregularities, and that computerised invoices be issued accordingly.

Mayor Wahab further noted the scarcity of public toilets in the city, causing significant difficulties for residents, especially women and elderly people. Therefore, he said it is crucial to establish public toilets at various locations across the city.

He directed to initiate work on setting up KMC kiosks at various points around major roads.



A FLOCK of migratory birds hovers over Clifton Beach in search of food, on Friday. These birds, from Siberia and other extremely cold regions, spend their winters in Sindh's mild climate.—Online

PTI's Karachi president, secretary among 12 held, booked for 'rioting'

- Police baton-charge opposition party workers who gathered at Sohrah Goth to head out to Swabi
Haleem Adil condemns action, says police being used as 'PPP wing'

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI Police on Friday resorted to baton charge and arrested over a dozen workers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), including the president and secretary of the party's Karachi chapter, near Sohrah Goth where they gathered to depart for Swabi in the form of a rally.

The police booked the held workers of the opposition party in a rioting case. Although the Karachi police did not explain the reasons behind its action, the PTI accused the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) government in Swabi of "using" the law-

enforcement agency to harass its workers so that they could not attend the party's rally in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

However, the rioting case registered by the Sohrah Goth police against the PTI workers, including Karachi president Raja Azhar and secretary Arsalan Khalid, says that the gathering was a "threat to law and order" and was creating "disturbance in public life", forcing the police to take action against the opposi-



POLICE take PTI-Karachi president Raja Azhar into custody, on Friday.—Dawn

tion party workers. It all started in the first half of the day when dozens of PTI workers led by its Karachi leadership started converging near Sohrah Goth in line with their announced plan to leave for Swabi rally, which is scheduled to be held on Saturday (today).

As the number of workers carrying party flags and chanting slogans started growing, the police took 'action' and started arresting the activists one by one amid baton charge and scuffles.

Besides Mr Azhar and Mr Khalid, those who were picked up by the police included PTI-Sindh general secretary Masroor Sial, PTI-Labour Wing President Raza Azam, Khuram Saad, Farooq Ahmed, Sher Azam, Imran Mirza, Syed Ahmed Sohail and others.

All the arrested activists were taken to the Sohrah Goth police station, where they were booked in a case registered on behalf of the state.

The FIR was lodged under Sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting while being armed with deadly weapons), 149 (unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge

Continued on Page 14

Man jailed for two years for failing to deliver car, despite receiving payment

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI A judicial magistrate on Friday convicted a man in a fraud case as he failed to deliver a car to the buyer despite receiving payment.

Judicial Magistrate (Control) Anwarul Hameed Memon found Khalid Naeem guilty of offence under Section 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and sentenced him to two years in prison, saying the "set of accused appears to be the financial marauder of the complainant".

The court also imposed a Rs50,000 fine on the convict and in case of default, he would have to serve additional one month in jail.

According to state prosecutor Sakina Nazki, Muhammad Shah Zar came across an online advertisement on an automobile website (PakWheels) that listed the contact number of Anjad, an absconding accused in the case. The buyer reached out to

Anjad who informed him that the advertised car had already been sold, but asked him to visit his showroom near Aladdin Park in Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Shah Zar had visited the showroom and offered Rs4.4 million for a Suzuki Swift car. Anjad then provided the contact number of Khalid Naeem and asked him to discuss the payment details with him.

The buyer contacted Khalid who directed him to deposit the payment in a specified bank account. Later, the complainant transferred Rs285,000 as part of the payment. However, instead of delivering the car after receiving the payment, Khalid switched off his mobile phone and disappeared. In its detailed order, the court observed: "The accused Khalid Naeem dishonestly induced the complainant and took the handsome amount from him through online transactions deposited in his account, therefore, the accused has deceived the complainant, committed cheating and committed forgery for purpose of cheating."

"Given the unchallenged evidence provided by the prosecution and the accused's inability to disprove his involvement in the fraudulent transaction, it stands proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused intentionally deceived the complainant, resulting in a wrongful gain for himself and wrongful loss to the complainant," it added. "Evidently, the dishonest intention and deception of the accused while making the promise is manifest from this very established fact. Therefore, complainant upon such dishonest and unconscionable conduct by the absconding accused agreed to purchase the vehicle in question and entered into verbal agreement with the present accused on the investigation of absconding accused introducing him as P.A. of director of the showroom, however, despite payment the complainant neither received the possession of the vehicle in question nor amount paid/deposited by him in the account of present

accused," the court noted. The court also declared Anjad a proclaimed absconder and ruled that the case would remain dormant until his arrest.

During the trial, the defence counsel contended that the case against his client was false and "fabricated". He argued that no exact date of the offence and the name of his client were mentioned in the online advertisement.

However, the court rejected the plea and noted that the accused failed to establish as to how and under what reason he had received the money from the complainant. Regarding the delay in the FIR, the court noted: "It carries no weight in as much as the incident was continuous one and the accused was taking money through online transactions on different dates which has already been proved."

A case was registered at the Sir Syed police station under Sections 420 and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

New chief of Sindh Rangers assumes command

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI Major General Muhammad Shamsair on Friday assumed the charge of the director general of Pakistan Rangers, Sindh.

A ceremony was held at the Rangers headquarters in Karachi in which the outgoing Rangers chief, Major General Azhar Waqas, handed over the command to Maj Gen Shamsair.

A spokesperson for the paramilitary force said that the ceremony was attended by a number of Rangers and police officers.

Later in the day, Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon gave a reception at the Central Police Office to bid farewell to Maj Gen Waqas, who has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, and welcome Maj Gen Shamsair.

Speaking on the occasion, the IGP said that the paramilitary force had always played an active role in restoring peace in Karachi and action against bandits in various areas.

Teenager dies of 'drug overdose'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI A teenager was found dead in Brial Colony of Korangi on Friday. Awami Colony SHO Mohammed Wakeel said the body of 19-year-old Shahryar was recovered from a street near Lal Masjid.

The corpse was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for a post-mortem examination.

Quoting doctors, the officer said the teenager died of overdose of drugs. He said the family also confirmed that the deceased was addicted to 'ice' and that they did not want any legal proceedings.

Ji accuses PPP of 'pre-poll rigging'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI Just a week before the local government by-election on 10 vacant seats in Karachi, the opposition Jamaat-e-Islami on Friday accused the provincial government of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Election Commission of Pakistan of "pre-poll rigging".

Speaking at a press conference of the party's Idris Noor-i-Haq headquarters, city Ji chief Monam Zafar said that the PTI government in connivance with the provincial election commission was "manipulating electoral rolls" and appointing "loyal government servants" as polling staff.

Referring to acts of "pre-poll rigging", he said that "2,080 outsiders" were shown as voters in a union committee of Liaquatabad Town.

Study highlights devastating impact of lead on public health

In Pakistan, a substantial population remains at risk from contaminated soil, water and food sources, says Dr Zafar Fatmi

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI A recent international study presents a compelling case for a swift global phase-out of lead, classified as a potent neurotoxin, endangering public health, ecosystems and economy worldwide.

Led by Stanford University, the study is co-authored by experts from renowned

institutions, including Aga Khan University (AKU), Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, University of Southern California, and the Centre Scientifique de Monaco.

"Why do we allow trillions of dollars of damage to human health, entire ecosystems, and the global economy to accrue for the sake of \$100 billion in benefits?" asks Dr Zafar Fatmi, Section Head of Environmental, Occupational Health, and Climate Change at AKU Community Health Sciences in the research paper published in the *Lancet Planetary Health*.

In Pakistan, he points out, a substantial population remains at risk from contaminated soil, water, and food sources, especially those in urban centers.

"Lead enters our environment through vehicles, industrial activities, and especially

through low-cost lead-acid batteries commonly used in households and businesses. Exposure to lead is affecting children's cognitive functions, lowering IQ scores, and harming adults' health, leading to significant productivity losses," he explained.

The authors argue that despite its limited economic value, lead's impact on health, productivity, and ecosystems is staggering, affecting life expectancy, cognitive development, and environmental health worldwide.

The paper reveals that 5.2 million tonnes of lead entered the environment in 2022 alone, largely driven by demand for low-cost lead-acid batteries.

"Lead pollution endangers ecosystems and harms organisms across the food chain, from plants and animals to humans, contributing to 5.5 million premature deaths

annually from cardiovascular disease and resulting in 765 million lost IQ points among children," the paper says.

Beyond health impacts, lead is responsible for significant losses in productivity due to its neurotoxic effects, including reduced brain function, cognitive impairment, and behavioural changes.

The paper asserts that readily available, safer alternatives make lead's continued use and production both outdated and economically obsolete.

Notably, lead-based products generate less than \$100 billion annually, an amount dwarfed by the economic and societal costs of lead-related health burdens, premature deaths, and lost productivity.

The authors urge a comprehensive approach to lead removal, including a proposed phase-out by 2035, a tax on lead prod-

ucts, and international regulations to classify lead as toxic waste.

Given the limitations of current recycling practices in many regions, particularly low- and middle-income countries, the report advocates for a paradigm shift, pushing for safer, lead-free alternatives and enhanced regulatory frameworks.

"The data is clear: the cost to human health and the environment is simply too high to ignore," Dr Fatmi emphasises. The study also suggests that a global treaty could inspire a multi-pronged approach, including donor-funded research into alternatives, policy initiatives, and investment in low-cost substitutes.

This collaborative work signifies a growing movement among scientists and policy experts to end lead exposure and foster a healthier, more sustainable global economy.



# Soldier sentenced to death in boy's rape, murder case

By A.D. Arisair

UMERKOT: A military court has sentenced a soldier to death in a case pertaining to rape and murder of a shepherd boy in Chhoro.

According to an FIR lodged by victim's brother Gul Hassan Mangro at the Chhoro police station, on April 28, 13-year-old Ali Hassan had gone to receive payment for a bottle of honey he had sold to Rahim Dad.

The complainant stated that when the boy did not return home in Khat Singh village at his usual time, the family mounted a search for him and found his body in bushes behind the Combined Military Hospitals in the evening.

He said the marks of torture on the neck and other parts of the body were visible and there were signs that he might have been criminally assaulted before being killed.

The suspect, who was a resident of Hempo Malokhani village in Tando Adam taluka, was arrested immediately after the boy's body was found and he had confessed to the crime.

Umerkot SSP Usair Ahmed Memon confirmed to Dawn on Friday that police received a letter from Pakistan Army which said Rahim Dad Malokhani was awarded death penalty after a court martial.

The brief letter seen by the reporter read 'And whereas the said Field General Court Martial on the day of 13 June, 2024, passed the following sentence upon Lance Naik Rahim Dad (No. 2801297), 57 Punjab Regiment: 'to suffer death as laid' by being hanged by the neck until he be dead'.

# Proposed amendments to Irsa Act, six canals plan flayed

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: Speakers at a seminar on Friday vehemently condemned the proposed amendments to the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) Act and federal government's plan to construct six more canals by the Indus River.

They demanded of the provincial government to play its role at every forum of the federation to stop such plans and projects.

Organised by the South United Thinkers Forum, the seminar titled "Survival of Indus River: Threats and Challenges" was held at the Pakistan

American Cultural Centre and attended by several writers, intellectuals, lawyers and civil rights campaigners.

They urged the provincial government to take up the issue with the federal government so that the water share of the province was not taken by Punjab.

Observing that Sindh was already not getting its due share under the Water Accord, the speakers rejected the idea of corporate farming and demanded that the provincial government refrain from giving the province's lands for any such project in the name of economic reforms and development.

South United Party (SUP) president

Syed Zain Shah said that millions of acres had already become barren in the province and the fourth population in Umerkot, Badin and Thatta had been affected due to water shortage.

He condemned the establishment of more canals, including Cholisthan Canal, and said that it would be a disaster if the province's share was taken by any other province. He said the SUP and its allies would fight to the last for the rights of the people of the province.

Nasser Memon said the establishment of Cholisthan Canal would not only affect Sindh, but poor farmers in Punjab would also suffer. He said the president of Pakistan was not constitutionally author-

ised to approve the Cholisthan Canal project.

Advocate Shuhab Durr said Irsa was established for fair distribution of water among the provinces, but it never implemented any such plan fairly.

He said that under Article 155 of the Constitution, the dispute on water share should be decided by the Council of Common Interest (CCI). He alleged that the land of the province was being distributed among the favoured companies unconstitutionally in the garb of Green Initiative Pakistan.

Contrade Hassan Bux Thakro said that the Cholisthan Canal was an extension of Greater Thal Canal.



HYDERABAD: Sewage accumulated at the main road of Lalbadli Unit # 8 presents a sorry sight on Friday, creating problems for motorists and pedestrians. — Dawn

# Police claim killing 'kidnapper' in encounter

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Police claimed to have killed a dacoit, who was allegedly involved in the kidnapping of mango trader, Hassan Nasser Nizamani, in an encounter in the jurisdiction of Raholi police station on Friday.

Police officials said that the dacoit was identified as Wahab Veemar, who was prime accused along with Dattar Jatoi in Nizamani's kidnapping. An encounter took place between police and dacoits in the limits of Raholi police station after a police party led by SDO of A-Section police station Naik Mohammad Khoso engaged dacoits and managed to arrest one online, Akhbar Qadir Syed while killing Wahab Veemar, they said.

They said that Veemar had played an important role in the kidnapping of Nizamani and he was the one who had killed Nizamani on Oct 24 in Shikargarh's Garhi Yasin taluka. He was wanted in several other cases of business crimes including kidnapping for ransom lodged with police stations in other districts. Hyderabad police had also recommended Rs5 million as bond money for Veemar, they said.

# AT demands action against traders for lowering paddy prices

Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: Navrabad chapter of the Awami Tehreek staged an eight-kilometre foot march on Friday to protest against falling paddy prices, land grabbing, controversial canal project, worsening lawlessness and proposed amendments to Irsa act.

The protesters' leaders including AT's central secretary Advocate Sajid Hussain Mahesra, Sindh's Hari Tehreek's central president Comrade Ghulam Mustafa Chaudhry, Advocate Najeeb Rehman Mahesra and others said in their speeches that declining paddy crops were hurting the poor farmers and growers.

The foot march began from Mowdar Lakha village of and concluded in Navrabad after passing through the villages of Jera, Wabacha, Mureli and Pathwar. When the march reached Arifpur

branch in Navrabad, it turned into a convention.

The leaders demanded strict action against traders who bought of farmers' hard-earned harvests at low prices. The government-backed capitalists and speculators on the black to force the farmers to take loans at high interest rates, they said.

They said that farmers were being compelled to abandon their lands by offering them unfairly low prices for their produce. Local agriculture sector was being destroyed by government's anti-farmer policies to pave the way for corporate farming projects, they said.

They said that under the guise of corporate farming, 48 million acres of land in the country, including 1.1 million acres in Sindh, was being handed over to foreign investors.

They said that corporate farming projects planned to seize fertile

farmlands and amend-

ments were being made to the Irsa Act to sell water of the Indus River to foreign investors.

After amendments to the Irsa Act, Sindh's water would be sold to foreign investors for corporate farming. Six new canals were also being constructed to divert water to the corporate farming projects after blocking Sindh's water for people of Sindh would not allow this share injustice, they warned.

They said that when farmers harvested the wheat crops, the PPP government lowered the prices of their produce, and when they sold their crop at throwaway prices, traders sold them flour and rice at higher rates.

Similarly, sugar cane crop was bought at cheap rate but sugar was sold at high prices, and cotton prices had also been reduced, they said.

They demanded stern action against the traders who bought harvests at low prices. The rice crop should be purchased at a minimum of Rs4,000 per 40 kg, they said.

The leaders said that lawlessness was at its peak in Navrabad taluka and across Sindh, with police and administration becoming accomplices to criminals.

They demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those involved in theft and return of stolen goods to their rightful owners.

# Two children drown

By Our Correspondent

DADU: Two children drowned while bathing in a pond and two others were rescued in Waryal Qambari village, Dadu district, on Friday.

The four children, eight-year-old Muhammad Qambari, seven-year-old Raja Qambari, six-year-old Fakir Qambari and Ali Qambari, who were all related to each other, had gone to swim in the pond but Muhammad and Raja drowned while the other two children were rescued by relatives, said Kadir Qambari, father of Ali.

The bodies were taken out by villagers.

**Government of Sindh**

**Sindh Peoples Housing for Flood Affectedes (SPHF)**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR OFFICE SPACE ON RENT**

Name of Country: Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
Project: Sindh Flood Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project (SFEHRP)  
Title: Office Space on Rent  
Date: 07th November, 2024

- The Sindh Peoples Housing for Flood Affectedes (SPHF) invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from property commercial estate agents for providing office space on rent for the Sindh Flood Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project (SFEHRP) as per following requirements:
  - The office space should be situated in or in the vicinity of Modern Housing Co-operative Society, Karachi.
  - The office space should be approximately 2000 sq. ft.
  - The office space should have all the operational utilities including electricity, gas and water.
  - The preferable office space must have a dedicated car parking facility.
- The office space should be available for immediate use. The Expression of Interest/Financial Proposals meeting the requirements set for consideration for the award of rental agreement for a period of 12 months (extendable). The last date to submit the EOI/offer is 18th November, 2024.
- Further information can be obtained from the address mentioned below during office hours.
- Expression of Interest must be delivered in person, by courier or through e-mail addressed to the Chief Procurement Officer up to 4:00 pm on 07th November, 2024 during office hours.

**(KHALID MEHMOOD SHAIKH)**  
Chief Executive Officer (SPHF)  
Bungalow # 20, Block 7/B  
Modern Cooperative Housing Society  
Tipu Sultan Road, Karachi  
Tel: 3577124

**GOVERNMENT OF SINDH**

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**DIRECTORATE OF URBAN REGIONAL POLICY & STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

**PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES OF A CONSULTING FIRM / CONSORTIUM OF FIRMS FOR "PREPARATION OF DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLANS OF MAJOR SECONDARY CITIES OF SINDH" (PACKAGE # IV-SEHWAN & MIRPUR SAKRO)**

The Directorate of Urban Regional Policy & Strategic Planning, P&D Department, Government of Sindh, is seeking to hire a consulting firm / consortium of firms — Package IV (Sehwan & Mirpur Sakro) under "Preparation of Development Master Plans of Major Secondary Cities of Sindh".

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the assignment will include the following. However, detailed ToRs and scope of work are included in RFP document.

A. The Development Master Plans would focus on the following:

Development Master Plans (Sehwan & Mirpur Sakro)	Technical Components for Sehwan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Past Plans, Development Strategies and Program Conditions</li> <li>Preparation of City Base Maps</li> <li>SP&amp;IP Analysis</li> <li>Carrying out a Vision for Future</li> <li>Long Term Comprehensive Plan</li> <li>Preparation of the Development Plan focusing on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land Use</li> <li>Urban Form</li> <li>Street Space Action Plan for Priority Interventions</li> <li>Development of an Immediate Action Plan for the Core Urban Area</li> <li>Economic Development Plan</li> <li>Climate Change, Resilience &amp; Adaptability Plan</li> <li>Disaster Management Plan</li> <li>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation Plan</li> <li>Implementation Strategy</li> <li>Organization</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Use Strategy and Data Collection</li> <li>Amenity &amp; Infrastructure</li> <li>Public Utilities, Power &amp; Sewerage</li> <li>Tourism Services &amp; Economy</li> <li>Technical Plan</li> <li>Operation and Management (O&amp;M) Plan</li> </ul>

Interested firms / consortiums are requested to submit their Technical and Financial proposals on the prescribed RFP through EPADS. No manual bid will be accepted. The RFP document may also be downloaded from following websites: www.urbandevelopment.gov.pk and www.proctestsindh.gov.pk

Tender Fee along with Pay Order / Bank Draft of Rs. 5,000/- (non-refundable) and Bid Security of 2% of the bid price in favour of Directorate of Urban Regional Policy & Strategic Planning, Sindh are to be submitted physically at the following address not later than 2:00 p.m. on 03rd December, 2024. Tenders shall be opened at 2:30 p.m. on 03rd December, 2024 through EPADS. Please note that the selection of the firm / consortium of firms shall be made as per SPPRA Rules 2010 (amended upto date).

Note: (i) In case the date of submission and opening of proposals is declared as a public holiday by the Government due to any reason, the next official working day shall be considered to be the date of submission and opening of proposals at the same time and venue. (ii) The bid opening will be held on 03rd November, 2024 at 2:00PM at the following address:-

**DIRECTOR GENERAL**  
Directorate of Urban Regional Policy & Strategic Planning  
Planning and Development Department, Govt. of Sindh  
Bungalow No. 37, E/2, P.E. O.H.S., Block 8, Karachi, Pakistan  
Phone No. 021-992087-99  
Website: www.urbandevelopment.gov.pk email: info@urbandevelopment.gov.pk

RFP No. 3526/24

**Board of Intermediate Education**  
Bakhtiar Youth Center, North Nazimabad, Karachi-74700  
Phone: 99260211 99260212 99260213  
EPADS website: www.portal.sindh.eprocure.gov.pk/EPADS  
Date: 07.11.2024

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Bids are invited through E-Procurement and Disposal System (EPADS) from registered / established firms / suppliers / contractors, registered with Income Tax, and Sales Tax authorities for supply of following goods.

S. No.	Tender Title	Cost of Bidding Document	Deadline of Issuance of Document	Deadline for Submission	Opening of Bid	Method of Procurement	Bid Security
1.	Tender for Printing of Tabulation Registers	Rs. 2,000/-	10-11-2024 10:00 AM to 03-12-2024 12:00 Noon	03-12-2024 at 02:30 PM	03-12-2024 at 03:00 PM	NCD Single Stage One Envelope	2%

The interested bidders can obtain bidding documents containing terms & conditions or download only from <https://portal.sindh.eprocure.gov.pk/> or [www.biek.edu.pk](http://www.biek.edu.pk) and tender document fee at Rs. 2,000/- (non-refundable) must be submitted in shape of pay order in favor of Secretary, Board of Intermediate Education, Karachi on any working day as per schedule mentioned above before online submission deadline of bid on EPADS.

The preparation of bids must be in accordance with the instructions given in the bidding documents and the bids must be submitted on EPADS on or before submission deadline as per schedule mentioned above. Bids should be submitted electronically through EPADS and original bids must be submitted in Procurement Wing, Administration General Section, Old Building, 1st Floor, Room No.31 before online submission deadline of the bid. Only those bids will be entertained which are already submitted on EPADS.

All interested bidders must get registered themselves at EPADS at <https://portal.sindh.eprocure.gov.pk/#supplier-registration>

In case of unexpected announcement of holiday, unforeseen situation, climate changing & disaster in city, the bidders will be opened on the next working day on the same venue & time as mentioned above.

Bid Security in shape of pay order in favor of the Secretary, Board of Intermediate Education Karachi must be submitted in Procurement Wing, Administration General Section, Old Building, 1st Floor, Room No.31 before online submission deadline of the bids.

The Procuring Agency may reject all or any bid subject to the relevant provision of SPPRA rules.

**(PROF. AMER HUSSAIN QADRI)**  
SECRETARY  
TNP: KOT No. 3526/24

**DHQ HOSPITAL MATIARI LIFE SAVING MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

**MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT DHQ HOSPITAL MATIARI**  
PHONE: 022-8240864, FAX: 022-8240865, Post Office Matiari Email: medsupmatari@gmail.com

For: M/S/HRQ Tender: 2024-019/003 Date: 08-11-2024

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**

Interested bidders are invited from all the interested contractors / firms / parties / suppliers / manufacturers / sub-distributors / sub-agents meeting eligibility criteria viz. registration with Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for Income Tax, Sales Tax in case of procurement of goods, registration with the Sindh Revenue Board (SRB) as the case may be and are not restricted by any procuring agency or authority are invited to participate in tender for procurement of following items for the year 2024-25.

S. No.	Description of Item	Tender Fee	Deposit Percent	Bid Security	Date of Purchase of Tender Document	Date & Time of Bid Submission	Date & Time of Tender Opening	Particular of Tender Document
01	Medicines / Drugs	Rs. 1000/-	5%	5%	08-11-2024 at 10:00 AM	08-11-2024 at 10:00 AM	08-11-2024 at 10:00 AM	Office of Medical Superintendent DHQ Hospital Matiari

Terms & Conditions are given as under:

- Bidding documents can be obtained from the Office of Medical Superintendent DHQ Hospital (located in premises of former law commission) or downloaded from EPADS website on any working day except the day of opening of tenders. However, tender fee mentioned above necessarily must be deposited at office of procurement and receipt is issued at the time of bid deposit on SPPRA website. The sealed tender on procurement system along with 2% earnest money of total bid (refundable) in the form of Pay Order or Demand Draft in favor of Medical Superintendent (MS) Hospital should be deposited in the same office on 08-11-2024 upto 10:00 am and the same will be opened on the same date at 10:00 am in presence of contractor/representative. All bidders will be present at that time. In case of any unexplained objection relating to opening of offer on the date of opening of procurement documents any bidders, the bidders shall be considered as defaulted on the next working day at the same time and venue. Any conditional or unacceptance of earned money tender will not be considered in the competition.
- The Method of Procurement is Single Stage Two Envelopes.
- The bidders should be registered with Procuring Agency which will be verified by concerned agencies.
- All bids should be in P&P format.

The Procurement Agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids subject to relevant provisions of SPPRA Rules, 2010 and may cancel the bidding process at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal under Rule 25 of said Rules.

**(DR. ABDUL SALAM)**  
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, DHQ HOSPITAL MATIARI  
RFP No. 3526/24



# METRO North

**ISLAMABAD**  
 Sunset 05:12pm  
 Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:31am  
**NEXT 24 HRS**  
 Minimum 17°C  
 Maximum 27°C  
 Outlook Partly Cloudy



**Zheng beats Krejčíková to reach WTA Finals decider**  
 Pg.18 SPORT



(L-R) British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, Deputy Chief of Mission, US embassy, Natalia Baker, poet Zehra Nigah and former permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Dr Malooha Lodhi attend the inaugural session of Islamabad Literature Festival on Friday. In the other photograph, artists Samiya Mumtaz and Adnan Jahange perform classical dance at the event. — Photos by Tanweer Shaukat



## Government advises precautions as air quality worsens in capital

**Children, elderly asked to wear masks while going out in the open**

By Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday said that children, elderly and patients of asthma must wear masks when stepping in the open after the federal capital's air has become vastly polluted.

"The situation is not as bad as Lahore and the caution is not binding on all. However, particulate matter (PM) 2.5 per meter cube has risen significantly and can be injurious to health of children, the elderly and patients," Director Late National Environmental Quality Standards, Pakistan Environment Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) Dr Zahrah Abbas told Dawn.



SMOG hangs over Jinnah Avenue in Islamabad on Friday. — Photo by Muhammad Asim

Several simultaneous construction projects including Serena and the PTCL chowk interchanges combined with vehicular pollution have raised the PM 2.5 per meter cube in the atmosphere making the air residents in Islamabad breathe poisonous.

Daily air quality index recorded by the Pakistan Environment Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) showed that PM 2.5 in the air over Islamabad on Friday was 186 microgram per meter cube and was declared 'unhealthy'.

"This is much higher than the safe limit of 35 microgram per meter cube set by national environmental quality standards (NEQS)," said the official.

Dr Abbas, who is a senior environmental official, said that his office had appealed to the deputy commissioner to ban the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) practice of burning garbage in the public bins. Instead, he has called for proper waste dumping at designated sites.

"We have raised concerns about the burning of waste, which includes highly toxic

materials like plastics and disposable diapers," Dr Abbas said.

He also pointed out that bus lanes had been identified as significant contributors to the city's air pollution and requested the local authorities to address the issue.

Air quality in the capital continued to deteriorate, with sources pointing to emissions from outdated trucks & taxis on the city's outskirts that have not yet

adopted environmental friendly engine technology.

Additionally, pollution from neighboring Rawalpindi was adding to the increasing levels of PM 2.5 particulate matter in the air, posing a health risk to Islamabad's residents.

Dr Abbas said that Pak-EPA had initiated preventive measures, imposing fines on heavy diesel vehicles at Sabzi Mandi for violating environmental laws.

"Pak-EPA has also called a meeting of over 40 officials of public and private offices and universities who are operating heavy diesel vehicles for transportation of their employees and students.

Several such vehicles contributing excessively to worsening air quality in Islamabad in violation of environmental laws. "We will instruct them to take necessary measures otherwise environmental protection orders (EPO) will be issued and the vehicles will be banned.

According to a source in the Ministry of Climate Change, the developers of the Serena and PTCL interchanges have not submitted environment impact assessment (EIA) reports for the two mega projects, which is a prerequisite for starting the construction work to ensure mitigation measures.

## Rawalpindi relaunches campaign against plastic bags, seals 13 shops

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: After a break of six months, the district administration has relaunched campaign against plastic bags of less than 75 microns in sleeping malls of the Garrison City and confiscated over 3,000 kg of bags and sealed 13 shops.

On the other hand, some of the shopkeepers have adopted environment friendly bags for which they charged more than Rs100 to Rs200 per

bag. They also asked the consumers to bring their own paper or cloth bags.

The Punjab government had imposed ban on use of shopping bags of less than 75 microns in June last and launched a campaign, but soon stopped and gave 45 days to shopping malls and traders to replace them with environment friendly bags. However, the campaign has now started after six months.

A senior official of the district administration told Dawn that the teams

would confiscate plastic bags of less than 75 microns (polyethylene & non-woven polypropylene) from retailers of commercial areas only.

He said the Punjab government had imposed a ban on manufacturing, sale and use of polythene/plastic bags. He said the awareness campaign had been launched in the district to promote the use of paper and cloth made bags in the market and bazaars.

He said that teams had been formed which would take action against the

violators with the help of local police and confiscate the product and would impose fines.

Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner City Hakim Khan told Dawn that he visited different shopping malls and grocery stores and confiscated 3023 kg of plastic bags and sealed 13 shops which failed to replace the plastic bags with paper ones.

Many stores and restaurants agreed to replace the plastic bags and disposable plates and glasses.

"We hanged banners

made from cloth to create awareness among the people 'No to plastic'," said the assistant commissioner. In reply to a question, assistant commissioner said that the big grocery stores were of the view that they had to bear extra money on biodegradable bags and charged money from the consumers.

However, the visitors to the shops said that the shopkeepers were not giving bags and asked the people to bring their own cloth or paper bags and the store. They said that there were some known bakeries and chemists who provided things in their own bags without charging extra money from the consumers.

They urged the administration to confiscate the shopping bags from manufacturers and shops and asked the shopkeepers not to charge from consumers for paper bags or other material as they already charged extra price for products in violation of the price list of the district administration.

## Committee to thrash out issues between FGEHA, CDA

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: The executive board of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) on Friday approved the formation of a committee to resolve issues between the FGEHA and the Capital Development Authority (CDA).

The executive board held a meeting with Housing Minister Mian Niaz Hussain Piracha in the chair. The FGEHA is a subsidiary of the housing ministry.

During the meeting, FGEHA officials claimed that the CDA, under the 19pc formula, owed a number of plots to the housing authority in 18 and some other

sectors. The meeting was also told that the civic agency was yet to transfer land of F-12 and G-12 allotted to the FGEHA by the federal cabinet in 2020.

Earlier, these two undeveloped sectors belonged to the CDA, but in 2020, on the direction of cabinet, these were handed to FGEHA.

The CDA has handed over the record of these sectors while the mutation (transfer of land) is still pending.

"To settle the claim of FGEHA plots with CDA, the chair advised to constitute a committee having members from major stakeholders i.e. FGEHA, CDA, finance and law division. The step has been taken in line with the prime

minister's directions to settle longstanding disputes among federal government ministries/departments amicably by sitting together instead of using resources in unnecessary litigation," said a press release issued by FGEHA.

Meanwhile, the meeting also reviewed terms and conditions for the upcoming open auction of 24 commercial plots of FGEHA located in G-13 and G-14 on November 13 and 14.

The minister emphasized the need to formulate terms and conditions in a way that would be more attractive for overseas Pakistanis and foreign investors.

The meeting also discussed auction of commercial plots and

properties of various categories and sites located in 24-B, 25-B, 19-C and Scheme 33 at Colaba-Highway Karachi.

It is relevant to note here that FGEHA had previously planned an auction of commercial plots of various sizes and categories in G-13 and G-14 on December 27 and 28, 2023. However, the auction was cancelled upon a writ petition filed by Quaid-i-Azam University, which claimed that land in G-14 belonged to it.

Subsequently, for the upcoming auction, the FGEHA decided to exclude the commercial plots of sub-sector G-14A as the matter is still in court between QAU and FGEHA. In August this year, the authority also con-

ducted an auction of three plots, but none of them was sold on.

A 13-kanal plot in FGEHA's Lifestyle Residency Apartment project was divided into three plots to maximize the revenue potential.

However, the auction for these three plots held in August remained a flop show.

For this month's auction, the FGEHA will put 24 commercial plots on sale with flexible and investor-friendly terms and conditions like the CDA, which recently took some steps to provide relief to investors, increasing the installment period from one year to two. The FGEHA has adopted almost similar terms and conditions for its upcoming auction.

## Islamabad Literature Festival begins

ISLAMABAD: The 10th edition of the Islamabad Literature Festival (ILF), 'Sustainability: Words change Minds' opened at the Gandhara Citizens' Club in Fatma Jinnah Park on Friday.

Organised by Oxford University Press (OUP) Pakistan, the inaugural session featured keynote speeches by British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, former permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Malooha Lodhi and Zehra Nigah, poet and scriptwriter.

Managing Director, OUP Pakistan, Anshad Saeed Husain welcomed the speakers and audience to the three-day event, saying, "In the age of constant innovation, understanding the minds shaped by the digital era becomes paramount. We must move beyond traditional systems to build one that meets the evolving needs of a world torn by conflict yet striving for connection."

Drawing attention to the troubling numbers of out-of-school children in Pakistan, where some 26 million children are out of school, Mr Husain said: "Today Pakistan spends only 1.9pc of its GDP on education, which is half that of the rest of the world and less than a third of the developed world. These are worrying statistics and require immediate attention."

High Commissioner Jane Marriott spoke eloquently about sustainability and resilience amid looming climate crisis and dramatic technological advancements. She said: "In this age of constant innovation, understanding the minds shaped by the digital era becomes paramount. We must move beyond traditional systems to build one that meets the evolving needs of a world torn by conflict yet striving for connection."

"Pakistan's heritage is under threat — from the Indus Valley to Hazara, its an incredible history and culture need protection. Closing schools for a week is not a sustainable solution; the UK will focus on both climate and education emergencies, and measures will be expedited," Ms Marriott said.

Malooha Lodhi stated: "Utilisation of the underused soft power is needed for navigating the terrain of global environment today. Sans agility is not being marginalised, and therefore we must work with the technology in the increasing digital world and utilise the outreach of social media to maintain a positive image."

Zehra Nigah appreciated the OUP for the space given to Urdu literature at the festival.

"Literature festivals have shown a remarkable resilience, amidst all chaos — the words of literature have proudly held their place. OUP's history has been bilingual, reflecting a legacy where English runs parallel with Urdu — a tradition shaped by many leaders of the subcontinent who attended Oxford University," Ms Nigah said.

The inaugural session concluded with a riveting classical dance performance celebrating diversity through a melding of Bharatnatyam and Kathak, titled 'Uag', by Samiya Mumtaz and Adnan Jahange.

Mr Jahange said: "We specially made this dance piece for this festival in 10 days. The last poetry recitation along with the writing is done by Samiya Mumtaz, who performs Bharatnatyam while I do Kathak. The whole piece is about the human journey and finding connections from other people. The message is to spread love and peace."

In the session titled 'Zindagi, Shair, Zindagi', Zehra Nigah and Inam Nadeem explored the nuances of Urdu poetry, highlighting the concerns for new writers and poets to innovate and transcend beyond the traditional.

The day ended with Wajid Ali Shah, Shahida Shah and Iqbal Hussain Akbar in discussion with Anshad Husain Akbar sharing their insights into state and value of Pashto literature. — Syeda Shohrabano Kazim





ARTISANS from Chitral are seen at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa pavilion of the Lok Mela in Islamabad on Friday. — Wafa Star

## 89 more dengue patients surface as experts predict cases will reduce by mid-November

By Our Staff Reporter

**RAWALPINDI:** The city's three government-run hospitals on Friday received another 89 dengue patients, taking the season's tally to 5,545. District Health Authority Chief Executive Officer Dr. Asif Akhbar Nikan expressed the hope that the dengue cases will reduce after mid-November and it will end by December. "The current environment is conducive for mosquitoes," he said, adding the health authority teams have started indoor surveillance in the affected areas. He

said that fogging had been conducted in the areas where adult dengue mosquitoes breed. He said that they were also avoiding extensive fogging in the city due to smog. He said as soon as the temperature dropped to 10 degrees Celsius, the dengue mosquitoes' breeding will stop. He said that the people should adopt safety measures including mosquito repellent and wear full sleeves shirts in houses also. Earlier, till September 8, only 157 dengue patients were reported in the district but the number increased in last two

months. A large number of dengue patients were reported in three government-run hospitals including Holy Family Hospital, Benazir Bhutto Hospital and Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital Raja Bazaar. Majority of the patients in government-run hospitals arrived from 70 urban constituencies of the city and 20 wards of Rawalpindi and Chakdara Cantonment Board. On Friday, 209 patients landed in three government-run hospitals while 89 tested positive for dengue. At present, a total 240 dengue patients are under treatment in the

hospitals including 82 dengue patients in Holy Family Hospital, 40 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 19 in Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital and 26 in Faqir Foundation Hospital while 73 patients are in private hospitals. A senior doctor of Holy Family Hospital said that the hospital had sufficient beds to accommodate more patients as at present there are arrangements of 150 beds in the hospital while it will increase to accommodate more than 200 patients at a time. "The district administration is working day and night to clear the city and environment from the dengue virus," said a senior official of district administration. He said the third party work of the anti-dengue drive continued in the city and environment area by agriculture and local government departments to check the work of the teams of health authority and other departments. He said the district administration declared Chak Jalaidan and Kotla Kalan union councils of the Garrison City as sensitive. However, he said that the majority of patients arrived from Christian Colony, Murgah, Airport Housing Society and New Afzal Town near Gulberg.

## Annual Lok Mela opens

**ISLAMABAD:** Celebrating five decades of cultural preservation, Lok Virsa marked its 50th anniversary on Friday with the grand opening of the annual Lok Mela. The event was inaugurated by Secretary of the National Heritage and Culture Division Hassan Ajmal Jami as the chief guest at Lok Virsa's open-air theatre. The ceremony was attended by diplomats, provincial representatives, artists, artists, musicians, and a diverse array of guests. Lok Virsa Executive Director Mushtaq Ali Turki welcomed guests and highlighted the festival's role in fostering cultural unity. He emphasized the importance of empowering local artisans and promoting the country's rich heritage, extend-

ing gratitude to international participants from Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Indonesia for their contributions to the International Pavilion. Hassan Ajmal Jami praised Lok Virsa's efforts in showcasing Pakistan's authentic cultural image and reiterated the government's dedication to promoting Pakistan's cultural heritage globally. The inaugural event also featured two distinguished artists, Sheikh Muhammad Yasir and Samia from Karachi, for their exceptional contributions to traditional crafts. They were presented with a turban and shawl. The festival will feature traditional music and dance performances, exhibitions of handicrafts, artwork and culinary specialities. — Staff Reporter

## Malaysia's high commission engages with Pakistan industry leaders to enhance trade

**ISLAMABAD:** The High Commission of Malaysia hosted an engagement with prominent Pakistani industry leaders and stakeholders, aiming to enhance trade, investment and business collaborations between Malaysia and Pakistan. This event followed the recent official visit of Malaysia's prime minister to Pakistan in October, focusing on strengthening economic ties between the two nations. The gathering provided a platform for open discussions on key issues, sharing insights and exploring new avenues in trade and investment. Leaders highlighted opportunities to build stronger bilateral economic relationships and address challenges

that may impact collaboration. In his remarks, Ambassador Dato' Mohamad Adnan Marican reaffirmed the high commission's commitment to fostering a supportive environment for business partnerships. He emphasized the importance of leveraging common ground from the prime minister's visit, which he described as highly productive. The visit led to two government-to-government and four business-to-business Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). Ambassador Adnan also announced that Malaysia would import \$200 million worth of basmati rice and 100,000 tonnes of basmati rice from Pakistan. The gathering was informed that

further promote trade, Malaysia recently opened a MATRADI office in Karachi, aimed at facilitating business exchanges and encouraging Pakistani entrepreneurs to consider Malaysia as a gateway to the Asian region, a market of 6 billion people. The high commissioner had invited the business community to explore opportunities in Malaysian markets, highlighting the significant potential for strengthening business ties between the two countries. Key sectors identified include agriculture, the automotive industry, renewable energy, information and communication technology, and artificial intelligence. "We are envisioning a leap forward in value addition, moving

beyond traditional markets," the high commissioner stated as he encouraged businessmen to look at Malaysia as a destination for business, to enhance the low volume of trade beyond the current levels. He believed that trade with Pakistan had the potential to surpass Malaysia's business volume with both India and Bangladesh. Guests provided valuable feedback on the current trade and investment landscape, emphasizing the importance of ongoing dialogue and collaboration to unlock mutual benefits. Ambassador Dato' Adnan expressed gratitude to attendees for their support in strengthening Malaysia-Pakistan trade ties. — Jansal Shehali

### OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR Medical Teaching Institution Bannu SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited from Pakistani nationals to fill the following vacant positions in Medical Teaching Institutions Bannu under Medical Teaching Institution Reforms Amendment Act 2023.

S. No.	Name of Post	No. of Positions	Gender	Minimum Qualification and Experience
1	Consultant Path Management	1	M/F	Qualification: 1. MBBS or Equivalent qualification from recognized university registered by PM&DC/PMC. 2. FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC.
2	Consultant Interventional Cardiology	1		Qualification: 1. MBBS or Equivalent qualification from recognized university registered by PM&DC/PMC. 2. FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC.
3	Consultant Radiologist	3	M/F	Qualification: 1. MBBS or Equivalent qualification from recognized university registered by PM&DC/PMC. 2. FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC OR MCPS/DMRD.
4	Consultant Anesthetist	3	M/F	Qualification: 1. MBBS or Equivalent qualification from recognized university registered by PM&DC/PMC. 2. FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC. OR MCPS/Diploma in anesthesia in case if follow is not available.
5	Sonologist	6	Female	Qualification: 1. MBBS or Equivalent qualification from recognized university registered by PM&DC/PMC. 2. FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC OR MCPS/one year diploma in sonology.
6	Sonologist	3	Male	Qualification: 1. MBBS or Equivalent qualification from recognized university registered by PM&DC/PMC. 2. FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC OR MCPS/one year diploma in sonology.
7	Optometrist	2	M/F	Qualification: BS Ophthalmology/Optomety from Govt, recognized institute.
8	Clinical Technologist Pulmonology	2	M/F	Qualification: Masters/BA/ON Sixteen years' education in relevant field / Technology.
9	Ophthalmic technician	4	Male/ Female	Qualification: DCC 2nd division with two years diploma in relevant paramedical technology OR equivalent qualification from Govt, recognized institute.

**URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MARDAN**  
(Phone No. 0927-923043-34)

**AUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL PLOTS IN ISLAMABAD**  
(Phase I & II) Mardan

Urban Area Development Authority Mardan wishes to auction the Residential plots (DH ownership) located at Islamabad/Mardan (Phase I & II) Mardan. The details are as under:

RESIDENTIAL PLOTS					
Sl.No	Plot No.	Section	Size	Reserve Price	Total
1	019, 017, 018, 017	02	One Kanal each	Rs. 22,00,000/- per block	04 Nos
2	044, 045	01	One Kanal each	Rs. 22,00,000/- per block	02 Nos
3	004	01	One Kanal	Rs. 22,00,000/- per block	01 No
4	011, 009	01	One Kanal each	Rs. 22,00,000/- per block	02 Nos
5	04	01	01 Kanal	Rs. 22,00,000/- per block	01 No

Auction of the above mentioned Immovable Properties will be held in the Executive Services Club Section I, Shaheed Jinnah Avenue Mardan on 24th November, 2024 at 12:00 hours.

**TERMS/CONDITIONS**

- For participation in the auction the interested persons will be required to deposit Rs. 3,00,000/- (Rupees Three Lacs only) for each plot as security in the shape of cash deposit/bank order/bank draft in the name of Director, Urban Area Development Authority Mardan before the auction. Otherwise, no bidder shall be allowed to participate in the auction proceedings. The security deposit will be refunded to the successful bidder(s) after finalization of auction.
- The successful bidder(s) will be required to deposit 25% amount of the bid declared successful by the Competent Authority in the shape of bank draft in the name of Director, Urban Area Development Authority Mardan within 7 working days. In case of failure the bid stand cancelled and the security amount shall be forfeited in favor of the Authority.
- Within one week after receipt of 25% of the bid amount, the Authority shall issue an acceptance/confirmation letter to the successful bidder requiring him to deposit the remaining amount and taxes, duties, if any, within one month in the same manner.
- If the successful bidder fails to deposit the remaining amount within the prescribed one month, a surcharge of one percent (1%) of the whole bid per day will be charged.
- If the successful bidder fails to deposit the remaining amount and the surcharge upto a period of ninety (90) days, the bid stand cancelled and the bid amount to deposited along with security deposit shall be forfeited in favor of the Authority.
- The successful bidder shall have to pay in addition to the bid amount income tax, Capital gains tax or any other taxes, (if any), directly to the concerned department under the relevant laws. Failure to deposit the bid fee or taxes may result in cancellation of allotment.
- The possession of the property will be handed over to the successful bidder/holder only after receipt of full payment / dues / taxes and execution of sale agreement on stamp paper @ 2% of the bid amount.
- The bidder representing some other person shall have to produce an attested copy of authority/letter in his favour before participating in the auction proceedings.
- The successful bidder/holder shall abide by the rules/regulation/buyers for the time being enforced by the Authority and the Act.

Interested persons can visit the site on any working day. However, detail terms/conditions of the auction can be obtained from the office of Accounts Officer, UADA Mardan on cash payment worth Rs. 3000/- per copy (non refundable) on any working day (during working hours) prior to auction.

**DIRECTOR**  
Urban Area Development Authority  
Mardan Phone No.0927-923043-34

09/11/24

## Modern facilitation centre inaugurated at Diplomatic Enclave

By Iftikhar A. Khan

**ISLAMABAD:** On the directives of Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, a state-of-the-art "Consulate Facilitation Center" has been established in the Diplomatic Enclave. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday inaugurated the centre aimed at facilitating diplomats and foreign nationals. The centre will provide more than 12 services under one roof to the diplomatic community and foreign nationals. Addressing the inaugural ceremony as the guest, the interior minister said that the facilities of insurance and renewal of driving license, character certificate, police verification, missing person report, tourist registration, foreigner registration, domestic worker registration, volunteer registration, vehicle verification, FIR copy would be available at this centre. He highlighted that in line with the prime minister's vision, every possible step was being taken to ensure the convenience and security of diplomatic community and foreign nationals. He said that this centre reflects the government's commitment to provide security and services to diplomats and foreign nationals. Interior minister further said that beautification of the Diplomatic Enclave and the entire capital was one of the priority areas of his ministry. He added that the establishment of the service center will strengthen ties and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the diplomats. He also mentioned that over 1,500 police and FC personnel, along with 20 police vehicles were deployed for the security of the Diplomatic Enclave. On the occasion, the interior minister also visited the facilitation centre along with diplomats and inspected various counters and reviewed the facilities. IG Islamabad Police Ad Nasser Rizvi gave a briefing regarding the facilities being provided at the centre. Diplomats and foreign nationals attending the ceremony thanked Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for establishing this facilitation center in the Diplomatic Enclave. The ceremony was attended by a large number of foreign diplomats, Federal Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha, IG Islamabad Police Ad Nasser Rizvi, DC Islamabad Brian Nawaz Memon, and senior officials of Islamabad police.

**Terms & Conditions:**

- Prescribed application form can be downloaded from the website [mtibannu.edu.pk](http://mtibannu.edu.pk).
- Applications on prescribed proforma duly filled-in all respects along with 10 photos and attested photocopies of academic and experience certificate must reach HR Department, MTI Bannu within two weeks after the publication of this advertisement in newspaper, along with Rs. 1500/- as application processing fee through Bank Account No. 3003970018 Bank of Khyber, 888 8247th MTI, Branch Code 5205, in the name of "Hospital Director, Khadda Gul Muzaffar Hospital, Medical Teaching Institution MTI Bannu".
- Applications must also be submitted electronically by using the website link [www.mtibannu.edu.pk](http://www.mtibannu.edu.pk) otherwise, only hard copy will not be acceptable.
- Cheques/Pay order will not be acceptable.
- Applications must reach HR Department BGN MTI Bannu on or before the last date during office hours.
- If closing date fixed for the receipt of the application form falls on holiday, the next working day shall be considered as the closing date.
- Incomplete application form in any aspect OR Any application received after the closing time & date shall stand rejected.
- The services of incumbent will be governed under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Teaching Institution Reforms Act, 2023 (as amended from time to time).
- You shall be strictly non-practising and not allowed for any sort of private clinical practice outside MTI Bannu. This applies to your own clinic, or assisting other doctors in their private clinics, or doing locums at clinics/hospitals. Failure to comply with this clause will lead to immediate termination of services.
- Minority and stable quota will be observed as per Govt. policy.
- The Scrutiny Committee, MTI Bannu is competent to reject incomplete applications. However, the approved candidates can appeal to the competent authority of MTI Bannu for review. The decision of the competent authority thereof shall be final.
- Any candidate may be disqualified and/or excluded from interview if he/she was:
  - Convicted by the Court of law.
  - Previous history of dismissal from public service.
  - Knowingly furnishes any false information.
  - Suppresses any information which may lead to his/her disqualification.
  - Attempts to obtain support for his/her candidature by improper means.
  - Submits forged certificates.
  - Impersonates with the entries in his/her age, academic certificates and publications.
  - Misbehaves during the interview.
- Original documents shall be produced at the time of interview.
- The competent authority reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of posts.
- No TA/DA is admissible for test/interview.

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION, MTI BANNU**

LAHORE
Sunset 05:09 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:23 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 20.0°C
Maximum 30.0°C
Outlook Sunny
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 1050



Zheng beats Krejčíková to reach WTA Finals decider Pg.18 SPORT



CIVIL society activists distribute masks among laborers at Shamsi Pahari Chowk. — White Star

LHC for closure of commercial activities in Lahore for 15 days

Directs commissioner to shut down businesses on Sundays

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Friday (LHC) ordered the commissioner of Lahore division to convene a meeting with all stakeholders for the purpose of closing down all commercial activities, at least within the provincial metropolitan and its periphery, after 8pm for the next 15 days.

Justice Shahid Karim also directed the commissioner to take a decision to shut down all commercial activities on Sundays for the next two weeks in the city, which could be extended depending on the situation at the relevant time.

Justice Karim observed that the matter regarding smog is a serious and health-threatening issue. He said, "This is not being controlled and has gone unchecked."

The judge ordered the government that regular police, Dolphin Force as well as traffic police should be deployed and any vehicle found emitting smoke should be impounded.

National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) to make its responsible officer attend the meeting to be convened by the advocate general, so that the motorway police were also engaged in such a way that all vehicles entering the toll plaza at M-2 and all other motorways be inspected and impounded, if found emitting smoke.

International drug network busted

Cocaine worth Rs150m seized

LAHORE: The Organized Crime Unit (OCU) of police claimed to have busted a network of international drug traffickers, involving three suspects having foreign nationalities, besides their "local partners", and recovered a big consignment worth Rs150 million and other drugs from them.

The OCU police also seized 25,000 ecstasy pills and 7kg heroin from the 12 hideouts, and making efforts to recover more drugs, police sources said. Mr Kishwar said the suspects revealed supply of a large quantity of cocaine to elite circles in the province, which was a matter of grave concern.

Magsi leads Thal Jeep Rally qualifiers as smog hits event

By Malik Tahseen Noza

MUZAFFARGARH: Mir Nadir Magsi led the qualifying round of the 9th Thal Jeep Rally on Friday with an impressive time of 1 minute and 34 seconds on a 1-km track.

However, the day's excitement was marred by an accident that left racer Araf Ali seriously injured after his vehicle, No. 310, overturned before reaching the track. Emergency personnel from Rescue 1122, prepared with 70 rescuers and emergency vehicles stationed at 17 key points, administered first aid at the scene.

The rally is part of a larger cultural fair held in Chabara town, Thal Desert. Various stalls, music performances and traditional displays have attracted people from across the region.

Post-arrest bail pleas of Imran in four May 9 cases allowed

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Friday allowed post-arrest bail petitions of incarcerated PTI founding chairman Imran Khan in four cases of the May 9 riots registered in the provincial metropolis.

Judge Arshad Javed announced the decision after Prosecutor General of Punjab Syed Farhad Ali Shah concluded his arguments against the petitions of the former premier.

He requested the court to defer the decision for one hearing. "We have a new point on which we need to present arguments," added the lawyer.

The judge adjourned the hearing till Nov 30. Other cases include attacks on Akbar Tower and Shalimar police station.

The judge also extended the bail of Opposition Leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub and former federal minister Asad Umar, who did not appear before the court.



Schoolchildren form world's largest national flag in Lahore

LAHORE: Students of different schools on Friday set a new world record by forming a massive 'Pakistan national flag' here. According to a press release, over 10,000 students, including those of the Army Public School Lahore, gathered in a ground and set a new world record by participating in the formation of the world's largest national flag.

Gangster having social media following killed in 'police operation'

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Shahid Lund, the ringleader of Lund gang operating in Katcha area of the river Indus and YouTuber carrying Rafiqi head money, was killed in a joint operation by Rahim Yar Khan and Rajanpur police on Friday. Punjab police chief Dr Usman Anwar declared it a major success and expressed the resolve to eliminate gangsters and terrorists from the area.

Arrest warrants for PTI activists

TOBA TEK SINGH: Faisalabad Anti-Terrorism Court Special Judge Javed Iqbal Sheikh adjourned the hearing of the case registered by the Chabara Muhammadabad police against PTI activists on May 9, 2023, for their involvement in the riots that occurred following the arrest of Imran Khan.

**PRAYER**

Fajr	5.01
Zuhar	1.00
Asr	3.32
Maghrib	5.09
Isha	6.31

Starting time in Lahore

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**REFLECTIONS**

HOWEVER FORSAKES TRUTH FINDS THAT HIS PATH OF LIFE HAS BECOME NARROW AND TROUBLESOME 55 — HAZRAT ALI (R.A.) (78/14/2)

**LWMC launches model village project**

**By Our Staff Reporter**

LAHORE: The Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) on Friday launched the model village project in Bahdoki, starting with Bahdoki village.

Under the project, villages in Lahore will be cleaned on a regular basis, adopting the best waste collection and disposal practices.

"The significant measures are being undertaken to enhance sanitation services in both urban and rural areas, in line with the instructions of the Chief Minister," said LWMC Chief Executive Officer Babar Sahib Din at the model village launch ceremony in Bahdoki.

The project will focus on providing door-to-door waste collection services, along with the necessary infrastructure to ensure that the village remains free of garbage.

As many as seven sanitary workers, three hand carts, and one chain arm roller have been deployed for waste collection, while daily containers have been placed at key locations to help keep the village clean.

The residents of Bahdoki village welcomed the cleanliness efforts. In a planned approach, all services in the village will be transformed into model areas for sanitation. The first phase involves the villages within 42 union councils.

A camp was set up in Bahdoki village, and announcements were made encouraging residents to keep their streets clean.



TRADERS sell sweet lime (mussammi) at the Bahdoki Bazaar fruit market. — White Star

**Govt forms committee to make theatre 'family-friendly'**

**By Our Staff Reporter**

LAHORE: Another anti-obscenity drive appears to be on the horizon as the Punjab government on Friday formed a government advisory committee to make commercial theatre plays "civilised and family-friendly."

In March, in an attempt to "end obscenity" in commercial theatre, the Punjab government approved amendments to the Dramatic Performances Act 1976, transferring administrative control of dramatic performances from the Home Department to the Information and Culture Department.

The Punjab caretaker government, led by Mohsin Naqvi, had

also launched an anti-obscenity drive, banning a number of actresses from commercial theatre.

"A seven-member advisory committee has been formed to make theatre plays civilised, family-friendly and cultural," said Punjab Information and Culture Minister Arshad Bokhari on Friday.

The committee includes Secretary Information Tahir Raza Hamdani (head) and senior actors Sohail Ahmed, Naseem Vicky, Nasir Chishti, Saleem Akhlaq, Qaiser Pira, Iftikhar Thakur and Majid Khan.

The committee will submit its recommendations in 15 days, Mr Bokhari said the primary objective of the committee is to restore stage plays to being civilised, polite, and

family-oriented.

"If subsidies are required for the revival of stage dramas, a mechanism will be developed for that as well. The goal of the theatre advisory committee is to end vulgarity in stage dramas and restore traditional, cultural theatre," she said.

The minister further stated that a two-day theatre festival would be held in Nov 20.

"The festival will showcase the talents of stage actors and will be a completely family-friendly event, rich in Punjab's culture, traditions, and characteristic humour," she said.

Under the new Punjab Theatrical Performances Ordinance 2023, powers have been transferred from the Home Department to the Culture

Department to regulate theatres.

The Punjab Arts Council (PAC) will draft rules of business regarding commercial theatres, where all aspects from script approval to monitoring and disciplinary action will fall under the PAC's mandate through the Information and Culture Department.

During the caretaker government in Punjab last August, when Arif Mir was the caretaker minister for information and culture, the administration notified more than 30 major commercial theatres in Lahore, Sheikhupura and Kamit for violating the Dramatic Performances Act 1976 and allegedly promoting obscenity through women dancers. Later, these theatres were arrested by the Lahore High Court.

**Dosti theatre fest kicks off today**

**Artists from 11 countries to perform**

LAHORE: Ajoka's multicultural Dosti International Theatre Festival will kick off on Saturday (today). The nine-day festival is being held in collaboration with the Lahore Arts Council and supported by the Punjab government.

The announcement was made at a press conference addressed by Shafiq Nadeem, Sohail Warratsh and Kamran Khan at Alhambra Art Centre on Friday.

Theatre groups from 11 countries are participating in the festival. Teams of international artists would start arriving from tomorrow. A group of 15 Indian actors would cross the Wagah border in the morning and it would be led by Kewal Khatriwal. The group of

Swiss artists will also arrive in the afternoon followed by Al Lamiie group from the UK.

The opening ceremony on Saturday will include a performance by Wahab Shah Drama Company that will perform a 40-minute ensemble, Aamr Ajoka and a new documentary, marking Ajoka's 40th anniversary would also be launched on the occasion.

The second day of the festival would be devoted to the people of Palestine. Renowned Pakistani artists would join American artists to pay tribute to the people of Palestine. The programme will include reading of Gaza Monologues, testimonies of residents of Gaza, read by Faryal Gaudin, Hafser Tahir, Ahmad Bilal, Anisa Bilal, Naseem Akhlaq and Sofia Hameem.

American theatre actresses Monica Baskin and Leah Bachar will join in the tribute. It would be the first time that American and Pakistani artists would perform on the same platform. There would be performances by Leah Baskin, classical dancer Shreya and Khawar Ali Qureshi. Pakistani theatre performers by international theatre groups in Alhambra Hall 3, there would also be daily folk cultural performances and a theatre exhibition.

The visiting artists will also be holding training workshops and talks at various cultural institutions, including Government College, Lahore College for Women, Kinnaird College, Punjab University and University of Central Punjab. — Staff Reporter

**Shot dead**

LAHORE: A man was shot dead while his brother was injured allegedly by rivals in Gujranwala on Friday.

The incident took place when the elders of the area were making a reconciliation between two rival parties but suddenly both sides exchanged hot words which led to firing.

A police official said an eye of the deceased named Iqbal, brother-in-law of Zahidullah and his brother, Qasim, was shot dead while his brother was injured and taken to a hospital where his condition was said to be serious.

He said Iqbal and his brother Zahidullah and his brother Iqbal were in a dispute over a petty issue. — Staff Reporter

**Punjab govt, Nadra sign accord for data management**

**By Our Staff Reporter**

LAHORE: The Punjab government and the National Database Registration Authority (Nadra) have entered into an agreement to collect citizens' data through the Punjab Socio-Economic Registry (PSER) and the latter validating and supporting centralised data management as well as maintaining privacy and protection of citizens' information.

This initiative, inaugurated by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on July 25, will serve as a milestone in establishing a data-driven decision support system.

Planning and Development Board Secretary Dr Asif Iftail and Nadra's Chief Projects Officer Rehman Qureshi signed the agreement in the presence of PWD Board Chairman Nabeel Awan at board's office on Friday.

The PSER is the country's first provincial-level socioeconomic database, designed to ensure that everyone is counted and the government has data of its citizens for evidence-based decision-making and targeting its Social Protection Initiatives.

By gathering and managing comprehensive data on Punjab's population, Dr Iftail said, the PSER would play a key role in verifying eligibility for various welfare programmes, including

the Punjab Kisan Card, Livestock Card, E-Bike Scheme, and Chief Minister's Ramadan Package. During times of crisis or natural disasters, he said, the registry would also enable timely assistance to vulnerable households.

The secretary said the data of each family member collected in the PSER and validated through Nadra would help include the whole rich family and include the whole poor family in targeted social protection initiatives. He said the agreement would strengthen the chief minister's commitment to a transparent and effective social protection system.

Dr Iftail said Nadra's involvement would also expand access to the PSER through both physical registration centres and a door-to-door survey, allowing easy registration for citizens across the province. By leveraging Nadra's expertise, he said, the PSER would serve as an essential tool for equitable welfare distribution across the province, contributing to a more inclusive and resilient Punjab.

PSER: The Provincial Development Working Party on Friday approved two sub-committees with an estimated cost of Rs1.65bn. It approved construction of a Judicial Complex at Gujranwala in district Rawalpindi at a cost of Rs1.45bn as well as another Judicial Complex at Jhang SDQ at a cost of Rs1.14bn.

**CORRIGENDUM**  
Extension Bid Submission Date

The District Education Authority, Multan invited E-Bids through (www.punjab.gov.pk) (Web (Multan), Dawn Lahore) and Dupa (Multan) on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, PL-002 / E-tendering for Purchase of Uncooked Feed Items (Wheat Bran, Lard and Oats) for 123 Boarding Students of Multan, under the control of District Education Authority, Multan. In this regard, the last date for submission of E-Tender is hereby extended upto 25-11-2024, instead of 11-11-2024.

Other terms & conditions will remain the same.

**Chief Executive Officer**  
District Education Authority,  
Multan.  
Tel: 991-9210000  
Email: ceo@punjab.gov.pk  
Office Address:  
Chief Executive Officer District Education Authority, Multan New Education University,  
DPL-0000

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**COURT NOTICE**

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# Tenants to resist handover of land to corporate farming company

### Pass resolution to stand their ground; 3,979 kanals leased to firm for Rs100,000

By Shafiq Butt

**SAHJWAL:** Landless tenants have decided to resist the takeover of their 4,193 kanal land at Muhammad Nagar Seed Farm at Chak 103/EB, Tehsil Arifwala, saying they were the fourth generation of farmers cultivating the land legally and litigation in higher judiciary is going on against the cancellation of their lease and transfer of their land to a corporate farming company.

They say they have been cultivating the land since 1928 and if this land is to be leased out, they have the first right to it and their land must not be handed over to 'the private company' for so-called corporate farming.



SAHJWAL: Farmers take part in a meeting at Chak 103/EB, Arifwala. — Dawn

A resolution was passed in a joint meeting called by Anjumam Manzoor Punjabi, (Mahar Ghulam Abbas Group) and representatives of Pakistan Kisan Rabita Committee (PKRC) held at Chak 103/EB on Friday. More than 250 tenants and representatives of the AMP from Kot Adha, Bahawal, Hasilpur, Vehari, Jhelian, and Kalanwali, attended the meeting.

Qamar Abbas and Hussain Jamil from the PKRC as well as Mahar Ghulam Abbas, Shamsur Bharti, Akbar Jan from the AMP condemned the Punjab government's high-handedness and recent actions where tenants' land in different areas of Punjab was awarded to private companies in the name

of corporate farming.

On other hand, Lahore High Court on Nov 5 transferred writ petition of tenants against govt and others to the court of Justice Khawaz Mahmood Mirza who is already hearing a writ petition of the same nature. Chaudhry Mohammad Ashraf and M.A. Chaudhry Haq, the counsel for tenants, told Dawn the next hearing would be held on Nov 11.

The cases were filed by the landless tenants whose lease was cancelled by the Board of Revenue and 3,979 kanals of the same land was leased to M/s Green Corporate Initiative Private Limited for just Rs100,000 lease agreement.

Ch Ashraf, the counsel for tenants, informed Dawn by phone the land lease case was going on between tenants and the Punjab government, secretary Colonies,

secretary Agriculture, director general Agriculture, Punjab, DC, Pakistan and manager Muhammad Nagar Seed Farm.

On other hand, the situation remained calm and none from the administration or police intervened with tenants' gathering on Friday.

The situation was tense when a stand-off occurred between 700 police cops and 1,000 tenants of the farm on Nov 3. Report said an

evacuation started when 700 policemen with 60 vehicles, including a prison van, invaded Muhammad Nagar and started to vacate a 100-year-old land allocated to 34 landless farmers families in 1928 under the Colonization of Government Land Act, 1912. Since then, 34 landless tenants' families have been cultivating the said piece of land. Now the village tenants' population had gone up to 1,200 with fourth-generation cultivating the same land.

Election Commission of Pakistan data shows around 775 registered voters existed as registered voters in Muhammad Nagar Seed Farm.

It is learnt Pakistan Deputy Commissioner Sadiq Mubhar ordered the vacation of the land which is allocated to the Green Corporate Initiative Private Ltd under the Land Acquisition Act 1884. On that day, police leveled the land with tractors and destroyed the standing crops of wheat, mustard and fodder.

Report said police used heavy machinery and leveled standing crops at six Kanals owned by Muhammad Akram and Ali Muhammad Gajjar.

Ch Ashraf, the counsel for tenants, said the land transfer record data showed out of total 4,193 kanal, 3,979 kanal and 10 marla land in total Arifwala, owned by Colonies Department, had now been transferred on lease to the Green Corporate Initiative Private Limited under certified registry No. 44620240001881 at the rate of Rs100,000 on 05/09/2024.

Those who address the farmers' gathering include Chaudhry Akram, Sherif Syed, Malazam Hussain Babak, Riaz Ahmad Babak, Chaudhry Usman Ghani, Muhammad Shafiq, Muhammad Akbar and Muhammad Shafiq, convenor AMP Muhammad Nagar.

# Rivals kill 'murderer' in police custody

Four cops arrested

By Wassim Ashraf Butt

**GUJRAT:** A murder accused who returned from Saudi Arabia after three years in hiding was shot dead in Gujrat police custody allegedly by his rivals on Friday.

The killing took place near Kotlaheer village along the Shahbazpur Road in the precincts of Sadar Jalapur Jattar police station.

Police said Zameer Hussain Khokhar of Mekan village had been declared a fugitive in a murder case of Daulat Nagar police station back in 2021 after he fled abroad.

He was captured by the Immigration authorities at the Karachi airport on his return from Saudi Arabia and was handed over to the Gujrat police.

On Friday, a four-member police team led by ASI Iqbal Ahmad of Daulat Nagar police station was bringing him back to the police station.

As soon as the police party reached near Shahbazpur, some armed men riding on two different black cars stopped the police party.

# 85 booked for firing on police, freeing suspect

By Our Correspondent

**RAHAWALPUR:** Khairpur Tamewali police have booked as many as 85 people, comprising six men and three women of them, for allegedly opening fire, injuring and making escape a regular police party, besides freeing a wanted suspect from the policemen, near Chaudhary village in Shah Goth Muhammad area, about 45kms from here.

The first information report (FIR No 1028/24) was registered against the suspects under section 7 of the Anti-terrorism Act (ATA) and sections 427, 342, 353, 223, 307-B (2), 2015-13 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), on the complaint of Sub Inspector (SI) Ghulam Abbas of city police station, Lodhian.

As per the FIR, a police party headed by SI Abbas arrested a thief suspect, Jamal, wanted in FIR No.1766/24 in a raid, recovering an undisclosed sum from his possession.

It says that as the police were going to the house of the suspect in the village for recovery of two stolen motorcycles and as many laptops, about 15 men, including Ibrahim, Jashwadha, Riaz, Qaiser and others, along with three women, Zakia, Bakera and Rafia — opened fire on the police team, leaving 17-year-old Umair Ilyas injured. He says the suspects, who were also joined by 70 other men, attacked the policemen, tearing uniforms of many of them and taking them hostage.

However, when the attackers noticed the police re-enforcement was arriving, they fled the scene, along with the arrested suspect. The Bahawalpur and Lodhian police spokespersons, when contacted, said an operation to arrest the suspects was being planned in Goth Shah Muhammad area.

**SUSPECT KILLED:** Police claimed that a dacoity suspect was killed, while one of his accomplices was arrested in an 'encounter' at 27-M village in the limits of Daryapur police station in Lodhian district on Friday.

However, another accomplice of the suspect managed to flee under the cover of darkness.

According to Lodhian police, Sadler police, Kahroraspata, received an emergency call from Miani police post that three suspects were fleeing after snatching a motorcycle and cash from a man.

At this, SHO Imran Gajjar, along with a heavy contingent of police, set up a picket on a road in the area, where a Daryapur Sadler police party also joined them.

Meanwhile, according to the police, three suspects on a motorcycle allegedly opened fire on the police at the picket. As the police returned the fire, a suspect, identified as Imran alias Narmal, was killed during the shootout, while his accomplice Behal was arrested.

The police claimed that Imran was allegedly involved in 17 cases of dacoity, murder and abduction. He had also murdered a vendor selling oranges in the area and snatched his motorcycle, that was recovered from him, the police said.

They said the arrested suspect, Behal was being interrogated, while police are looking for the third accomplice, who had fled away. The body of Imran was shifted to Daryapur THQ hospital for the post-mortem examination.

Meanwhile, a 14-year-old boy drowned in the river Sabli, while four women suffered injuries in a road accident. As per police, the boy, Subhan, was playing on the river bank near Baat Qadirabad when he fell into the river and drowned.

The four women, identified as Rabia, Tabira, Sadiq and Musaddas Bibi, suffered injuries in a collision between a van and a motorcycle on Ahmedpur East Road.

In another road traffic accident, a car collided with a motorcycle/rickshaw on Chishtiana Road in Hasilpur, leaving four persons, including a woman, injured. They were shifted to the Hasilpur THQ Hospital.

# 22 public schools' dangerous buildings await action

By Our Correspondent

**RAHIM YAR KHAN:** The buildings of 22 government schools in four tehsils of Rahim Yar Khan district, which were declared dangerous by the district education authority (DEA) in March 2024, are still waiting for action by the administration and departments concerned while the students are forced to attend classes in the open in inclement weather conditions.

According to a letter, dated 06.03.2024, the DEA chief executive officer (CEO) had informed the executive engineer (EXEN) Buildings Division about the dangerous buildings.

He also requested the officer to visit the sites, assess the buildings' conditions and send the technical report to his office for further action.

In the response of this letter, the EXEN without mentioning the number and date replied that a copy of the above letter was forwarded to the sub-divisional officers (SDOs) buildings sub-division No 1 Rahim Yar Khan, Laspur, Khairpur and Sadulpur for information and remedial action.

The head teacher of Govt Elementary School, Chak 145-P, Muhammad Khalid, wrote a letter to the deputy commissioner/administrator district council on Oct 30, 2024, saying that the building of the school was 62 years old and the building department had declared it dangerous, saying it would be renovated.

He attached a copy of letter, dated 06.09.2024, by EXEN in

which the rough cost estimate was Rs12.5m. The proposal was submitted for approval of funds from the authorizing to the education department sources, no school declared dangerous was reconstructed nor were the funds released.

DEA CEO Tasawal Hussain told Dawn he had taken charge of his office some days back and he would reply after getting details of the schools but he did not reply till the filing of this report.

EXEN Buildings Norman Nadeem told this correspondent that according to his information, no civil work for renovation was started yet but he would confirm it from his subordinate SDOs and reply later on. — **IRRAWADDI**



RAHIM YAR KHAN: Schoolchildren attend classes in the open at Govt Elementary School, Chak 145-P. — Dawn

# UAF enters top 50 in agriculture, forestry in QS rankings

By Our Correspondent

**TORA TEK SINGH:** The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) has entered the elite group of the top 50 universities in the world, securing the 49th position in the QS World University Rankings for Agriculture and Forestry.

This marks an impressive leap of eight spots from last year's 58th position. According to a press release issued by UAF, the university is also ranked 37th among South Asian universities, 202d in Asia, and 688th globally in the overall QS World University Rankings.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan congratulated the faculty, staff, Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC), and the entire campus community for this significant achievement, which underscores UAF's growing academic stature on the global stage.

**MEETING:** Commissioner Sibtain Bano held a meeting with officials from the Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology (FIC) to discuss the replacement of two angiography machines, a gamma camera, an echocardiography machine, a new GFD block, staff accommodation, and the expansion of the emergency department and pathology lab.

Executive Director Dr. Hamid Saeed and Medical Superintendent Dr. Nadeem briefed the commissioner on the ongoing improvements at the hospital. Commissioner Saeed emphasized the need to expedite the appointment of doctors and staff for the new ward on the fourth floor and to maintain close coordination with Chaudhry Ahsan Ali, the government-appointed coordinator for the project.

During her visit, she also inspected the pharmacy and reviewed the processes for the transparent delivery of medicines to patients' homes through courier services.

**KILLED:** A trainee head constable died by suicide on Friday after killing a sub-inspector (SI) at the Police Training Centre in Ferozabad, Sheikhupura.

Reports said that cop Tabir, upset over being assigned difficult duties, shot and killed SI Afzal at 7am. During the incident, Tabir also shot himself, resulting in his immediate death. Tabir was a resident of Hafidabad, while SI Afzal was from Faisalabad.

# Youth 'rapes' two minor sisters

By Our Correspondent

**TORA TEK SINGH:** A youth allegedly raped two minor sisters at a gas-pump at Chak 157-JB, Gojra, on Friday.

As per police, a labourer "B" would go for work, leaving his three minor daughters at his house in the village as his wife had died.

In his absence, the suspect, a vagabond, allegedly raped Shahbaz's eldest 14-year-old daughter "Z" at gas-pump for two months, threatening to kill her and her sisters, if she complained to anyone.

On Friday, the suspect again forced his entry into the house and raped "Z" and her eight-year-old sister.

The girls informed their father about the incident, who reported the matter to Gujra Sadler police.

Acting on the complaint, the police registered a case against the suspect, claiming his arrest.

**MAN DIES:** A man died and two others

injured when their car rammed into a roadside tree on Pirmahal Khokha Road near Chak 142-GH, Chohanwala, on Friday.

As per police, the deceased was identified as Nadeem Akhtar (38).

The injured, who were shifted to Pirmahal THQ Hospital, were identified as Umair Manzara (32), Tanweer Ahmad (35) and an unidentified man.

The accident reportedly occurred because of the poor visibility caused by smog in the area.

Meanwhile, in another smog-related incident, six persons were injured as a van collided with a trailer on M-3 motorway near service area of Rajana interchange.

The injured persons, including two women, were shifted to Toba DDU Hospital.

**KILLED:** A watchman died after falling from the third storey of a flour mills in Chak 109-GH, Jaranwala Tehsil, on Friday evening.

Reports said Liaqat Ali, 50, fell down after his foot slipped. He died on the spot.

# Property tax collection under DC rate to begin in January

By Our Correspondent

**SARGODHA:** The Department of Excise and Taxation will begin collecting property tax at the DC rate across Punjab starting Jan 1.

Under this new system, tax will not apply to houses worth up to Rs5 million. It will become mandatory to enter the biometric system during vehicle transfers. However, Commission boards will not have the authority to collect professional tax.

Sargodha Excise Director Muhammad Mushtaq Faridi said that in the first four months of this financial year, the division recovered Rs503.98 million.

This includes Rs251.945 million from property tax, with Sargodha district contributing Rs395.196 million, Khushab Rs94.582 million, Mianwali Rs54.77 million, and Bhakkar Rs45.425 million.

**GANG HIDE:** After intercepting a smuggling attempt involving alcohol disguised as medicine, the police arrested a five-member gang.

The police recovered 690 liters of alcohol and seized three vehicles involved in the operation. A case was registered at the Satellite Town police station. The suspects, hailing from Lahore, Faisalabad and Sargodha, were allegedly supplying illicit liquor across various districts of Punjab.

**POWER THEFT:** A case was registered against Pakistan Tabroolki Insaaf MNA Shafiq Abbas Arvan for allegedly stealing electricity at his residence in Chak 35 NB.

According to a Faisalabad Electric Supply Company team, Mr Arvan had tampered with the electricity meter by creating a hole to bypass the system.

**SEMINAR:** The Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Sargodha organized a seminar on 'Journalistic Ethics', featuring Managing Director of the Associated Press of Pakistan Muhammad Asim Khichi as chief guest.

The seminar aimed at engaging the local media community, with justice parts, including television and newspaper journalists from Sargodha division, as well as students from the media studies department.

Mr Khichi highlighted the importance of objective, impartial and fact-based journalism. He stressed the growing need for investigative journalism

and encouraged attendees to develop modern skills necessary for the evolving media landscape, including artificial intelligence, data journalism, visual storytelling, and predictive journalism.

Responding to questions on combating disinformation, Mr Khichi emphasized the need to verify information directly from reliable sources to ensure accuracy. He also noted that various government bodies, journalist associations, and media councils are working to train journalists in detecting and countering fake news.

Dr Mudassar Hussain Shah, chairman of the Department of Communication and Media Studies, announced a new partnership between the University of Sargodha and APP aimed at strengthening the capacity of journalists in the region.

# METRO

North



Zheng beats Krejčíková to reach WTA Finals decider

Page 18 SPORT

**PESHAWAR**  
Sunset 05:17pm  
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:38am  
**NEXT 24 HRS**  
Minimum 17°C  
Maximum 28°C  
Outlook Mostly Cloudy



CHIEF Minister Ali Amin Gandapur holds a blessing horse during the opening ceremony for a three-day horse and cattle show at Sher Khan Stadium in Peshawar on Friday. — Photo by Shahbaz Butt

## KP opposes extension of 7th NFC award, says won't forgo due share in resources

**Complains finance ministry didn't reply to repeated communications on matter**

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has warned that it will not agree to any further extension to the 7th National Finance Commission award over charges to the province's population and poverty numbers following the merger of the Federal Administrative Tribal Areas (now tribal districts) with the province.

"We made multiple contacts to the finance ministry, including phone calls and letters, on the NFC issue, with the most recent communication on Sept 27, but got no reply," adviser to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister on Finance Muhammad Aslam told Dawn.

He said that though the provincial government's budget had posted a surplus, it won't forgo its due share in the NFC award.

In a letter, a copy of which is available with Dawn, the finance department informed the finance ministry that the province faced financial losses after the merger of the federally and provincially administered tribal areas with it in 2018.

It complained that for the last almost six years since the Fata-KP merger, more than 6.1 million residents from the merged districts hadn't been accommodated in the intergovernmental funds transfer mechanism under the NFC award.

The department added that provincial Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, in a tribal jirga on Sept 5, highlighted the problems facing the

residents of tribal districts following the 25th Constitutional Amendment.

It pointed out that besides discussing other financial and administrative issues, the jirga also advocated for engaging with the federal government to claim the province's share in national resources justified after the Fata-KP merger as well as ensure the timely provision of funds.

"The legal framework made NFC a principal forum, a robust feature of the federal structure but it was observed with grave concern that the intended process of continual consultation hadn't been materialised.

"It is also in our knowledge that the 25th Constitutional Amendment is based on the premise of mainstream and addressing the historical development lag that these areas have faced in the first 70 years of the country's history. The task given to this province is not only daunting but also beyond

our present financial capacity," the finance department argued in the letter.

It added that the federal government had promised to foot the bill of the "structural look" but that "remedy" appeared to have lost steam over the years.

The department pointed out that not only were the allocations and releases in the 10-year development plan, Accelerated Implementation Programme, shrinking but the province was also being left cash-starved on many other sources of federal fiscal transfers.

It argued that the 7th NFC award did not allocate any designated funds to Fata though it remained a federally administered territory, while the award equalisation provided higher per capita allocations to Balochistan and recognised various needs of other provinces in the formula.

"While all four provinces started receiving higher amounts of funds under the 7th NFC award, Fata, by and large,

continued with its historical level public expenditures, resulting in much lower levels of development," the finance department complained in the letter.

It added that the discrepancy was calculated for the period from 2019-21 to 2023-24 using the per capita funds available to Balochistan.

The department insisted that Fata received meagre investment under the NFC award, leading to underdevelopment, low economic base and fewer job opportunities in the region.

It also pointed out that even if the case of low investment in Fata was not calculated for seven decades before its merger with KP, the matter needed an urgent correction.

The finance department urged the finance ministry to convene a NFC meeting, saying it is a matter of grave concern that the 7th NFC award is no longer compliant with the Constitution.

## Four officers including PDA DG transferred

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Friday transferred four officials, including the director general of Peshawar Development Authority (PDA).

A notification issued by the establishment department here said that Shariq Hussain (BS-20), chairman Higher Education Regulatory Authority (HERA), had been transferred and posted special secretary health department.

Besides, Captain retired Khalid Mahmood (BS-19), director general PDA, has been transferred and posted chairman HE/RA, and Mohammad Naeem Khan (BS-19), director social welfare department, has been transferred and posted DG PDA.

Abdul Ghafoor Shah (BS-19), special secretary health, has been transferred and directed to report to the establishment department.

## Kurram people end protest after talks with officials

KURRAM: The people of Kurram called off a protest march after successful negotiations with the district administration and security forces here on Friday.

A 50-member jirga represented the Kurram people in the talks with the administrative and security officials. According to sources, the tribesmen had started a massive march from Parashinar on Thursday to protest the prolonged closure of roads linking the district with other areas.

After covering a distance of 28 kilometres, the march turned into a sit-in in Samera area, and the protesters announced they would march to Peshawar and Islamabad.

During the talks, it was decided that in the first phase, vehicles would be allowed on the main highway through convoys, and traffic would be allowed to ply on other roads after making them safe for travel.

It was also decided during the talks that additional checkpoints would be established and CCTV cameras would be installed on the main highway.

Kurram deputy commissioner Javedullah Makhdoom said that after the firing incident on passenger vehicles of Mughal tribes on October 12, the main highway was closed for traffic due to security concerns. — Correspondent

## PTI to announce future course of action in Swabi

By Our Correspondent

SWABI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders here said that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur would announce the PTI's future course of action during a public meeting scheduled to be held near the Swabi Interchange of the Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway here on Saturday.

National Assembly former speaker Asad Qaiser said: "Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur will announce a new line of action for the party in the rally and our entire focus is on the release of the party's founding chairman Imran Khan from the jail."

Meanwhile, the PTI has completed all arrangements for holding the public meeting. PTI local leaders said that the party's workers from across the country would participate in the public gathering.

## Interest-free loan, internship programmes for youth launched

**Gandapur says initiatives aim to empower people financially**

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Friday launched an initiative to provide interest-free loans and internship opportunities to the youth.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur launched the Ehsaas Nasojwan and Chief Minister Youth Internship programmes during a ceremony held at the Chief Minister's House, according to a statement issued here.

Mr Gandapur also launched the Ehsaas Nasojwan online portal, through

which youth from across the province can apply online for interest-free loans to start their own businesses under the Ehsaas Nasojwan initiative.

On this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding was also signed among the department of youth affairs, Bank of Khyber, and Akhwat Microfinance Bank to implement the programme.

The Ehsaas Nasojwan programme, a three-year project, would be implemented at a cost of Rs1 billion.

Under the first component of this programme, interest-free loans worth Rs1 billion will be provided in partnership with the BOB. Under this component, clusters of three to five young men aged 18 to 35 will receive interest-free loans ranging from Rs1 million to Rs5 million.

The repayment period will span eight years, with the first 20-month as grace period, during which, no repayments

will be required.

The second component of the programme would be implemented in partnership with Akhwat Microfinance Bank at a cost of Rs1 billion. It will provide interest-free loans ranging from Rs500,000 to Rs500,000 for small-scale businesses to individuals aged 18 to 40.

A quota of 15 per cent has been reserved for young women, 2.5pc for differently-abled persons, 5pc for Madrasah students and 2.5pc for minorities.

Notably, the Ehsaas Nasojwan programme will continue in the future as a revolving fund, allowing the amount repaid by beneficiaries to be made available to assist more youth for starting new business or expanding existing ones.

Additionally, the Chief Minister Youth Internship Programme will offer internships to 400 students annually, each lasting three months and providing a

monthly stipend of Rs25,000.

Over three years, a total of 1,200 students will benefit from this programme. Young individuals aged up to 25 with 10 years of education or an equivalent degree recognised by the Higher Education Commission will be eligible. Upon completion, internships will be provided with employment opportunities in various public and private sectors.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr Gandapur said that party's founder Imran Khan's vision was to empower the people to stand on their own feet. He said the initiatives like Ehsaas Nasojwan, Ehsaas Hunar, Ehsaas Rozgar, and Ehsaas Apsa Char were practical steps towards realising this vision.

He said these initiatives aimed at providing loans for starting businesses and helping individuals to achieve financial independence.

## High court extends stay order against closure of Ulla Dam project

**Asks govt not to encash bank guarantees of contractors**

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has extended a stay order in favour of the contractors of the Ulla Dam project, directing the provincial government not to encash their bank guarantees to the tune of Rs111.66 million.

A bench consisting of Justice Syed Muhammad Atiqul Haq and

Justice Sahibzada Asadullah issued the order on two petitions of the contractors, who challenged the winding up of the Ulla Dam project for supplying drinking water to Swabi and cancellation of its agreement with them.

It directed counsel for the petitioners, Alamzeb Khan, to produce a rejoinder to the comments filed by the respondents, including the provincial government, to the petitioners.

The hearing will be fixed later. The petitions were filed by a joint venture of Qalander Box Altes and Co and Yaqub Shah and Sons with a request for stopping the government from taking any action against them and about the encashment of their bank guarantees.

The petitioner has requested the court to declare illegal the decision taken on July 27, 2024, during a meeting chaired by the additional chief secretary (planning and development).

The meeting had asked the public health engineering department with submitting PC-II for a new feasibility study to explore alternative drinking water options, while the irrigation department was asked to immediately cancel the agreement with the contractor or consultant as the scheme wasn't reflected in the ADP 2024-25.

The petitioner also requested the court to declare illegal a letter sent to them by the director general

(small dams) of the irrigation department on Aug 7, 2024, declaring that the Ulla Dam project has been 'shut-down' and the contractor should immediately refund the remaining mobilisation advance of Rs111.66 million to prevent the encashment of the bank guarantees submitted by the petitioner to the government.

Advocate Alamzeb Khan said that in light of the original PC-I of the scheme, Rs1.5 billion was approved by the PDWP to provide 3.5 cusecs of drinking water to 45 villages.

The lawyer said that the petitioner was given the acceptance letter by the deputy director (small dams) on July 10, 2018.

He said on the directions of PDWP in its meeting on Jan 4, 2021, a panel of experts was constituted to technically examine the design, estimates and certain other observations regarding the project.

The counsel said that after considering all the aspects, the design and estimates were reviewed by the PDWP on Jan 27, 2022, and the cost of project was enhanced to Rs2.2 billion.

He said the experts declared that there was no alternate source, which could be explored for addressing the issue of drinking water to the area.

The lawyer said on Dec 28, 2023, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the additional chief secretary (P&D), wherein it was recom-

mented to cap the work done at the site and the irrigation department should move a summary for deletion of the scheme from the ADP.

He said that after the petitioners had challenged that decision the advocate general had informed the court in Feb 2024 that the government hadn't taken any decision on the matter and the matter would be decided in the next cabinet meeting.

The lawyer argued that despite recommendations of a technical committee to review the decision taken in the meeting of Dec 28, 2023, about the winding up of the project, no review had been made and instead, respondents were kept on closing the project.



# Women, children protection unit inaugurated in Nowshera

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The first women and children protection unit in the province was established by Nowshera police to support and encourage women and children to report crimes against them.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan, who was the chief guest at the opening event, stated that this specialised unit would be essential in safeguarding the weaker members of society.

He added that it would serve as a model for other districts in the province regarding efficiency and best practices that must be followed in cases of abuse against women and children, said a statement issued here.

Speaking at the event, DPO Muhammad Anwar Khan stated that one of the greatest crimes was the increasing number of violent crimes against women and youth.

"In order to prevent such occurrences, identify and capture the offenders, and guarantee victims' access to justice and reintegration into society, a specialised institutional mechanism that not only accomplishes the aforementioned objectives but also plays a crucial role in putting anti-violence laws into practice in both letter and spirit is necessary," he stressed.

The statement went on to say that this unit would be run by female employees with a dedicated IAN number and a day care centre because women were reluctant to report crimes in police stations because of the often male-dominated atmosphere.

Furthermore, the police department had made transportation available to the unit in order to meet the requirements of medical legal obligations.

This centre will also provide victims with free mental health support based on need. According to the statement, preventive efforts will be taken in addition to providing public advice and information regarding report offenders and their tactics will be kept up to date.

# Swat schoolchildren celebrate Stem Day

Exhibit innovative projects on energy, environmental, agricultural issues

By Our Correspondent

SWAT: Boys and girls from various schools came together here to celebrate International Stem Day.

They displayed innovative projects at an expo, offering solutions to energy, environmental, agricultural and other modern day issues.

The event titled "Let's Build Pakistan" was organised by Skood21 in collaboration with NPS College Swat.

The visitors, including parents, teachers, and community members, appreciated the projects, which, according to them, showed the students' growing interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (Stem).

They said the students included electric power systems, drip irrigation solutions, robotic prototypes, and models on space exploration and quality education.

Seventh graders Shehryar, Yalya, Haris, and Mubshir put up a model to generate electricity from school trash.

They said not only Pakistan but also the entire world faced pollution, which impacted people's health and caused diseases.

The students said their model incorporated solar thermal plates to harness heat and

light before their conversion to usable energy.

Visiting FFC student Ayesha Iqbal said she was impressed by the talents and skills showcased by young minds.

"It's inspiring to see students use a Stem approach to solve modern day issues. Their creativity is helping find practical solutions to issues like solid waste management, pollution, and energy shortages," she said.

The visitor said Stem Day should be celebrated annually to encourage more and more students to come up with "creative and impactful" initiatives.

Parents took pride in their children's achievements.

"As a father, I am thrilled to see young students develop and showcase such innovative and functional models. They have exceeded my expectations with their creativity and technical skill," Khalid Ahmad said, acknowledging the potential of Stem education to inspire future problem solvers.

Fatima Shahab, a 10th grader from Barikot, highlighted the need for reforming education system in the country.

"In traditional systems, students often get bored with rote

learning but Stem education is hands-on and engaging experience. It empowers students to think critically and practically, which is essential for development. Our education system should incorporate more Stem opportunities to keep pace with global progress and prepare us to contribute meaningfully," she said.

The organisers called for integrating Stem into the curriculum and said the initiative would help "cultivate a generation of problem solvers well-equipped to tackle local and global challenges."

# Anti-encroachment drive launched in Ghoriwala

By Our Correspondent

LAKKIMARWAL: District administration launched an anti-encroachment operation in Ghoriwala town of Bannu district on Friday.

Under the leadership of Additional Assistant Commissioner Shakil Khattak, a district official said that unlawfully constructed structures were taken down from the sides of the roads and from crowded bazaars by municipal personnel with the help of local police.

The bazaars and commercial districts were free of both temporary and permanent encroachments, he claimed.

Meanwhile, landowners and farmers requested that the district administration should guarantee a continuous supply of electricity to the service delivery centre in order to expedite the resolution of their issues.

They were speaking during a khuli kurchi which was held by Abdul Hameed Khan, Deputy Commissioner. After hearing farmers' concerns, the DC promised a prompt resolution.

He declared his administration's unwavering commitment to solving people's problems locally.

Meanwhile, under the higher secondary and high school sports competition, a number of district-level game events came to an end.

# Girl students, families protest college vacancies in Dir

By Our Correspondent

LOWER DIR: Dozens of veiled female students from Government Girls Degree College Janshel along with their families demonstrated against the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Friday for failing to fill the open positions at the institution.

Carrying placards, the protesting students blocked the Mureda Samarbagh road while chanting slogans against the local lawmakers and authorities concerned for ignoring the issue.

They informed local journalists that the low female degree institutions in the region, which was spread across the two tehsils of Mureda and Samarbagh, lacked basic amenities.

Daily six lecturers and a principal were accessible out of the 25 posts of professors and lecturers for hundreds of female students, according to Ms Javeria, a BS student, while the remaining positions had been unutilised for years.

She claimed that there was a lack of electricity, clean drinking water, and seating amenities. According to Hudaib Rabbani, a local lawyer, hundreds of female students' future was at stake. He claimed that the KP government's assertion of an ethical moral emergency was merely a political chicanery because it was untrue in practice.

The students' protest caused the main road to be closed for several hours. To address the problem, the demonstrators proclaimed a sit-in and chanted anti-government slogans.

They called for the provision of teaching staff, transportation, clean drinking water, basic amenities, and threatened to close the college if their demands were not met. The students' demonstration was also attended by local political and social leaders, including Hameedullah Malikwani, Waheed Khan Tajki, Shaukat Ali Shah, and others.



STUDENTS and their families hold placards during a protest in Lower Dir. — Dawn

# Tehsil council chairman, four members held in Khyber

By Our Correspondent

KHYBER: The tehsil chairman and four of his local government members were briefly held by police in Landi Kotal after the court of a senior civil judge in Jamrud revoked the bail before arrest that had been granted to him on Friday.

Minutes after being arrested by the police, Shah Khalid Shikwari and other local government leaders Yaqub Wazir, Haji Khan, Haji Sher, and Attullah went to the local magistrate court in Landi Kotal to request bail.

Following a fight between the accused tehsil chairman and N a d r a employees in Landi Kotal over the burning of some

local people's CNICs, the National Database and Registration Authority filed a formal complaint against the tehsil chairman and his associates on October 7.

Representatives of the local government charged that the Nadra centre employees had oversteered themselves by illegally preventing some local citizens whose credentials had been properly validated by the office of the tehsil chairman from obtaining their CNICs.

Additionally, they said that the management and a few employees were extremely impolite to local applicants, and that some of them even demanded bribes from them.

Reacting sharply to the brief arrest of the tehsil chairman and his colleagues, civil society activists in a sizable number held a protest demonstration.

They chanted slogans against the Nadra officials and demanded a transparent inquiry into the alleged misconduct of some of the officials. The demonstrators dispersed peacefully after the grant of bail to the arrested men by the local magistrate.

# Bajaur pensioners decry delay in payments

By Our Correspondent

BAJAUR: Scores of pensioners protested here on Friday against the management of a private bank over unnecessary delay in pension payments to them.

The retired employees gathered in front of the private bank branch in Khar and started chanting slogans against its management for "blocking" their payments.

They said their pensions for the month of October had already been credited to their bank accounts on November 1, and they had also received the confirmation text message from the bank on their mobile phones.

However, they alleged that the management of the bank's Khar branch was not making the payments to them despite the fact that they had been visiting it since Nov 1.

The protesting employees said the bank's management grossed payment on Friday (today), but it again refused to do so after declaring that a fresh verification of their accounts would be required before disbursing the money.

Talking to reporters on the occasion, Haji Akbar Rabbani, Farhan Khan, Gul Khan and others said their colleagues, mostly belonging to far-flung areas of the district, had been visiting the bank for last one week to receive the cash, but they returned empty-handed.

They alleged that the bank officials wanted to keep cash in its coffers to do business on it.

The pensioners said that according to the bank policy, the pensioners were needed to do their bank account verification twice a year, which they said they had already done in Sept ember.

The protesters, who blocked the entrance of the bank for some time, also threatened to hold another protest along with their families if payments were not made to them till Monday, ended their agitation when a senior official of the bank assured them of making pension payments to them till Tuesday.

**URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MARDAN**  
(Phone No. 0927-9230433-34)

**AUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL PLOTS IN INTERMEDIATE**  
(Phase I & II) MARDAN

Urban Area Development Authority Mardan intends to auction the Residential plots (DH ownership) located in Mardankhailan (Phase I & II) Mardan. The details are as under:

RESIDENTIAL PLOTS					
S.No	Plot No.	Section	Size	Reserve Price	Total
1	291, 292, 293, 294	02	One Kanal each	Rs. 22,00,000/- per Kanal	88 Kan
2	343, 344	01	One Kanal each	Rs. 22,00,000/- per Kanal	88 Kan
3	304	02	One Kanal	Rs. 22,00,000/- per Kanal	88 Kan
4	312, 313	02	One Kanal each	Rs. 22,00,000/- per Kanal	88 Kan
5	314	02	80 Kanal	Rs. 22,00,000/- per Kanal	88 Kan

Auction of the above mentioned immovable properties will be held in the Executive Services Club Section-I, Shaikhhanah Mardan on 24th November, 2024 at 12:00 hours.

**TERMS/CONDITIONS**

- For participation in the auction the interested persons will be required to deposit Rs. 3,00,000/- (Three Lacs only) for each plot as security in the shape of cash deposit/pay order/bank draft in the name of Director, Urban Area Development Authority Mardan before the auction. Otherwise, no bidder shall be allowed to participate in the auction proceedings. The security deposit will be refunded to the successful bidder(s) after finalisation of auction.
- The successful bidder(s) will be required to deposit 25% amount of the bid declared successful by the Competent Authority in the shape of bank draft in the name of Director, Urban Area Development Authority Mardan within 7 working days. In case of failure the bid stand cancelled and the security amount shall be forfeited in favour of the Authority.
- Within one week after receipt of 25% of the bid amount, the Authority shall issue an acceptance/ allotment letter to the successful bidder requiring him to deposit the remaining amount and taxes, duties, if any, within one month in the same manner.
- If the successful bidder fails to deposit the remaining amount within the prescribed one month, a surcharge of one percent (1%) of the whole bid per day will be charged.
- If the successful bidder fails to deposit the remaining amount and the surcharge upto a period of ninety (90) days, the bid stand cancelled and the bid amount is deposited along with security deposit shall be forfeited in favour of the Authority.
- The successful bidder shall have to pay in addition to the bid amount income tax, Capital gains tax or any other taxes, (if any), directly to the concerned department under the relevant laws. Failure to deposit the bid fee or taxes may result in cancellation of allotment.
- The possession of the property will be handed over to the successful bidder/ allottee only after receipt of full payment / dues / taxes and execution of sale agreement on stamp paper @ 2% of the bid amount.
- The bidder representing some other person shall have to produce an attested copy of attorney/authority letter in his favour before participating in the auction proceedings.
- The successful bidder/allottee shall abide by the rules/regulation/buyers form for the time being enforced by the Authority and the Act.

Interested persons can visit the site on any working day. However, detail terms/ conditions of the auction can be obtained from the office of Accounts Officer, UADA Mardan on cash payment worth Rs. 3000/- per copy (non refundable) on any working day during working hours prior to auction.

**DIRECTOR**  
Urban Area Development Authority  
Mardan Phone No.0927-9230433-34  
DOP/PS/29/06/24

**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR**  
**Medical Teaching Institution Bannu**  
**SITUATION VACANT**

Applications are invited from Pakistani nationals to fill the following vacant positions in Medical Teaching Institutions Bannu under Medical Teaching Institution Reforms Amendment Act 2023.

S. No.	Name of Post	No. of Positions	Gender	Minimum Qualification and Experience
1	Consultant Path Management	1	M/F	Qualification: 1. MBBS or Equivalent qualification from recognized university registered by PM&DC/PMC. 2. FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC.
2	Consultant Interventional Cardiology	1		Qualification: 1. MBBS or Equivalent qualification from recognized university registered by PM&DC/PMC. 2. FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC.
3	Consultant Radiologist	3	M/F	Qualification: 1. MBBS or Equivalent qualification from recognized university registered by PM&DC/PMC. 2. FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC, OR MCPS/DMRD.
4	Consultant Anesthetist	3	M/F	Qualification: 1. MBBS or Equivalent qualification from recognized university registered by PM&DC/PMC. 2. FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC, OR MCPS/one year diploma in anesthesiology.
5	Sonologist	6	Female	Qualification: 1. MBBS or Equivalent qualification from recognized university registered by PM&DC/PMC. 2. FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC, OR MCPS/one year diploma in sonology.
6	Sonologist	3	Male	Qualification: 1. MBBS or Equivalent qualification from recognized university registered by PM&DC/PMC. 2. FCPS or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level III qualification in the specialties approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC, OR MCPS/one year diploma in sonology.
7	Optometrist	2	M/F	Qualification: BS Ophthalmology/Optomety from Govt, recognized institute.
8	Clinical Technologist Pulmonology	2	M/F	Qualification: Masters/BA/ON Sixteen years' education in relevant field / Technology.
9	Ophthalmic technician	4	Male/ Female	Qualification: DCC 2nd division with two years diploma in relevant paramedical technology OR Equivalent qualification from Govt, recognized institution.

**Terms & Conditions:**

- Prescribed application form can be downloaded from the website mtibannu.edu.pk
- Applications on prescribed proforma duly filled-in all respects along with 10 photos and attested photocopies of academic and experience certificate must reach HR Department, MTI Bannu within two weeks after the publication of this advertisement in newspaper, along with Rs. 2500/- as application processing fee through Bank Account No. 30039700108 Bank of Khyber, 888 8047th MTI, Branch Code 5205, in the name of "Hospital Director, Khadda Gul Nawan Hospital, Medical Teaching Institution MTI Bannu".
- Applications must also be submitted electronically by using the website link www.mtibannu.edu.pk otherwise, only hard copy will not be acceptable.
- Cheques/Pay order will not be acceptable.
- Applications must reach HR Department 808 MTI Bannu on or before the last date during office hours.
- If closing date fixed for the receipt of the application form falls on holiday, the next working day shall be considered as the closing date.
- Incomplete application form in any aspect OR Any application received after the closing time & date shall stand rejected.
- The services of incumbent will be governed under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Teaching Institution Reforms Act, 2023 (amended from time to time).
- You shall be strictly non-practising and not allowed for any sort of private clinical practice outside MTI Bannu. This applies to your own clinic, or assisting other doctors in their private clinics, or doing locums at clinics/hospitals. Failure to comply with this clause will lead to immediate termination of services.
- Minority and disabled quota will be observed as per Govt. policy.
- The Scrutiny Committee, MTI Bannu is competent to reject incomplete applications. However, the approved candidates can appeal to the competent authority of MTI Bannu for review. The decision of the competent authority thereof shall be final.
- Any candidate may be disqualified and/or excluded from interview if he/she was:
  - Convicted by the Court of law.
  - Previous history of dismissal from public service.
  - Knowingly furnishes any false information.
  - Suppresses any information which may lead to his/her disqualification.
  - Attempts to obtain support for his/her candidature by improper means.
  - Submits forged certificates.
  - Impersonates with the entries in his/her age, academic certificates and publications.
  - Misbehaves during the interview.
- Original documents shall be produced at the time of interview.
- The competent authority reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of posts.
- No TA/DA is admissible for test/interview.

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR**  
**MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION, MTI BANNU**



### The kitten who learned her lesson

Be kind to everyone, because kindness is one of the best qualities anyone can have. Read a story where a cat's actions reveal the importance of kindness, showing how it learns to be gentle and considerate toward others

Pg 4

# Iqbal's vision and the voices of Pakistan

By Benazir Raz

As we celebrate Allama Iqbal Day, let's remember not only Iqbal's dreams but also the voices of poets and writers from all over Pakistan. Each province brings a unique perspective, and these poets help us remember who we are, where we come from and the dreams we can share together. Their words remind us of the strength in our roots and the beauty in unity. Due to limited space, we are unable to include more voices — an omission that was difficult to accept. If space had allowed, there would be pages upon pages filled with ink, capturing the countless marvels that make up the heart and soul of our nation.



Cont...  
Pg 6



### Paper petal vase

A nifty little vase made entirely from paper — in just a few minutes — can be a perfect addition to your craft collection or a charming decoration for your home

Pg 5



### The weekly weird

Some records are set for the biggest and some for the smallest, but there are also those who make a record by planting trees and creating a small, man-made forest — an inspiration to the world to take action and save our planet before it's too late. Read this and more unusual news that will leave you feeling inspired, and even addicted to our *The weekly weird* section ...

Pg 9

**A week without internet**

This is regarding the story "A week without internet" by Rabia Hamid (YW, September 28). The story illustrated both the benefits and drawbacks of technology. On one hand, it showed how excessive screen time affected physical health; on the other, the character's trip to the village allowed him to disconnect from internet and appreciate a simpler, more active lifestyle.

The story demonstrated how stepping away from gadgets can lead to memorable, enriching experiences, teaching children the importance of balancing technology with real-life interactions.

**Aila Ameen,**  
Karachi

**Mug cosy**

This concerns the Wonder Crafts section, "Mug cosy" by the Crafter (YW, September 28). I liked the craft so much that I immediately looked for the supplies at home and made one right away. I also added some buttons to give it extra detail. It turned out amazing.

I request The Crafter to share more such DIY crafts that are both practical and fun to make as signature items.

**Nimra Shaheer,**  
Lahore

**Self-care is not selfishness**

This is concerning the cover article "Self-care

is not selfishness" by Marvi (YW, September 28). There is a thin line in distinguishing between 'good' and 'bad' selfishness. While it is easy for adults to make this distinction, it's not always as clear for youngsters.

The article highlights that giving oneself more importance and keeping a check on one's health enables a person to support others more effectively.

Practicing self-care doesn't mean neglecting those around us; rather, by defending and nurturing ourselves, we create more opportunities to help others.

**Nabeel Saleem,**  
Hub, Balochistan

||

The cover article "Self-care is not selfishness" by Marvi, was thoughtfully explored. Many of us often feel uncomfortable saying 'no,' even when it's necessary to protect our well-being, lifestyle, or personal interests. Learning to say 'no' is crucial in maintaining a balanced life and focusing on what truly matters.

When we constantly agree to others out of obligation or guilt, we risk neglecting our own needs, passions and goals, leading to stress and burnout.

Saying 'no' respectfully is an act of self-respect and clarity, it creates space for growth, productivity and fulfilment in areas that align with our values and aspirations.

**Mohammad Sohaib,**  
Lahore



**Mailbox**

**Quotes**

"It is all right to make mistakes; nothing is perfect because, with perfection, we would not exist."

— Stephen Hawking  
(Theoretical physicist)

"Knowledge that takes you not beyond yourself, is far worse than ignorance."

— Elif Shafak (Author)

"It is pointless trying to know where the way leads. Think only about your first step, the rest will come."

— Shams Tabrizi (Poet, mystic)

"A mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it is not open."

— Frank Zappa (Musician)

"Some people are going to leave, but that's not the end of your story. That's the end of their part in your story."

— Faraaz Kazi (Author)

"Creativity has much to do with experience, observation and imagination. And if any one of those key elements is missing, it doesn't work."

— Bob Dylan (Musician)



**Word search**

Find words associated with poets, from the list given below hidden in the word grid:

- Wordlist:
- WHIMSY
- FANTASY
- WONDER
- IMAGINATION
- SIMPLICITY
- PLAYFULNESS
- ADVENTURE
- IMAGERY
- LYRICISM
- SONNET
- ELEGY
- STANZA
- MUSE
- EMOTION
- SYMBOLISM

D	I	N	I	T	B	R	E	D	N	O	W
R	J	Q	A	D	V	E	N	T	U	R	E
K	H	E	W	H	I	M	S	Y	P	B	V
A	S	Y	M	B	O	L	I	S	M	E	I
I	M	A	G	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	S
C	X	Y	P	I	S	N	I	Q	Z	X	O
N	M	J	T	W	A	E	W	Y	M	K	N
L	J	V	D	I	Y	G	E	L	E	Y	N
E	S	U	M	T	C	X	G	Y	X	X	E
W	L	Y	R	I	C	I	S	M	E	K	T
S	P	L	A	Y	F	U	L	N	E	S	S
A	Z	N	A	T	S	K	Q	P	L	L	W
A	K	H	A	N	O	I	T	O	M	E	D
Y	S	A	T	N	A	F	W	U	S	I	Y
G	M	K	Y	R	E	G	A	M	I	G	S



Your contributions should mention your full name, age, class, school, address and telephone number/email address. If you are under 18, you need to give your parent's or guardian's name too with their CNIC number.

Young World accepts original contributions only.

### Breathe clean and green

Breathe air that is fresh and pure,  
Let's make Pakistan secure.  
Plant a tree, watch it grow,  
Turn the land green, row by row.  
Stop the cutting, save the trees,  
They're the home of birds and bees.  
Forests so big and full of life,  
Need our care to end their strife.  
Pick up trash, don't let it stay,  
Keep pollution far away.  
Save the water, sky and land,  
Together we'll lend a helping hand.  
For the birds and the bees,  
For the rivers and the trees.  
To make Pakistan breathe, let's be smart,  
Keep it clean, do our part!

.....  
Haadia Danish,  
8 years, Karachi

### My cousins in England

I have three cousins in England, so dear,  
Maaria, Aisha and Sara, they bring me cheer.  
We meet every two years, though it feels long,  
But when we're together, Everything feels right and nothing is wrong.  
When it's time for them to go,  
We part with tears, feeling the sorrow.  
But while we're together, we laugh and play,  
Making the most of every single day.  
The wait to meet again feels like forever,  
But we never forget each other, not ever.  
Sometimes we fight, but it's okay,  
It only brings us closer in every way.  
Let's hope our friendship never ends,  
With love that grows as life extends.

.....  
Hania Salman,  
12 years, Karachi

### Twilight

Like a tender sapling, we sprout from earth,  
Our hearts brimming with wonder,  
Our spirits filled with mirth.  
The world is a playground, a symphony of delight,  
Each moment is a treasure, a spark of pure light.  
With youth's awakening, we soar into the sky,  
A symphony of dreams, a boundless, starry eye.  
We chase the horizon, our hearts full of zest,  
Exploring the unknown, putting limits to the test.  
In the twilight years, a childlike essence revives,  
A rediscovery of joy, one that eternally thrives.  
Moments cherished, the beauty of life's art,  
Memories gently caressed, forever impart.  
Oh, the irony of life, a circle evermore,  
From a child's innocence to ancient wisdom we adore.  
At the threshold of eternity, we return to where we began,  
Child in spirit, guided by life's gentle hand.  
And so the cycle completes, a tapestry of life's art,  
From childhood's dawn to twilight's mellow, a masterpiece of the heart.  
We revel and grow, we laugh and weep,  
Yet through life's ever-changing seasons, our spirits we keep.

.....  
Muhammad Omer Hamza,  
14 years, Lahore

### A tree

That happens to be me,  
A little seed,  
That finds a way to lead.  
Fresh and green,  
Trying to change minds of all these machines.  
I'm an unsung warrior,  
Whose ancestors are sorrier.  
I'm trying to warn you,  
But will you take this advice?  
Save this world or pay a price.

.....  
Eshaal Ahsan,  
11 years, Karachi

### Poet's corner

#### The sun shines bright!

The sun shines bright,  
The moon comes at night.  
I hope you have a good sleep at night,  
The sunshine is bright.  
The trees get light,  
And I hope everything goes alright.

.....  
Mahnoor Ijaz,  
8 years, Lahore

#### School bag

I have my lovely bag,  
It has a shiny tag.  
I carry it to school with me,  
My lovely bag is perfect to see.  
Do you have a bag with a tag?

.....  
Yashfa Mashood Hussain,  
9 years, Karachi

### Go for it

Today is the day,  
It finally goes away.  
The pain I felt all these days,  
Bye, bye to it, goodbye I say.  
Exams are over, hip, hip, hooray!  
Schools have just started,  
Another year, back to the one thing  
We all fear,  
But still, be as brave as you can be.  
Overcome it by studying hard.  
Put your heart into it,  
You've got nothing to fear.  
So don't just sit right there.  
I studied so seriously so I got an 83,  
You can do better and get more than a 93.  
Motivate yourself, you can do it,  
I did, and so can you!

.....  
Haniya Irfan Qazi,  
12 years, Karachi

### Lighthouse

Battered by the sea,  
Is anyone going to help me?  
The helpless cliff,  
Fighting against the raging sea,  
The deep cold waters,  
That happens to be called the sea,  
Please, stop fighting me.  
I am but a tower,  
Worn-out and grey,  
I once stood as a beacon, a guiding ray.  
Abandoned now, I stand alone,  
A silent building made of stone.  
So please, forgive me,  
I am a lighthouse,  
And you are the sea.

.....  
Meraal Khan,  
12 years, England

## Spot the difference

There are eight differences in these pictures, see if you can spot them. You can find the answer on Page 11



Created by: S. Mumtaz

## Story time

By Innayah Alvi



# The kitten who learned her lesson

**T**wo cats lived across the road from a school in a small town. One of them, named Fluff, resided in a nice house, while her best friend, Kat, lived next door in a rather old and unattractive home. The cats' owners were best friends, too.

One year, both cats had kittens at the same time. Fluff's first kitten was a beautiful little white one, who was bigger than her siblings. Her owners named her Beauty, and everyone who saw her felt her name suited her perfectly.

Just a few hours later, Kat had her kittens. Unfortunately, her owners couldn't afford to feed the cat and her kittens well, so the result was that their cats was not as healthy as

Fluff and her kittens.

The last kitten born to Kat was a tiny little black kitty that was named Midnight. Although Midnight was small, she had a big heart and loved everyone.

Because she was so pretty, Beauty became quite proud and spoiled. Aware of her looks and strength, she began bossing the other kittens around. One day, she decided



to pick on the neighbour's kittens, making their lives miserable. She called them names, laughed at them and told her siblings to stay away from them because they were small, weak and dirty. She was particularly mean to little Midnight.

This behaviour went on for several days until one day, Fluff overheard Beauty teasing Midnight.

"Beauty, come here at once," Fluff

scolded. Startled by her mother's upset tone, Beauty looked up.

"Don't you know that Kat saved my life years ago by distracting a big dog that would have killed me? If she hadn't risked her life to save mine, you wouldn't be here today. So you must be nice to her and her kittens, if for no other reason than that," her mother said.

She continued, "Besides, the One who created us all — whom you smart children know as God — tells us to be kind to everyone whenever we can."

Although Beauty was spoiled, she wasn't a bad kitten. Hearing about Kat's sacrifice for her mother made her feel ashamed.

"Oh, Mama, what should I do to make it up to Midnight and her siblings?"

"Please go to Kat and her kittens, and apologise at once," her mother replied. And so, Beauty did just that.

From that day onwards, Beauty never made fun of anyone else for the rest of her long and happy life, discovering that making others happy brings joy to herself as well. ■

## Story time

By Sarwasha Mairaj



# A journey above the clouds

**H**ave you ever felt nervousness along with excitement? That's what I felt when I experienced my first airplane journey.

I went to my grandmother's house in Islamabad during the last summer vacation, with my mother and my siblings. We travelled by train and were very excited because we have so much fun during the journey. And in Islamabad, I got to meet some old friends, go for picnics and do a lot of fun activities.

Everything went smoothly, and we had a great time with grandma and all our cousins. Time passed quickly and then it was time for us to go home. We started packing our things when father called and told us that he had a surprise for us — he had booked airplane tickets and we would travel by air this time. We were very thrilled as this was to be



Illustration by Aameerah Anshad

our first time on a flight.

On our departure day, after we said goodbye to everyone, we headed to the airport. As we arrived, I felt bubbles inside my stomach, because I was very anxious about being so high in the air on a plane. There were so many people at the airport. We checked in our luggage, collected our boarding pass and

were all set to step on to the plane that would take us through the skies.

Upon boarding, we received a warm welcome from the flight attendant, who then guided us to our seats. I quickly grab the window seat. After everyone had boarded and found their seats, the flight attendant briefed us on safety procedures, and shortly af-

ter the plane started to move. I was excitedly gazing out of the window and gradually the plane ascended into the air. At that moment, I got really scared and started praying. But once the plane reached its cruising altitude, my fear subsided a bit and, in no time, I was captivated by the stunning and breath-taking view from the plane. I was mesmerised by the beautiful clouds and green landscape that I saw from above. I was completely lost in the view. Shortly after, the flight attendant presented us with some refreshments and drinks, which were so good and fresh.

On the plane, I saw passengers were engrossed in watching movies, playing games or sleeping. I remained captivated by the view outside the window, which was mesmerising enough to hold my attention for hours. But time passed quickly and the plane prepared for descent.

As the plane descended, it experienced minor turbulence, causing us to feel a bit frightened. Slowly, the plane stabilised and the beautiful view of the city was clearly visible from the window. Moment later, we touched down smoothly at the airport. I was very happy that my first flight was a stunning, safe and unforgettable experience that I'll cherish forever. ■

## Story time

By Muhammad Samie



# Against all odds

**B**uzz ...buzz .... In the dimly lit room, I was burning the midnight oil. My eyes, ready to shut at any time, scanned the papers and research files. My pale cheeks and chapped lips reflected my dedication to my patients.

I was working on an antivirus serum. Every time I managed to create the formula, the side effects seemed to mock me, like laughter. Still, I never let myself get discouraged, because I believed that 'one can achieve anything they believe in'.

The virus had affected millions of people and half of them died, including children. The cry in agony of children still resonated in my ears and I could not bear it. Hence, my determination pushed me till the birth of the perfect formula.

One night, I accidentally spilled two drops of a purple I was experimenting with. A magical glow was reflected by the syrup, which assured me that this was the



one, though I was still in a dilemma. The next day, I carefully slid two spoons of it into the patient's mouth, and the patient fainted ...

I thought this was the end. The memory of past failures rushed through my brain as I began to lose control

over myself. I was filled with a myriad of emotions, and a sense of fear lingered in the air.

Unexpectedly, I heard a beeping sound which pricked my ears, and I snapped out of my reverie. The pulse oximeter suddenly began to stabilise the pulses, and the patient soon opened her eyes. I sighed in relief as the patient woke up.

She immediately wrapped her gnarly, wrinkled hands in mine and thanked me for saving her life. My eyes were brimming with tears.

The news of my antidote spread like wildfire as every news channel began to call me for an interview; I felt overwhelmed.

As the number of patients reduced in the hospital, the weight of the burden that had been on the frail shoulders also decreased.

People would often come to me and extend their gratitude towards me for saving humanity. The town, which was once a ghost town, was now vibrant with life. ■

## Wonder

Craft

# Paper petal vase

By The Crafter

If your day is passing slowly and you have nothing to do, why not give this a try? Want to make something elegant and perfect as a craft decor, and one that doesn't take too much time? Here's a nifty little vase made entirely from paper! Whether you choose a hardboard, a plain sheet, or patterned paper, it's up to you. Create this charming craft in no time!

### Things you need:

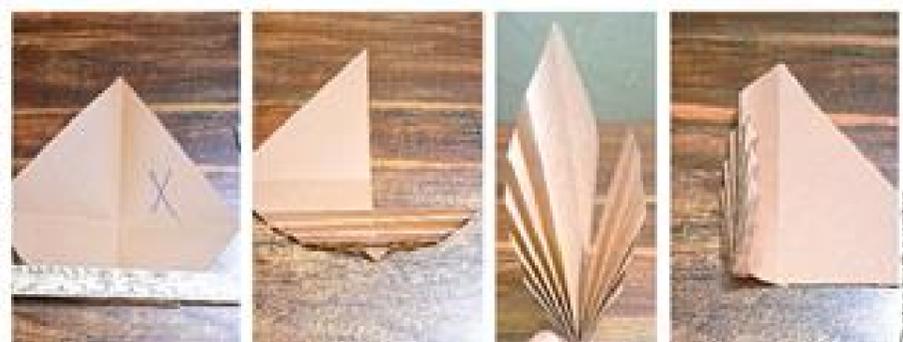
1. One A-4 sized coloured paper, (of your choice)
2. Button or bead to decorate
3. Hot glue gun
4. Piece of hardboard
5. Scissors
6. Pencil

### Directions:

1. Start by cutting the A4-sized paper into a square, see picture 1.
2. Rotate the paper so it forms a rhombus shape, with a point facing up, picture 2.
3. Fold the paper in half vertically, then open it and fold it horizontally. This will create creases on all four sides, forming a cross. Fold up half of the bottom point, picture 3.
4. Now, accordion-fold the half-folded section of the paper and turn it over, see pictures 4 and 5.
5. Fold the right corner over to the left side and crease it firmly, picture 6.
6. Notice how the accordion fold creates a leaf shape in the centre.
7. Unfold and cut along the right side, marked with an "X", see picture 7.
8. You should now see a boat-like shape after removing the cut section, picture 8.
9. Fold it back, and use hot glue to join the two sides of the accordion fold, picture 9.
10. Finally, with hot glue, secure the open flap to the accordion fold, picture 10.

Attach the vase to a base by cutting a piece from hardboard or any sturdy paper

and gluing it securely in place. Add a bead, button, or any other decorative items to make it look vibrant and personalised. ■



The writer can be contacted at [thecraftman@gmail.com](mailto:thecraftman@gmail.com)

# Iqbal's vision and the voices of Pakistan

**W**ords have the power to shape or shatter the world. Our history is filled with moments influenced by powerful ideas, dreams and verses that have inspired people to change, grow and stand up for causes, both individually and collectively.

Often, these words come from the hearts of poets, capturing emotions, dreams and visions that endure for generations. Many poets — regardless of their origin — spoke for the heroes of their countries, celebrating their courage and inspiring the younger generation to embody these virtues. Their verses became a silent force on the battlefield, stirring bravery that could win or lose wars.

Today marks the birth of a legacy, Allama Iqbal — a poet, philosopher and visionary leader who holds a special place in the hearts of Pakistanis and all over the Muslim world. On this Iqbal Day, let's honour his contributions to Pakistan's cultural and national identity and also explore some renowned and lesser-known poets and writers who have contributed immensely to both children's and adult literature. Though the list is extensive, from classical poets to contemporary voices, we have narrowed it down to a very few, whose work has significantly strengthened the foundation of prose and poetry in regional languages. Without their contributions, our national literary heritage would be incomplete.

So let me take you on a thrilling journey across Pakistan. From the breathtaking mountains of Kashmir to the golden deserts of Balochistan, from the bustling bazaars of Sindh to the green fields of Punjab, these word wizards have painted our world with rhymes, dreams and stories that make us proud, curious and inspired.

## Punjab, the land of rivers and poets

First we will start from the land of five rivers, Punjab, where Pakistan's visionary, Allama Iqbal, emerged as a shining star. Acclaimed as the 'Dreamer of Pakistan,' Iqbal didn't just write poems; he dreamt big for us all! He envisioned a strong, united Pakistan where people could live with pride and freedom.

His famous poem "Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua" is famous across generations in most school assemblies. I remember, reading it aloud every morning in

the assembly, and the feeling that it aroused every morning among us children was something I cannot forget to this day. This prayer, is for every child to be brave, kind and wise, qualities we can all aspire to possess.

Iqbal's poetry is known for its philosophical depth, exploration of identity and call for spiritual revival. His famous works, such as *Bang-e-Dra* (The Call of the Marching Bell) and *Bal-e-Jibril* (Gabriel's Wing), are regarded as masterpieces across the world. His poems like *Shikwa* (The Complaint) and *Jawab-e-Shikwa* (The Answer) explore the complex relationship between humans and God.

Iqbal also gave the 'Concept of *Khudi*' (Selfhood); in which he emphasised the development of self-respect, self-awareness and the power of the individual through his concept of *khudi*.

You may have also read that he was the one with the 'Vision of a separate Muslim state,' hence the title given to him, the 'Spiritual Father of Pakistan.' Iqbal envisioned a separate nation for Muslims in the Indian sub-continent, an idea he formally proposed in his Allahabad Address in 1930. This vision eventually laid the foundation for the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

Iqbal's poetry speaks directly to young people, urging them to become like 'shahens' (falcons), fearless, resilient and ambitious.

From the same region, Punjab, comes another marvel of words, **Sufi Ghulam Mustafa Tabassum**. He is famous for various other works, but mainly memorable poems which include 'Tot Batot' in which the use of playful language and moral messages delights not just kids but adults alike.

Among many his, *Taleem-e-Bachay*, collection includes poems specifically designed to educate and entertain children; while his *Suno Suno Aye Doston*: a famous poem encourages children to listen, learn and be aware of their surroundings.

A writer, playwright and broadcaster, **Ashfaq Ahmad** is a man who needs no praise, yet stands tall among the greats

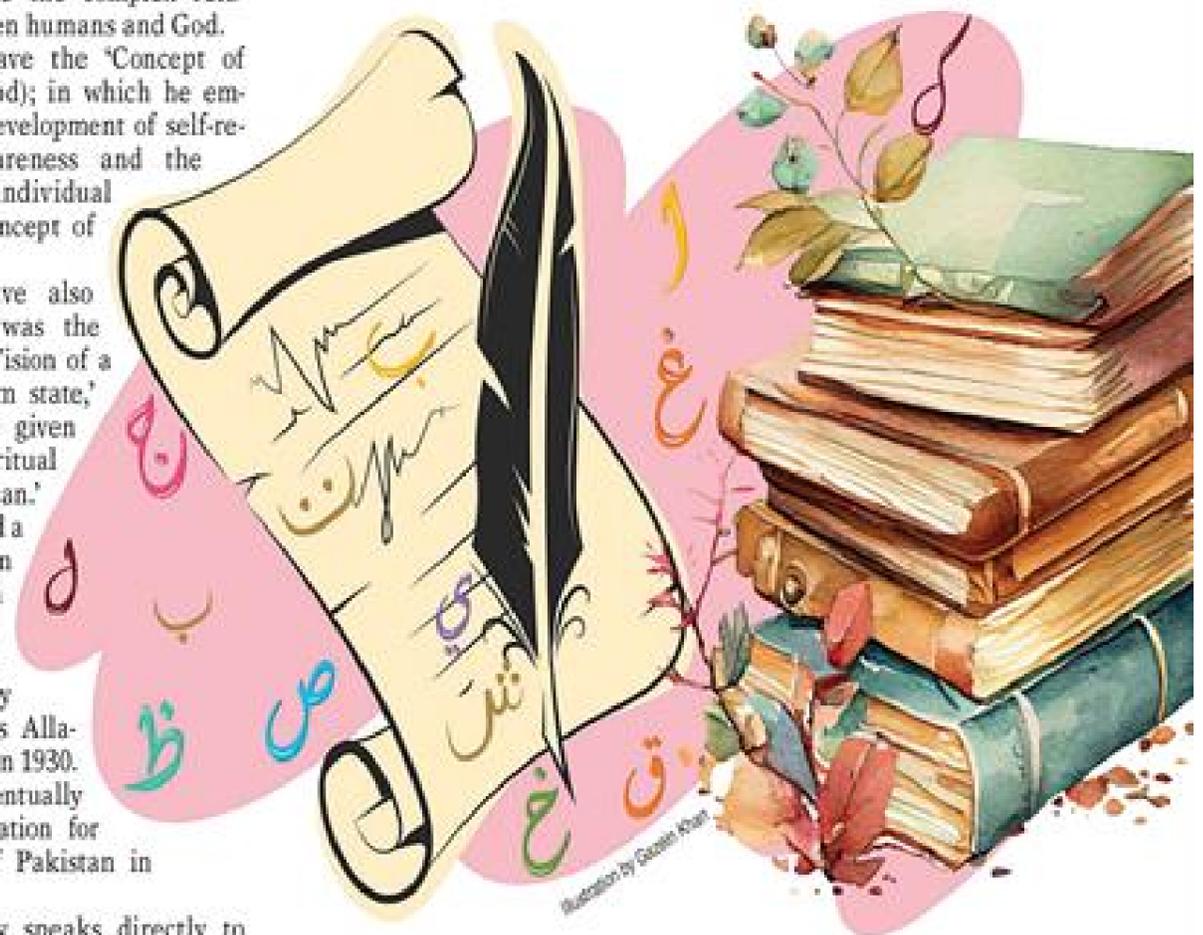
of Urdu literature, poetry and prose hails from the same land. His contributions to Urdu literature include novels, short stories and plays for Pakistan Television and Radio Pakistan.

Ashfaq Ahmed began his literary career as a child, contributing stories to *Phool*, a popular magazine aimed at young readers. His early writings in this magazine helped establish his reputation as a storyteller. His works, aimed at younger audiences, reflect themes of morality, culture and human values, making them both entertaining and educational. Notably, he authored several children's books, including *Gaddar*

and revolutionary and romantic poetry in Kashmiri, Mahjoor also contributed poems with themes of innocence and simplicity that appeal to younger audiences. His work indirectly provides moral lessons and cultural pride for children in Kashmir.

**Naji Munawar**, a prominent poet and scholar of the Kashmiri language and literature. He has dedicated a significant portion of his literary career to producing children's literature, creating numerous books aimed at educating and entertaining young readers.

His book *Shuren Hund Naji* (among many others) includes 54 poems and 99



*ya* (The Shepherd), which is well-regarded in children's literature.

**Kishwar Naheed** is an outstanding poet and prolific writer, with 12 volumes of her poetry published in both Pakistan and India. Her Urdu poetry has also been published internationally. In addition to her poetry, she has written eight books for children and has received the prestigious UNESCO award for children's literature.

## From the enchanting land of Kashmir

We witness the gentle words of **Ghulam Ahmad Mahjoor**, known as the 'Poet of the Valley,' Mahjoor's poems talked about the beauty of Kashmir's mountains, rivers and fields. Though primarily known for his rev-

riddles, which introduce children to various themes relevant to their culture.

## From the peaks of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Moving to the land of majestic mountains and beautiful valleys, we encounter the undeniable legacy of **Khushhal Khan Khatak**, also known as Khushal Baba, a prominent 17th-century Pashtun poet, chief and warrior.

Often regarded as the father of Pashto literature, Khushhal Khan's literary output is vast. While his works primarily address themes of love, patriotism, philosophy and social issues, there is no specific focus on children's literature. Nevertheless, his legacy has inspired countless

prose and poetry writers, contributing to the flourishing of Pashto literary tradition.

Other notable names from the same region include, **Qalandar Momand**, known for his poetry reflecting the Pashtun values of hospitality and bravery. And **Amir Hamza Khan Shinwari**, commonly known as Hamza Baba, considered a bridge between classic Pashto literature and modern forms. He founded the Khyber School in Pashto literature.

**Zaitoon Bano**, a renowned Pashto and Urdu writer, is best known for her short stories and her contributions to Pashto literature. She has written extensively in both languages and has authored numerous books. While much of her writing addresses the social and cultural issues of the Pashtun community, there is no direct evidence suggesting that she has specifically focused on children's literature.

Another influential figure in the literary scene is **Kaloomzeb**, she particularly wrote for women of her region. She has made notable contributions to literature in both Pashto and Urdu, publishing a collection of children's stories in Pashto, a translation of Urdu novels into Pashto, and a collection of Urdu short stories.

### From the land of rugged mountains, Balochistan

The land of rugged mountains, vast deserts and rich traditions also gave us valuable gems of literature, one of them is **Atta Shad**. Though Atta Shad is renowned for his contributions to Urdu and Balochi literature, his work often includes themes of innocence, wonder and exploration.

His poetry brings the spirit of Balochistan's landscape and cultural identity. While Atta Shad's primary focus was serious themes, there is no specific information indicating that he wrote explicitly for children.

**Mubarak Qazi** was a celebrated Balochi poet known for his contributions to modern Balochi literature. He wrote extensively on themes of love, resistance and the struggles of the Baloch people. While his primary works focus on adult themes, he has also contributed to children's literature, making his poetry accessible to younger audiences through simple language and relatable themes.

From the same region comes **Syed Zahoor Shah Hashmi**, a poet, writer,

academic and philosopher. Celebrated as a pioneering figure in Balochi literature, he wrote in Balochi, Urdu, Persian and Arabic. Hashmi's most notable work is *Sayad Gunj*, the first-ever Balochi language dictionary.

He also authored novels, short stories and books on Balochi language and literature. In recognition of his literary contributions, he was awarded the Pride of Performance by the Government of Pakistan.

### Sindh, where the mystical meets tradition

Finally, we move the vibrant province of Sindh, where poets like **Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai**, known as the "Saint of Sindh," is revered for his mystical poetry, spiritual themes and the human connection with nature, while celebrating Sindhi folklore and Sufi ideals.

**Shaikh Ayaz**, a modernist, renowned for his lyrical and heartfelt style, depicted Sindh's landscapes and values, advocating peace, unity and humanity.

**Mirza Qaleech Beg**, often referred to as the 'Shakespeare of Sindh,' made substantial contributions across various genres, including poetry, novels, short stories and children's literature.

Then there is **Ayaz Gul** a contemporary Sindhi poet known for his impactful work in children's literature. He has written extensively for young audiences, crafting poems, stories and rhymes that are both educational and entertaining.

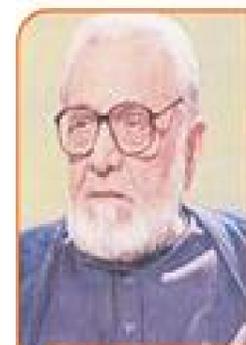
**Muhammad Siddique Musafir**, a distinguished Sindhi poet and writer, celebrated for his contributions to Sindhi literature, particularly in children's poetry.

Among many prominent female names, **Fehmida Riaz** is best known for her powerful voice on social and political issues. In addition to her activism, she also wrote poetry for children, aiming to make her works both meaningful and relatable for young readers. She blended moral lessons with entertainment, helping children understand cultural and social themes in simple language.

Riaz's efforts also focused on making classical literature more accessible to younger audiences. For example, she contributed to Oxford University Press's *Literary Heritage Series for Young Readers*, where she translated selections from Rumi's *Masnavi*. Her translations were tailored to introduce young readers to Sufi wisdom and poetry in a simpli-



Amir Hamza Khan Shinwari



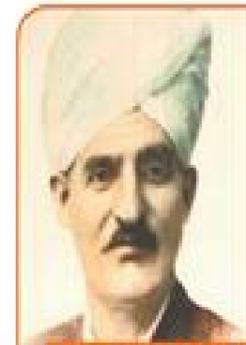
Ashfaq Ahmad



Kishwar Naheed



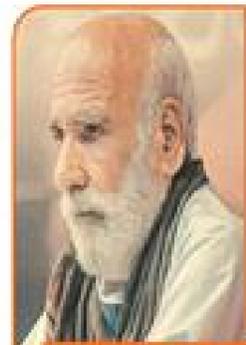
Ayaz Gul



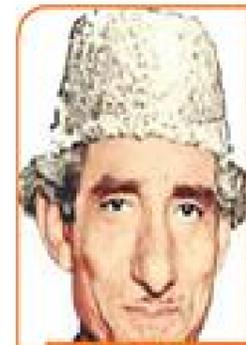
Ghulam Ahmad Mahjoor



Fehmida Riaz



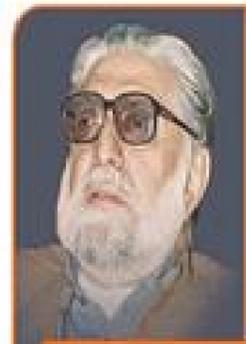
Mubarak Qazi



Sufi Ghulam Mustafa Tabassum



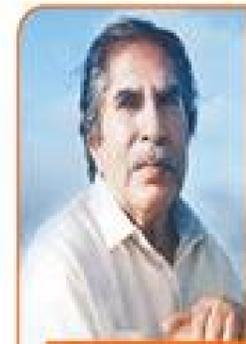
Naji Munawar



Qalandar Momand



Sayad Zahoor Shah Hashmi



Shaikh Ayaz

fied and engaging way.

And you know what? Choosing just a few names from a long list of notable writers and poets was no easy task. If I had the freedom to dedicate the entire magazine to our regional poets and writers, I would gladly fill every page. But with limited space, we focused on just a few.

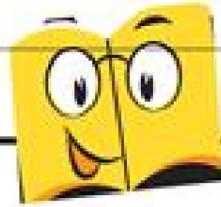
Each province has its own story to tell, and these poets and writers help us remember who we are,

where we come from and our very roots. This is my small effort to spotlight the poets and writers of Pakistan, who stand unparalleled around the world.

So, as we celebrate Allama Iqbal Day, let's remember not only Iqbal's visionary dreams, but also the voices of poets from every corner of Pakistan. Each one has a story to tell, ready to take us on a magical journey through the country we proudly call home. ■

## Story time

By Wasfa Khan



# Turning point

In one of the bustling streets of an old town, a man was walking purposely with steadfast steps. His hands were in the pockets of his long coat, and a hat covered almost half of his face. If anybody were to look at him, nobody would have been able to see his face properly, although he was seeing everything and noting everything.

He was patiently waiting in line along with other people at the bus stop when his eyes unintentionally stopped on a lady. Or more like her purse, which she had so naively placed near her feet. His eyes glinted, hands itched. His initial thoughts were too tempting. He would be able to eat better, dress better, will have more time to look for a job instead of wandering here and there on a starved stomach.

It is true, that old habits die hard. And Declan had recently paid for his habits. He had, only two weeks ago, been released from the juvenile centre. And now because of the red mark on his records, he was struggling to find a job, struggling to get better. Declan took off his hat and combed his trembling fingers through his hair. His thoughts ran a mile in a moment. Just one more time. Some-

thing whispered in his head. The temptation was too strong. And everyone knows a human being is a slave to temptation.

Tugging the short hair at the back of his neck almost painfully, Declan slowly slipped away from the line and more towards the lady. It was too easy, too habitual for him to slowly, but surely, slip away the purse from the lady. Declan's heart thudded loud enough for his ears to hear as he made his way into a dark alley nearby.

Scrambling through the contents of the bag with desperate hands, he discarded the useless things hurriedly, tissues, bus tickets, receipts, lip gloss and finally

reached for what he was looking for — money!

It was quite a handful. Enough for him to enjoy the next few weeks at least. But his heart became gloomy suddenly, all thoughts came rushing back. The smile her mother had given him when he

had returned even though he had disappointed her so badly. The trust she had put in him. Again.

Another chance he was given to set his life straight. How can he even think and act on his old habits again when he had promised himself during the dark and lonely nights in the juvenile correction centre to be better?

His eyes suddenly went towards the lady who was now desperately looking for her lost purse. She might need it more than me. It can be someone's hospital fees. Someone's education fees. This money belongs to someone more deserving than me.

It took him seconds to decide again. Too much was at stake, he wouldn't risk it again. He won't. And then quickly all the belongings were stuffed back in the bag. And just as Declan had skillfully managed to steal the purse, he slipped it in its place again and walked away.

He heard cries of relief behind him. His heart and steps felt lighter. Tugging at the hairs at the back of his neck, he decided to go home to his mother. That day he never told her what happened, but he sobbed like a child in her lap, asking for forgiveness, requesting another chance to be better, promising to never disappoint her again. After that day, more days and months and years passed, he never broke his promise again. ■

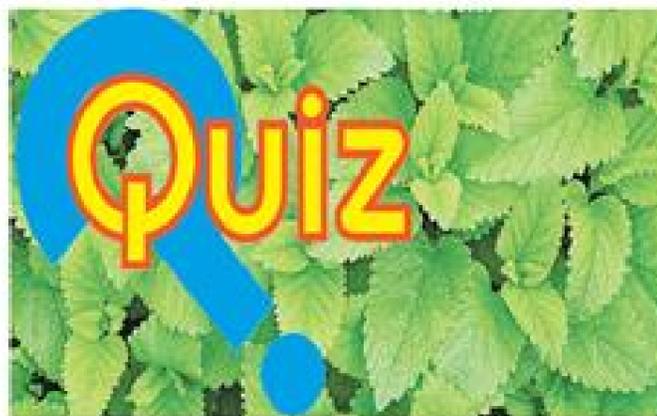


**1** What method of underwater detection is short for "sound navigation and ranging"?

**2** What measure of energy comes from the Latin word meaning "heat"?

**3** What's removed from water in the process of desalination?

**4** If you dip a litmus paper in a liquid and it turns pink, what does it indicate about the liquid?



## Science

**5** Which planet in the solar system is closest in size to our moon?

**6** What sea creature can have an eye measuring 16 inches across, the largest in the

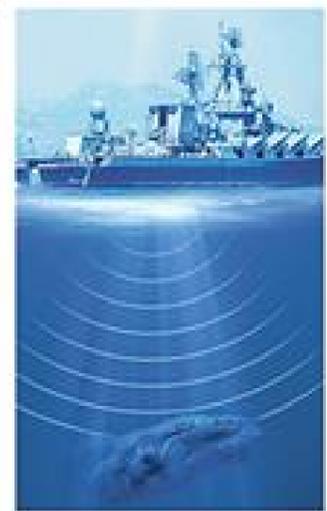
animal kingdom?

**7** What's the most malleable metal, i.e. which can be hammered or pressed into shape without breaking or cracking?

**8** What C word defines a substance that speeds a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent change?

**9** Which plant has flowers, but no proper leaves?

**10** What is the green pigment used by plants to trap sunlight?



—The Quiz Master

10. Chlorophyll  
9. The cactus. Instead of leaves, it has thorns.  
8. A catalyst  
7. Gold  
6. A squid

5. Mercury  
4. It means that the liquid is an acid  
3. Salt  
2. The calzone  
1. Sonar

ANSWERS

## Spotlight

### Tom Holland's fourth Spider-Man movie

Tom Holland is getting ready to don his Spidey suit again. The fourth instalment of the blockbuster series has been set for a July 2026 release, Sony Pictures said.

Daniel Destin Cretton, best known for helming Marvel's *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, has also signed on to direct the still-untitled film. Jon Watts directed the previous three Holland-led *Spider-Man* films. Together, *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, *Spider-Man: Far From Home* and *Spider-Man: No Way Home* have made over \$3.9 billion globally. The studio claimed July 24, 2026, for its theatrical release and plan to shoot next summer.

Holland told "Good Morning America" recently that the idea for the fourth film "is crazy." "It's a little different to anything we've done before, but I think the fans are going to really respond to it," Holland said. ■



### Metallica's 2025 Australian stadium tour

Metallica have officially announced their return to Australia for 2025, after teasing future tour plans as recently as last month. The tour will be the band's first visit to Australia since 2013, not to mention their first headlining tour since 2010. The five capital city dates are, reportedly, the only shows the American metal veterans will play, i.e. no second shows added at any venues.

Joining the band on the Australasian leg of their M72 world tour — in support of their 2023 album *72 Seasons* — will be Evanescence and Suicidal Tendencies. The tour will mark Metallica's first-ever time headlining stadiums in Australia. ■



### Disney Cruise Line for Asia in 2025

Disney Cruise Line has announced the launch of its first ship for Asia, the *Disney Adventure*, set to sail from Singapore on December 15, 2025.

This cruise will immerse guests in Disney's storytelling legacy, featuring attractions from Disney, Pixar and Marvel.

The ship will include Ironcycle Test Run, the longest rollercoaster at sea, and guests can expect Broadway-style entertainment with an exclusive show called "Remember."

The cruise will offer themed areas, including Toy Story Place and Marvel Landing, providing unique experiences for families, kids and adults alike. Accommodations will blend modern comfort with Disney's enchanting themes, featuring signature split-bathroom designs and concierge services for a luxurious experience. ■



## The weekly weird

### Man transforms Sao Paulo with 40,000 trees over 20 years

Helio da Silva, a retired business executive, spent two decades planting over 41,000 trees, creating Tiquatira Linear Park — a 3.2-km-long, 100-metre-wide green space in Sao Paulo. Once a neglected riverbank, this urban oasis now thrives between two major roads, providing greenery and fresh air to the bustling city. Starting in 2003, da Silva's solo effort turned a dilapidated area into a flourishing community park.

By 2020, he had planted over 25,000 trees with an 88% survival rate, attracting 45 bird species. Da Silva spends around \$7,000 annually on his initiative and plans to reach at least 50,000 trees. Now celebrated as a local hero, he continues to plant trees every Sunday, helping transform the area into a beloved community space complete with gyms, playgrounds and benches. ■



### World's smallest Rubik's cube unveiled

Japanese toy-maker MegaHouse has introduced the world's smallest Rubik's Cube, measuring just 0.19 inches per side and weighing 0.33 grams, priced at \$5,320.

Created to mark the Rubik's Cube's 50th anniversary, this tiny aluminium cube was developed with precision-cutting experts to ensure it functions like the original. Available for pre-order on MegaHouse's website, the mini-Rubik's Cube is expected to ship next April, making it a unique collector's item. ■



### Farmer's 2471-pound pumpkin wins world record

Travis Gienger from Nowthen showcased his 2,471-pound pumpkin, dubbed Rudy, at the Pumpkin Weigh-Off competition in Half Moon Bay, California, where it was declared the heaviest in the contest.

This victory marks Gienger's fourth top win at the Safeway World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off. In the 2023 contest, he had set a Guinness World Record with his 2,749-pound pumpkin named Michael Jordan, which also took the top spot. ■

### Bubble tea beef noodles, anyone?

A Vietnamese restaurant, Yu Tang, has gone viral for its controversial new dish: bubble tea beef noodles. Recently launched, the restaurant features a mix of vegetable broth, black tea and fresh milk, served with noodles, tapioca pearls, and corned beef.

Reactions have been mixed, with some Vietnamese content creators describing the taste as bizarre and lacking the sweetness typical of milk tea.

Vlogger Duc Anh commented that while the noodles aren't as bad as expected, they are tasteless and the flavours don't connect well.

Despite the mixed reviews, the dish has sparked interest on Vietnamese social media. ■



## Story time

By Farheen Farwa



# The secret of the pen

**B**ilal, a young boy dreamt of becoming a well-known writer. He had read every book available in the small library of his town. He aspired to write a story that was as great as those of his favourite authors.

There was only one problem. Every time Bilal tried to write, he could not develop a single story idea, and everything went blank.

One night, as Bilal was tossing and turning in his bed, he saw a dream in which he was holding a wooden box. Bilal opened it and saw the most beautiful pen he had ever seen. The nib of the pen glistened in the golden light of the lamp. He took out the pen and glided his fingers across its smooth marbled exterior. The pen gave Bilal the feeling of a regal writer sitting in a royal palace.

Bilal began scribbling with this beautiful royal pen. But, to his surprise, it didn't write anything. He tried again and again, intensely and fiercely this time, but not a single letter was written. Bilal became frustrated.

"Why wouldn't you write?" he demanded.

"Uh-uh," the pen softly cleared its throat. "First, you must find the secret of the pen. Only those who know the secret can write." And then Bilal woke up from his dream.

The next day, Bilal was deter-



Illustration by Aamnah Anshad

mined to find the secret of the pen. First he went to a hairdresser and asked if he knew the secret.

"My boy, how can you write if you don't look like a writer?" So the hairdresser sat him down and styled Bilal's hair. He also gave Bilal a pair of huge glasses.

"There you go!" he exclaimed. "That would be two thousand rupees."

"What?" Bilal stammered. "But I don't..."

"That's okay, my boy," the hairdresser waved his hand. "You can pay me back later when you are rich and famous," and winked.

Bilal went straight home and sat down to write. But he could not think of a single idea to write a story on. The next day, Bilal met a coffee maker at the café.

Dejected Bilal asked him, "How can I write a story?"

"Do you drink coffee?" the coffee maker asked.

Bilal said no.

"Aha! But that is the secret to writing. Have some coffee, stay up all night and you will notice dozens of ideas to write stories will come to you!"

That night, Bilal went home and warmed the coffee the café owner had given him. Bilal stayed up all night with a pen and paper in front of him, but there was no success.

He woke up tired, sleep-deprived and disappointed. When Bilal passed by a flower shop, the smell of the roses caught his senses. The floral greeted Bilal, who told her about his troubles and everything he had been through.

"Oh... dear," the floral shook her head, "Look at Shakespeare, could he write as much had he just walked around talking about his day? Surely, he must have never talked to anyone and that is how great stories came in his mind."

The boy went home and didn't speak to anyone for an entire week. By the end of that week, Bilal could not take it anymore. However, still no great story came to him.

All the advice Bilal had gotten till now had failed. He gloomily sat under a tree and then he heard a voice say, "What's the matter, young boy? You seem upset."

Bilal sighed, "I want to write a great story but I don't know the secret of the pen." Then he looked up and his eyes lit up. "Y-you!" Bilal managed to throw out the words. "I know you! You are that famous author ... oh, I have read all of your stories!"

Bilal waved the book he was reading in that man's face, "You have written this book!"

"Well," chuckled the old man, "I suppose I did. It was a long time back." He continued, "But I can understand your frustration. It took me a while to learn the secret of..."

"So you know the secret of the pen?" Bilal cut him mid-sentence and immediately realised. "Oh, excuse my manners. I didn't mean to interrupt."

"That's alright, my boy," said the old man. "Well, eventually all writers find out the secret."

"So? Can you tell me?" Bilal excitedly asked.

"Hmm, oh, alright. Well, the secret of the pen is to write bad stories," the old man disclosed.

"What! Is that the secret?" the boy looked confused.

The old man patted his hand. Then he took something out of his pocket and gave it to the boy. It was the same pen the boy had seen in his dream.

"Don't worry about writing a great story," said the old man. "Just start writing. In the beginning, most of your stories will be bad. But if you keep at it, one day you will look back and realise that you have also written many wonderful stories."

"But, but that means anyone can be a writer," said Bilal, very surprised by what he heard.

The old man chuckled, "You have found another secret! But it's a secret, so not many people know."

That night, Bilal took out the pen the old man had given him. He started to write his own story. ■

## Movie

review

**S**pongeBob SquarePants *Kreepaway Kamp* is a special TV movie on Nickelodeon that combines nostalgia with Halloween. Where all characters were invited for a reunion at Kamp Koral, a place of great importance for all of them.

The movie follows SpongeBob, Patrick and the gang as they travel to a spooky camp after receiving a mysterious invitation. Soon, they find themselves in unexpected trouble at the site,

where the once-fun camp has become a place of dread. Their bus is destroyed, the helicopter crashes, the bridge blows up and the tunnel is blocked — every possible escape route is cut off. The gang is stuck and needs a way out.

To add to their troubles, they are also stalked by a mysterious figure lurking in the shadows as campers start disappearing one by one. They arrive as a large group, but slowly dwindle down to just a few. The characters look scary at times, but with friends around and a team to

work with, the scare sometimes does vanish from their minds.

The humour that makes the show popular with kids is still there, but the 46-minute movie also brings a playful twist that mixes elements of competition, teamwork and mystery. What seems like a horror movie at first is actually a fun, light-hearted adventure. The movie delivers the same banter, slapstick comedy and mild suspense as the original series.

The movie is packed with fun references to past *Kamp Koral: Sponge-*

## SpongeBob Squarepants — Kreepaway Kamp

By Muhammad Suhayb

*Bob's Under Years* episodes, like 'Who's Complaining,' 'Squisery,' and 'The Treasure of Kamp Koral'. It's both sad and funny to see what happens to the treasure at the end.

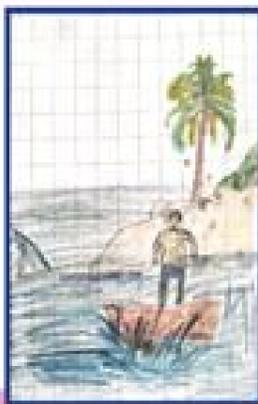
The movie brings a woodland setting to the undersea world, blending bright and eerie tones to keep the mood light, yet mysterious. It sometimes feels like a Scooby-Doo adventure. Just when you think you know who's behind the disappearances, a new character appears. Directed by Dave Cunningham, the movie is a surprise package best enjoyed at home or on streaming platforms. ■

# Art corner

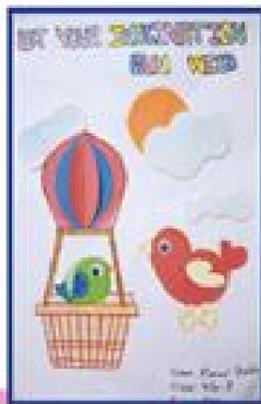
How can I get more people to see my work?



Devya Khanghar  
5 years, Karachi



Muhammad Hashir  
8 years, Larkana



Manaal Shaikh  
5 years, Karachi



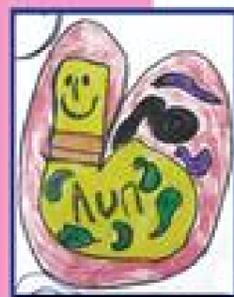
Manhha Mazari  
10 years, Ghotki



Maryam Saeed  
10 years, Tando Adam



Rameen Sohail Merchant  
9 years, Karachi



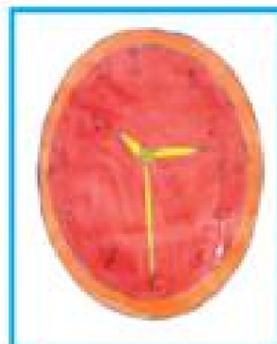
Muhammad Aun  
6 years, Hyderabad



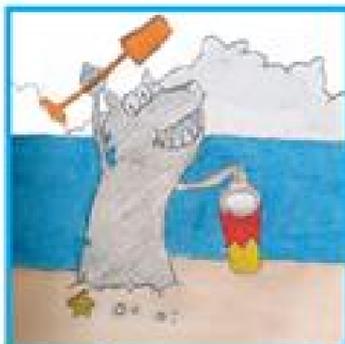
Hassnain Raza Behrani  
8 years, Tando Allahiyar



Subia Noor  
11 years, Daharki



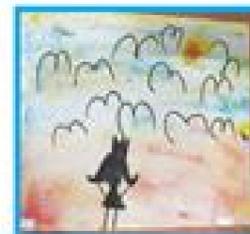
Zoya Gaincho  
8 years, Jamshoro



Ali Hassan Malik  
12 years, Karachi



Hania Salam  
10 years, Sukkur



Fatima Zulfikar  
5 years, Karachi



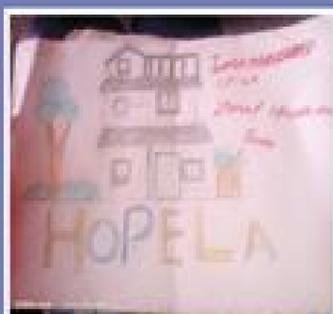
Mahiba Danish  
8 years, Karachi

## Spot the difference

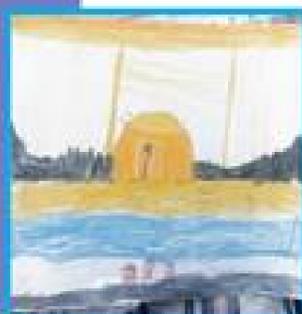
Answers of the pictures on Page 3



Arooba Ishmal  
5 years, Karachi



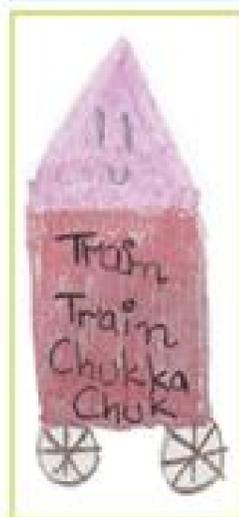
Zareef Khudadad  
6 years, Hopela



Myesha Umeran  
6 years, Karachi



Parizay Ramzan Palal  
8 years, Quetta



Manahil Motan  
11 years, Karachi



Raahyma Faraz Zuberi  
8 years, Karachi



Zainab Shahzad  
10 years, Karachi



Saiba  
9 years, Turbat



Shaheer Safavi  
9 years, Karachi



Sufyan Mubashir  
5 years, Karachi

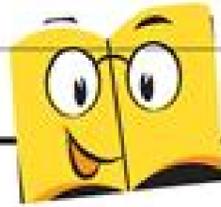


When sending your drawings, poems and contributions to us, write your full name, age, class, school, address and telephone number/email address. If you are sending your drawings by post, please write your details on the back side of the drawing.

Email: [youngworld.dawn@gmail.com](mailto:youngworld.dawn@gmail.com) or [youngworld@dawn.com](mailto:youngworld@dawn.com)  
Postal address: Young World, Haroon House, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road, Karachi, Postal Code 74200. Telephone: +92-21-35613338, +92-21-35613014  
Please note that we don't accept drawings that have been traced or made by children over 12 years of age.

## Story time

By Eshaal Ahsan



# There is no Planet B



I was staring out of my bedroom window. I could see nothing because of a tree that had completely covered everything. I wanted this tree to be cut down and my wish was about to be fulfilled as some woodcutters were arriving that day to do just that. While I stood there lost in my thoughts I heard a voice.

It said, "Hey you! I need to speak to you."

I looked around in disbelief. I was alone, yet I knew I had heard a voice speak to me. I heard the same call again. I looked around and saw the tree in front of my window, it was speaking. I couldn't believe my eyes and opened the window to see the tree more clearly.

"Hello, my friend! I know, I might be your least favourite thing to see

at this moment, but just hear me out," it said.

"Am I dreaming right now or what? A tree is speaking to me!" I said in utter disbelief.

"Yes, you're not dreaming and I am speaking to you. I wanted to tell you that I might seem annoying to you, but I serve a lot of useful purpose. I am a great blessing and I do a lot that may not be noticed," it explained.

"Yeah, right, a boring old annoying tree blocking the view from my window," I scoffed.

"You are really naive. I create a lot of oxygen, because of which you're alive and breathing. I give shade to many people and as for your bedroom, I cover the excess

sunlight which will shine on your face and wake you up at the crack of dawn unwillingly. It is because of the shade of my thick branches that your room doesn't get too hot," it

you will be cut," I said casually and turned to pick up my phone that was ringing. It was the woodcutters, who said that they would not be coming today and will come tomorrow instead. I sighed and put down the phone.

Later that night I went to sleep. I was awoken by sunlight shining directly on my face. It was so bright that I could hardly see anything. The room was unusually very warm. I tried to go back to sleep, but that was almost impossible. That was then that I opened my eyes and realised that I had been dreaming. The room was cool and shaded, like always.

I ran to the window and looked out to see the familiar tree. I opened the window and thanked it for making me realise what a blessing it was. I ran to my mum and told her that I don't want the tree cut as it was a blessing in disguise.

From that day onwards I never took anything for granted and planted more trees to help save this planet. There is no Planet B

and to make this planet stay healthy and green, we all need to work together and plant more trees. ■



Illustration by Aamnah Ahsan

## ONE IN EVERY TEN PAKISTANI CHILDREN - UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE - DIES AS A RESULT OF SEVERE AIR POLLUTION IN PAKISTAN.

We are nearing the maximum global limit of a 1.5 - 2 % rise in global warming temperatures. Our children have already begun to pay for it by **surrendering their lives.**

**Are we sleepwalking our children towards a premature end?**



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