



# DAWN

Thursday  
November 14, 2024  
Jumad-ul-Awwal 11, 1445  
KARACHI  
Rs 35.00  
20 Pages  
Vol. LXXVII No. 313  
Regd. No. 85-022  
www.dawn.com

## Mini-budget unlikely as IMF satisfied with tax steps

- Hike in petroleum levy, imposition of GST on petroleum products not expected anytime soon
- Govt sees economic activity picking up next month due to stable rupee, lower policy rate
- Senate body points to issues in Islamic banking, fraudulent POS receipts, fake ATM notes
- 10pc levy on transport with Iran has left over 600 trucks stalled

By Khaleeq Kiari

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is reported to have expressed satisfaction over the increase in the tax-to-GDP ratio by nearly 1.5 percentage points, relieving the authorities from any need for additional tax measures through a mini-budget.

According to sources closely involved in ongoing discussions with the visiting IMF mission, the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) revenue collection target for the current fiscal year will

Revenue provided over by FBR Senator Salim Mansoor said. They said the tax-to-GDP ratio had increased from 8.8pc to 10.3pc and the IMF was satisfied with this 1.5 percentage point improvement.

The sources reiterated the commitment given to the IMF that tax collection on agriculture income would start from the next fiscal year. They said that tax reforms were progressing and the draft Tax Laws Amendment Ordinance 2024 had been presented to the prime minister for approval. The ordinance contains a new family income tax return system and abolishes the concept of non-filers and late filers.

### A high-cost plan: Editorial on Page 6

remains unchanged at Rs12.97 trillion. Authorities have ruled out the need for additional taxes or a mini-budget, citing the IMF's positive response.

Officials said that economic activity is expected to pick up by December in view of a stable exchange rate and a reduction in the State Bank's policy rate, likely offsetting a tax short fall of around Rs190 billion recorded in the first four months (July to October) of the fiscal year.

These would neither be any increase in the petroleum levy nor would general sales tax (GST) be imposed on petroleum products, the sources said after a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and

The IMF has been told that the FBR collected Rs12tn from retailers during the first quarter of 2024-25, although only 500,000 potential retailers were the target out of three million small shopkeepers.

### Show progress on Islamic banking

Earlier, the Senate panel decided to call scholars of the Council of Islamic Ideology to have input on the working of Islamic banking operations in

Continued on Page 8



WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump shakes hands with President Joe Biden during their meeting in the Oval Office of the White House, on Wednesday. — AFP

## Imran gives 'final call' for nationwide protests

- Says 26th amendment strengthens 'dictatorial regime', calls for demos 'at home and abroad' on Nov 24
- Mischief under guise of protests to be dealt with strictly, warns Punjab govt
- Court seeks clarity on acquittal pleas in £190 million case

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Imran Khan on Wednesday issued a "final call" for nationwide protests on Nov 24, denouncing what he described as the stolen mandate, the unjust arrests of people, and the passage of the 26th amendment, which he said has strengthened a "dictatorial regime".

Since Mr Khan's arrest in August 2023 on several counts, his party has been holding protests across the country for his release and against the alleged rigging of the Feb-8 elections.

Mr Khan made the announcement while speaking to media persons after a court hearing related to a £190 million corruption case. The accountability court

could not record statements from Mr Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, as the defence requested a ruling on their acquittal applications first.

Speaking to reporters, Mr Khan declared Nov 24 a critical day for nationwide demonstrations and urged citizens, both at home and abroad, to march in solidarity.

He called the protests a litmus test for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and appealed for the active participation of the country's legal community, civil society and overseas supporters.

The protests, he said, are aimed at reversing the 26th amendment, restoring PTI's electoral mandate and securing the release of detained party members. The former premier also encouraged Pakistanis living overseas to hold demon-

strations in major global cities to draw international attention to PTI's cause.

Calling this situation "the most egregious betrayal in the nation's history", Mr Khan emphasised that protests would persist if demands are not met, signalling a potential escalation of political unrest.

### Court proceedings

Accountability Judge Nazeer Javed Raza adjourned the court proceedings until Friday (tomorrow) as legal teams await clarity from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on whether the acquittal petitions should be resolved before further trial proceedings.

Advocate Faizal Chaudhry, representing Mr Khan and Bushra Bibi, highlighted the

Continued on Page 8

## Trump, Biden vow smooth handover at historic huddle

WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump and President Joe Biden, longtime political rivals, met on Wednesday for the first time since Trump won back the White House last week and both promised a smooth transfer of power in January.

The two American leaders sat side by side before

### Ron Musk: rocket man takes aim at Washington — Page 11

a roaring fire in the Oval Office, a powerful scene that belied tensions between them.

The meeting ended after roughly two hours, a White House official said. Biden, a Democrat, defeated Trump in the 2020 election but dropped out of the 2024 race in July after a dispute from debate with the Republicans. Trump, Vice President Kamala Harris became the candidate but lost to Trump.

"We're looking forward to having, like we said, a smooth transition, do everything we can to make sure you're accommodated, what you need," Biden said. "Welcome, welcome back."

"Politics is tough, and it's many cases not a very nice world, but it is a nice world today, and I appreciate very much a transition that's so smooth it'll be as smooth as it can get, and I very much appreciate that, Joe," said Trump, who takes over on Jan 20.

Reporters shouted questions but were quickly ordered out.

The traditional courtesy of welcoming the president-elect into the Oval Office is one that Trump did not extend when Biden was in 2020.

It was a sharp contrast to the criticism the two men have heaped at each other for years. Their respective teams held vastly

Continued on Page 5

## 'BLA ringleader' among 16 killed in operations across KP, Balochistan

Majeed Brigade man was responsible for choosing suicide bombers, says ISPR

By Umar Farooq and Saleem Shahid

PESHAWAR / QUETTA: An important "commander" of a banned organisation was among 15 terrorists killed and six others injured in gun battles, retaliatory attacks and operations carried out in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it was officially announced on Wednesday.

Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) on the reported presence of Khawarij (the military's terminology for the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan) in the Miranshah area of North Waziristan

district between Nov 12 and 13, said a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The security forces effectively engaged the terrorist locations during the operation. Eight terrorists were killed and six others injured during the exchange of fire.

In the Kech area of Balochistan, four terrorists, including an important "commander", were killed in a gun battle during an operation, the ISPR said.

In a statement, the military's media wing said that on the night between Nov 12 and 13, security forces conducted IBOs in the general area Balgater of Kech district on the reported presence of terrorists.

After an intense exchange of fire between the troops and the terrorists, a high value target, terrorist ringleader Sarra alias Barni was killed along with three other terrorists.

The ISPR said that Sarra was the local recruitment agent, especially for

suicide bombers, for the so-called Majeed Brigade wing of the banned Balochistan Liberation Army in Kech district and was highly wanted by the law enforcement agencies.

Weapons and ammunition were recovered from the killed terrorists.

Sanitisation operations were being conducted in Miranshah and Kech to eliminate any other terrorist found in the areas, the ISPR said, adding that security forces were determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and thwart attempts to subvert peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

Earlier in the day, four terrorists were killed in two encounters conducted by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) personnel in Malakand, officials said.

Arms and ammunition were seized after the gun battles, they added.

In the first encounter, three terrorists were killed when the CTD person-

nel retaliated against attackers in the Sher Khana Patali area. The dead militants were identified as Riarwan alias Badagay, Salman, and Akbar Rahman alias Shadmant.

Riarwan was wanted by the police and security forces for his involvement in various terrorism-related cases, and was also involved in the firing incident at the historic Churchill Picket, they said.

Deputy Inspector General CTD Hassan Raza told a press conference in Balakohla that his department had received information on Oct 23 that some terrorists had sneaked into the country from Afghanistan and they were planning to carry out subversive activities in different districts of Malakand Division, including Bajaur, Malakand and Swat.

He said that terrorists attacked a CTD team, which had placed barricades on a road at the Sher Khana Patali

Continued on Page 8

## Resilience not possible sans climate justice, says PM

- Expresses dismay that commitments made at previous COPs have yet to materialise
- Says Pakistan is 'minus one emitter', needs international support to deliver on climate goals
- Calls for grant-based funding for developing nations in place of loans

Dawn Report

RAKUH/ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed his dismay at the uneven climate pledges made during previous summits and asked the global community to honour

Leaders Climate Action Summit at Niama Hall at COP29, the PM stressed that "without climate justice, there can be no real resilience", adding that he didn't

want other countries to face what Pakistan faced in 2022. He further argued that the funds provided to developing countries should be grant-based, instead of loans.

PM Shehbaz said COP29 should make this understanding "loud and clear that we will have to fulfil these financial pledges" made at COP27 and COP28. "And yet, I think,

those huge financial commitments have to be materialised," he noted.

The prime minister said the event was aimed at understanding "the 'solutions which,

unfortunately, some of the countries have already faced and some will if we do not act".

"I strongly feel that climate finance must be grant-based and not add to the debt burden of vulnerable developing countries," he said in his speech.

"Ten years ago in Paris, we had failed to stop the rise in emissions and catastrophic global warming, and those pledges in Paris... have yet to see the light of the day."

He said that as a "minus-one emitter", Pakistan should not leave the impact of emissions released by others, adding that without climate justice there could be no real resilience.

He also underscored that the developing countries would need almost \$4.2 trillion



PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif speaks at the climate conference, on Wednesday. — Reuters

## US will back South Asia climate diplomacy: White House official

By Zaki Abbas in Baku

AFTER Pakistan floated the idea of 'climate diplomacy' to tackle cross-border pollution in light of smog which has engulfed vast tracts of India and Pakistan, a US official indicated on the sidelines of COP29 that the White House may throw its weight behind any initiative taken in this regard.

Last month, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz expressed her government's intention to approach India to jointly counter

Continued on Page 8

Continued on Page 8

## Nawaz rues past mistakes that cost the country dearly

By Alka Rehman

LONDON: Being 'mis-taken' by petty individuals in the past, PM-N Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday said that those errors had cost the country and democracy dearly.

Speaking at a workers' convention at a local hotel, the PM-N chief said that if not for that "disturbance", Pakistan would have been an Asian Tiger by now, or even a member of the G20 group of nations.

Although he did not name anyone in particular, it seemed from his words that he was addressing the judiciary, as he mentioned incidents such as his removal from office in the Pervez Musharraf case.

"It was done for a personal agenda, not for the nation's benefit. You know those faces... it's unfortunate that they did it for their petty interests, for material personal gains, they put the country on the line and kept sending prime ministers home," he said.

He also reiterated that a man like him was disqualified from politics for life, removed as president of the party and kept out of elections. "What were those decisions? What was the need? Who did this? Was it for the country or on a personal whim," he asked, rhetorically.

In a series of references to what he termed "irregular conduct" of judges, he recalled how one judge's son had sought money in exchange for securing election tickets — a veiled reference to a purported audio recording where a

Continued on Page 5

## ON OTHER PAGES



### 30 patients test positive for HIV

A kidney failure patient died and 30 others contracted HIV infections during dialysis treatment at Nishtar Hospital in Multan. The hospital came into the limelight due to negligence when the patients were put on three dialysis machines meant for three HIV-positive patients. The emergence of such a large number of HIV-infected cases has also put the hospital's staff at risk. Page 2



### Sole bid for PIA formally rejected

The Privatization Commission's Board has rejected a \$450 billion bid submitted by the sole bidder for the divestment of 60 per cent shares in Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL). The board has decided to refer the issue of PIA's privatisation to the Cabinet Committee on Privatization for further consideration. Page 9

### Bid to shoot surveillance drone foiled

By Tariq Saad Birmari

DEBRA GHAZI KHAN: Law enforcement agencies thwarted a terror attack targeting a surveillance drone near the Punjab-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial boundary on Wednesday.

"When the terrorists attempted to shoot down the drone, they were met with a swift and strong retaliation from law enforcement personnel, forcing them to retreat," says an official.

District Police Officer Syed Ali said police, in coordination with other law enforcement agencies, effectively responded to shooting on the surveillance drone, driving the attackers back.

He also noted that security at key provincial police posts, including Jhang and Lakha along the Punjab-KP border, is being further strengthened to ensure regional safety.

The DPO further said information was conveyed by intelligence agencies of the presence of terrorists in Jadoywal, the border area of DOK, DK. He said the area of responsibility overlaps between police stations of Wahawa of Tehsil Tazara Sharif of Debra Ghazi Khan and KP's Debra Ismail Khan.

He said the operation was conducted by the district police of Debra Ghazi Khan comprising Special Operations Unit, Elite Police & Counter Terrorism teams.

He said police firing forced terrorists to flee the area while the surveillance drone landed safely.



LAHORE: Driver of this overloaded motorcycle ride has no space to manoeuvre his three wheeler on Circular Road.—White Star / M. Arif

### Zartaj acquitted in illegal appointments case

By Our Correspondent

DEBRA GHAZI KHAN: Former minister Zartaj Gul has been acquitted in a case related to illegal employment appointments in exchange for money.

The case registered under first information report No. 16/24 at the Border Military Police (BMP) station in Kot Sabzal, was dismissed by Additional District and Sessions Judge Malik Muhammad Latif.

Advocate Malik Moazzam, representing Zartaj Gul, argued that the FIR was politically motivated, a claim later confirmed by the plaintiff during the proceedings.

Following the verdict, Zartaj Gul stated, "This is the first politically motivated FIR from which I have been acquitted."

She described the allegations as politically driven, similar to previous accusations of land grabbing in Rajanpurt.

Reaffirming her political commitment, Zartaj Gul expressed her continued support for Imran Khan, calling him a "true and genuine leader" and asserting that she would stand by him despite any political pressures.

### Indictment again delayed as Parvez skips hearing

LAHORE: A special court for anti-corruption on Wednesday continued to delay the indictment of the suspects in a case of illegal appointments made in the Punjab Assembly due to the absence of prime suspect PTI President Parvez Elahi and his former principal secretary, Muhammad Khan Elahi.

A lawyer for Mr Elahi told the court that his client was unable to attend the hearing due to illness. He said doctors had advised the PTI leader a complete bed rest.

He asked the court to allow an application for a one-time exemption from personal appearance.

The prosecution informed the court that suspect Khan Elahi was admitted to Services Hospital for a minor surgery.

Judge Sander Iqbal Dogar allowed the application of Mr Elahi and adjourned the hearing till Nov 27.

The judge also deferred the indictment in the case until the appearance of all suspects.

The Anti-Corruption Establishment had registered the FIR alleging that illegal appointments of BS-17 posts were made in the assembly when Elahi was the chief minister and co-suspect Muhammad Khan Elahi was his principal secretary.—Staff Reporter

## Patient dies, 30 others test positive for HIV at Nishtar's dialysis unit

Panel formed to probe into how patients were put on dialysis machines meant for HIV positive cases

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: In what appeared to be a distressing incident, a kidney-failure patient died while 30 others contracted Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) infections during dialysis treatment at the Nishtar Hospital, Multan.

The largest public sector hospital in south Punjab came to the limelight in respect of gross negligence when the patients were reportedly put on three dialysis machines meant for HIV positive cases (patients).

An official privy to the information said that the patient who breathed his last due to onset of the HIV/AIDS complications was identified as Shahzad (40).

He said the patient was under treatment at the nephrology department of

the Nishtar Hospital where the doctors had immediately contacted the institution's top management to refer him to the isolation ward for immediate care soon after he was tested positive for HIV/AIDS after the completion of a dialysis session.

The official said the administration rejected the requests of the treating doctors claiming the isolation wards were designated for the patients suffering from the infectious disease like dengue and others.

Quoting some medical experts, he said the HIV/AIDS spread by contact with certain bodily fluids of an infected person, most commonly during unprotected sex or HIV medicine, or through infected injections/equipment.

Once carried, the virus attacks cells that help the body fight infection, making a person more vulnerable to other infections and diseases.

It was suspected that the above-mentioned patient carried the virus from the dialysis machines meant for HIV positive cases and died of multiple complications late on Tuesday, the official said.

He said Nishtar Medical University (NNU) Registrar Prof Ghulam Abbas was the head of the department of neph-

rology unit where the incident took place.

While sharing further information, the official said panic gripped the doctors, nurses and other employees of the department concerned when it transpired that the HIV/AIDS infections transmitted to 30 other patients, the highest number of the patients got infected in a public sector hospital in one go.

The emergence of such a large number of HIV/AIDS infected patients has put the entire staff members including doctors and nurses of the nephrology department at risk as they have been in contact with the infected patients during the treatment process.

He said the matter was first reported on Oct 26 but the head of the nephrology unit and senior management of the institute brushed it up, taking into custody the admission and treatment record of all the infected patients to avoid action.

It came to the limelight following the death of the patient on Tuesday night, prompting the hospital's top management to launch an investigation.

He said the incident was being dubbed as a worst case of negligence and blatant violation of the SOPs which had clearly defined the patient management and

treatment of those coming with kidney failure for dialysis.

As per the SOPs, each patient requiring dialysis was to undergo screening test procedures to make sure that they were not contracting any infectious disease before putting them on the dialysis machines.

He said there were three designated dialysis machines for the HIV/AIDS and one for the Hepatitis B patients at the nephrology unit.

It was the prime responsibility of the nephrology department head and other medical staff to make sure that the dialysis machines were safe for the patients.

To a question, the official said as all the doctors, nurses, paramedics and other employees of the nephrology have been exposed to the infectious (HIV/AIDS), they rushed to the lab of the institute for screening tests.

NNU Vice-Chancellor Prof Mehrez Khokhrovi told Dawn a committee comprising senior medical teachers and admin officers has been constituted to launch a thorough probe into the incident.

She said the committee has started its work on this matter and the findings are awaited to further proceed accordingly.

## Punjab reports first dengue death as girl dies at Mayo

LAHORE: The first dengue-related death was reportedly Punjab this year on Wednesday when a teenage girl succumbed to dengue complications in the Mayo Hospital after the disease progressed to an advanced stage.

As per hospital sources, Michael, a resident of Sahawal, was admitted to the hospital with a history of high fever and the doctors at the institute isolated her for her treatment.

The girl developed complications as the dengue progressed to an advanced stage during treatment. She died at the hospital on Wednesday.

Mayo Hospital Chief Operating Officer (COO) Prof Dr Faizal Masood confirmed the death of the girl caused by dengue fever.

He said the girl was brought to the hospital after she was tested positive for dengue twice.

As per the history noted by the treating doctors, she had earlier carried the dengue

virus but recovered, he added.

Dr Masood said that after the onset of the disease again, she was rushed to the Nishtar District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) where she developed serious complications.

The DHQ hospital referred her to the Mayo Hospital Lahore after she had high-grade fever for five days as the disease had progressed to Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF).

"It is a severe and potentially fatal form of dengue fever that can occur when some patients develop warning signs after their fever begins to subside," he said.

Worldwide, the mortality rate of the patients reporting with DHF was 85 percent, he added.

"She was brought to the accident and emergency ward of the Mayo Hospital Lahore on Nov 5 at 7.25 am in critical condition. She was pulse-less, resuscitated in emergency, and shifted to the

dengue High Dependency Unit (HDU)," Prof Masood said.

She had Myocarditis (inflammation of heart muscle), renal failure, and was diagnosed with Dengue Expanded Syndrome (Dengue IgM test).

"Her father had refused to get her on a ventilator when the treating doctors recommended further aggressive treatment," the Mayo Hospital COO said.

The Dengue Experts Advisory Group reviewed the case and concluded that death occurred due to dengue complications.

Prof Faizal Masood termed it an unusual case as the young patients mostly survive the dengue fever.

Meanwhile, reports suggested that nearly 1.50 more people have tested positive for dengue virus during the last 24 hours across Punjab. Most of the cases were reported in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Faisalabad and Multan.—Staff Reporter

## Attack on ex-CJP PA resolution for filing case through UK govt

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution condemning the attack on former Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa in London, calling for prosecuting the accused through the UK government.

The resolution tabled by a treasury member, Abrar Raza, said the attack was on the state (as the ex-CJP was traveling in the Pakistan High Commissioner's car when it came under attack) and not just on Mr Isa, accusing a political party (read PTI) of planning the assault.

It says that social media platforms were being used to incite people to attack Qazi Faez Isa since a week before the incident, as the ex-CJP was due in the Middle Temple, London, to receive a prestigious award.

The resolution demands a strict legal action against those involved in the incident by getting registered a case against the accused through the British government.

After the resolution was adopted by a majority vote, Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan ruled that a copy of it should be sent to the federal government, which should forward it to the Diplomatic Police of UK, whose team visited the Pakistan High Commissioner in London on Wednesday.

Earlier, the opposition PTI members staged a token boycott of the house proceedings in protest against the arrest of opposition leader in the assembly, Malik Ahmed Bhachar, outside Adiala jail, Rawalpindi.

PTI MPA Rana Shehbaz alleged that Mr Bhachar had been tortured before his detention in the Adiala police station.

The house adopted another resolution, recommending doubling the number of beneficiaries of Christmas gifts. The member, Rafiqul Khandan Hussain, said that the Punjab government gives cash gifts to 10,000 deserving Christians on the eve of Christmas and the number of the beneficiaries should be doubled this year.

Meanwhile, chairman of the standing committee on agriculture, Nasir-ul-Azhar, Wattoo, tabled in the house the report of the body on the Punjab Agriculture Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2024.

The speaker, however, deferred the discussion and passage of the bill till Thursday's sitting.

He urged the opposition to come up with their amendments, if any, to the bill when it would be put to vote on Thursday and openly express their reservations about the proposed law.

He endorsed PTI lawmaker Raza Afridi's views that tax should not be imposed on the farmers across the board.

## Doctor freed from Katcha area dacoits

By Our Correspondent

HAHIM YAR KHAN: The district police claimed to have recovered a doctor kidnapped by a Katcha area gang on Wednesday. Dr Khalid Mahmood was kid-

napped by unidentified dacoits on October 25 when he was on way to the Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences in Kairuan, Sindh.

He belonged to KYK but served at GIMS.

The dacoits demanded Rs 15

million ransom for his release. Police said Dr Khalid was recovered from dacoits after an encounter with Katcha area outlaws at the Punjab-Sindh border.

Five of the kidnapers were also recovered.

## Italian mime's mischievous elf delights audience at Dosti Fest

By Shoab Ahmed

LAHORE: Ajoka's Dosti International Theatre Festival continued to captivate audiences on its 5th day at Alhambra Arts Council.

Italian mime and actor Paolo Avastino delighted the audience with his engaging silent performance. Known for his work across the globe, Avastino's playful portrayal of a mischievous elf received loud applause, with his expressive physicality and comic surprise.

His performances, which have entertained audiences in over 30 countries, combine humor with universal appeal.

The Lakshmana Cultural Community from Indonesia showcased their powerful drama, Ark That

Remains Silent. Directed by Marlon, this performance delves into themes of love, jealousy and betrayal set against the backdrop of traditional Indonesian culture. The emotional depth and cultural richness of the performance captivated the audience.

Beside Italian and Indonesian performances, Gohar Ali drama party one local group from Dikot presented their cultural performance. The group depicted the historical story of Raja Gopichand in traditional theme of story telling mixed with folk songs and rich music. Renowned dancer Sheema Karamani and choreographer Wahab Shah attended the performance, appreciating the actors' remarkable acts.

Ajoka's Executive Director Shahid Nadeem welcomed the artists at the

beginning of the event, emphasizing the importance of such international collaborations in enriching the cultural landscape of Pakistan. "The Dosti International Theatre Festival is a testament to the power of theatre to bridge cultures and bring people together through art," he said.

The festival also features outdoor cultural performances, including puppet shows, folk theatre, and musical comedy, providing an immersive experience for festival-goers.

Traditional songs added an extra layer of enjoyment for the audience. Ajoka's Dosti International Theatre Festival will continue until Nov 17, 2024, at Alhambra Arts Council, with 11 theatre groups from around the world showcasing their talent. A play on Mahabharat Juddh will be performed on Nov 16.



**DR. RECKING'S GEM** Original GERMAN Homeopathic Medicines

**7 Decades of Natural Healing!**

www.drackmahmed.com  
www.reckweg.pk

# DAWN

DownMedia  
**Breathe Pakistan**  
LET'S WEATHER THE CHANGE - TOGETHER

A climate change initiative

## NAB claims to have recovered land worth billions in 6 months

By Syed Irfan Haiz

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Wednesday claimed to have recovered trillions of rupees' worth of land across the country over the last six months.

This was announced during the 24th "DGs Conference" of the bureau, a three-day event that concluded at NAB headquarters in Islamabad.

"It was informed that through the efforts of NAB during the last six months, NAB made direct and indirect recoveries of more than Rs4 trillion, which is a record," a press release said.

Heads of regional NAB offices presented their performance reports, highlighting that the Karachi and Sukkur regions made indirect recoveries of Rs2.5 trillion over the past year.

This was achieved by recovering 1.8m acres of forest land, and a formal report was submitted to the South chief minister after the land was recovered from land grabbers. The provincial government of Sindh's cooperation in this effort was highly appreciated.

Besides, NAB Karachi recovered Rs1.15m through settlement. Also, NAB Sukkur recovered 631,352.26 acres of forest land, worth Rs1,100m as indirect recovery, the press release said.

Meanwhile, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter of the bureau made indirect recoveries of Rs194m, NAB's Lahore office said that Rs28m was recovered

and returned to 31,008 victims in cases of public at large cheating in 2023-24.

The meeting was apprised that NAB Rawalpindi was also playing an important role in recovering money in major cases of fraud and returning the money to the victims, while NAB Mohan and Quetta performed well to serve the country and the nation by making significant recoveries.

The meeting was informed that at present 724 inquiries and 217 investigation cases are in progress and the number of references under hearing is 821. While 16,429 complaints have been dealt with since January 2024.

During the conference, the delay in deciding old pending cases and the status of inactive accountability courts were reviewed. It was emphasized that more effort was needed to resolve pending cases in the Supreme Court and high courts.

Additionally, it was suggested that the issue of inactive accountability courts should be addressed at the relevant forums to make them functional, ultimately benefiting the nation. Furthermore, the conference decided to register cases under the Anti-Money Laundering Act against the individuals involved.

The conference was informed that in the past year, NAB's anti-cybercrime directorate arrested 50 professional offenders and 78 absconders involved in accountability cases and 12 persons involved in fraud by impersonating themselves as senior NAB officers.

## PTA signals further VPN curbs

By Kabir Ali

ISLAMABAD: Following a disruption that rendered virtual private networks (VPNs) dysfunctional across the country, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Wednesday said that VPN usage would be restricted in the future to curb access to pornographic content.

In a statement, the authority claimed it had so far blocked 100,183 URLs containing illegal phenomena content, as well as 844,098 pornographic websites. The statement by PTA high-

lighting its performance came a day after the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony wrote to the regulator to ask it to block blasphemous and pornographic content.

"In addition to PTA's proactive efforts, individuals and government organisations also report such sites," the statement added.

The telecom regulator also claimed that approximately 20 million attempts were made from within the country to access pornographic websites on a daily basis, which were blocked at the internet gateway level.

"However, users bypass

restrictions via VPNs and access porn content, PTA remains fully committed to curbing this issue, taking all necessary measures to block this content effectively," the statement added.

In another statement, the telecom regulator said it had organised a consultation on the issue of VPN use, attended by representatives from the Ministry of IT & Telecommunication (MoIT&T), the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), and the Pakistan Software Houses Association (PSHSA).

"The PTA introduced a streamlined VPN registration pro-

cess, allowing legitimate users to register their VPNs through a new online portal at [registration.pta.gov.pk](http://registration.pta.gov.pk)," the statement said.

However, a senior executive from an internet service provider — in response to a Dawn query — said the authority was "making excuses".

"How would they know that people are watching porn through VPNs? They have no capability to monitor traffic through VPNs, otherwise they would not block it," the executive said.

He said the main target was blocking access to X and other social media platforms.

## Interim bail granted to PTI lawmaker in May 9 case

Parties make mistakes during proceedings but prefer to blame courts, SC regrets

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim bail to PTI MPA Inayat Ahmed Sheikh in a case related to May 9, 2023 violence.

Headed by Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, the three-judge bench also issued notice to the Punjab prosecution for the next date of hearing.

The interim bail to Mr Sheikh, who is also president of PTI's Lahore chapter, was granted against a surety bond of Rs200,000.

During the hearing, senior counsel Sardar Latif Khosa argued that his client was arrested after his name was added to the supplementary statement for his alleged involvement in the May 9 riots.

The riots erupted nationwide following the arrest of former prime minister and party founder Imran Khan, leading to significant unrest, including attacks on military installations and burning of police vehicles, etc.

"Why not make the supplementary statement part of the court record," observed Justice Mandokhail, regretting that the requirement of court record was never completed but parties complained that courts were not doing justice.

"Sorry to say [but] mistakes are committed by you but later [you people] malign the courts for [those] errors," he regretted.

It will be a different matter had it been done by a junior lawyer, observed Justice Mandokhail and, while pointing to the counsel, noted that the senior lawyer also taught at universities.

Justice Mansoor Hildal, a member of the bench, regretted that events that took place on May 9 were a big incident.

The counsel argued that his client had been granted bail in the case pertaining to attack on the Corps Commander House, Lahore, but

later he was nominated for vandalism in front of a bakery in the provincial capital.

Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed while pointing towards the client observed, "Mr Lawyer, here individuals have gone missing or lawyers disappeared, and you are talking about supplementary statement."

Justice Mandokhail observed that courts were doing justice, adding that lawyers and courts should move together like two wheels of the chariot.

"Even today in our subordinate judiciary there are God-fearing judges who are dispensing decisions based on justice," Justice Ahmed observed.

In a lighter note, Justice Hildal wondered why the client could not get the supplementary statement, also reminding that the main secretary of PTI was in Chamkani, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the name Chamkani where the party had conducted its intra-party elections.

Mr Khosa said he had full confidence that the court would do justice.

Later, the court granted interim bail to Mr Sheikh.

## Senator picks up 'crusade' against irregularities where he left off

PTI's Saifullah Abro was replaced as head of Senate panel last year; argues delayed NTDC projects costing national exchequer millions

By Khaleeq Khan

ISLAMABAD: Senator Saifullah Abro of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has resumed his "crusade" against alleged procurement irregularities in multimillion-dollar foreign-funded projects, a year after his leadership of a parliamentary panel was unceremoniously terminated.

On Nov 28, 2023, Senator Abro was removed from the position of chairman of the

Senate Standing Committee on Power through a no-confidence vote and was replaced by PML-N senator Azam Nazeer Tarar after he kept on investigating and questioning award of contracts for transmission line projects, funded by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

The leaders had also ordered internal investigations into these projects. The outcomes are yet unknown.

"This transition in the leadership marks a pivotal moment in the committee's direction and promises a renewed focus on addressing crucial energy-related matters in the country," a press release issued by the Senate Secretariat had stated on Nov 28, 2023.

The move had come only a day after the Senate panel, headed by Mr Abro, faced

liberal-funded projects of the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) and ordered the National Engineering Services of Pakistan (Nespak) not to sign the final agreement with a local firm under 'suspicious circumstances'.

The panel, under Senator Abro's chairmanship, had also raised serious questions over transmission line for Dam hydro-power project.

Months later, Senator Saifullah was elected to the Senate standing committee on economic affairs as its chairman.

On Wednesday, he presided over a meeting of the Senate panel that was given a detailed presentation on foreign-funded projects he had sought a few days ago.

"Discussing the projects under the ABR, Senator Abro inquired about the delay in completion of the Second Power Transmission Enhancement Investment

Programme Tranche 2, which includes the construction of substations in Mirpurkhas and Zhab. The project was executed by the NTDC," a statement issued by the Senate secretariat said.

The project was initially set to complete on Dec 31, 2024, but it will now be completed in August 2025. Officials said the project was delayed due to Covid-19, delays in the issuance of letters of credit, and changes in design in the later stages.

The Senate committee had sought comprehensive details of the delay at its meeting. It also "expressed dissatisfaction with the details and recommended that the tendering details of all the completed and ongoing projects executed by the said agency be provided," the statement added.

Senator Abro argued that the majority of NTDC projects had been delayed by a year or more, costing millions to the govern-

ment, the statement said.

Ahmed Ali Khan, additional secretary for the power division, told the committee that the power ministry had constituted a 'monitoring and implementation wing' to oversee the progress of the projects along with monthly reports.

Additionally, the ministry intends to restructure NTDC to bring transparency and efficiency to its work.

The Senate panel called for increased transparency in the NTDC operations. The committee was given a detailed briefing on all the ongoing and completed projects regarding the power division under multilateral and bilateral partners, along with the details of the tendering process, consultants, and the interest paid by the federal government on these projects.

The total commitment for these projects was \$4.35bn.

**In 2022 alone widespread flooding in Pakistan caused by climate change has wreaked havoc in the lives of over 33 million people residing in 84 urban and rural districts in Pakistan.**

Between 1999 and 2018 international experts estimated that Pakistan has suffered economic losses worth over **US\$ 3.8 billion** and witnessed **152** extreme weather events due to catastrophic climate change.

**Are we sleepwalking our way through yet another national catastrophe?**

DownMedia  
**Breathe Pakistan**  
LET'S WEATHER THE CHANGE - TOGETHER

Supported by  
**EBM**

Knowledge partner  
**Unilever**

**DM**  
DawnMedia



# Senate body wants full time railway minister

By Amin Ahmad

ISLAMABAD The Senate Standing Committee on Railways on Wednesday asked the government to appoint a full-time railway minister whose absence, it feels, is causing losses to the operations of Pakistan Railways.

The committee meeting, chaired by Senator Jam Saifullah, deliberated on the cases of theft, embolism, and accidents in the railways during the last five years, including the status of the audit report and the probe pending with the FIA.

The matter was raised by Senator Shahadat Awan, the mover, who expressed dissatisfaction over the details provided by the railways ministry, stating that the ministry failed to provide the requested details for the third consecutive time.

There is a substantial discrepancy in the details provided by the ministry in the last meeting and in the current meeting. It has been observed that the ministry is reluctant to provide the necessary details.

He said it is unfortunate to witness that the railways has thousands of acres of land that are being encroached upon by private individuals, and the railways is bearing unimaginable financial losses as a result of theft and embolism, Senator Shahadat Awan maintained.

He argued that the railways could be turned into a profitable organisation if the ministry takes stern action against encroachers and embolism.

Senator Jam Saifullah Khan stated that the provided details reflect mala fide intent on the part of the ministry to hide the details. He directed the ministry to submit all the relevant details in the next meeting.

The committee chairman also directed the relevant quarters to invite heads of NAB and FIA to the next meeting.

Furthermore, the committee discussed the discontinuation of the railway line known as the loop section, formerly operated through the districts of Umerkot, Tharparkor, and Mirpurkhas stations. The matter was raised by Senator Poojoo Bheet.

Officials apprised that the railway line from Jamnara to Pithara (motor gauge) of 183 km was laid in the British era, and ten trains used to operate on this section with steam locomotives. However, the section is closed due to commercially unviable and because of its old and obsolete design.

Senator Poojoo Bheet argued that the section could be made commercially viable and could benefit thousands if the government takes the necessary action. The committee recommended that the next meeting of the committee be scheduled at Karachi.

# Senate chairman stresses importance of economic zones along Ring Road

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has stressed the importance of economic zones around Rawalpindi Ring Road and recognised them as essential for sustainable growth.

He also said public-private partnerships were crucial for driving socio-economic progress and reaffirmed the parliament's commitment to supporting recovery efforts.

He stated this during his visit to Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI).

The chamber's president, Usman Shaukat, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, Group Leader Sohail Akbar, along with former presidents and executive committee members welcomed the Senate chairman. Representatives from Anjuman Tajran and RCCI members also attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Gilani acknowledged the business community's pivotal role in national economic development and endorsed RCCI's call for an economic charter, policy stability and business representation in key committees.

He emphasised that public-private partnerships were crucial for driving socio-economic progress and reaffirmed the parliament's commitment to supporting recovery efforts.

He highlighted government initiatives such as the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) as part of efforts to assist the needy. He said political stability directly impacted economic growth, underscoring the importance of a conducive business environment and consistent policies for national progress.

He called for reduced imports, increased exports and a stable policy framework to attract long-term investment, reassuring the business community of parliament's support in promoting Pakistan's economic prosperity.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat provided an update on RCCI's ongoing initiatives, noting improvements in Pakistan's macroeconomic indicators. He highlighted reduced inflation and interest rates, a stabilised currency and increased exports and remittances.

He also called for accelerating construction work of economic and industrial zones around Ring Road, underscoring the strategic importance of these zones in fostering growth.

Other leaders further advocated for an economic charter to ensure policy continuity, and suggested business community representation in the Senate finance and commerce committees.

They recommended that the chamber president's term be reduced from two years to one for greater dynamism.



RENOVATION work is underway on a temple in Sadgur village in Islamabad — Photo by Mohammad Asim

# NA body calls for providing facilities to schools in Islamabad's rural areas

Takes up subcommittee's report that highlights deficiencies; wants effective monitoring system in FDE

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD A parliamentary panel on Wednesday called for providing facilities to schools in rural areas and ensure an effective monitoring system within the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE).

The FDE is a supervisory body which oversees affairs of 438 schools and colleges of Islamabad. The directorate has been without a director general ever since the post got vacant in July last year. Since then, the education ministry has been looking after the affairs of the directorate under ad-hoc arrangements.

Recently, the cabinet ministry, after a competitive process, moved a summary to the PM Office that carried three names. It is now expected that the FDE will finally get a regular director general.

National Assembly Standing Committee on Federal Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture, which met at the PMCA with MNA Dr. Azamuddin Zahid Lakho in the chair, took up a report of the subcommittee, which highlighted deficiencies in rural area schools.

The detailed report of the subcommittee highlighted several critical issues

related to schools, particularly in the rural areas. The subcommittee prepared the report after visiting several schools in the rural areas.

In its report, the subcommittee also identified missing facilities in many rural schools, particularly those that had suffered years of neglect.

The report said many of these schools lacked basic infrastructure, including adequate sanitation facilities.

It went on to say that water facilities in these schools were unsatisfactory, which further compounded the problem.

Moreover, the School Management Committees (SMCs), which are supposed to support school governance and management are not functioning optimally, and their capacity needs to be enhanced to improve school operations.

The committee also pointed out that the infrastructure in some schools remains subpar, with outdated blackboards still in use.

To improve teaching conditions, the committee has recommended replacing these blackboards with whiteboards to facilitate a better learning environment. In light of these issues, the subcommittee outlined several key recommendations aimed at addressing these challenges.

The subcommittee also stated that first, the process for the appointment of a regular FDE director general should be initiated on an urgent basis to provide strong leadership and direction for the directorate.

The committee also emphasised the need for accelerated recruitment of teachers to address the shortage, par-

ticularly in rural areas, and urged the areas education officers to ensure that schools with a shortage of furniture, computers, and other essential resources are promptly supplied.

It said that one of the key concerns was the ongoing teacher shortage, which had been exacerbated by delays in the recruitment process.

This shortage is particularly evident in rural schools, where there is an urgent need for qualified educators. Additionally, the report highlights the absence of IT infrastructure in many schools, with the lack of IT labs and computer teachers hindering the progress of digital education.

The committee has recommended that these resources be made available in all rural schools to ensure equitable access to technology for all students.

Another significant issue raised was the ineffectiveness of monitoring systems within the FDE. It said that weak monitoring mechanisms have made it difficult to ensure effective oversight of school performance and the proper implementation of educational programmes.

The subcommittee recommended the implementation of an enhanced monitoring system to ensure more effective oversight of schools and the allocation of resources. To address the infrastructure gaps in rural schools, the committee called on the finance ministry to allocate funds for the immediate improvement of school facilities, including better sanitation, water supply, and general infrastructure and bridge the gap between rural and urban areas in terms of facilities and services in K-12 educational institutions.

The committee appreciated various interventions undertaken by the ministry in both rural and urban schools.

MNA Raja Khuram Nawaz shared his concerns over the highly deplorable condition of rural area schools.

He said the education ministry was undertaking multi-billion rupee project but focused only on urban areas, adding that he was part of the subcommittee that visited the schools and found the situation highly shameful.

He said in one of the rural schools, stray dogs were also seen.

The MNA demanded the ministry pay proper attention to institutions in the rural areas.

Education Secretary Mubayyidin Ahmad Wani told the committee that the ongoing project was started before his tenure began, however, he said under this project, 80 rural schools were being face-lifted and missing facilities provided.

He said work in 50 schools have already been completed and simultaneously was continuing in other rural area schools.

Mr Wani also shared details of the initiative with the committee that included interventions of 50 digital technology learning hubs, teacher training, recruitment of 286 new teachers, school meal programme, provision of sports kits and school sanitation project.

Earlier, under the ongoing over Rs2 billion project, the ministry face-lifted schools of urban areas and provided new facilities.

# Employees recruited during caretaker govt facing the axe

By Mohammad Ashfaq

PESHAWAR The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has begun the process of sacking thousands of employees recruited in various departments under the last caretaker government.

The employees will be removed from their services through the enactment of a proposed law, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Employees (Removal from Service) Act, 2024, officials sources told Dawn.

They said the draft bill had already been approved by the provincial cabinet.

The sources said that the government had started collecting data of those employees from all departments.

They said the government believed that the caretaker government recruited over 10,000 employees in different departments and their attached formations.

The sources said the finance

department put the number of those employees at 5,662.

They said that the number of the recruited employees highlighted by the finance department in its figures was higher as the department had no data of the employees appointed to the autonomous bodies and attached formations during the caretaker government.

There are over 100 attached formations in the province, including universities, different authorities, and civic bodies.

The sources said the majority of those recruited employees were appointed to posts below BPS-16.

According to the initial data, the police department has more than 4,000 of them followed by the elementary and secondary education department (2,500), and local government department, irrigation, communication and works, and health departments (around 200 each).

The draft Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Employees

(Removal from Service) Act, 2024, says it aims "to remove certain employees appointed by various departments of government through initial recruitment during the tenure of caretaker government."

Section 2 of the bill says, "It shall apply to all the employees, appointed by the various government departments through initial recruitment against regular posts during the tenure of caretaker government from 22-03-2023 to 29-02-2024."

According to the proposed law, the employees were recruited in the period on court orders or in line with their judgements, on the recommendations of the public service commission, against the deceased men quota, and over cases where tests and interviews were conducted prior to the Election Commission's Jan 22, 2023, notification regarding a ban on recruitment.

Section 3 of the bill is regard-

ing the removal of the employees. It states, "All employees appointed through initial recruitment by various departments during the tenure of the caretaker government are hereby declared to be unlawfully appointed and void ab initio."

For the collection of data of the recruited employees, the establishment department has directed all government departments to furnish details of the employees recruited during the tenure of the last caretaker government.

"The provincial cabinet in its meeting held on 24-09-2024 constituted a ministerial committee with the directions that all departments shall submit annexed/verified data of appointments made during caretaker government and instructed that provision of incomplete or inaccurate data will lead to action against head of the departments," reads an establishment department letter sent

to the other departments. It added that the ministerial committee had noticed that the departments concerned had provided incomplete and inaccurate data about those employees.

"You are requested to submit annexed and verified data of appointments made during caretaker government in the administrative departments, attached departments, and autonomous bodies," it said.

The information sought from departments include "nomenclature of posts and basic pay scale, the number of posts and appointments, method of recruitment, categories of appointments, open merit, minority, deceased men and court orders, date of appointment, NDC obtained from ECP through the establishment department, NDC obtained from the ECP directly by the departments and number of appointments where test and interview conducted before January 22, 2021."

# Burns prevention authority put on the back burner

A plan was devised two years ago for the purpose

By Ashfaq Yousufi

PESHAWAR The provincial government has failed to establish a burns prevention authority despite preparing a plan for the purpose two years ago.

"Had we a burns prevention authority, the fire at the tissue factory erupted last month could have been avoided. There were no arrangements to put out the fire at the industrial estate despite days of efforts," said experts, who were part of the government's plan to

establish burns prevention authority.

They told this scribble that factories, government and private buildings in Peshawar and elsewhere in the province did not have any arrangements to cope with fire incidents.

In August 2022, the government had planned legislation to make it obligatory for all buildings and factories to install fire extinguishers and make arrangements for safe exit of people in case of fire but there was no progress on the plan, they said.

Experts said that a process had been initiated with members of the provincial assembly for passing laws to ensure setting up an authority that would make it mandatory for shopping malls,

industries and government and privately-owned buildings to install proper mechanism for putting out fire in a timely manner and ensuring protection of people.

"In this connection, several meetings have also been held that have been attended by representatives of health department and lawmakers to ensure safety measures," they said. They added that it was the basic responsibility of the owners of buildings and industries to have maximum protection in case of fire and the same was discussed but no progress was made on legislating for the purpose.

They said that the present provincial government had no problem in passage of law due to its majority in the Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Assembly but the plan had been put on backburner and people had to suffer.

"Local plastic surgeons have volunteered their services to help in drafting the law as they know that those suffering from burn injuries never come to normal lives despite timely treatment while those with major burns stand nearly no chances of survival. Those with minor burns even if survive have to face complications and disabilities," said experts.

They said that an authority on modern times had been suggested to cover all aspects including mandatory installation of smoke detectors and mechanism for exit of people in case of fire. "Currently, factories and buildings don't have arrangements to

cope with fire incidents and as a result people are exposed to burn injuries," they said.

Plastic surgeons in Peshawar said there was the estimated number of annual burn incidents in Pakistan was approximately 1.3 million to 1.5 million that could be brought down through legislation and public awareness. They added that 10 per cent of those incidents were life-threatening and required hospitalisation.

They said that nearly 15 to 20 per cent of the incidents got crippled and require multiple surgeries and prolonged rehabilitation.

"The lamentable part is that 70 per cent of the burn victims are in the most productive age group of 15 to 40 years and 80 per cent of them belong to poor families,"

they said. The situation has further been deteriorated due to absence of specialised burns care at primary and secondary level hospitals.

"The silver lining is that 90 per cent of burn injuries are totally preventable, provided the government takes steps for prevention of fire incidents," they said.

Plastic surgeons said that burns were the most grievous injuries one could imagine.

"Besides legislation, the government is strongly advised to integrate burns prevention education into the school curriculum from primary to secondary levels and encourage schools to organise awareness events and competitions on burns prevention," they said.

# Balochistan requests army deployment for Sibi by-election

Seeks suspension of mobile services on Nov 17

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The Balochistan government, in light of the prevailing security situation, has requested the federal government to deploy the army and Frontier Corps (FC) for the upcoming by-election in Sibi, as well as to suspend mobile services in Sibi and Kachhi on Nov 17.

In a letter to the federal Ministry of Interior, the Balochistan Home Department said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has called for fresh proof security measures for the by-election in the Sibi-Lohri constituency. As a result, the provincial government has formally requested the deployment of military and FC personnel to ensure the safety and security of the electoral process.

The Balochistan government aims to ensure a peaceful and transparent election in Sibi, as well as in areas where the election tribunal has ordered re-polling at disputed polling stations in Quetta and Margocher.

Additionally, the Home Department has requested the suspension of mobile phone and internet services in Sibi and Kachhi on Nov 17, the polling day for PS-8 Sibi, to prevent any security threats or disruptions during the election.

### Re-polling in Kalat

Meanwhile, the ECP has announced that re-polling will be held in seven polling stations of the PS-35 Kalat constituency on December 1 this year.

The re-polling was postponed due to security concerns. The re-polling was ordered by the Balochistan High Court's election tribunal on a petition filed by JUI-F candidate Sardarwala Mir Nasir Lango, who challenged the victory of BAP's Mir Ziaulhaq Lango in the constituency.



ISLAMABAD: A Japanese woman joins Pakistani artists during the annual Lok Mela at Lok Vira, on Wednesday.—Online

# Trump, Biden vow smooth handover at historic huddle

Continued from Page 1

Different positions on policies from climate change to Russia to trade.

First lady Jill Biden joined Biden in greeting Trump on his arrival. The White House said she gave Trump a handwritten letter of congratulations for his wife, Melania Trump, and "expressed her team's readiness to assist with the transition."

Biden, 81, has portrayed Trump as a threat to democracy, while Trump, 78, has portrayed Biden as incompetent. Trump made false claims of widespread fraud after losing the 2020 election to Biden.

Biden stressed to Trump that it was crucial to continue US support for Ukraine against Russia, the White House said. "President Biden reinforced his view that the United States standing with Ukraine on an ongoing basis is in our national security interest," Biden's National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told a briefing.

"The belief is in the norms, the belief is in our institution, the belief is in the peaceful transfer of power," White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said of Biden's decision to invite Trump to speak at a briefing.

for reporters on Tuesday.

Outside the White House gates, signs of the impending power transfer were evident with construction already under way for the stands for VIP guests to sit during the parade that will take place after Trump is inaugurated.

Dozens of White House staff members gathered on an outdoor stairwell to glimpse Trump's arrival.

### Transition partially stalled

Although Biden intended to use the meeting to show continuity, the transition itself has partially stalled. Trump's team, which has already announced some members of the incoming president's cabinet, has yet to sign agreements that would lead to office space and government equipment as well as access to government officials, facilities and information, according to the White House.

The Trump-Vance transition lawyers continue to constructively engage with the Biden-Harris administration lawyers regarding all agreements contemplated by the Presidential Transition Act, said Brian Vance, a spokesperson for the Trump transition, referring to the law that governs the transfer of power.—Agency

# Nawaz rues past mistakes that cost the country dearly

Continued from Page 1

color alleged to belong to Nazam-ul-Khalid, the son of former CJP Saqib Nisai, could be heard asking a PTI ticket applicant for money.

He also referred to a judge who was removed from office—a reference to former SC judge Maqbool Nathani—saying, "Look at his assets, these are the

people who have done this."

"It's painful when I think of these things, one cannot criticize these actions enough. It is fortunate now that there is optimism in Pakistan, that it is coming out of darkness. One hopes that the country succeeds, the nation prospers. Had we not been thwarted, there would have been employment for everyone, housing for everyone."

Mr Sharif was flanked by his daughter, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.

### Maryam's health

In her remarks, Ms Sharif refuted rumours about her health. "I have been working very hard for the last 8-9 months. I have a thyroid issue, last year I had a surgery. People keep asking why wasn't I treated at a hospital in Pakistan," she said.

She said that while all her treatment had been carried out in Pakistan, the particular medical she had, which she called "peritonitis", could only be treated in two countries, in Switzerland or America, not even England. "I don't want to play the victim and talk about my illness," she said.

The previous day, Ms

Sharif had addressed the rumours surrounding her health, saying, "My treatment is underway, but I am fine."

### Khawaja Asif berked

In a video that went viral on social platforms on Wednesday, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif could be seen being heckled on a London train by an unknown man.

The video shows the defence minister being filmed on a train by a man who later alleges him and calls him names, saying that he could be attacked by a knife.

Sources said the incident occurred a few days ago in London on the underground train service Elizabeth Line.

However, Mr Asif did not mention this incident at the workers' event later on Wednesday night.

## TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited for the following:

Tender No.	Description	Closing Date/Time
PD/GEN/PT/29419/24	Supply of gas chiller U tube bundle	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29420/24	Spares for gas & steam turbines	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29421/24	Supply of screened valves, servo valves, spool valves & automatic recirculating valves	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29414/24	Supply of glass level gauges, pressure sheet & steam sheet	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29416/24	Supply of industrial grease, cleaner fluid for compressor & drain plug for pump	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29411/24	Pre-qualification of contractors for general electrical works at Adhi Dhok Sultan Fields	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29252/24	Pre-qualification of contractors for UPS maintenance works at Adhi Dhok Sultan Fields	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29216/24	Pre-qualification of contractors for general mechanical works at Adhi Dhok Sultan Fields	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29218/24	Pre-qualification of contractors for vessel cleaning at Adhi Dhok Sultan Fields	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29233/24	Pre-qualification of contractors for compressors maintenance at Adhi Dhok Sultan Fields	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29236/24	Pre-qualification of contractors for vibration analysis and machinery diagnosis services at Adhi Dhok Sultan Fields	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29240/24	Pre-qualification of contractors for maintenance of air conditioning and HVAC units at Adhi Dhok Sultan Fields	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29249/24	Pre-qualification of contractors for switch gear maintenance at Adhi Dhok Sultan Fields	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29250/24	Pre-qualification of contractors for transformer maintenance works at Adhi Dhok Sultan Fields	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29445/24	Pre-qualification of contractors for generator maintenance at Adhi Dhok Sultan Fields	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29181/24	Pre-qualification of contractors for civil works at Kandhroo Field, Sindh	02 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29413/24	Spares for Aral fixed gas compressor	03 Dec, 2024 15:00 hrs

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

### Extension in Bid Closing & Opening Dates

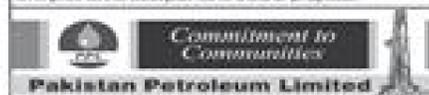
Closing and opening dates of the following tenders have been extended as follows:

Tender No.	Description	Tender Published On	Revised Closing Date/Time
PD/GEN/PT/29082/24	Pre-qualification of OEM for supply of oil country tubular goods	14 Oct, 2024	26 Nov, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/29279/24	Refurbishment & High-speed balancing of HP rotor Frame II at Sul Field	29 Oct, 2024	28 Nov, 2024 15:00 hrs
PD/GEN/PT/28664/24	Seismic Data Processing High-Performance Computing Cluster Facility	14 Oct, 2024	26 Nov, 2024 15:00 hrs

Bidders who have already submitted their proposals (bids) may take them back and resubmit the same before the revised closing date and time mentioned above.

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

Tender notice / detailed instructions are available on BPPRA website at [www.bppra.org.pk](http://www.bppra.org.pk). Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through PPL's e-procurement portal at <https://eprocurement.ppl.com.pk> for details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents. PPL reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal.



## University of Turbat Tender Notice

Advertisement No. UT-1/2024

University of Turbat (UT), Balochistan, invites bids from bidders for the following:

Tender Title	Tender Submission	Tender Opening
Supply and installation of 200 KW Diesel Generator	20th November 2024 09:00 PM	20th November 2024 09:00 AM

### Executive Engineer

University of Turbat

Executive Engineer (Environment)

GWADAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Tel: (92-86) 928 1818-11, Fax: (92-86) 928 1000

Website: [www.gda.gov.pk](http://www.gda.gov.pk), Email: [info@gda.gov.pk](mailto:info@gda.gov.pk)

## TENDER NOTICE CORRIGENDUM

TSE-242510580043

### RENOVATION OF BOUNDARY WALL AND JOGGING TRACK AT SENATOR MUHAMMAD ISHAQUE CRICKET STADIUM GWADAR

With reference to the advertisement published in the Daily Newspapers JANG, Karachi and DAWN KLI on 26th October 2024, and on the BPPRA Website ([www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk)) under TSE-242510580043, regarding the work of "Renovation of Boundary Wall and Jogging Track at Senator Muhammad Ishaque Cricket Stadium, Gwadar," it is hereby notified to all concerned that the REVISED / UPDATED Bidding Documents are now available on the BPPRA website. Please note that the previously issued Bidding Documents are WITHDRAWN and should no longer be considered.

As a result, the Submission and Opening Date for Bids has been EXTENDED. Bids must now be submitted by 09:30 am on 21st November 2024, and will be opened on the same day at 10:30 AM.

All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer (Environment)

GWADAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## Notice for Non-Individual Savings Account Holders

Effective December 15, 2024, MCB Bank will adjust the profit payment frequency for non-individual savings account holders in the following categories from monthly to bi-annual. Consequently, these accounts will be transferred to the PLS Prime Account.

- MCB Savings Gold Account
- PLS Savings Kira Deposits Account
- MCB Savings Maximizer Account

For more details, please contact your local MCB Bank branch or call us at 042-111-006-622, or visit our website at [www.mcb.com.pk](http://www.mcb.com.pk).

MCB Bank for Life

BIUT

BIUT, a 300-bedded tertiary care hospital providing comprehensive care to patients with renal and related diseases.

SIUT

RE-TENDER No. 031

### Supply & Installation of Curtains and ICU Uniform at SIUT-BIUT-Nowabshah

Sealed Tenders are invited from well established reputed Manufacturers/Authorized Distributors/Sole Agents, who are Sales Tax and Income Tax registered and e-file tax payers. All tenderers must be accompanied by the earnest money / bid security @1% of the total value of the items quoted by the bidder in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft in the name of SIUT-BIUT, Karachi. Please bring along copies of NTN, Sales Tax Registration Certificate and Active Tax payer status for tender documents. Detailed information of the tender and its terms & conditions may be received from the Office of the Director SIUT, ground floor (DPMC, Karachi) on any working day during 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. from 15-11-2024 to 25-11-2024 on payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 3000/- in the form of Pay Order in the name of SIUT-BIUT. The said tender will be collected on 5th floor, DPMC at Pre-function area at 03:00 pm on 30-11-2024 (Saturday) and will be opened at 03:30 pm on the same date in the presence of all interested Bidders or their authorized representatives on the above mentioned place.

Note: All terms & conditions of BPP Rules, 2019 shall be applicable. The Bidding Act and other concerned laws will be applicable.

Office of the Director

South Institute of Urology & Transplantation, Karachi.

Tel: (021) 99214977, 99213716/32, 111 000 313

# Armed men attack construction camp, kidnap three labourers

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: Unknown armed men attacked the camp of a road construction company in Duki district on Wednesday, setting fire to machinery and kidnapping three labourers working at the site.

Police officials said the armed men stormed the camp, which was set up for the construction of a road linking Duki to the Chamalang coal mines field. The attackers cordoned off the camp, ransacked it and set fire to the construction machinery and other equipment.

"Machinery was completely gutted in the fire," said a senior police officer, adding that the armed men, while fleeing the scene, also abducted three labourers at gunpoint. The kidnapped workers belong to Kuchlak.

The Duki region has been experiencing such incidents for several months. Last month, 21 coal miners were killed and six others injured when unknown armed men attacked the coal mine area in Duki. In addition, several trucks transporting coal to Punjab and other parts of the country were set on fire along the Duki-Loralai road and other areas.

Just last week, four coal-laden trucks were attacked and set on fire, and a truck driver was killed in the assault. Due to the ongoing violence, many mine owners in the area have been forced to close their mines for security reasons.

# Balochistan prioritises security with new action plan

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has decided to develop a provincial action plan to significantly enhance governance and security across the province.

Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan on Wednesday briefed a high-level meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, on the proposed plan.

The chief secretary said that a comprehensive strategy is being developed to effectively counter terrorism, crime, extortion and smuggling cases with a focus on enhancing enforcement measures.

The implementation of this action plan is likely to bring substantial improvements in governance and security in Balochistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Bugti emphasised the importance of integrating modern technology into the plan. He also stressed the need for strengthening professional capacity of law-enforcement agencies to combat terrorism and crime effectively.

He said profiling of criminals should be conducted for closer monitoring and all security agencies must coordinate to ensure efficient information sharing about criminals, suspects and convicts.

He said a clear and decisive strategy would be put in place to eradicate terrorism and crime without hesitation, pledging provision of necessary resources to law-enforcement agencies while expecting tangible results in return.

SIUT

DEAR CUSTOMERS

SIUT

SIUT

Cancellation of TENDER No. 480

SUPPLY OF INSTALLATION OF DIESEL GENERATOR SET OF 500 KW AND CABLES FOR SIUT NAWABSHAH SURFACE CENTER, GOLDSAN-E-JAMNAR, KARACHI

The bidding process of above tender which was published on Wednesday 09 October 2024 is hereby cancelled due to technical grounds.

Office of the Director

South Institute of Urology & Transplantation, Karachi.

Tel: (021) 99214977, 99213716/32, 111 000 313

SIUT

Cancellation of TENDER No. 028

SUPPLY OF REVERSE OSMOSIS (RO) SYSTEM FOR BIUT NAWABSHAH

The bidding process of above tender which was published on Friday September 27 2024, is hereby cancelled due to technical grounds.

Revised tender will be published early as possible.

Office of the Director

South Institute of Urology & Transplantation, Karachi.

Tel: (021) 99214977, 99213716/32, 111 000 313

# China security ties

**A**FTER a slightly turbulent patch, during which officials publicly used uncharacteristically direct language, Pakistan-China ties appear to have returned to cordiality. While speaking to the media on Monday, the Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson reiterated Beijing's desire to strengthen bilateral ties with Pakistan. He said China would help Pakistan in its fight against terrorism, while resolving to "foil any attempt" to destabilise ties. The relationship has mainly been tested by the targeting of Chinese personnel in Pakistan by terrorists. Two major deadly attacks have occurred this year — last month in Karachi and in March in KP. While reacting to unguarded comments by the foreign minister at an Islamabad seminar in October, the Chinese ambassador reiterated the need for Pakistan to take steps to safeguard the lives of its compatriots working in this country. Matters were further complicated after the Foreign Office termed the ambassador's remarks "perplexing". However, the latest comments from Beijing indicate that this incident may be behind us.

Yet the fact remains that Beijing remains concerned about the security of its nationals in Pakistan, and if this matter is not addressed satisfactorily, it may affect bilateral ties. Some media reports have stated that China wants a joint security mechanism with Pakistan. These reports say the Chinese proposal involves the deployment of their own security personnel in this country. Pakistani officials are reportedly not comfortable with this suggestion, and no one in Islamabad or Rawalpindi has publicly commented on these plans.

While training of local forces and intelligence-sharing can be considered, putting Chinese boots on the ground in Pakistan is not a good idea. In fact, having any foreign armed force present in the country should be discouraged. Security should solely be the prerogative of Pakistan's military and civil armed forces. The Chinese concerns cannot be dismissed, as the relationship with Beijing, particularly in view of CPEC, is a key pillar of our foreign and economic policy. It is also a fact that lapses on Pakistan's part have allowed terrorists to target Chinese nationals. Yet instead of allowing foreign forces to operate on Pakistani soil to protect their nationals, closer CT cooperation with Beijing should be pursued. A dedicated division to protect CPEC schemes — manned by thousands of personnel — already exists. Capacity-building of this division, such as the provision of modern equipment and improvement in intelligence-gathering capabilities, should be the state's priority to ensure the security of Chinese nationals and projects. If Pakistan is serious about attracting foreign investment, the state must improve the security situation so that investors feel safe in bringing their citizens here. Moreover, foreign projects should prioritise the hiring and training of locals in their areas of operation to bring jobs and prosperity to underdeveloped and economically deprived regions.

# Steep price

**T**HE Hindu Kush-Himalayan region is in big trouble. A new study unveiled at the ongoing COP29 reveals that if high emissions continue, up to 80pc of the region's ice could disappear, endangering the very survival of nearly a quarter of humanity that depend on it for water, food and ecosystem stability. The urgency of the matter cannot be overstated. Over the past decade, glacier melting has accelerated by 65pc compared to 2000-2010. This rapid rate of deterioration means we may soon hit the point of no return. It could have devastating implications: a rise in glacial lake outburst floods, disruptions in agricultural patterns, and compromised water security for billions. While regional cooperation, as advocated by Pakistan and other Hindu Kush nations at Baku, is crucial, the situation begs a global response.

The developed world's role is vital on three fronts. First, immediate and substantial emission reductions are non-negotiable. The State of Global Air 2024 report demands emergency-scale action to cut emissions by 40pc by 2030 — a target that primarily falls on the world's largest emitters to achieve. Second, climate finance must flow more generously and equitably. As Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasised at COP29, this assistance must be grant-based rather than loan-based, ensuring vulnerable nations are not forced to choose between climate action and economic stability. The current system of climate finance, often entangling developing nations in debt, needs urgent reform. Third, technology transfer and capacity building must accelerate. The report indicates that with very low emissions, up to 40pc of glacier ice could be preserved, with some regions even showing potential regeneration beyond 2100. Achieving this requires developed nations to share green technologies and expertise more freely with affected regions. The current trajectory, where Nationally Determined Contributions would lead to a 2.3°C temperature rise by 2100, falls dangerously short. This path would trigger irreversible cryosphere changes, destabilising water cycles and threatening food security across the entire region. The solution lies in strict adherence to the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C target through immediate, coordinated action. Time is running out, and every fraction of a degree matters. If wealthy nations fail to act decisively now, the world will bear witness to irreversible change in an ecological region of critical importance. The consequences will reverberate for centuries to come.

# A high-cost plan

**T**HE government has approved an expensive plan for FBR in the hope of tackling its deep-seated inefficiencies.

The Rs25bn programme — a media report puts the total cost at Rs32.5bn — will be spent on the purchase of 1,087 cars, hefty 'performance' bonuses for FBR officials, hiring of over 1,700 retired army personnel for an anti-smuggling initiative, establishing a 'model tax office', recruiting A/T/T experts, and providing transit housing facilities to the taxmen. The package is part of FBR's transformation plan to strengthen tax enforcement and compliance to plug an estimated tax gap of Rs7tr. The allocation has been made for six months, and the project's continuation will depend on realisation of the tax collection goals.

The package has been approved at a time when the FBR is facing a shortfall of Rs190bn in its tax collection target in the first four months of the current fiscal. This has prompted the IMF to send its mission for talks with Pakistani authorities four months ahead of the scheduled first performance review of its \$7bn bailout for discussions on critical missed targets. The project goes against the plan to cut the size of the cash-strapped government and reduce the number of its employees in the face of a severe resource crunch. Even if we put aside our doubts regarding the financial cost of the plan, past experience shows that similar measures financed by taxpayers failed to produce the desired results. This is because such actions do not tackle structural flaws in the taxation system: a very narrow base of taxpayers, and exemptions of nearly Rs4tr for powerful lobbies including retailers, large farmers, real estate, professionals such as doctors and lawyers, and various industries. Doing the same thing again and again, and expecting different results is insanity, and has not achieved anything in the past and will not get us anywhere in the future. Only the unwise would fall for such expensive projects.

# OPINION

BY SHAHAB USTO



# Judiciary's debacle

Why are the rulers, through their actions, relegating the judiciary to the status of an attached department?

**O**N the International Day of Democracy in September, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extolled the virtues of democracy, calling it the "cornerstone of a just and progressive society" and stressing continued efforts to strengthen it. But soon after, his government pushed through a slew of amendments to the Constitution and laws widely seen as destructive to judicial independence — which is a cornerstone of democracy. The government's legal wizards are suggesting further changes in the laws on the pretext of combating terrorism and anti-state elements.

Why is the government redesigning the legal and constitutional framework to drastically tilt power in favour of the executive, virtually relegating the judiciary to the status of an attached department? Why is it instilling more repression and divisions in the polity at a time when the country desperately needs stability and the rule of law to win the confidence of foreign and local investors? The short answer is survival. This requires further elaboration.

Historically, Pakistan's civilian governments have faced challenges from a combination of forces, including the political opposition, the judiciary, and the establishment. In fact, the establishment has been a key factor in the induction and removal of governments, while the judiciary and political opposition have generally played a complementary or "enabling" role in the making or unmaking of a political system. The current dispensation has also been confronting threats to its legitimacy and endurance from its "questionable" inception, given the controversial elections and resulting litigation which could drastically reduce the number of seats 'fairly' claimed by the coalition government. In short, the government's fate hangs in the balance.

But this time around, the judiciary — at least a substantial part of it — refused to fall in line. In fact, a new breed of judges sitting in the high courts not only resisted the extrajudicial pressure, but also hit back by exposing the powerful intelligence agencies' strong-arm tactics against them to get the 'desired results'. Therefore, it was in the interest of both the government and its powerful backers in the security establishment to 'tackle' the increasingly independent-minded judiciary,

before it was too late. In fact, much more was at stake. Had the judiciary rectified the electoral wrongs allegedly committed by the Election Commission of Pakistan in collusion with the powerful forces, it would have impacted the political system in three critical ways. First, the PTI's narrative of elections being rigged would have been vindicated, which could have toppled the government, delegitimised the ECP, and, perhaps for the first time, made the electoral system in jeopardy.

Second, by rectifying the electoral results and returning duly elected members to their respective legislatures, the judiciary would have emerged in the eyes of people as the ultimate and indisputably arbiter, which, in turn, would have substantially restored the public's confidence both in the judiciary and the resilience of the constitutional machinery.

Third, the making of a politically engineered system single-handedly by the judiciary would have dented the hitherto establishment-dominated matrix of power. Possibly, the political system would have seen a new alignment of forces within the state organs, driven by the common intention of building a much-needed firewall against the intrusion of undemocratic forces.

Of course, the traditional wielders of power and their opportunistic political allies would have never allowed the judiciary to disturb the long-standing power axis, or to crystallise its institutional resistance into a permanent countervailing force. As a result, the Constitution was drastically amended — and, that too, in the most questionable, if not utterly despicable, manner — in order to weaken, divide, and dominate the judiciary in general, and the Supreme Court, in particular.

But unfortunately, the amendments go against the very concept of a modern democratic judicial system, which features three essential components — independence, integrity, and efficiency. Thus, the new law is tailored so as to reward the malleable and opportunistic elements in the judiciary and punish the independent and fair-minded ones. Moreover, it compromises judicial independence by allowing parliamentarians (read: politicians) to meddle in its internal administrative and

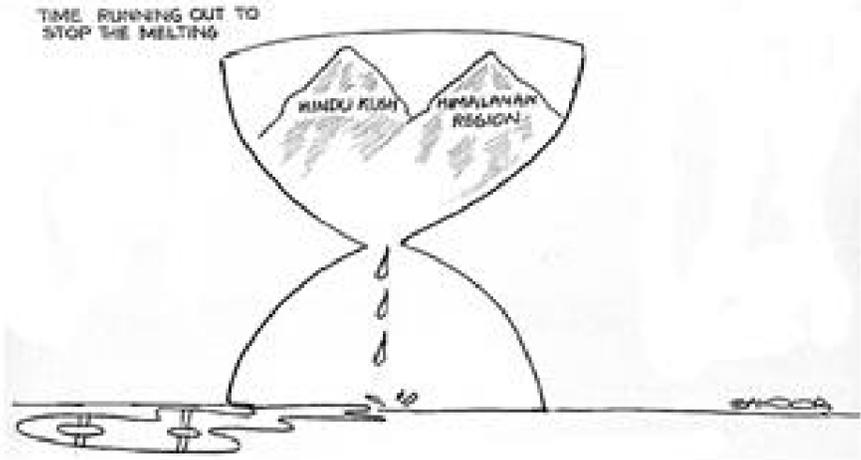
disciplinary affairs, including fixing the benches and monitoring and evaluating the performance of judges. And finally, the induction of judges to the higher judiciary and the "selection" of the chief justice of Pakistan would also be largely tempered by narrow political considerations in order to bring in judges seen as 'pliable', rather than those known for their efficiency and character.

Historically, whenever a democratic constitutional order or one of its organs has come under attack, it is saved by a confederacy of pro-democracy forces — lawyers, judges, civil society, academia, political opposition, and the media. Indian democracy was also dented during the 1970s by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi, who imposed an internal emergency. She arrested the constitution and laws to crush the opposition and rush through her controversial 'socialist' agenda. As much of the opposition leadership was behind bars, the judges took up the cause of saving democracy. Assisted by some able lawyers, the Indian supreme court passed a string of judgments developing the doctrine of 'basic structure' that laid a guardrail around fundamental rights.

We also had a round of judicial struggle when judges, lawyers, civil society and political workers came together to save the judiciary against the onslaught of a military dictatorship. But it is a sad reflection on our current polity that it is miserably missing the pro-democracy confederacy while the judiciary is being 'subjugated'. The judiciary is divided and leaderless, the bars have become too politicised to get up a common front; civil society is largely disillusioned with the squabbling and judges seem as 'partisan', and political forces are pitted against each other leaving much ground for the establishment to stay the course.

However, the PTI-led opposition believes the people will rise against the "rising authoritarianism", as did their counterparts in Bangladesh. No doubt, people have the potential to destroy the citadels of power. But they make sacrifices in the hope of creating an upright system, not helping someone renege their word with the keepers of an unjust order! ■

The writer is a lawyer and an academic. shahabusto@hotmail.com



BY KHURRAM HUSAIN



# Protecting Chinese investments

**T**HERE are two critical dialogues taking place between the governments of China and Pakistan. One of them concerns the rescheduling of payments owed to Chinese project sponsors by the government of Pakistan. The second revolves around protection of Chinese investments and nationals in Pakistan in the wake of deadly attacks.

There is now a string of statements from Chinese officials, going back a few years in time, stressing how important it is for them that the state of security for their nationals living and working in Pakistan be improved. Recently, we had a joint statement released on Oct 15, after the visit to Islamabad by Chinese premier Li Qiang for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which spoke of the need to "jointly create a safe environment" for Chinese investments and personnel in Pakistan.

This statement came couched heavily in diplomatic language. The security concerns expressed by the joint statement were mild compared to other statements, such as a vocal note by the Chinese ambassador to Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar's off-the-stuff remark that Pakistan is unique to the Chinese in that they are willing to invest here despite the security risks their personnel face, or earlier statements following the March attack on Chinese workers on the Dam hydro-power project.

However, the matter is far more serious. On Monday, for example, two things happened around this question. One was a routine press conference by the Chinese foreign ministry in which the Reuters correspondent asked specifically about "recent attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan" and received another diplomatic answer with no specifics, using language like "China will continue to support Pakistan in fighting terrorism".

But on the same day, almost at the same time, Pakistani officials in the city of Karachi hosted a press conference in which they provided minute details of the terror attack on Oct 6 outside Karachi airport that took the lives of two Chinese nationals and one Pakistani citizen. The level of detail shared during that presser on the sequence of events that led up to the actual attack was impressive. Through the presser, hosted by the KP Police and the home minister of Sharif, the authorities seemed to be conveying an important message we are getting to the bottom of this, one investigation is producing results.

The next day, Reuters put out a story saying "Beijing is pushing Pakistan to allow its own security staff to provide protection to thousands of Chinese citizens" working in Pakistan. The push by Beijing came after the October attack, which the story said has "angered China, which has pushed Pakistan to begin formal negotiations for a joint security management system". The story was sourced to "five Pakistani security and government sources with direct knowledge of the previously unreported negotiations".

The following day, another article in the Financial Times, written from Taipei and Islamabad, carried the same message. Beijing was unhappy with the security situation in Pakistan and was demanding a greater role for itself in securing its nationals from attacks. The demand to allow Chinese authorities to protect Chinese

**The Pakistani authorities have done the right thing to not grant the request for an expanded Chinese security presence in the country.**

investments and nationals was originating from within the managements of the enterprises already operating in Pakistan, according to the FT article, which cited a number of Chinese executives in Pakistan.

To some extent, the request had been granted. In some cases, cited by the article, Chinese security engineers were already on the ground to set up the security plans, hire local guards, run background checks, and "gather intelligence". But pressure is apparently mounting to grow this role.

A subtle change in approach seems to have come about in how the Chinese are dealing with Pakistan when stressing their security concerns for their investments and personnel here. In previous cases, official Chinese announcements made their displeasure with the security situation explicit, and generally downplayed other aspects of the relationship. But now that opinion has been reversed. The joint statement issued after

the last SCO, for example, talks at great length about "consolidating" and "deepening" and "promoting practical cooperation". It lists some areas where this cooperation will be deepened, such as the ML-1 railway upgradation and Karakoram Highway realignment, but points to issues to be worked out in the financing arrangements for these critical projects. And the language containing the security concerns is muted and couched in the language of overall cooperation. The same happened on Monday, when Beijing was asked specifically about the security concerns and responded by talking more about cooperation.

Privately, though, things are different, as most recently evidenced by the Reuters and FT articles, but also by numerous other off-the-record interactions that people have had with Pakistani and Chinese officials. Privately, the Chinese are raising the deteriorating security situation repeatedly, and are demanding a more intrusive role for themselves in safeguarding this security.

This presents a very slippery slope. Where would such a role end? Would Chinese guards be used? Will they be armed? Under what conditions will they be authorised to use lethal force? Will they have the power to conduct surveillance, "gather intelligence", flag suspects, apprehend people, detain them, question them, and so on? More importantly, Chinese security guards means more Chinese personnel in the country, which means more targets for the militants. Who will guard the guards?

The Pakistani authorities have done the right thing to not grant the request for an expanded Chinese security presence in the country. But for their part, it seems the Chinese are finding out that Pakistani authorities have a performative approach to solving problems. They say things, do things, and look busy, all the while letting the problem in question fester while trying to keep it out of sight. This is how economic problems have been allowed to fester, problems like inadequate government resources, liquidity constraints in the foreign exchange markets, low savings to finance investment with, and so on. But now the time has come to solve the security problem. And the performative approach is reaching its limits. ■

The writer is a business and economy journalist. khurram.husain@gmail.com

# OPINION



BY F.S. AIJAZUDDIN

## Time to find out

HOW could 74.5 million Republican voters in the US have got it right, and the rest of the world got it wrong?

Nothing in recent history can match Donald Trump's dramatic re-entry into the White House. Adolf Hitler's success in the federal German elections of 1933 offers a pale parallel. Hitler's impact though was local, European, until it exploded across the globe. Trump's effect is all things international, with domestic undertones such as immigration and jobs.

Hitler never disguised his intentions. They were apparent in his incendiary manifesto Mein Kampf, published in 1925-26. (It sold 5.2m copies.) Hitler had written: "All great cultures of the past perished only because the original creative race died out from blood poisoning." He declared that it was "the sacred mission of the German people ... to assemble and preserve the most valuable racial elements ... and raise them to the dominant position."

Trump, too, has made no secret of his abusive nationalism. America First, America after after. Trump claims that he has never read Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf. His first wife Melania reportedly told her attorney that "Trump kept a book of Hitler's speeches in a bedside cabinet."

Trump may not have owned or read Mein Kampf. He has — as if by osmosis — absorbed its virilistic neurophobia. In December 2023, at a campaign rally in Iowa, he asserted that "illegal immigrants inside the US are poisoning and destroying the blood of America." (Iowa voted loyal for Trump in 2024, 2020, and in 2024.)

Hitler, once in power, consolidated his authority by legislating the Enabling Act, which gave him dictatorial powers. Trump has secured the White House, a majority in the Senate, and expects a majority in the House of Representatives. If he appoints two more judges to the US Supreme Court (he put three in during his first term), he will have a majority of five to four there as well. Such unbridled power should come with self-restraint.

Almost a century ago, in 1937, Jawaharlal Nehru (elected president of the Indian National Congress for a third time) wrote an anonymous essay warning himself against the dangers of cultism.

Published under the pseudonym Chandra Kev, Nehru cautioned his public persona: "Men like Jawaharlal, with all their capacity for great and good work, are unable in democracy. He calls himself a democrat and a socialist, and to doubt he does so in all earnestness, but every psychologist knows that the mind is ultimately a slave to the heart, and logic can always be made to fit in with the desires and irremediable urges of a person."

He continued: "A little twist and Jew-hatred might turn a dictator swooping aside the paraphernalia of a slow-moving democracy. He might still use the language and slogans of democracy and socialism, but we all know how fascism has fattened on this language and then cast it away as useless lumber."

Such brave self-analysis was crowned with Nehru. Modern elected autocrats, once in power, regard voters as "useless lumber", fit only to be used only to stroke the next election.

Leaders most indebted to the United States — Great Britain's Keir Starmer, Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy — were quick off the block to congratulate President-elect Trump. Our message of congratulations was not amongst Trump's top 20.

We need to admit that our relationship with the United States has slipped down many notches. That happened when the US re-implanted us, replacing Indo-Pak with AI-Pak. With Afghanistan off the US radar, we have little relevance on our own.

There was a time when the Shah's Iran was used as the conduit for America's policies in the region. Today, that role has been subcontracted to Saudi Arabia. Only a fly on the wall will know what was discussed between our COAN (whose tenure has been extended by three years) and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, meeting so soon after Trump's election.

Observers see Pakistan as a media-fueled mess, with many power centres. As Dr Henry Kissinger once famously asked: "Who do I call if I want to call Europe?" Who does PM Karanveer Mehl call if he wants to parley with Pakistan over Jammu & Kashmir, or the Indian Waters Treaty, or to discuss cross-border pollution? The Sharifs, and if so, with whom and how?

We should not expect equivalence with India. It has over \$650 billion in foreign exchange reserves. We have \$15m, mainly rotating deposits provided by 'friendly countries'. A nuclear-tipped peace is our only affordable option.

Our concern, and the world's, should now be how to handle President Trump. Should his harangues be taken literally, but his seriously? We all have the next four years to find out. ■

The writer is an author. [www.fsaizuddin.pk](mailto:www.fsaizuddin.pk)

BY GULMINA BILAL AHMAD

## Optimising COP29

THE global demand for skilled workers in green technologies is growing. This is important for Pakistan, where climate change and environmental degradation are urgent concerns. Green Technical and Vocational Education and Training is vital for developing skills needed to make key industries sustainable. However, substantial challenges remain in fully integrating Green TVET into the national development framework.

With COP29 in Baku focused on climate action and sustainable workforce development, Pakistan has an opportunity to formalise Green TVET strategy. Indeed, the country's vulnerability to climate change underscores the need for Green TVET. Pakistan is among the top 10 countries most affected by the impact of climate change. It suffers an annual loss of \$3.8 billion due to extreme weather events. The industrial and agricultural sectors, contributing more than 40 per cent of GDP and employing over 60% of the workforce, are heavily reliant on absolute, environmentally damaging practices, thus making it critical to transition to eco-friendly methods.

However, in adopting Green TVET, Pakistan will face several structural and economic hurdles, one challenge being the absence of a comprehensive national policy connecting green economic goals to vocational training. Although environmental concerns have been partially addressed in the National Climate Change Policy, the latter does not prioritise workforce development for green sectors. This indicates an institutional disconnect with organisations that are attempting to bridge the gap by integrating green skills into their programmes.

Incorporating green skills requires strategic focus and institutional coordination. For instance, the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission has introduced some foundational green skills, aimed at building awareness of sustainable practices. However, these efforts require substantial expansion.

At COP29, where global leaders are discussing climate action and workforce development, Pakistan can advocate for Green TVET on an international platform. Efforts of organisations, such as the NAVTEC, could benefit from aligning with frameworks emerging from the climate conference, potentially securing commitments for funding and support from international partners. Such alliances could enable them to expand Green TVET programming and help Pakistan achieve both its climate and economic objectives.

There is also not much awareness of or demand for green skills among employers. Many industries lack an understanding of

the benefits of green skills; their motivation to adopt sustainable practices is thus reduced. Critical sectors, including the construction industry and agriculture, still depend on resource-intensive methods, as they perceive the transition costs to be high. For instance, the construction sector, which contributes over 2% to GDP, often resorts to energy-inefficient practices, while agriculture — the largest employment sector — has been slow to adopt climate-smart techniques.

These challenges deter TVET institutions from investing in green training programmes as industry demand for these skills remains low. Creating awareness and a demand for green skills within industries requires focused outreach and partnerships to educate employers on the long-term economic benefits of sustainable practices.

Many vocational institutions also lack modern equipment, which is essential for teaching technologies, such as those related to solar panel installation or sustainable agriculture practices. Nearly half our

TVET institutions are under-resourced, highlighting an immediate need to upgrade facilities to meet the demands of a green economy. Securing these upgrades is challenging as budget allocations are limited. Pakistan's TVET sector receives around 2.5% of the national education budget, which would need to be scaled up in order to match countries that prioritise vocational training. Private sector investment in green skills training is also minimal, and although institutional financing options, such as the Green Climate Fund, exist, Pakistan has to do much more to access these resources.

Investing in Green TVET can speed up both economic growth and environmental resilience. By establishing cohesive policies, raising industry awareness, securing funding, and promoting TVET, Pakistan can build a workforce capable of supporting sustainable development in core sectors of the economy. This shift will not only reduce Pakistan's environmental footprint but also position the country as a proactive participant in the global green economy, aligning with COP29's objectives and working towards a more sustainable future. ■

The writer is the chairperson of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission. [chairperson@navtec.gov.pk](mailto:chairperson@navtec.gov.pk)

## FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

### Triumphant Arafat

**UNITED NATIONS** A triumphant Yasser Arafat today (Nov 13) presented his case before the ... UN General Assembly, calling for the establishment of a Palestinian State in which Muslims, Christians and Jews will live in justice, equality and fraternity. ... The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation ... was given a standing ovation as he strode into the ... General Assembly hall which was packed to capacity. "I appeal to you to enable our people to establish national independent sovereignty over our land. ..." The Pakistan delegation was present in full strength. ... Israel boycotted the proceedings. ...

"I have come bearing an olive branch and a freedom fighter's gun," the PLO Chief said. "Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand." A sustained applause broke out at the end of his speech. He acknowledged the greetings with a gesture of his clasped hands. ... Earlier, when Mr Arafat arrived at New York's Kennedy airport unprecedented security measures were taken and even newsmen were not allowed nearer as a precaution. ... As Mr Arafat headed for New York, Mr Hussain Kabeer ... of the militant US Jewish Defence League ... was arrested for threatening to kill Mr Arafat. ... News agencies

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

### Charge against IRO

**LAKE SUCCESS** Saudi Arabia asserted before the United Nations Social Committee here that action by the International Refugee Organisation in aiding the migration of 100 thousand Jewish refugees to "Israel", eventually gave rise to the conflict in Palestine. Mr Jamil Baroudy, (Saudi Arabia), repeating similar charges made on Friday (Nov 11) by the Lebanese delegate, declared yesterday (Nov 12) that "for every Jewish refugee that found a haven in Palestine, five to 10 Arabs were displaced."

The Arab countries Mr Baroudy said "do not believe that the Palestine question has been justly settled by the United Nations."

The "Israel" delegate, Dr A. Katzmann, flatly denied that the IRO had created the Arab refugee problem. "The problem of the Arab refugees is a direct consequence of the war enforced upon us by the Arab States in flagrant violation of the will of the United Nations. The Arab attack was aimed not only to prevent implementation of the United Nations decision, but to accomplish physical extermination of the Jewish population," he told the Committee. ... News agencies

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@dawn.com

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

## Global order ready to be Trumped?



THE election of Donald Trump to be the president of the United States once again marks a pivotal moment in world history; one that many believe may well redefine the global order. Renowned historian Professor Yuval Noah Harari had come ahead of the election that a Trump win "will be like a death blow to what remains of the global world order". Now that Trump has won, the new American leadership may reshape not just domestic policies, but also the country's global alliances and economic strategies.

Many commentators have analysed Trump's victory as a reaction to economic issues that were overlooked by the Democrats, particularly those affecting working-class Americans. The Democratic Party's failure to address the harsh reality of inflation and rising costs left millions of Americans feeling neglected, and this dissatisfaction ultimately drove them towards Trump, it is being argued.

As a result, the incoming administration is set to inherit an economy marked by high levels of national debt and waning economic and manufacturing activity. These are challenging times, as noted by Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, who recently described the US debt as being on an "unsustainable path", with interest on that debt alone nearing one trillion dollars.

However, when it comes to the Wall Street, the story appears paradoxical. The Standard and Poor's 500 (S&P 500) index is at a record high, and the Case-Shiller Home Price Index has reached new peaks, indicating that financial assets are undergoing lofty valuations. These highs coexist with economic vulnerabilities, including rate cuts by the Federal Reserve amid slowing growth and a weakening manufacturing sector.

Trump's economic team, expected to have Peter Navarro and Robert Lighthizer as the leading lights, is expected to champion new tariffs, fueling fears of an impending shift towards protectionism. The currency market has already responded, with early signs of a stronger

dollar reflecting expectations of an aggressive trade stance. Will the policies of Trump administration ignite economic growth? Well that remains uncertain, and will depend largely on how the transition of power unfolds, and on how the US bond market reacts to the ongoing strains within the financial landscape.

For Pakistan, Trump's presidency introduces both challenges and opportunities. Maintaining positive relations with the US, an economic powerhouse and major trading partner, is essential.

We have seen this recently in the United Kingdom, where the current government is actively seeking to repair ties with the US following controversial remarks earlier passed by some Labour Party members about Trump.

Aligning with global shifts in a way that fosters inclusive economic growth could be key for Pakistan in safeguarding its own stability in these uncertain times.

**Abul Haseeb Ghaffar**  
London, UK

## Reserved seats

THE quota of 20 per cent seats reserved for PhD and MPhil teachers in RPS 19 and 20 under the the College Education Department of the Sindh government has not been announced for more than a decade. The promotions of college teachers are made on a regular basis, according to a four-tier formula that has a specific ratio of lecturers, assistant professors, associate professors and professors.

These promotions are made after deducting the 20% seats reserved for PhD and MPhil teachers. Disappointingly, this formula has not been implemented properly due to which many deserving professors have yet not been promoted.

The last time the said quota was announced was in 2007-08. Many promotions have been made to grades 19 and 20 since then, but the reserved seats have not been taken into account. This is an injustice to the deserving PhD and MPhil teachers and scholars. The authorities should look into the matter and announce these vacancies immediately.

**Dr Zafar Hussain**  
Karachi

## Living in harmony

HISTORICALLY, hunting was a way of survival, particularly in the ancient and medieval periods. However, as civilisations advanced and alternatives emerged, hunting shifted from a survival mechanism to a form of recreation and status symbol, especially among the social elites.

In medieval times, hunting became a royal pastime. Rulers often took their heirs on hunting expeditions, solidifying

it as an entertaining legacy. What was once a necessity became a tradition — an extravagant pursuit to experience thrill at someone else's cost.

As a result, we are now confronted with the consequences of centuries of unchecked exploitation. Entire forests have been decimated, bird species have been endangered, and numerous animal species have been driven to extinction or kept confined to cages.

This legacy of exploitation has left an indelible mark on our planet, threatening biodiversity and natural ecosystems. If humanity continues to ignore its supposedly "inalienable" status as a licensee to exploit at will, the remaining living creatures on Earth would continue to face an uncertain future. The idea that the Earth exists solely for humans is a dangerous misconception.

It is imperative that we reconsider our actions and redefine our ethics. Without strict laws and restrictions on activities like hunting and deforestation, we risk further destabilising the planet's delicate balance.

The Earth does not belong to humans alone; it is home to all living beings. Living in harmony with the species that share our planet is our responsibility.

**Tabir Jamali**  
Shaheed Benazirabad

## The greater good

WORKING in the social sector with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is no easy feat. While society generally has a negative perception of NGOs, the reality is quite different. Working in the field of rural development brings a unique blend of personal fulfilment and challenges. It demands a deep commitment, often requiring one to spend long periods away from family, navigating difficult terrains, and adjusting to the simplicity of village life.

I recall my early days in an organisation that was active in desert areas back in the early 2000s, working as a data collector at a meagre daily wage of Rs50. I would barely manage to earn around Rs1,200 per month. I and my colleagues would often stay in villages on our own, making sure to meet the targets set by the team leader.

Another striking moment from my early professional journey was my wedding day. My team attended the ceremony, and my boss, after congratulating me, instructed me to report to a location some 200km away by train the next morning. Such was the pace of the job.

As time passed, the employer invested in our growth, and we became integral parts of the team. Despite the growth, however, striking a balance between family and professional lives has remained a constant challenge.

No doubt, black sheep exist everywhere, and the development sector is no exception.

But the truth is that many of those at the top currently, are the ones who sacrificed a great deal in the early part of their careers.

Despite the hardships, there is a rewarding sense of purpose that comes from knowing that the work has a direct impact on marginalised communities.

**Zahoor Ulain Babar Jangoo**  
Hyderabad

## Managing diabetes

THE World Diabetes Day, which is being commemorated today (Nov 14), is an opportunity to raise awareness about the global public health issue, and to see what needs to be done collectively as well as individually for better prevention, diagnosis and management of the condition.

The latest International Diabetes Federation (IDF) data shows that more than half a billion people have diabetes globally. In Pakistan, around 33 million people are believed to be affected, with almost a quarter of them living undiagnosed.

Diabetes has an impact on both physical and mental wellbeing. Millions of people



with diabetes face daily challenges in managing their condition at home, work and school. Diabetes care often becomes only an managing blood sugar. Urgent action is needed to ensure that personal wellbeing is given a focus in diabetes care.

The Global Diabetes Compact initiative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) has the potential to improve the wellbeing of diabetes by driving national efforts to achieve universal health coverage, strengthening health systems through primary care, and reducing modifiable risk factors.

The complementary global diabetes coverage targets can also contribute to the wellbeing by ensuring quality care for those who need it.

It is time for the government to allocate sufficient resources to improve access to diagnosis as well as care facilities across Pakistan, and to accelerate the pace of progress towards the implementation of the Global Diabetes Compact.

**Dr Ashfaq Ali Jafar**  
Sujawal

► **THE CORRECT MOVE:** The 26th Constitution Amendment has faced criticism from certain political as well as legal elements even though there is much that can be said in favour of the amendment. First, a process in which the chief justice had the absolute discretion in the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court has been substituted by a procedure in which the sole discretion of an individual has been curtailed. Similarly, the nomination of the chief justice solely based on seniority has been changed to an improved procedure that is based on a combination of merit and seniority, and is under parliamentary oversight. One wonders what all this fuss is about.

**Ahmed Javed Munir**  
Islamabad

► **DANGEROUS U-TURN:** Motorists coming from Islamabad via the newly constructed Margalla Avenue have to turn left and take a U-turn to go towards Taxila. This is an extremely dangerous turn, as the traffic moves at a high speed. This can result in serious, even fatal accidents. The authorities concerned should curtail a safe U-turn urgently.

**Ashraf M. Lodhi**  
Taxila

► **FROM SUKKUR TO ROHRI:** The Larodwara Bridge concerns the twin cities of Rohri and Sukkur. However, due to the maintenance of Sukkur Barrage, the bridge has been facing acute traffic congestion. There is literally no way left to go to Sukkur from Rohri. People having a medical emergency and the daily office-goers have been facing serious problems. The relevant authorities should look into the matter and address the issue.

**Ameer Mahmud Ahsan**  
Rohri

► **QUI PRO QUO:** This refers to the letter "Inherently wrong" (Oct 24). Since politicians now have the power to appoint judges, the judges should be given the power to select future presidents, governors, prime ministers as well as chief ministers. Indeed, this would allow the judiciary to keep a check on executive and legislative overreach.

**Shahid Zaheer**  
Karachi

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

[Email:muhammadali@msd.com](mailto:Email:muhammadali@msd.com)

# Mini-budget unlikely as IMF satisfied

Continued from Page 1

Pakistan, for which a special session would be arranged.

The central bank's deputy governor told the panel that RBI was the main difference between conventional banking and Islamic banking.

Senator Farooq H. Naik pointed out that full implementation of Islamic banking was committed for 2022, but progress had been very slow. The NBP's deputy governor emphasised the need for continued deliberation on Islamic banking and assured the committee that several banks were actively working towards compliance.

FBR Chairman Rashid Mahmood Laghari told the panel that FBR's enforcement would be improved in the coming months after approval of a transformation plan,

including enhancing the board's operational expertise, organisational capacities and strengthening measures.

Key discussions during the meeting included the contentious 10pc levy on transport and business between Pakistan and Iran, raised by Senator Mansoor Ahmad Kakar in a Senate session. The committee resolved to report to the house that the issue may be referred to the Standing Committee on Communications, noting that the levy, imposed with the federal government's approval, did not pertain to the Federal Board of Revenue.

While FBR officials emphasised that this specific tax was not their responsibility, Senator Kakar raised concerns that Pakistani trucks were being unfairly taxed, with over 600 trucks currently

parked due to the levy. The committee agreed to forward the matter to the Communications Committee for further deliberation.

The committee also discussed concerns raised by Senator Mohsin Aziz regarding the fee collected by FBR for point of sale (POS) services and its utilisation. The FBR chairman confirmed the introduction of a policy to penalise businesses that are issuing fake POS receipts, imposing fines of Rs500,000 and shutting down shops involved in such practices.

Senator Aziz highlighted weaknesses in enforcement, with some fake receipts circulating in the market, including a bill in Islamabad marked "retentive". The FBR chairman acknowledged the issue and assured that enforcement measures would be strengthened soon.

A key briefing by the NBP highlighted the performance of banking branches in smaller provinces, revealing that as of June 30, 2024, there were 3,314 banking branches operating in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Aard Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, accounting for 20pc of the total nationwide branches. Additionally, 175 branches of microfinance banks were serving these regions, representing 45pc of the country's total microfinance network.

Another pressing issue discussed was the problem of counterfeit currency dispersed from ATMs. Senator Kakar cited a case where a young man received fake Rs5,000 notes from an ATM. The CEO of a commercial bank assured the committee that security measures were being enhanced to address this issue.

# Imran gives 'final call' for nationwide protests

Continued from Page 1

IIC's instruction to address the acquittal applications first. However, according to court statements, the accountability court has not yet received a formal directive on this matter.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) prosecutor countered that no high court stay order was in place and argued that criminal cases were not subject to such delays.

The prosecutor insisted that the accused should record statements under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which allows defendants to present their version of events and address evidence against them.

He noted that despite three previous opportunities, Mr Khan and Bashir Bibi had not given their statements, while also pointing out that defence lawyers were allowed 37 chances to cross-examine the final witnesses.

She accused PTI of drawing the nation's youth into its "last for power" while Mr Khan's family enjoys a comfortable life abroad.

Indirectly referring to graft allegations against Mr Khan and his wife, Mr Bokhari added that those who once chanted "thief" had now been "caught red-handed in their own family's corruption". She lauded Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for launching historic welfare initiatives and development projects for the province, contrasting them with PTI's approach.

Mr Bokhari said the political life of PTI's founder has involved around "affair (red) and death".

She added, "PTI and its leader only dream of power. Genuine political figures prefer to launch political struggles and do not dream of attacking the federation under the guise of politics."

## 'BLA ringleader' among 16 killed

Continued from Page 1

area to check their movement. In a retaliatory action, the CTD personnel killed three terrorists.

The CTD personnel recovered three Kalashnikovs, hand grenades, pistols and live rounds from the dead militants.

During the other encounter, security forces killed a terrorist, identified as Abdullah.

DC Rana, flanked by SP Malakand Ahsan Ali Khan, stated that the killed terrorists, who belonged to the Sher Khosro Paki area, were wanted to the police and security forces for their involvement in several terrorism-related cases. He said a search operation continued in the area.

Mr Bokhari claimed that PTI's political foundation was rooted in protests, rallies and sit-ins. "As prosperity returns to Pakistan, PTI is unwilling to accept it," she said. "The role of the 'surgire', the conspiratorial behaviour and the facilitation to the PTI's founder has been the foundation of the political journey of this party."

Responding to the Punjab Information Secretary Shaukat Bhatti's statement, he claimed that the current government came to power with the support of the "surgire" and through "Power 47 manipulation".

Mr Bhatti criticised PML-N's "weakness" in calling others thieves, noting that the ruling family is currently in London.

He said Imran Khan had awakened national consciousness and led with a much higher standard of politics compared to PML-N, adding that PTI would continue its "peaceful struggle" to challenge PML-N leaders and their allies.

Zulqarnain Tabir and Mansoor Mallik in Lahore also contributed to this report.

# Resilience not possible sans climate justice, says PM

Continued from Page 1

by 2030 to partially implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the same "goals for adaptation and loss and damage".

"My government has taken concrete actions to deliver on its commitment of producing 60 per cent of all energy from green sources and shifting 30pc of our vehicles to EVs (electric vehicles) by the end of this decade," he said while referring to the NDCs Pakistan submitted to the UN. It may be noted that Pakistan will submit its revised NDCs next year ahead of COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

He also mentioned the national adaptation plan as well as a "national carbon market framework". He, however, reiterated Pakistan cannot do this without the support of the international community. He said under the leadership of Azerbaijan this COP could transform into "a success COP" by restoring confidence in the pledging process and scaling up climate finance.

He also mentioned \$30 billion in damages that the 2022 floods caused to Pakistan which also killed 1,700 people. These floods wiped out entire localities, he said.

Pakistan is a resilient, hard working and responsible nation,

We are fully committed to becoming part of the global climate solutions, he said, adding, "we cannot do it alone. Pakistan needs international support to deliver on its climate ambition".

Speaking to Dawn at the Pakistan Pavilion, Climate Change Secretary Aisha Mariam said it was very unfair that she have not crossed pollution are now suffering the negative impacts, adding that there was "complete apathy" from the developed world, while Pakistan was looking for climate justice.

Zaki Akhtar in Baku and Spaf Ryan Raza in Islamabad contributed to this report.

# US will back South Asia climate diplomacy: White House official

Continued from Page 1

stable financing.

Talking to Dawn on the sidelines of COP29 in Baku, Ali Zaidi — national climate advisor to the Biden administration — said the US was "100 per cent supportive" of partnership-based approaches to tackle problems that cannot be solved in isolation.

"In the US, we have this thing called the 'good neighbour rule', which governs us. It actually was developed when we witnessed exactly this phenomenon in the US. So you know when it comes to cross-border pollution and cross-border issues, we are 100pc supportive of partnership-based approaches to tackle problems that cannot be solved on their own," he said in response to a question about us, which has made life miserable for millions in Pakistan.

The White House official said the US was already active in the Hindu Kush — often referred to

as 'The Third Pole' for housing the most glaciers in the world outside the polar regions — to better coordinate the mitigation response, because erratically rising temperatures from glaciers do not isolate themselves to one jurisdiction.

"I think the regional solutions are a necessary complement to this sort of multilateral dialogue," he said, referring to the COP summit.

The adviser said regional cooperation among relevant parties to address climate change would have more impact than putting "another centimeter on a 1,000-page document (COP29)".

In response to a question about the failure of the world to help Pakistan after the 2022 floods

caused damages to the tune of \$30 billion, he said the global community needed to reinvent its approach to rebuilding from disasters, particularly by investing in pre-disaster mitigation.

According to the White House official, the US took a really long time to reinvent its thinking domestically in terms of building resilience into the recovery.

He favoured an approach that ran "consistent with the financial position" of states that needed to do rebuilding, saying there was a need to mobilise more countries to move more capital to help with adaptation and mitigation in these vulnerable countries.

In response to a question about the foundation

of the air pollution, which mostly comes from vehicles and industrial emissions, and is exacerbated in winter due to

strangled US administration all set to take over from the Biden administration, he appeared optimistic, saying the states in the US will figure out how to provide the policy support even if the federal government support being part of it. About the US, he said it should remain part of the dialogue and be the author of the

roadmap that will govern the contours of climate finance for decades to come.

Produced as part of the 2024 Climate Change Media Partnership, a journalism fellowship organised by *Journers' Karh Jour* nation Network and the *Sunday Centre for Peace and Security*.

Trampled US administration all set to take over from the Biden administration, he appeared optimistic, saying the states in the US will figure out how to provide the policy support even if the federal government support being part of it. About the US, he said it should remain part of the dialogue and be the author of the

**Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M)**

**GWADAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Tel: (92-86) 920 1010-11, Fax: (92-86) 920 1020  
Website: www.gda.gov.pk Email: info@gda.gov.pk

**TENDER NOTICE**

TSE - 242511588973

NOTE: In All Procurements of GDA whether through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory for All Bidders to Get Registered at Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GDA.

The Gwadar Development Authority invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite Schedule Rates 2023 on Percentage Rates.

S.No.	Name of the Item
01.	<b>SOLARIZATION OF GDA OFFICE (180 KW), GWADAR</b>

Estimated Cost : PKR 49,081,000

Tender Fee	Bid Security
PKR 3,000/-	2%

PROCUREMENTS shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014, ELIGIBILITY OF BIDDERS:

- Presence in Active Tax Payers List
- The Bidding Firm must not be Blacklisted by any Procuring Agency of Pakistan
- Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required
- The bidder must have completed 2 Assignments of similar nature of work
- Turnover of at least 34,356,700 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm
- Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Up to 85 Million) in Relevant Category and Specialized EE-94 (Low Voltage Installation), EE-II (i) (Solar), EE-II (ii) (Solar Energy), EE-II (iii) (Solar Energy System).
- Completed 2 Projects (Cost Must not be less than Estimated Cost)
- PEC / Factory & Dealers documents

PROCEDURE OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage Two Envelopes Bidding Procedure

BID SECURITY: The Bids MUST accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit or Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a Scheduled Bank.

TENDER DOCUMENTS: Tender Documents will be available on Gwadar Development Authority & BPPRA Websites and also from the Office of Undersigned. (Rs 3,000/- as Applicable Tender Fee / Bidding Documents Charges) to be deposited in the head of GDA Accumulated Collection or Fund Account 3002-0081-0083-0081 through Bank Al-Habib Ltd, Gwadar Branch.

ISSUANCE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS: From the Date of Publication of NIT upto 29 NOVEMBER, 2024 during Office Hours on all Working Days.

LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION: The Bidders must be submitted latest by 29 NOVEMBER, 2024 till 11:00 am.

TENDER OPENING: All Tenders will be opened on the Same Day in the Office of Undersigned at 12:00 Noon.

ADDRESS: Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M): GWADAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Marine Drive, Gwadar. Phone No: 8649201010 Email: info@gda.gov.pk

Executive Engineer (E&M) GWADAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**SIUT**

SIUT a 1200-bedded tertiary care teaching hospital providing comprehensive care to patients with renal and related diseases.

**Extension in the Date of Opening of TENDER No. 489 SUPPLY OF CHEMICAL FOR ABSORPTION CHILLER, SIUT KARACHI**

The date of opening of tender No. 489 SIUT i.e. November 16, 2024 is hereby extended till November 23, 2024, (Friday). Bids must be submitted at SIUT Ground Floor, DPMC, at (Engineering Office) up to 03:00 PM. i.e. the new opening date and time of Tender No. 489 SIUT.

The Tenders/bidders may collect Tender documents from the Procurement Office, ground floor, DPMC, on any working day during 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. till November 21, 2024.

Remaining Terms and Conditions of the said tender will remain unchanged.

**Office of the Director**  
South Institute of Urology & Transplantation, Karachi.  
Tel: (021) 99214977, 9921571/532, 151 990 513

**"EXTENSION/CORRENDUM"**

This office invited Request for Proposal (RFP) for Supply Consultancy Services for the Project "Construction of Block Tap road from Sahib Par to Kachhura Pili District Sahib Par (32 Km)" which was published in Jang newspaper under AD No. 43329-10-2024, dated 20/10/2024 & uploaded on BPPRA website under TSE 242511588973. Due to some amendments in scope of work / TORs the date of submission & opening is hereby extended from 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 with details as follows:

Deadline of Submission: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 12:00 PM.  
Date of opening: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 1:00 PM.

Project Director  
Sahib Par - Kachhura Road (P-0)  
CMM Department Balochistan

AB No. 433-13-11-2024

**DAWN**  
the complete newspaper

**COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS PAKISTAN**

**RE-TENDER NOTICE**

**FOR THE SUPPLY OF DELEGATE MICS SYSTEMS AT CPSP KARACHI**

Reference to advertisement published in newspapers i.e. Daily Jang & Dawn (Karachi, Lahore & Rawalpindi) on October 8-2024. The Submission date for the requirement has been further extended as follows. The criteria and all other terms & conditions and tender document shall remain the same.

Quotations are invited from reputable Companies for the requirement of Delegate Mics Systems.

Interested parties may please obtain tender documents at a cost of Rs. 2500/- (non-refundable) from CPSP, Purchase Department. For further information please contact Purchase Department, Phone No. 021-99266453/99207100-10 Ext 237-330

The quotations should reach the Secretary CPSP, 7th Central Street Phase-II, DHA, Karachi by 29th November-2024 (at 10:45 AM). Tender will be opened on the same day at 11:00 AM in the presence of bidders.

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

**INVITATION TO E-BID THROUGH SAP-ARIBA DISCOVERY**

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

SR #	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB-ADMM-270680184-2024	SERVICES FOR PROVISION OF BUFFET LUNCH AT OGDCL	02.12.2024 AT 1030 Hrs
2.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB-PaP-66-21-48-269823288-2024	75KW SOLAR PV SYSTEM FOR MELA-6 SHAKARPARA DISTRICT KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA PROVINCE	02.12.2024 AT 1030 Hrs
3.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB-CESS-60-2075-267809483-2024	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DESIGNING OF SPORTS HALL AT KPO-TAY PLANT DISTRICT HYDERABAD SINDH PROVINCE	03.12.2024 AT 1100 Hrs

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

3. Tender Notice/ detailed instructions are available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk.

4. Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through e-procurement portal at https://regdel.com/sap-ariba-tenders or discovery.ariba.com/profile/AN01362899621 for details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents.

5. 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  
No. 254/38 PHONE No. 92-45-92002550/3795

**TransPeshawar**

Request for Proposal

**ESTABLISHMENT OF SOLAR PARK (1 MW) AT BRT DEPOT CHAMKANI**

Date: November 14, 2024 Procurement No. TFC/OPS/CCS/Solar-Pak/2024-25/008

- TransPeshawar (The Urban Mobility Company) is a Company set up under Section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017, and is responsible for project implementation, management and maintenance of urban rapid transit projects assigned by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority.
- TransPeshawar (The Urban Mobility Company) invites sealed proposals from eligible engineering firms/companies registered with Alternate Energy Development Board (AEDB) in ARB-ARC-1 and Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in category C-4 or above with EE-11 code of specialization for Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) of Solar PV Power Plant of 1MW under "Establishment of Solar Park at BRT Depot Chamkani".
- The service provider shall be registered with NBR and STRN and KPRA and reflected on active taxpayer list of FBR. The Service Provider shall be responsible for design, engineering, procurement, construction, testing, commissioning, operation and maintenance of solar park. Detailed scope of services is provided under Request for Proposal documents.
- National Competitive Bidding (NCB) will be conducted in accordance with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement of Goods, Works and Services Rules, 2014 under Single-Stage: Two Envelope bidding procedure.
- A complete set of Request of Proposal document may be downloaded by interested Service Provider from website of TransPeshawar (http://www.transpeshawar.com) upon publishing of this advertisement in the newspaper till last day for submission of proposals.
- A pre-proposal meeting will be held on November 28, 2024 at 11:30 AM (PST) at the office of undersigned for the Service Providers who wish to attend.
- Proposals must be delivered to the undersigned on or before December 23, 2024 at 11:30 AM (PST).
- Tender Proposals will be opened on the same day (December 23, 2024) at 11:45 AM (PST) in the presence of Service Providers who choose to attend whereas Financial Proposals of only technically responsive and qualified Service Providers will be opened at later communicated date and time.
- The advertisement is also available both on the website of TransPeshawar (http://www.transpeshawar.com) and KPRA (http://www.kpra.gov.pk). TransPeshawar reserves the right to cancel any or all proposals by assigning cogent reason.

**Chief Executive Officer**  
TransPeshawar (The Urban Mobility Company)  
TransPeshawar Head Office, First (1<sup>st</sup>) Floor, Main BRT Depot, Opposite NHA Complex, Chamkani, Peshawar  
Ph: + 92 91 2621263

# BUSINESS

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GROW  
ADVERTISE IN  
**INDUSTRY SUPPLEMENTS**

Call Manager Supplements at  
Special Rates for Advertisers  
on 0300-111-1111

MAKE YOUR COMPANY'S  
PROFILES AVAILABLE IN  
**COUNTRY SUPPLEMENTS**

Call Manager Supplements at  
Special Rates for Advertisers  
on 0300-111-1111

## Sole PIA bid formally rejected, case sent back to cabinet

PC Board seeks improved offers for state-owned entities

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The Privatisation Commission's board on Wednesday rejected a Bids for a 60pc stake in the national flag carrier.

Only real-estate development company Blue World City participated in the bidding process, placing a bid that was below the government-set minimum price of Rs51bn.

The government had pre-qualified six groups in June, but only Blue World City participated in the final bidding process. Due to the large difference between the expected and actual bids, the commission gave the consortium more time to reconsider its bid. However, Blue World City consortium chairman Saad Naeem kept the price unchanged.

The board decided to refer the issue of PIA's privatisation to the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation for further consideration.

Last month, the final bidding process for the privatisation of PIA attracted just one bid of Rs51bn for a 60pc stake in the national flag carrier.

Only real-estate development company Blue World City participated in the bidding process, placing a bid that was below the government-set minimum price of Rs51bn.

The government had pre-qualified six groups in June, but only Blue World City participated in the final bidding process. Due to the large difference between the expected and actual bids, the commission gave the consortium more time to reconsider its bid. However, Blue World City consortium chairman Saad Naeem kept the price unchanged.

The board decided to refer the issue of PIA's privatisation to the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation for further consideration.

chaired by Privatisation Minister Abdul Azeem Khan, the board discussed advancing privatisation efforts for state-owned entities, including PIA, and stressed the need to attract stronger bids in future transactions.

Mr Khan directed that the privatisation process should be carried forward without delay and underscored the importance of securing better offers for upcoming bids.

The board explored various options to expedite PIA's divestment and reviewed the status of other ongoing privatisation transactions.

Mr Khan said that the framework given by the caretaker government for PIA's privatisation was taken forward, but "now we

have to keep in mind the concerns of the institutions involved in the privatisation". He emphasised that "we have to learn from the privatisation process of PIA and have to be more active in future".

The board decided to form a three-member committee to participate in the process of privatisation by members of the board. The meeting was briefed on various issues of privatisation and expressed satisfaction with the development so far.

During the meeting, various proposals were presented for PIA and the process of privatisation, and views were expressed on various issues and important decisions were taken. The minister extended the opportunity to all the Privatisation Commission's board members and heard their suggestions. Important issues related to the privatisation of other projects were also discussed.

"The privatisation process will be completed in accordance with the laws and regulations and keeping in view the national interest before us because the final decision on the issue of privatisation of PIA and other institutions has to be taken by the cabinet committee," Mr Khan said, according to the ministry's statement.

In his briefing, the secretary of the Privatisation Commission noted that several international airlines, including Turkish Airlines and Singapore Airlines, had expressed interest in PIA's privatisation.

instructor's board members and heard their suggestions. Important issues related to the privatisation of other projects were also discussed.

"The privatisation process will be completed in accordance with the laws and regulations and keeping in view the national interest before us because the final decision on the issue of privatisation of PIA and other institutions has to be taken by the cabinet committee," Mr Khan said, according to the ministry's statement.

In his briefing, the secretary of the Privatisation Commission noted that several international airlines, including Turkish Airlines and Singapore Airlines, had expressed interest in PIA's privatisation.

## ADR falls to 37pc, IDR reaches 94pc

Only 3pc of SMEs borrow from banks; 75pc farmers rely on informal sources for credit

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: The country's Advance to Deposit Ratio (ADR) has been gradually contracting and stood at 37 per cent in June, down from 45pc in December.

This was revealed in the latest issue of A.F. Ferganese & Co's 'Pac' Banking Publication — Road to Sustainability. This year's release features core themes like economy, credit penetration and digital transformation, carries insights from over 25 industry leaders, over 10 local and global surveys, snapshots of over 40 international banks and over 10 geographic regions.

"Investment to Deposit Ratio (IDR), on the other hand, has ranged from 13pc in 2007 to 80pc in 2023 and 94pc in June 2024," the publication reported. These key benchmarks, relative to certain other economies, indicate an enormous potential for credit penetration in the country, it added. There was a sharp rise in profitability on the back of higher margins and non-funded income from different avenues. However, higher tax charges triggered disproportionate moderation in baseline profitability.

The publication offered suggestions for sustained, long-term economic growth. One of the core themes discussed with industry leaders and senior professionals was the country's economic outlook. Experts underscored the importance of addressing structural deficiencies to improve GDP growth and other key economic indicators. "Consistent economic policies and sustainable long-term roadmaps for entrepreneurs were also stressed upon," said the Banking Publication. Experts see increasing imports and consumption as harmful for balance of payments and foreign exchange reserves, it added.

"Opportunities for export diversification and import substitution are enormous, especially in agriculture and tech sectors," said the report.

### Agriculture and SMEs

According to the report, SMEs and agriculture are the backbone of the nation's progress. "Contributing 40pc of GDP, SMEs constitute nearly 90pc of all private enterprises in Pakistan, generate 30pc in export earnings and employ one-third of the country's workforce," said the report. "Out of five million enterprises, fewer than three per cent borrowed from banks," it reported.

It said around 75pc of farmers still rely on informal sources of credit. Despite its historic importance, access to affordable growth capital remains restrictive.

"Financing for these critical sectors has been declining over the years and currently stands below eight per cent of total loans," said the Banking Publication. Lending to the private sector is at 12pc of GDP, it added.

According to the publication, deposits grew significantly by 24pc to reach Rs29.1 trillion in 2023, up a further increase of 12pc in June this year, reaching Rs32.5tn.

"Advances rose by four per cent to Rs1.8tn, much lower than 10pc growth rate of 2023, with no further increase till June 2024," the report added. A significant expansion of 45pc was noted in investments, which reached Rs2.6tn last year and rose by 19pc to Rs3.0tn by June this year.

Borrowings were up by 51pc to Rs1.1tn last year, and by 12pc in June 24.

## No major change in T-bill rates

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The government on Wednesday raised Rs27bn against the treasury bills (T-bills) auction target of Rs809bn, with minor changes in the cut-off yields for different tenors.

The State Bank of Pakistan reported that massive bids of Rs1.844 trillion reflected ample liquidity in the banking sector.

The government slashed the rate for three-month tenor by 20 basis points to 13.69 per cent while the yield on benchmark six-month T-bills was kept unchanged at 13.5pc.

However, the yield on 12-month papers increased by 10bps to 13.19pc.

Compared to the secondary market, the cut-off yields for three-, six- and 12-month T-bills were higher by 47bps, 34bps and 17bps, respectively.

The government is borrowing less than the investors' expectations mainly because of the higher liquidity available in its accounts.

## FBR introduces ePayment 2.0

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has introduced a new payment creation solution, ePayment 2.0, as part of reforms to enhance revenue collection through advanced digital solutions.

The new payment system is available within the IRIS 2.0 portal, an advanced platform designed to simplify tax payment processes for taxpayers across Pakistan. Director General (IT&DE) Aida Ferooz inaugurated the ePayment System at PRAL Headquarters in Islamabad.

This innovative system enables secure, efficient, and user-friendly online payments, accessible directly from taxpayers' bank accounts via Internet banking, ATMs, and mobile banking, eliminating the need for physical bank visits.

An official announcement said ePayment 2.0 marks a significant advancement in revenue management, covering a wide range of taxes, including income, sales, federal excise duty, and withholding taxes. Previously, taxpayers used a separate ePayment system outside IRIS 2.0, requiring them to switch between portals.

With ePayment 2.0, FBR has provided a unified and improved user interface that is accessible directly within IRIS 2.0. Generating a unique Payment Slip ID (PSID) enables quick and convenient payments for registered and unregistered taxpayers. Upon payment completion, a Computerized Payment Receipt (CPR) is issued via email and SMS, providing official confirmation and easy access for future use within the IRIS 2.0 system.

Further details show that through a secure, precise multi-step workflow, the system allows taxpayers to generate a PSID, complete payment through ADC channels, and receive a CPR in real-time, which is accessible for future compliance needs within IRIS.

It includes a comprehensive PSID search feature to enhance transparency and accountability, allowing taxpayers to retrieve and confirm payment records easily.

This level of automation and integration minimizes errors and delays, significantly improving the tax payment experience and supporting FBR's vision for a business-friendly, compliant tax environment.

With the introduction of ePayment 2.0, FBR has simplified the tax payment process and unified it within the IRIS 2.0 platform, providing taxpayers with a seamless, enhanced experience.

This integrated system eliminates the need for multiple logins and platform switches, offering a single, cohesive interface that is intuitive and efficient. Taxpayers now benefit from a streamlined process that brings all essential tax payment functions under one roof, making compliance more accessible and convenient than ever.

By prioritizing user experience through a modernized, consolidated interface, FBR reaffirms its commitment to supporting taxpayers and fostering a more efficient, digitally progressive Pakistan.

## Call for expanding insurance coverage

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Commerce has urged state-owned insurance companies to implement enhanced reforms to expand their coverage to underserved areas.

The committee meeting was chaired by MNA Javed Haqif Khan at the Parliament House, and the agenda focused on assessing the performance and operational scope of insurance companies operating under the Ministry of Commerce.

The meeting aimed to review the contributions of these entities towards national welfare, explore potential improvements and assess their alignment with social welfare objectives.

The representative of State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC), a key public sector insurance provider, presented a detailed overview of its current operations, financial health and growth plans.

SLIC highlighted that it remained profitable, with assets under management exceeding Rs2 trillion, and a remarkable profit distribution structure that directs 97.5pc of gains back to policyholders.

The committee members acknowledged SLIC's financial contributions to the government but stressed the importance of expanding its offerings, particularly in crop and livestock insurance — a pressing need for rural populations. —Staff Reporter

<b>US DOLLAR</b> BUY@42.277.02 SELL@42.2678.00	<b>EURO</b> BUY@42.2022.00 SELL@42.2029.44
<b>GBP</b> BUY@42.2621.41 SELL@42.2634.74	<b>YUAN DOLLAR</b> BUY@42.2676.26 SELL@42.2678.00
<b>INR</b> BUY@42.2676.26 SELL@42.2678.00	<b>GOLD</b> BUY@42.2676.26 SELL@42.2678.00



UNDER the draft policy, all private and public marine financing institutions will have to obtain a license from the maritime ministry. —Dawnfile

## Draft policy seeks financial security for ship owners

By Kalba Ali

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Maritime Affairs has prepared the draft of a new shipping policy, which includes provisions aimed at providing financial security to the owners of registered ships.

"Pakistan Shipping Policy 2024" will replace Pakistan Merchant Marine Policy 2001, as well as the amended version of 2019. The ministry organised a workshop of stakeholders on Wednesday to discuss the draft of the new shipping policy.

Maritime Affairs Secretary Syed Zafar Ali Shah, chairpersons of port authorities, senior officials of the maritime affairs ministry and stakeholders from the private sector participated in the workshop.

The policy makes it possible by legislation to furnish a bond of adequate amount to owners of any registered ship if it is detained or seized for any reason within the territorial jurisdiction of Pakistan, and it should be within 24 hours after taking the security bond.

The secretary of maritime affairs informed participants of the workshop that the Shipping Policy 2024 has been made in accordance with the standards and rules of the International Maritime Organisation.

It was noted that the government should ensure that if the case is settled, the bond funds are returned within one month.

In this regard, a help-desk should also be established within the ministry of maritime affairs and special courts related to maritime affairs should also be set up having powers equal to high courts.

The draft proposes that the newly registered Pakistani shipping company will pay \$0.75 per gross registered tonnage for five years, while currently the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) is paying \$1 per gross registered tonnage on its vessels.

The rebate of \$0.25 to new companies is likely to encourage domestic and national investors to show interest in maritime industry.

The draft has proposed that the registered Pakistani shipping companies would be allowed to seek financing from foreign financial institutions and banks.

A proposal to grant tax exemption for 10 years to new foreign shipping companies was brought forward by the participants of the workshop, and they stressed for assistance by state authorities to Pakistan shipping companies in opening foreign currency accounts.

## WB to help realise \$60bn export potential

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Commerce and the World Bank have agreed to form a joint working group on trade to capitalise on the country's true export potential.

The understanding was reached during a meeting of Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan with a team from the World Bank. Both sides agreed that the working group would meet periodically to advance the goal of realising Pakistan's export potential of \$60 billion.

An official announcement said both sides discussed Pakistan's export reform agenda, focusing on strategies to enhance export competitiveness and streamline enabling policies.

The discussion also addressed how the World Bank can support these initiatives under the broader country programme.

Mr Kamal highlighted the whole-of-government approach to export enhancement, which promotes a unified policy framework to improve competitiveness and the Ease of Doing Business for exporters.

This strategy emphasises export-led growth by providing crucial enabling factors such as financing, liquidity support, reduced input costs, and regulatory facilitation to empower Pakistan's export sector.

## Rough Power okays early termination of pact

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Rough (Pakistan) Power Ltd (RPPL), an independent power producer (IPP), has approved the early termination of its power purchase agreement (PPA) with the government.

The company has authorized its management to execute a negotiated settlement agreement.

This development was shared by Afton Energy Ltd, the parent company of RPPL, in a stock filing on Wednesday.

The major terms of the negotiated settlement agreement are

to terminate the PPA, which was scheduled to expire in 2034, with effect from Dec 1. The parties agreed between the parties as of Sept 30 will be paid by Central Power Purchasing Agency by Dec 31 and RPPL will hand over the complex to the government.

## Stocks recover 131 points in mixed trade

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: The stock market bounced back on Wednesday as investors indulged in value-hunting, helping the benchmark KSE 100 index partially recover overnight losses.

Ali Najib, Head of Sales at Insight Securities, attributed the market's positive performance to continued buying activity from high-net-worth individuals and mutual funds, supported by improvements on the macroeconomic front, a stable rupee, and a decline in bond market yields.

In early trade, the benchmark KSE 100 index lost 281.49 points to 92,943.59 but rebounded on renewed buying interest, adding 279.92 points to hit an all-time high at 93,803.59 intraday. However, the index settled at 93,355.43 with a trimmed gain of 132.86 points or 0.14pc day-on-day.

### PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

THE TOP FIVERS			
GAINERS		LOSERS	
Ruhan Meats	84.00	Unilever Foods	221.80
Philip Morris	38.17	Mehmood Textile	45.57
Man Petroleum	30.13	Hadmark Company	24.96
Lucky Cement	28.64	Lucky Core Ind	24.70
Packages Ltd	28.37	Pakistan Tobacco	23.26

INDICATORS			
	Reference	Previous	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points)	93,285.43	93,224.04	▲ 130.87
KSE 20-SHARE INDEX (Points)	25,808.44	25,884.61	▲ 46.01
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	12,061,882	12,091,441	▲ 29,480
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	31.888	32.788	▲ 0.6

Ahmed Mubashir of Afton Energy said stocks showed recovery led by second and third-tranche scrips on strong valuations. He added that upward data on oil sales surging

112pc year-on-year in October and the FBR assurance to IMF for dropping contingency measures on revenue, covering fears about mini-budget were other factors that supported the positive performance at PSX.

Topline Securities Ltd said the market exhibited a consolidation phase, with the index reaching a peak of 93,804 and dipping to a

ACTIVITY	
Total Intraday	532
Active	450
Gainers	106
Losers	191
PARTICIPANTS	
Foreign	¥ 88.20m
Companies	¥ 91.20m
Banks	¥ 80.80m
Mutual Funds	¥ 82.90m
Individuals	¥ 82.10m

low of 92,943. The index was boosted by positive contributions from Man Petroleum, Lucky Cement, The Searle, Engro Corporation, and PPL, which collectively

added 463 points. Conversely, Oil and Gas Development Company, Fajri Fertiliser, and Meccan Bank experienced some profit-taking, resulting in a combined loss of 213 points to the index. The trading volume was up 1.78pc to 807,04m shares, and its value by 2.92pc to Rs31.58. Stocks contributing significantly to the traded volume included WorldCall Telecom (81.75m shares), Wavex Home Appliances (33.20m shares), Pakistan Refinery (31.52m shares), K-Electric (27.45m shares) and Pak Electron (26.95m shares).

The shares registering the most significant increases in their prices in absolute terms were Ruhana Meats (Rs64.96), Philip Morris (Rs28.17), Man Petroleum (Rs28.13), Lucky Cement (Rs28.64) and Packages Ltd (Rs28.37). Foreigners remained net sellers as they offloaded shares worth 87.01m.

# US airman gets 15 years' jail for leaking classified papers online

BOSTON: A US airman was sentenced on Tuesday to 15 years in prison on a charge of leaking online highly classified military documents revealing that Washington spied on its European allies.

Jack Teixeira, 22, was sentenced by Judge Indra Talwar in Boston after pleading guilty in March to perpetrating what prosecutors called "one of the most significant and consequential violations" of US anti-espionage law ever committed.

He apologized in court for his actions. "I'm sorry for all of the harm that I've caused," Teixeira, a member of Massachusetts Air National Guard, told Judge Talwar during the hearing.

The judge said that despite extensive training on how to handle classified documents and warnings about the penalties for disclosing them, Teixeira "spied on the



COMMUTERS drive amid dense smog in India's capital.—AFP

# Toxic smog surges past 50 times WHO limit in New Delhi

NEW DELHI: Residents of India's capital New Delhi choked in a blanket of toxic smog on Wednesday as worsening air pollution surged past 50 times the World Health Organisation's recommended daily maximum.

Many in the city cannot afford air filters, nor do they have homes they can effectively seal from the misery of foul smelling air blamed for thousands of premature deaths.

Colder temperatures and slow-moving winds trap deadly pollutants each winter, stretching from mid-October until at least January. At dawn on Wednesday, "astounding" pollutant levels in parts of the sprawling urban area of more than 30 million people topped 806 micrograms per cubic metre, according to monitoring firm IQAir.

That is more than 53 times the World Health Organisation's recommended daily maximum of fine particulate matter — dangerous cancer-causing microscopic known as PM2.5 pollutants that enter the bloodstream through the lungs. By midday, when air usually is at its best, it soared to about 25-35 times above danger levels, depending on different districts.

Nikhil Singh, 25, who works as an environmental health safety manager walking on the streets, said breathing in Delhi was like "smoking cigarettes" and he worried for those with asthma. "Older people have difficulty breathing," he said.

The city is blanketed in smog since each year, primarily blamed on stubble burning by farmers in neighbouring regions to clear their fields for ploughing, as well as factories and traffic fumes.—AFP

# India's top court bans 'bulldozer justice' as punishment

Verdict comes in response to many petitions filed after demolitions targeting Muslims

MUMBAI: India's Supreme Court on Wednesday strongly criticised states which were demolishing properties of suspected criminals, a practice critics say targets mostly minority Muslims, and issued guidelines to curb it.

The verdict came in response to many petitions filed after demolitions in states ruled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in recent years.

BJP governments in the states have torn down what they say are illegal houses or shops of people accused of crimes, many of them Muslims, in what has come to be popularly known as "instant, bulldozer justice".

Rights groups and opposition parties have denounced the practice, saying it targets mostly poor Muslims while circumventing the judicial process.

BJP governments have rejected the accusations and said such properties were in violation of local laws and the owners had been served notices.

On Wednesday, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court ruled that the state and its officials cannot take arbitrary action against suspects or convicts without following the due process of law. It also laid down guidelines, including serving prior notice and taking a video of the demolition process. "It is not a happy sight to see women, children and aged persons dragged to the streets overnight. Houses would not fall on the authorities if they held their hands for some period," the court said. There was no immediate reaction to the verdict from the BJP.

**Bulldozer action**

Calls for India to curb Hindu supremacy in law have rapidly grown since Modi government's success in 2014. Hindu nationalist groups were emboldened in their campaign against Muslim religious structures.

"Bulldozer action", popularly known as "bulldozer justice", were actions observed by many practitioners as a campaign against the Muslim minority, bulldozing their homes, mosques and shrines.

The practice was mainly observed after Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and a self-proclaimed Hindu monk seen as a potential successor to Prime Minister Modi, championed the bulldozer as a symbol of his commitment to law and order and as a potential tool to use against "traitor-makers" in 2017. Since then "bulldozer justice" have spread elsewhere in the country and demolition campaigns have begun quickly following on the heels of religious unrest.

Officials said the state of demolitions were lawful as they only targeted buildings constructed without legal approval. But victims of the campaign deny that their dwellings are illegal, and say they are not given the legally required notice period to dispute demolition orders.—Agencies

# 6,000 guns looted during B'desh uprising recovered

DHAKA: Bangladesh's army said on Wednesday it had arrested 2,500 people and recovered 6,000 guns as it seeks to bolster security since the revolution that ousted ex-leader Sheikh Hasina in August.

Thousands of weapons were looted in the deadly violence during the six-month-old revolution that toppled Hasina and the immediate chaos after she escaped mass protests and fled to India by helicopter.

More than 3,700 weapons were handed in during an amnesty that ended in early September, with the security forces then launching a weapons sweep to collect the arms.

Colonel Imtiazul Haque Khan told reporters that a total of 6,000 (mostly) looted firearms had been collected, along with 200,000 rounds of ammunition. "Our operation is still ongoing," Khan said.

The interim government that took over after Hasina granted the armed forces judicial power, allowing them to engage in day-to-day enforcement activities like the police. "There has been no directive from the government regarding the army's withdrawal," Khan said.

The army rejected reports four people had died in military custody since August, insisting troops were "strictly adhering" to rules. "Should any complaints arise, we will take necessary action," he said.—AFP

# Guardian stops posting on 'toxic media platform' X

LONDON: Britain's The Guardian newspaper announced on Wednesday it would no longer post content from its official accounts on Elon Musk's X, branding it a "toxic media platform" home to "often disturbing content".

"We think that the benefits of being on X are now outweighed by the negatives," the left-leaning newspaper, which has nearly 11 million followers on X, said in a statement on its website. It added that its "resources could be better used promoting our journalism elsewhere".

"This is something we have been considering for a while given the often disturbing content promoted or shared on the platform, including far-right conspiracy theories and racism," the statement noted.

"The US presidential election campaign served only to underline what we have considered for a long time: that X is a toxic media platform and that its owner, Elon Musk, has been able to use its influence to shape political discourse." The paper's main X handle — @guardian — was still accessible on Wednesday but a message on it advised "this account has been archived" while redirecting visitors to its website. The Guardian noted that X users would still be able to share its articles, and that it would still "occasionally embed content from X" within its articles given "the nature of live news reporting".—AFP

# Stark warning on emissions fails to unite leaders at COP29

BAKU: Global leaders offered competing visions on how to tackle climate change at UN-led talks on Wednesday as a new report warned that the world must reach carbon neutrality much sooner than planned.

Planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions from oil, gas and coal rose to record highs this year, according to preliminary research from an international network of scientists at the Global Carbon Project.

The report came as leaders gathered in Azerbaijan for COP29 climate talks aimed at reaching a deal to boost funding for poorer nations so they can adapt to climate shocks and transition to cleaner energy.

The research found that to meet the Paris agreement's ambitious goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the world now needs to reach net-zero CO2 emissions by the late 2030s — instead of 2050.

"This is what the presidency has been promoting since the beginning of this year — the time window is narrowing, striking — and we need to act urgently," Yelchin Rafiyev, Azerbaijan's lead negotiator for COP29, said.

"There are still possibilities for keeping 1.5C within reach", and striking a deal on climate finance "will definitely pave the way for us to realize this opportunity".

The warning comes with growing concern about the future of global climate action after the election of Donald Trump, who has vowed to again pull the United States out of the Paris agreement after taking over the presidency in January.

Some leaders in Baku defended fossil fuels during

two days of speeches, while others from countries plagued by climate disasters warned that they were running out of time.

Some of the strongest words came from Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, who complained that "our speeches full of good words about climate change, change nothing".

Rama skewered the many leaders who skipped this year's event, saying their absence added "insult to injury".

**'Slower' path**

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, meanwhile, urged a "realistic global outlook" that did not prioritize decarbonisation over "our production and social system's sustainability".

"We must protect nature, with man at its core. An approach that is too ideologically

and not pragmatic on this matter risks taking us off the road to success," the far-right leader said. "Concretely, there is no single alternative to fossil fuel supply." And Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis warned that countries "cannot drive ourselves into industrial oblivion".

Those views stood in sharp contrast to the line from countries beset by climate catastrophe and rising sea levels. Brazil's Prime Minister Pedro Paulo Costa insisted that for Pacific island nations like his, "there is simply no time to waste".

He urged countries to "deliver a clear signal that the world is promptly phasing out fossil fuel".—AFP

# Yunus terms fight for climate money humiliating

BAKU: Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus on Wednesday slammed the "humiliating" fight over money for poorer countries at the COP29 summit, demanding richer nations pay for the problems they caused.

"I think that's very humiliating, for nations to come and ask for money to fix... (the) problem that others caused for them," the Nobel Peace Prize laureate said in an interview on the sidelines of the UN climate talks in Azerbaijan.

"Why should we be dragged here to negotiate? You know the problem... Nations are hoping to land a deal at COP29

significantly raising funding for climate action in developing nations like Bangladesh, which are least responsible for global warming but most at its mercy.

Some want the existing figure of \$100 billion a year multiplied 10-fold to cover the cost of weaning their economies off fossil fuels and adapting to climate disasters.

But rich countries obligated to pay, such as the United States and European Union, are reluctant to commit such large sums and want others to chip in, with negotiators making little ground at COP29.—AFP



OSLO: Laura Tenta Riepe Alarcón (left) and Liv Heyerdahl, granddaughter of Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl, speak to the media during a visit of a delegation from Chile's Easter Island for the return of remains from Norway's Kvit-Tiki museum. The museum returned to the islanders a box of relics brought by Thor Heyerdahl from Easter Island in 1955.—AFP



BEIJING: A woman reads information about the Bell and Drum Towers during a media tour at the Central Axis, on Wednesday.—AFP



BRASILIA: Three views of the beak of Ninox forbesi, a starting-sized bird which lived 80 million years ago in what is now Brazil.—Reuters

# NEWSMAKERS



A PART of frescoes discovered last year by an electrician during works at Rome's the Villa Farnesina.—AFP

# Electrician finds frescoes behind false ceiling in Rome

ROME: Rose-cheeked cherubs surrounded by lions, vixes and goblins have lost some of their brilliance in 17th-century frescoes discovered behind a false ceiling at the Villa Farnesina palace in Rome.

The three paintings were hidden upon them by chance a year ago, after climbing through a trapdoor into the long-forgotten space during maintenance work on the villa, which sits on the banks of the river Tiber. "I went to get a lamp and when I turned it on, everything appeared: it was a miracle," he said on a

visit this week.

Several cherubs held up a green lantern, while another brandished a golden helmet.

The frescoes, by a little-known artist, include the coat of arms of the noble Farnese family. Cardinal Alessandro Farnese bought the villa in 1570 with the idea of connecting it to the Farnese Palace on the other side of the Tiber, though the plan fell through.

The villa, bought by the state in 1925, underwent major restoration work and the frescoes fell into oblivion, curator Virginia Lapomta said. Their rediscovery last year inspired an exhibition on the 17th century in the grounds of the villa, which has long been renowned for its frescoes by Renaissance master Raphael.—AFP



LEWOLAGA (Indonesia): Mount Lawu (Laki Laki) spews ash and smoke during an eruption, on Wednesday.—AFP



KHAF: Shepherds walk with their sheep along a street in Afghanistan's Badkhash province, on Wednesday.—AFP

# UN nuclear chief in Iran in search of 'diplomatic solutions'

### European powers pushing for resolution against Iran at IAEA

**TEHRAN:** International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi arrived in Iran on Wednesday for discussions on Tehran's nuclear programme, a week after Donald Trump's election as the new US president.

Grossi, who is the director general of the UN agency, was greeted on Wednesday evening at the airport by Behrouz Kamalabadi, the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran or AEOI.

Grossi is set to meet on Thursday in Tehran with AEOI chief Mohammad Eslami as well as Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who was chief negotiator in the nuclear talks between Tehran and the major powers that resulted in the 2015 deal formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA.

The deal, reached after 21 months of negotiations between Iran and world powers, gave Tehran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme to guarantee that it could not develop a nuclear weapon — something it has always denied wanting to do. Three years later, then-president Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from the agreement and reimposed heavy sanctions against Iran.

#### 'Comprehensive report'

European powers are pushing for a new resolution against Iran by the UN atomic watchdog's board to pressure Tehran over its poor cooperation, diplomats say.

Such resolutions risk further diplomatic tension with Iran. The resolution would task the IAEA with issuing a so-called "comprehensive report" on Iran's nuclear activities in addition to its regular quarterly ones, which would describe in more detail and put further focus on problem areas like Iran's continued failure to explain uranium traces found at undeclared sites.

The aim is to force Iran back to the negotiating table to agree new restrictions on its nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief.

"Our concerns about Iranian nuclear activity are well known. It feels a natural point to be asking the IAEA for a thorough report. That then provides a basis to deal with Iranian behaviour," a European diplomat said, one of five who said France, Britain and Germany are pushing for a resolution.

The United States has not been the driving force behind the resolution but is still expected to back it, as happened with the last resolution against Iran in June, diplomats said. The European powers seeking a resolution, known as the "E3", are discussing the draft with the outgoing US administration. —AFP

# British writer Harvey wins Booker Prize for space story *Orbital*

**LONDON:** Britain's Samantha Harvey won the 2024 Booker Prize for her novel *Orbital*, a story about a single day aboard the International Space Station which she wrote during Covid-19 lockdown.

The novel, Harvey's fifth, was the top selling book in the shortlist of six finalists and has sold more copies than the past three Booker Prize winners combined, as readers lapped up her depiction of earth's beauty as seen from space. Judges of the prize, now in its 55th year, praised her writing for the "intensity of attention to the process and precarious world".

Past winners of the prestigious Booker, which is open to works of fiction written in English, include Margaret Atwood, Salman

Rushdie and Yann Martel. Harvey said she wrote the novel while stuck at home during the pandemic watching footage of the earth in low orbit on her screen. She likened the experience of her six characters. "Trapped in a tin can" to that of lock-down.

Set over 24 hours, the astronauts' and "commuters" of her 136 page story witness storms, sunrise and sunset scenes as they circle the globe. "Everyone and no one is the subject," said Edmund de Waal, chair of the 2024 judges. "With her language of lyricism and acuity Harvey makes our world strange and new for us." Harvey walks away with a 50,000 pound prize which she told the BBC she would spend on a new bike. —Reuters



SAMANTHA Harvey, the first woman to win Booker Prize since 2019.—Courtney Ealing Times



IRAN'S Atomic Energy Organisation spokesman Behrouz Kamalabadi (right) meets Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, upon his arrival in Tehran, on Wednesday.—AFP

# Israeli forces kill 22 people in Gaza, force new displacement

### Students occupy defence firm Leonardo's headquarters in Italy to protest against assistance to Tel Aviv

**CAIRO:** Israeli military strikes killed at least 22 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, as Israeli forces deepened their incursion into Beit Hanoun town in the north, forcing most remaining residents to leave.

Residents said Israeli forces besieged shelters housing displaced families and the remaining population, which some estimated at a few thousand, ordering them to head south through a checkpoint separating two towns and a refugee camp in the north from Gaza City.

Men were held for questioning, while women and children were allowed to continue towards Gaza City, residents and Palestinian medical staff said.

Israel's campaign in the north of Gaza, and the evacuation of tens of thousands of Palestinians from the area, has fuelled claims from Palestinians that it is clearing the area for use as a buffer zone and potentially for a return of Jewish settlers.

"The scenes of the 1948 catastrophe are being repeated, Israel is repeating its massacres, displacement and destruction," said Nael, 48, a resident of Beit Lahya, who arrived in Gaza City on Wednesday. "North Gaza is being turned into a large buffer zone, Israel is carrying out ethnic cleansing under the sight and blessing of the imposed world," he said via a chat app.

Protest

Around a hundred students occupied Leonardo's Paris headquarters to denounce what they say is the Italian defence group's complicity in Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip.

The students, who unfurled a flag of the Palestinian territories from the roof of Leonardo's offices, said the company was supporting Israel by providing remote technical assistance and spare parts to Israeli air force. Leonardo declined to comment.

Images released by the students show them in Leonardo's offices waving Palestinian flags and carrying spray cans. Outside they hung banners on the buildings saying "no arms to Israel" and accusing the group of complicity in genocide. They also clambered on top of a plane in the grounds of the company's headquarters.

Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto condemned the protest, saying on X that the students were "destroying and defacing" the offices where an "important ministry" was taking place.

"These people must be treated for what they are, dangerous subversives. Criminals, but no political colour, they are just criminals," he said.

No plans for settlers' return

The Israeli military has denied any such intention, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he does not want to reverse the 2005 withdrawal of settlers from Gaza. Hardliners in his government have talked openly about going back. Speaking on Wednesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Israel "has accomplished the goal that it set for itself" by taking out Hamas' leadership and ensuring the group is unable to launch another massive attack. "This should be a time to end the war," he said.

"We also need to make sure we have a plan for what follows," he said, "so that if Israel decides to end the war and we find a way to get the hostages out, we also have a clear plan so that Israel can get out of Gaza and we make sure that Hamas is not going back in."

Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said Blinken's comments showed "We are facing one enemy and that the US enemy against the Palestinian people is no less than that of the occupation."

Media said five people were killed in an Israeli strike that hit a group of people outside Kamel Alwan Hospital near Beit Lahya, while five others were killed in two separate strikes in Nasserat in central Gaza Strip where the army besieged a limited area two days ago.

In Rafah, near the border with Egypt, one man was killed and several others were wounded in an Israeli airstrike, while three Palestinians were killed in two separate Israeli airstrikes in Shejia suburb of Gaza City, media added. Later on Wednesday, an Israeli strike on a house in southern Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip killed eight people, media said. —Reuters

# Greece releases documents about 1974 Cyprus crisis

**ATHENS:** Greece's state intelligence agency on Wednesday said it had declassified a set of archival documents for the first time in its history, covering the period of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

Turkey invaded the island of Cyprus in 1974 in response to a coup against the government led by a military dictatorship in Athens. Cyprus has since been divided between the Greek-speaking UN-recognised republic in the south and the Turkish Cypriot north, which unilaterally declared independence in 1983.

Evanthis Hatzivassiliou, a professor of postwar history at the National University of Athens, in a statement said the archives cover the period of the invasion from July to August 1974.

One conclusion that can be drawn from the documents is that the intelligence agency EYP was "not informed" of the attempted coup organised by the Greek dictatorship against Archbishop Makarios, the president of Cyprus, Hatzivassiliou said. "The dictatorship... informed only those absolutely necessary," he said.

After the coup, the agency was "quite accurate" in describing Turkish preparations for war, but the warnings were ignored in Athens, he said.

The failure to defend Cyprus led to the fall of the Greek dictatorship in July 1974. A second Turkish invasion followed weeks later in August.

EYP director-general Theodoros Detsis on Wednesday said that the agency would go on to declassify additional documents referring to "dark" periods of Greek history, without elaborating. —AFP

# Israel presses air strikes as Beirut awaits truce ideas

**BEIRUT:** Israeli air strikes pounded Beirut's Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs for a second consecutive day on Wednesday, as Lebanon wanted to hear Washington's latest ceasefire proposals after a US official expressed hope a truce could be reached.

More than seven weeks since Israel went on the offensive against Hezbollah, midwarring air strikes levelled half a

leader by force of any weapons other than those of the Lebanese state.

Israel long complained it was never implemented, pointing to Hezbollah weapons and fighters at the border. Lebanon in turn accused Israel of violating the resolution, with Israeli warplanes regularly violating its airspace.

Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a political ally of Hezbollah and endorsed by it to sug-

# Six Israeli troops killed

**JERUSALEM:** The Israeli army said six soldiers were killed in fighting in southern Lebanon on Wednesday, making it the deadliest incident for its troops since the start of ground operations in September.

The soldiers "fell during combat in southern Lebanon", the army said in a statement. Their deaths mean 47 Israeli troops have been killed in combat with Hezbollah since the start of ground operations. —AFP

down buildings in the Beirut suburb known as Dahiyyeh and killed eight people in Dweha Aramoun, a village south of the capital. The dead included three women and three children, Lebanon's health ministry said.

"They used to be Dahiyyeh at night, now they are doing it in daytime. Things are intensifying day after day," said Hassan Moazza, 40, speaking in Beirut, adding that Israeli airstrikes had also widened to areas such as Aramoun.

White House envoy Amos Hochstein, the US official who has led several fruitless attempts to broker a ceasefire over the last year, told Axios that he thought "there is a shot" at a truce in Lebanon soon. "I am hopeful we can get it."

His comments point to a last-ditch bid by the outgoing administration of US President Joe Biden to secure a Lebanese ceasefire as diplomacy to end the Gaza conflict appears to have stalled, with mediator Qatar having suspended its role.

The United States and other world powers say a ceasefire in Lebanon must be based on UN Security Council resolution 1701 which ended a conflict between the sides in 2006. The resolution demands that the areas of south Lebanon near the Israeli

border be free of any weapons other than those of the Lebanese state.

Israel long complained it was never implemented, pointing to Hezbollah weapons and fighters at the border. Lebanon in turn accused Israel of violating the resolution, with Israeli warplanes regularly violating its airspace.

Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a political ally of Hezbollah and endorsed by it to sug-

gestions in the Beirut suburb known as Dahiyyeh and killed eight people in Dweha Aramoun, a village south of the capital. The dead included three women and three children, Lebanon's health ministry said.

"They used to be Dahiyyeh at night, now they are doing it in daytime. Things are intensifying day after day," said Hassan Moazza, 40, speaking in Beirut, adding that Israeli airstrikes had also widened to areas such as Aramoun.

White House envoy Amos Hochstein, the US official who has led several fruitless attempts to broker a ceasefire over the last year, told Axios that he thought "there is a shot" at a truce in Lebanon soon. "I am hopeful we can get it."

His comments point to a last-ditch bid by the outgoing administration of US President Joe Biden to secure a Lebanese ceasefire as diplomacy to end the Gaza conflict appears to have stalled, with mediator Qatar having suspended its role.

The United States and other world powers say a ceasefire in Lebanon must be based on UN Security Council resolution 1701 which ended a conflict between the sides in 2006. The resolution demands that the areas of south Lebanon near the Israeli

border be free of any weapons other than those of the Lebanese state.

Israel long complained it was never implemented, pointing to Hezbollah weapons and fighters at the border. Lebanon in turn accused Israel of violating the resolution, with Israeli warplanes regularly violating its airspace.

Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a political ally of Hezbollah and endorsed by it to sug-

# Qatar's emir to visit Türkiye

**ISTANBUL:** Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani will visit Türkiye on Thursday for high-level meetings, Türkiye's trade minister said on Wednesday, after Doha said at the weekend it stalled its Gaza mediation efforts for now.

Some analysts believe Türkiye, despite strained ties with Israel, could play some role in mediation since it does not deem Hamas a terrorist group, and some of its political officials regularly visit Turkey.

At the weekend, Qatar said it had told Hamas and Israel it will stall efforts to mediate a Gaza ceasefire and prisoner release deal until they show willingness and seriousness.

"The Qatar Emir will be in Ankara tomorrow (Thursday) anyway. Important talks will be held," Trade Minister Ömer Bolu told broadcaster TR10 in comments focused on bilateral trade.

Bolu did not mention Qatar's decision over Hamas in his comments. "We are waiting for a comprehensive trade agreement with Qatar to come into effect...anytime," he added. —Reuters

# Elon Musk: rocket man takes aim at Washington

### The billionaire had claimed before the election that \$2 trillion can be slashed from the US budget through 'efficient govt'

**WASHINGTON:** Billionaire Elon Musk took a wild gamble backing Donald Trump's White House candidacy, but the bet has paid off — at least for now — with the US president-elect handing him an outlined role to overhaul the government.

Musk said before the election that a new "Department of Government Efficiency" would slash \$2 trillion from the federal budget — a big promise echoing his sky-high business ambitions that have made him the world's wealthiest person.

With few details released, questions as to how Musk will lead the agency, including how he will juggle his new role while managing SpaceX, Tesla and his other ventures, including X.

With Musk's businesses all hav-

ing varying degrees of interactions with US and foreign governments, his new position also raises concerns about conflict of interest.

In his announcement, Trump said that Musk and another wealthy ally, Vivek Ramaswamy, would co-lead the new initiative and "provide advice and guidance from outside of Government." Endorsing a Republican candidate and helping propel him to victory was a shift towards politics for Musk.

The 51-year-old South African-born entrepreneur rose to fame as the face of the nascent electric vehicle industry and has frequently expounded on the threats of climate change.

When Trump pulled the United States out of the Paris Climate Accords in 2017, Musk resigned from two presidential advisory councils in protest.

Years later, Musk has become Trump's most prominent celebrity endorser, leading fully to get him and his "Make America Great Again" agenda back in the White House.

Musk reportedly spent over \$100 million to help Trump get elected, a massive sum, though a tiny fraction

of his estimated \$100 billion fortune.

He also used his influence on X, where he has more than 200 million followers, to push pro-Trump messages, as well as inflammatory disinformation about illegal immigration and voting. However, it remains to be seen how two notoriously egotistic personalities like Musk and Trump will get along in the long term.

Legal immigration

Born in Pretoria on June 28, 1971, to an engineer father and a Canadian-born model mother, Musk left South Africa in his late teens to attend Queen's University in Ontario.

He transferred to the University of Pennsylvania after two years and earned bachelor's degrees in physics and business.

After graduating from the Ivy League school, Musk abandoned plans to study at Stanford University in California. He instead dropped out and started Zipcar, a company that made online publishing software for the media industry.

During the 2024 campaign —



ELON Musk looks on as US president-elect Donald Trump (not seen) meets House Republicans on Capitol Hill in Washington, on Wednesday.—Reuters

during which illegal immigration was once again Trump's key issue — reports re-emerged that Musk had likely violated his visa when he left Stanford.

Musk banked his first millions before the age of 30 when he sold Zipcar to US computer maker

Compaq for more than \$300 million in 1999. Musk's next company, X.com, eventually merged with PayPal, the online payments firm bought by internet auction giant eBay for \$1.5 billion in 2002. After leaving PayPal, Musk embarked on a series of ever more ambitious ven-

tures.

He founded SpaceX in 2002 — now serving as its chief executive officer and chief technology officer — and became the chairman of electric carmaker Tesla in 2004.

After some early crashes and near-misses, SpaceX perfected the art of landing booster engines on solid ground and ocean platforms, rendering them reusable — a major advancement in the field.

Musk has said he wants to make humans an "interplanetary species" by establishing a colony of people living on Mars. To this end, SpaceX is developing a prototype rocket, Starship, which it envisions carrying crew and cargo to the Moon, Mars and beyond.

The spaceship, the world's largest, has already completed several tests, most recently a successful "snatch" of a booster. Musk, who holds US, Canadian and South African citizenship, has been married and divorced three times: once to the Canadian author Justine Wilson and twice to British actress Talulah Riley. He also dated the artist and singer Grimes. He has had 12 children, one of whom died in infancy. —AFP

DAWN  
**COUNTRY SUPPLEMENTS**  
www.dawn.com

**DAWN**

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GROW  
ADVERTISE IN  
**DAWN INDUSTRY SUPPLEMENTS**  
Call Mr. Asghar (Representative of Advertisers) on 3730 4111 or 3730 4117

# SC constitutional bench to take up 18 rights cases today

• Matters include review of Justice Isa's appointment as BHC CJ, pollution caused by industries in Islamabad  
• SCBA says 26th amendment has rendered 'fundamental rights a mere farce', executive can't pick and choose judges

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Amidst the backdrop of deteriorating air quality, the Supreme Court's constitutional bench will take up on Thursday (Nov 14) as many as 18 human rights cases, including one related to air pollution as well as a review petition against the 2018 judgement on the appointment of Justice Qazi Faez Isa as Balochistan High Court chief justice.

Likewise, a six-judge constitutional bench, headed by Justice Amiruddin Khan, will resume hearing around 10 cases, including important cases such as lady health workers programme, harassment case of singer Meera Shafi and similar of other harassment cases.

Justice Jamal Khan Mansoori, Justice Muhammad Ali Baig, Justice Syed Hassan Akbar Rizvi, Justice Munir Hishri and Justice Nasim Akhtar Afghan will be part of the bench.

The six-judge bench was formed in view of unavailability of the seventh judge, Justice Ayeesha A Malik, on Nov 14 and Nov 15.

The case list was issued after a meeting of the three-judge committee constituted as per Article 171A (4) under the chairmanship of Justice Amiruddin Khan to discuss matters related to the composition of the constitutional bench. The committee had resolved that priority should be accorded to the oldest cases.

The SC had constituted a three-judge committee to determine fixation, issuance of court roster, sitting of benches and number of cases to be heard in a week by the constitutional benches, which the top court had formed recently.

On Thursday, the constitutional bench will also resume the 2007 hearing of a public petition against pollution caused by industrial units in Islamabad's Sectors 19 and 210. The petitions were filed by one Nasir Ahmad and other residents of 1-9 and 1-10 about environmental degradation causing asthma, respiratory infections, allergies and heart ailments since the establishment of industrial units, especially steel furnaces and marble units, in the Federal Capital Industrial Estate.

In 1993, the CDA had developed a negative list of undesirable industrial plants working in the industrial estate. It encouraged them, especially the steel furnaces, to switch to some other trade and offered not to charge the normal fee.

According to earlier reports, 1,500 tonnes of effluents generated by the pharmaceutical industry, flour mills, oil and ghee mills, marble factories and plastic extrusion mills are thrown into the Loh mullah every day, heavily polluting underground water. Around 500 factories in the 1-9 and 1-10 industrial estates were causing water and air pol-

lution in the area like the steel melting furnaces, re-rolling mills, flour mills, oil and ghee mills, marble cutting and polishing units and metal working and engineering units, GI pipes, soap, chemical, plastic, marble, spices and printing, a report had suggested.

A number of applications by different industrial units in the affected sectors were also pending before the court against the decision to demolish these steel and casting units. Overall air pollution in the country was also on the table of the constitutional bench.

Some cases concern the restoration of the trial court under the control of narcotic substance act, or appointment of certain officers, though most of the cases have become infractions.

One of the review petitions relates to the appointment of Justice Isa as BHC chief justice. The review petition was filed by Advocate Riaz Hamid Razi against the July 7, 2018, SC judgement in which the court, while rejecting the petition, had held that the appointment was done in view of the extraordinary circumstances when all the judges, including the then chief justice, had resigned and the high court had become vacant. As such the initiation of the name of Justice Isa as BHC CJ was made in an emergency and thus not hit by any illegality, former CJP Mian Saqib Nisar had held in a seven-page verdict.

Earlier on April 5, a three-judge SC bench rejected the petition of Advocate Razi challenging the appointment and later elevation of Justice Isa to the Supreme Court.

The detailed judgement had observed that the appointment of Justice Isa directly as BHC CJ was legal because it was made by the President and the then-Balochistan governor conferred it, thus meeting the requirement of Article 193.

### SCBA sees threat to democracy

Meanwhile, in a statement, the recently elected secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Salman Mansoor categorically condemned the 26th Amendment as being against ordinary citizens and a direct threat to democracy and freedom in Pakistan.

The 26th Amendment was in violation of the principle of separation of powers and independence of judiciary, which "now it and altered, repealed and abrogated", he said, adding those principles were guardians of fundamental rights of ordinary citizens and ensure a free, fair and democratic society and state.

The executive is the strongest adversary of ordinary citizens and their daily opponent in courts, he said, adding that the executive, enjoying majority in parliament, could not be allowed to select judges of its choice in all tribunals where challenges are made to constitutional authority of executive and parliament.



QUETTA: People light candles in memory of those who had lost their lives, on the occasion of Baloch Martyrs Day, observed by the Voice for Baloch Missing Persons group, on Wednesday. —PPF

# CAA has not undergone formal audit for past decade, NA panel told

By Muhammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Aviation was informed that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has not undergone a formal audit for the past decade, raising concerns about its regulatory compliance and safety oversight. Four aircraft accidents happened during this period, underscoring the need for improved operational protocols.

The fourth meeting of the Standing Committee on Aviation was held on Wednesday, chaired by MNA Nawabzada Bilal Khan Ahmed Khan Baloch. The committee confirmed that the CAA has not undergone a formal audit for the past decade. The standing committee called for provision of all communications between the CAA and International Civil Aviation

Organisation (ICAO) to the committee regarding the lack of audits and their impact on the safety of passengers. The committee was informed that the ongoing privatisation of PIA has led to suspension of staff transfers, postings, promotions, and the usual practice of rotating employees every three years.

Furthermore, financial constraints within the CAA have prevented necessary aircraft engine overhauls, reducing the operational fleet to just five aircraft and raising safety concerns.

The committee also expressed grave concern over the non-implementation of a National Assembly resolution passed on October 13, 2022, which called for renaming "Islamabad International Airport" to "Shaheed Benazir Bhutto International Airport". Despite the resolution being passed nearly two years ago, no action has been taken to

fulfill this directive, prompting widespread criticism from various quarters.

During the discussion of issues related to the Malir Flying Club, including the refusal of student fees, resolution of employees' concerns, and the submission of a report based on the audit and financial details of the club, the committee appointed a sub-committee for the refund of students' fees from MFC and resolution of employee-related issues, and sought a report based on the audit and financial details of the club.

The sub-committee consists of MNAs Dr Kamran Khan (convener), Dr Darshan Choudhary Bhikhar Nara and Dr Mahrooz Kazim Bhutto. The meeting was attended by MNAs Asghar Malik, Hans Badat Shafiq Khan, Dr Darshan Choudhary Bhikhar Nara, Nasirwan Islam Shafiq, Kamran Lal, Munira Hassan, Muhammad Saad Ullah and Dr Mahrooz Kazim Bhutto.

# PIA to facilitate 35,000 Haj pilgrims next year

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will transport 35,000 Haj pilgrims to the holy land under a government scheme in 2025.

A spokesman for PIA said the Ministry of Religious Affairs and PIA have signed an agreement, under which the national flag carrier will operate special flights from six cities — Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Malir and Sukkur — to transport 35,000 Haj pilgrims to the holy land in 2025.

The agreement was signed by PIA CEO Air Vice Marshal Asim Hayat and additional religious affairs secretary Dr Syed Anwar-ur-Rehman.

The PIA CEO reaffirmed his organisation's commitment to provide best possible services to the Haj pilgrims.

The federal cabinet recently approved the Haj Policy for 2025, setting the cost for pilgrimage between Rs4,075,000 and Rs4,175,000. The sacrifice amount of Rs55,000 will be in addition to Haj expenses. This year's Haj quota for Pakistan is 179,200, divided equally between government and private sector. Children under the age of 12 will not be allowed to travel for Haj.

The "Road to Makkah" facility will be available at Islamabad and Karachi airports. Haj group organisers will sign service provider agreements with the ministry of religious affairs, and these organisers will be closely monitored for provision of services — Staff Reporter

# Suparco joins China's mission for lunar exploration

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) announced on Wednesday its collaboration with China's Chang'e-6 mission, set to launch in 2026.

This collaboration marks a significant milestone for Pakistan's space programme, as Suparco's indigenous rover will be part of the mission to explore the lunar surface, said a press release

issued by the commission. The collaboration underscores the strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and China and their shared vision for advancing space exploration. Suparco's rover, weighing approximately 35 kilograms, will join the Chang'e-6 mission, which is part of the larger International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) initiative.

The rover will land on the Moon's south pole, an area renowned for its challenging terrain and potential for groundbreaking scientific discoveries. The

mission's objectives include exploring the lunar surface, conducting scientific experiments, and testing new technologies for future lunar and planetary exploration.

Key experiments will include the study of lunar soil, the mapping of the lunar surface, and the testing of sustainable technologies for human presence on the Moon.

Suparco's rover, equipped with state-of-the-art scientific instruments, will play a crucial role in collecting data that could pave the way for future lunar missions.

By Atika Rehman

LONDON: In a dramatic turn of events at the Old Bailey, Iftan Sharif confessed to the murder of his 10-year-old daughter, Sara Sharif, admitting in court that he "took full responsibility" for her tragic death.

Sharif detailed the brutal treatment he inflicted upon the girl, acknowledging he beat her with a cricket bat and metal pole, leading to her death on Aug 8, 2023, days before her body was discovered in their Surrey home.

The confession came during cross-examination by Caroline Carberry KC, who asked him bluntly if he had killed her by beating. "Yes, she died because of me," Sharif responded. He revealed that he had struck Sara "severely" over several weeks, reportedly because he was angered by her frequent episodes of yelling herself and vomiting. Sharif, 42, his wife, British

Banoor, 30 and his brother Faisal Malik, 29, all facing charges related to what prosecutors have described as a "campaign of abuse" against Sara. The trial, which began in London after Sara's death, with Sharif later calling the British police to confirm he had "beat her up too much".

A handwritten note, found near Sara's fully clothed body, further documented Sharif's admission, stating: "I swear to God that my intention was not to kill her. But I lost it."

Medical examination reports presented to the court were harrowing. Sara's post-mortem revealed 71 external injuries, including fractures, lacerations, and bite marks.

When confronted with images of Sara's injuries, Sharif appeared unable to look, reportedly saying, "I accept everything," as Carberry questioned him on the details of his alleged actions. The prosecution presented a

disturbing video clip from Aug 6, showing Sara dancing just two days before her death. Despite this glimpse of her lively spirit, Sharif admitted to brutally beating her that same evening.

The defence team for Sharif later sought a private consultation with him in court, delaying further proceedings.

The trial, however, continues, with Sharif and co-defendants maintaining not guilty pleas to the charges of murder and causing or allowing the child's death.

### Cross-examination

During the hearing, Carberry asked: "Do you accept that you had been beating Sara severely over a number of weeks?" He replied: "Yes, ma'am."

He went on to accept attacking Sara with a cricket bat repeatedly and causing 25 fractures to her body.

Carberry continued: "I want to ask you about the occasions when you assaulted her with a cricket bat. What had she done to

deserve such beatings in your mind?"

Sharif replied: "Nothing." She asked: "Why were you beating her so forcefully?"

He replied: "I was wrong." She continued: "Were you angry with her because in the summer of last year she had started acting forcefully?"

He replied: "Yes, ma'am." She asked: "And she had started vomiting, had she?" to which Sharif replied: "Yes, ma'am."

Carberry asked: "And when she was sick you would get angry? And when she vomited herself you would get angry?" He replied: "Yes, ma'am."

He accepted causing injuries to Sara's face and head by beating her with the bat and metal pole on 8 Aug.

Carberry continued: "You have pleaded not guilty to the offence of murder. Would you like that charge to be put to you again?" He replied: "Yes, ma'am."

# French minister shuns COP29 after jabs from Azerbaijan

Aliyev had accused Paris of holding Corsica and other island territories 'under colonial yoke'

PARIS: France's Environment Minister Agnes Pannier-Besucher decided on Wednesday to stay away from the COP29 global climate change conference in Baku after Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev.

Aliyev had accused France of "colonial" and "human rights

violations" in overseas territories including New Caledonia in the south Pacific, where 13 people have been killed this year in protests that broke out in May over a contest of voting reform.

"President Aliyev's words against France and Europe at the COP29 opened in Baku are unacceptable," Pannier-Besucher told the French Senate.

Azerbaijan's leader was using "the fight against climate change for a shameful personal agenda", she added.

Aliyev had earlier charged that "the regime of President (Ilham) Aliyev killed 13 people and wounded 169,



AGNES Pannier-Besucher

during legitimate protests by the Karach people in New Caledonia."

Violence broke out in mid-May in New Caledonia, north-

east of Australia, over Paris's plan for voting reforms that indigenous Karach people fear would leave them in a permanent minority, crushing their chances of winning independence.

France sent thousands of troops and police to the archipelago, which is home to around 270,000 people and lies nearly 17,000 kilometres from Paris.

The reform has been abandoned by a new government since Macron called legislative elections in June.

But the extent of violence and damage was such that Prime Minister Michel Barnier last month announced

the postponement of the territory's local polls until the end of next year.

### Colonial yoke

Aliyev accused France on Wednesday of holding Mediterranean island Corsica and Paris's far-flung overseas island territories "under colonial yoke".

Azerbaijan has played host to a group of pro-independence movements from French overseas territories in an apparent bid to needle Paris, which has long supported Baku's arch-rival Armenia.

Aliyev's latest attacks were "a flagrant violation of the

code of conduct" that usually prevails at the landmark UN climate change conferences, Pannier-Besucher said, the French minister said.

"Direct attacks on our country, its institutions and its territories cannot be justified," she added.

She also took aim at "Azerbaijan's words in favour of fossil energy".

### 'Highest ambition'

On Tuesday, the Azerbaijani president had called oil and gas "a gift of the God" in his COP opening address.

President Aliyev's strident remarks were "immorality of the COP presidency", Pannier-

Besucher said. She hoped instead to spotlight a "positive dynamic" at the conference in Azerbaijan, where Brazil and Britain announced new emission targets.

While President Macron and Premier Barnier backed Pannier-Besucher in not personally attending, France's negotiating teams will spare no effort, with my support from a distance, to protect the planet and our populations", she added.

"We will continue to argue for the highest level of ambition in implementing the Paris Accord" of 2015, Pannier-Besucher said.—AFP





# METRO South

KARACHI

Sunset 05:48 pm  
 Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:47 am

**NEXT 24 HRS**

Minimum 21°C  
 Maximum 33°C  
 Humidity 68%  
 Outlook Sunny



Alcaraz beats Rublev to open ATP Finals account

Pg.18 SPORT

## SHC asks IGP to remove 'corrupt' officers, take action against them

Orders him to remove SSU commandos from VVIP security and post them on public safety duties

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has observed that it is the main responsibility of the provincial government to maintain law and order in Sindh, but due to insufficient deployment and improper recruitment, law enforcement has been hindered and politicised in the province, something which now needs to be curbed by the police chief.

The SHC also noted that the Special Security Unit (SSU) was initially intended for public safety, but was currently being used primarily for the VVIP security.

On Wednesday, a two-judge bench comprising Justice Khalid-ud-Din Panipota and Justice Adnan-ur-Rasheed directed the inspector general of Sindh police to remove all "corrupt" police officers involved in illegal activities.

The IGP was also asked to remove SSU commandos from VVIP security duties (except for foreign dignitaries & embassies) and deploy them for public safety in Sindh.

It also asked the Sindh police chief to implement a transparent and merit-based recruitment process to eliminate political influence and nepotism, provide a comprehensive training to all police personnel in order to enhance their skills and capabilities.

The bench was hearing a petition seeking quashing of an FIR against a couple and in the light of the last order, a special secretary of the Sindh home department filed a compliance report to explain various investigation mechanisms of police in Karachi and other parts of Sindh.

The court noted that apparently, the Sindh police had initiated steps to separate investigations from watch and ward duties as ordered by the court.

However, the bench emphasised the importance of modern investigation techniques and need for well-trained law graduate investigators in the entire Sindh to investigate crimes at their respective police stations.

"The provincial government is primarily responsible for maintaining the law and order situation in the province of Sindh. However, due to insufficient force deployment and improper recruitment, law enforcement is hindered and has been politicised from time to time which practice needs to be curbed and IGP Sindh shall ensure their disempowerment from political hierarchy", it added.

The court further observed that the police were responsible for protecting citizens and responding to their complaints, but they often delay or avoid registering FIRs especially in cases against influential individuals and to address this issue, the Supreme Court had outlined a mechanism for FIR registration as detailed in the Hashim Ali case reported in 2015 SCMR 1724.

It noted that often due to poor investigation,

Continued on Page 15



A MAN is silhouetted as he stands on a truck amid a blanket of fog and polluted air early in the morning in Karachi. Scientific evidence presented in multiple local reports has shown that the city's air quality has worsened significantly over the years, though it hasn't reached the levels being experienced in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Experts believe that air quality can be effectively improved in Karachi by reducing vehicular and industrial emissions. Also, they call for placing air quality monitoring devices across the city that can provide real-time information to the public so they can plan their daily routines accordingly. — Reuters Text by Faiza Iyaz

## All set for LG by-elections today in Sindh's 18 districts

There are 68 candidates vying for 10 seats in six districts of Karachi

By Ishaq Tariq

KARACHI: All arrangements for holding by-elections on 32 vacant local government seats in 18 districts of Sindh have been finalised and polling will begin at 8am on Thursday (today) which will continue till 5pm.

The by-elections are being held in Shaheed Benazirabad, Matiari, Tando

Alibay, Hyderabad, Tando Muhammad Khan, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Larkana, Qambar, Shaheedkote, Ghoski, Sukkur, Nasirabad Terzo and Karachi's Malir, West, South, Central, Korangi and Keamari districts.

Over 170 candidates, mainly belonging to the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party and opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Jamaat-e-Islami, are in the run for the 32 seats, 10 of which are in Karachi divisions.

There are a total of 271 polling stations of which 213 have been categorised as 'highly sensitive', 47 'sensi-

five' and 11 'normal'. According to the statistics issued by the office of election commissioner of Sindh, there are 431,551 registered voters in these constituencies.

Initially, the LG by-polls were scheduled to be held on 77 vacant seats across the province, but 41 aspirants have been elected unopposed and no nomination papers were filed on four vacant seats.

The by-elections are being held in 18 districts, including six districts in Karachi divisions, on 11 seats of UC chairmen, six vice chairmen, 13 general member seats and two seats of member of district council.

There are 68 candidates for posts of UC chairmen, 10 for vice chairmen, 54 for general members and 21 aspirants are contesting for member district council.

Karachi's 10 vacant seats

Moreover, there are 68 candidates in run for 10 vacant seats in the provincial metropolis and 68 polling stations have been set up.

The vacant seats in the city include the chairman of UC-9 Malir Town, general member ward 4 UC-7 Ibrahim Hyderi Town, general member ward 1 of UC-7 Korangi Town, chairman of UC-7 Model Colony Town, chairman

Continued on Page 15

## Ji seeks Rangers deployment at polling stations

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: After the PTI, the opposition Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has also demanded deployment of Rangers at all polling stations in the metropolis to minimise chances of rigging.

Speaking at a press conference, JI Karachi chief Muneer Zafar accused the Pakistan People Party government in Sindh of trying to rig the by-elections.

He said that out of the total 166 polling stations in Karachi, only 26 have been declared 'very sensitive'. He demanded that all polling stations be declared 'very sensitive'.

Earlier, the PTI had written a letter to election authorities and demanded that Rangers be deployed inside and outside all polling stations.

## Sindh govt approves draft of first-ever transgender education policy

Dawn Report

KARACHI: The Sindh government has approved the draft of the country's first-ever 'Transgender Education Policy' that proposes adding a separate category for transgender children in admission forms for schools and colleges, alongside male and female options.

The policy draft was approved in a meeting chaired by Sindh Education Minister Syed Sarder Ali Shah, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

It said that the draft, which will soon be presented before the provincial cabinet for approval, also includes reserving job quotas for transgender persons in teacher recruitment.

The policy would ensure education for transgender children and eliminate discrimination, it added.

The meeting was informed that according to the 2023 census, there are 20,331 transgender individuals in Pakistan, with 4,227 residing in Sindh.

The participants of the meeting were assured that support

from transgender advocates was extensively utilised in drafting the policy.

The education minister highlighted the numerous challenges transgender individuals face in accessing education, such as societal prejudice, mistreatment, and exclusion.

He emphasised that financial constraints, combined with limited employment opportunities, make it difficult for transgender individuals to afford education, while fears of harassment in educational institutions often deter them

from pursuing studies.

He also noted the policy aims to provide a supportive environment for transgender students, including establishing special schools and non-formal education training centres.

The policy focuses on safeguarding the identity, safety, and educational needs of transgender individuals.

Teachers will receive training to understand the psychological and educational challenges faced by transgender children. Additionally, skill development programmes for transgender

individuals are included to improve outcomes.

The policy emphasises creating an anti-bullying environment for transgender students in educational institutions. Public awareness campaigns will be launched to promote equal opportunities and rights for transgender individuals after the policy's approval.

The minister added that following cabinet approval, awareness campaigns about transgender education will be launched through television, radio, social media and newspapers.

## Experts discuss fears about AI, its utility in scaling businesses

Businesspersons, govt officials call for regulations, upskilling infrastructure to harness AI's potential

By Abdul Moiz Malik

KARACHI: A panel of government officials and experts from diverse professions gathered on Wednesday to discuss the emergence of artificial intelligence, its regulation, and application for scaling businesses. They also addressed concerns regarding the technology's ethical use and loss of jobs.

The 'AI Convergence Summit' organised by Cygnis featured representatives from fintech, e-commerce, product design, gaming and tech companies and software houses.

In his keynote address, Muhammad Usman

Jadon, Pakistan's deputy permanent representative to the UN, spoke about the global impact of AI and how it could "transform a new era" by transforming our lives.

He said the UN is working on bringing all countries in the table to regulate AI and ensure its equitable use. The UN is looking at the technology from three perspectives: peace and security, human rights and how to promote AI for sustainable development.

According to Mr Jadon, the global body is aiming to form a committee to guide the use of AI, along the same lines as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The panel will look at AI from a "scientific perspective and without political considerations".

The cases of AI

In their addresses, Ahmed Hashim, the CEO and co-founder of Cygnis, and Mustafa Paracha, the CEO of Foudhpara, said businesses have been using AI for decades, with

Netflix and Amazon's recommendations based on customers' preferences being its example. "Today, AI is having a moment because computing has become cost-effective," Mr Hashim said.

While talking about the practical use of AI, he cited the example of New Jersey's public transportation company, NJ Transit, using AI to collect data from sensors installed in the trains to help engineers speed up the repair work. It helped to keep more trains on track, which increased customer satisfaction.

Another use case was cited by Imran Khan, the CEO of Razer Games, whose company used AI to collect gamers' data to give them meaningful recommendations based on the games they prefer, their in-game purchases and the time spent on each game.

"We used the AI route six months ago, before that, we were using MIS and data analytics, which was time-consuming," he said.

Continued on Page 14

## Man held for stabbing wife to death over 'honour'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband in the name of so-called honour on the outskirts of the metropolis on Wednesday.

Police said that Ali Hassan Sheikh was arrested for murdering his 42-year-old wife, Parveen, in Sector-17-A of Shah Leaf Town.

Area SHO Mumtaz Marwat told Dawn that the couple, along with their seven children, had moved here from Larkana around nine months ago. They worked here in a factory, he added.

The SHO said that the suspect told the police that when he returned from his workplace on Wednesday he saw a man leaving his house. He said he had suspicion about his character and in a fit of anger he attacked his wife, initially with a hammer, and later stabbed her.

He expressed no remorse over his act, the police officer said.

The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) for medico-legal formalities.

The police said that the victim was the mother of five sons and two daughters.

Two men die by suicide

A man took his own life in his Clifton apartment on Wednesday, police said. DCI-South Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that Meer Wase, 31, hanged himself with a ceiling fan in the sixth-floor flat in Block B early in the morning.

The deceased's father told the police that his son was facing some financial troubles due to which he took the extreme step. The body was shifted to the JPMC for medico-legal formalities.

In another incident, 26-year-old Ishaq Munwar ended his life by hanging himself with a ceiling fan inside his home in Azadabad.

Area SHO Anwar Azam said the family told the police that he was "emotionally involved" with a girl.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

## Sharjeel wants work on BRT lines expedited

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has directed the authorities to accelerate the construction work on the Red Line and Yellow Line bus rapid transit (BRT) projects.

He said this while chairing a high-level meeting of the transport and mass transit department here.

Transport Secretary Asad Zamin, Sindh Mass Transit Authority Managing Director Kamal Deyo and other senior officials attended the meeting.

The minister reviewed the progress on the Red Line and Yellow Line projects and made it clear that there would be no compromise on the quality of work.

He asked the officials to take steps to complete both the projects ahead of schedule to benefit the public. "These projects are a top priority for the Sindh government, and their timely completion will bring considerable relief to millions of people," he added.



KARACHI: (From left) Cygnis CEO Ahmed Hashim moderates a panel discussion featuring BadaPay CEO Omer Salmullah, Alrith's Faryal Zubair, Parumita founder Habibullah Khan and SenseApped founder Farhan Cheema. — Dawn



# Woman, son killed in attack on house by rivals

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA. A woman and her son died when their rivals stormed their house and fired indiscriminately at all inmates in Kuram Shah village, Larkana district, while a man and woman were killed in Pithroo village, Gamber-Shahdadkot district, in the name of honour on Wednesday.

A group of armed men sneaked into the house of Mashooq Gadhri in Kuram Shah village in the wee hours of Wednesday and opened fire indiscriminately, killing Zehra Gadhri, 50, and her son Mujahid Gadhri, 20, and injuring Mashooq Gadhri, 55, and his daughter Munk Gadhri, 14, said police officials.

They said the killers escaped the scene after committing the crime while the injured were shifted to Trauma Centre, Larkana.

Larkana Senior Superintendent of Police Dr Mir Fakhir Khan Khoso inspected the crime scene along with the area police and shifted the bodies to Dohri Taluka headquarters hospital for medico-legal formalities. The condition of the wounded was stated to be stable.

The victims' relatives accused Jagran chandran living in Ghosput town, who were at daggers drawn with them over a matrimonial issue, of the attacking the house.

They urged the IGP, Larkana DAG and SSP to arrest the killers immediately.

Man, woman killed for honour  
Fazal Ullah and Sardar Khatoon were killed in Pithroo village in the jurisdiction of Sujawal police station, Gamber-Shahdadkot district, reportedly in the name of honour on Wednesday.

The area police collected primary evidence from the crime scene and shifted the dead bodies to Shahdadkot Taluka hospital.

Larkana Deputy Inspector General of Police Nasir Aftab took notice of the incident and directed Gamber-Shahdadkot SSP Kaleem Malik to track down the killers immediately.



HYDERABAD: Two girl students try to skip around sewage puddles formed by overflowing gutters as they pass through a street in a slum area on Wednesday — FP

# All closed powerhouses be reopened: Wapda union

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: The All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union president Abdul Latif Nizami has called for reopening closed powerhouses of Jamshoro, Kotri and Gudu to obtain cheap electricity for consumers and stressed bifurcation of National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC).

Mr Nizami was speaking at a large procession brought out by Wapda workers in connection with the union's "Nizam's manifesto" (day of demands) outside local press club on Wednesday.

He said that for last 11 years recruitment in Wapda had remained closed and 20pc quota for deceased employees was not being implemented but directives for appointments on contract basis had been issued.

He said that feeders having over 50pc losses were being outstaged which indicated the fact that privatisation plan was being implemented in a phased manner but the union would not allow it to happen.

He regretted that the national enterprises were assets of the coun-

try which were being sold off on the dictates of IMF and World Bank. After continuous protests by the union the government had cancelled agreements with five independent power producers (IPPs), he said.

He demanded that all urgent parts with all IPPs should be done away with so that people could get inexpensive electricity. The union was expediting IPPs in order to end sale of expensive electricity. If the IPPs were closed then electricity cost would come down significantly, he said.

He said that consumers were bearing 40pc loss of capacity charges given without using electricity and called for opening all closed powerhouses including Jamshoro, Kotri, Gudu so that inexpensive electricity could be obtained.

He was critical of the bifurcation of NTDC and termed it detrimental to the country's integrity. There was shortage of 85,000 employees in Wapda while workers were facing transfers, show-cause notices and indifferent attitude of officers which was intolerable, he said.

He said that safety measures were not being followed for employees during duty hours. In absence of these measures, he said, fatal

incidents were being reported. The government was increasing salaries of privileged class but avoiding raise in workers' salaries, he lamented.

He said that at least 20pc raise should be made in employees' salaries and industrial labour should be given minimum wages of Rs37,000 per month and should be allowed to form a union.

He pointed out that the union was raising just demands which should be taken seriously.

In Kotri, Wapda workers took out a procession after closing their offices, marched on main Quaid-Azam road and demonstrated outside Awan's Bazaar.

The union leaders Ghous Khan and Amin Nizami, Ghulam Mustafa and others said in their speeches that privatisation of distribution companies should be stopped immediately and the process of feeder outsourcing should be halted.

They demanded protection to employees during campaigns for recovery and against illegal connections.

The leaders warned if their demands were not accepted thousands of employees would stage sit-in at D-Chowk in Islamabad.

# All set for LG by-elections today

Continued from Page 13

of UC-6 Lasdhi Town, vice-chairman of UC-5 Yasenabad, Gafurg Town, chairman UC-7 Laspatalah Town, chairman of UC-11 Sakhra, general member ward-4 UC-10 Bahlia Town and general member ward-4 UC-5 Marghoor Town.

There are a total of over 295,700 registered voters in these constituencies of the city, including over 157,600 male and around 137,800 female voters.

Meanwhile, Sindh Election Commissioner Sharfullah along with other senior officials addressed a press conference on Wednesday providing details of the by-elections.

He was of the view that the election commission was satisfied with the law and order situation and police were also coordinating with other law-enforcement agencies and Rangers could be deployed at the polling stations on the recommendations of district returning officers.

He said that the election material had been delivered to respective polling stations.

The provincial election commissioner, who has recently been reinstated after his suspension over an incident regarding intrusion of a strong room of the MCP by some unidentified persons in

Karachi in September, said that the investigations were underway about an incident of burning of election materials during a riot in UC-51 (Mafiz) on the premises of the office of provincial election commissioner last month.

## Fight in Hyderabad

Polling for five seats of chairman/vice chairman and one general ward councillor would be held on Thursday (today) after finalisation of the election schedule for vacant seats in Hyderabad district where 20 candidates are in the field for the fight.

Polling would be held for the seat of chairman and vice chairman for UC-140 of the town municipal corporation (TMC) Hassanabad, chairman for UC-125 TMC Hassanabad, vice chairman for UC-51 and general ward councillor for UC-46 of Pargah TMC.

All of the 15 polling stations set up were declared sensitive. Candidates of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) and Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) and independents were vying for the seats.

A total number of 21,432 voters, including men and women, would cast their votes. Around 250 police-

men would be performing duties on the polling day. Polling material had been handed over to polling personnel by the concerned returning officers.

Polling would begin at 8am and end at 5pm. Hyderabad DC Zahir Akhbar announced local holiday for the DCs where polling would be held. When these seats were declared vacant by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), 50 candidates had filed forms for the constituencies.

A tough contest was expected in UC-125. The seat had fallen vacant following the death of PPP's Barkat Babbar and now his son Iftikhar Barkat

was contesting on PPP's ticket and Mehboob Ali Akbar, an independent candidate who is associate of Dr Zulfiqar Mirza.

Similarly, PTI's Adrian Rashid, who is currently the chairman of Pargah TMC, was contesting on the vice-chairman seat of UC-51 of the town, as per the ECP requirement, on a PTI ticket.

He is facing PTI's activist Tahir Ahmad who is contesting as independent candidate. Other candidates included JUI's Shabbir Siddiqui, PPP's Muhammad Farhan.

Abdumassad Hussain Khan in Hyderabad also contributed in this report.

# Farmers advised to adopt modern technology to boost produce

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Agricultural experts have advised farmers to adopt modern technology to sustain and boost farm productivity, observing that traditional practices hinder significant agricultural growth while exposing the country to climate change and other vulnerabilities.

They were speaking at a seminar on climate challenges held in Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Talahajan on Wednesday.

They urged the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), provincial research bodies and farmers' organisations to play an active role in equipping farmers with essential skills and tools for climate resilience and agricultural advancement.

University Vice-Chancellor Dr Farah Mariat said climate change was having impacts on the agricultural sector evidently, requiring farmers to engage themselves to quickly adapt to those changes. "Farmers are the backbone of agriculture and by training them through the Farmer Field Schools (FFS), we can help them face climate challenges to drive sustainable growth," he stated.

He said that while global agricultural productivity reached 100pc, Pakistan stood at 40pc, underlining a significant opportunity to enhance both economic resilience and farmer welfare. That gap highlighted need for agricultural development through co-creation where farmers, scientists, and institutions collaborated to drive innovation, he said.

Speaking from Rome via video link, Mr Anne-Sophie Pison, global head of the FFS at the FAO, outlined food organisation's ambitious target of reaching 40 million farmers by 2040.

She explained that digital technology was a critical tool for modernising the FFS programmes, allowing farmers to make independent, innovative decisions.

FAO Sindh head James Robert Osoch underscored the importance of sustainability and inclusivity within the FFS programmes to counter effects of rapidly changing weather.

He lauded SAU's role in transforming farmers from passive recipients to proactive participants in the agricultural development.

Sindh Agriculture Board vice president Syed Nadeem Shah praised the SAU's efforts for farmers through expert support and student involvement, calling it a vital step towards a climate-smart future for Sindh.

Presentations were also given at the seminar. Power exhibitions and discussions were held.

# SHC asks IGP to remove 'corrupt' officers

Continued from Page 13

real culprits were acquit of along with innocent individuals and this failure of the police contributed to the persistence of crime in society at large.

It said: "The IGP should establish criteria for FIR registration based on Supreme Court guidelines. Corrupt officers involved in criminal activities, false FIRs, illegal confinement, drug/smuggling connections, and leaking information should be removed from service by adopting proper proceedings and they shall face legal/criminal action".

The SHC also noted that around 40,000 absconders were at large in Sindh and the police had failed to apprehend them while the IC had identified 275 outlaws with a total bounty of Rs500 million and directed the home secretary to initiate the process of transferring three funds to separate Sindh police account with a compliance report to be submitted within a month.

The court further asked the government to ensure that the district public safety & police complaint commissions meet more regularly under the command of the IG and submit monthly progress reports to the member inspecting teams of the SIC for monitoring and evaluation.

"This court orders the Sindh Police to improve law and order by deploying 880 for public safety, reforming recruitment and addressing corruption, establishing a separate investigation wing as directed, following FIR registration guidelines, apprehending absconders and outlaws, activating district committees. The IGP and Home Secretary must submit quarterly progress reports", it concluded.—Ishaq Tariq

# Man awarded nine death sentences for as many murders

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: An anti-terrorism court on Wednesday awarded nine death penalties to an accused and imposed on him Rs1 million fine for killing nine people and wounding seven others in Khairpur 15 years ago.

The judge, Mohammad Mehboub Awan, who presided over the Anti-Terrorism Court-8 in Sukkur, heard arguments of prosecutor Munawar Ali Maitto and defense counsel Zamzar Ghungro and found the accused, Raja alias Raju Narejo, guilty of killing nine people and injuring seven others in an attack.

Hence, the court awarded him death nine times, sentenced him to 30 years in prison, and imposed on him Rs1 million fine. The convict with the help of other accomplices had gunned down nine men of Shaikh and Maitto communities on Jan 31, 2009, in Khairpur. Seven people had also sustained gunshot wounds in the shooting.

The deceased were identified as Ishaq Shaikh, Naimatullah Shaikh, Abbas Shaikh, Nadeem Shaikh, Zamzar Shaikh, Irtan Shaikh, Nish Mohammad Maitto, Panjal Maitto, and Rabi Maitto.

A Khairpur court had already sentenced to death six other accused in the case.

**"CORRODUM"**

The Tender for Purchase of Computers / Photocopier Machine Financial Year 2024-25, Purchase of Security Cameras at Ayub Stadium and other Sports Venues for Current Financial Years 2024-25, Purchase of Furniture & Fixture for Current Financial Years 2024-25 funded by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department Government of Balochistan vide PRG No. 1735/31, 10/2024 dated 31st October, 2024, 2. PRG No. 1735/31, 10/2024 dated 31st October, 2024 published in daily leading news paper have been slightly modified in Eligibility Criteria, Case Schedule and data sheet of (PPRA) Website under the TSS No. 2425/10583341, TSS No. 2425/10583001 and TSS No. 2425/10582551 respectively. All Tenders will be open on the date of 21 November, 2024 Note: The Remaining Terms & Conditions Shall Remain Same.

Director General Sports Balochistan

PRG No.1923/13-11-2024

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Board is invited to receive tenders for the purchase of the following articles at subsidiaries of a company registered in Form 18(1) of the Companies Act, 1947.

The Board is invited to receive tenders for the purchase of the following articles at subsidiaries of a company registered in Form 18(1) of the Companies Act, 1947.

Sl. No.	Name of Goods	QESCO Catalogue Item No.	Estimated Quantity	Unit	Delivery Date	Validity of Tender	Remarks
01	Transformer and Regulator of 11KV/0.4KV/0.2KV/0.1KV	11KV/0.4KV/0.2KV/0.1KV	01	Set	20/11/2024	30 Days	QESCO Catalogue Item No. 11KV/0.4KV/0.2KV/0.1KV

1. The tender documents may be downloaded from the following address or alternatively at a company registered in Form 18(1) of the Companies Act, 1947.

2. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

3. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

4. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

5. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

6. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

7. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

8. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

9. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

10. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

11. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

12. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

13. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

14. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

15. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

16. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

17. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

18. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

19. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

20. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

21. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

22. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

23. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

24. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

25. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

26. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

27. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

28. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

29. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

30. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

31. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

32. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

33. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

34. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

35. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

36. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

37. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

38. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

39. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

40. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

41. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

42. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

43. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

44. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

45. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

46. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

47. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

48. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

49. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

50. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

51. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

52. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

53. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

54. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

55. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

56. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

57. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

58. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

59. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

60. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

61. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

62. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

63. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

64. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

65. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

66. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

67. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

68. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

69. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

70. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

71. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

72. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

73. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

74. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

75. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

76. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

77. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

78. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

79. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

80. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

81. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

82. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

83. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

84. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

85. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

86. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

87. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

88. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

89. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

90. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

91. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

92. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

93. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

94. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

95. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

96. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

97. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

98. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

99. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

100. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

101. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

102. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

103. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

104. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

105. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

106. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

107. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

108. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

109. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

110. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

111. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

112. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

113. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

114. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

115. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

116. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

117. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

118. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

119. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

120. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

121. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

122. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

123. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

124. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

125. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

126. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

127. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

128. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

129. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

130. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

131. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

132. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

133. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

134. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

135. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

136. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

137. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

138. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

139. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

140. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

141. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

142. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

143. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

144. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

145. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

146. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

147. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

148. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

149. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

150. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

151. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

152. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

153. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

154. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

155. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

156. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

157. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

158. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

159. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

160. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

161. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

162. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

163. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

164. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

165. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

166. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

167. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

168. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

169. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

170. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

171. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

172. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

173. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

174. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

175. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

176. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

177. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

178. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

179. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

180. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

181. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

182. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

183. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

184. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

185. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

186. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

187. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

188. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

189. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

190. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

191. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

192. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

193. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

194. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

195. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

196. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.

197. Tender documents are available for inspection at the office of the Board of Directors, QESCO, Quetta.





Alcaraz beats Rublev to open ATP Finals account

Pg.18 SPORT

ISLAMABAD

Sunset 05:08pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:36am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 15°C
Maximum 23°C
Outlook Mostly Cloudy

METRO North

Smog in Islamabad 'under control' as AQI recorded at 192

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The city managers on Wednesday said that smog situation in Islamabad was under control as Air Quality Index (AQI) of Islamabad was recorded at 192, but called for collective measures and effective coordination from all relevant stakeholders to improve the air quality in the capital city.

A meeting was held here at Capital Development Authority's (CDA) headquarters with the CDA Chairman Mohammad Ali Razaq in the chair to address the smog situation in Islamabad and discuss measures to improve the city's air quality.

The meeting was attended by senior officers, including IG Police, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) DG, DG Environment (Ministry of Climate Change), Deputy Commissioner Islamabad and officer of CDA's Environment Wing.

During the meeting, it was highlighted that the Air Quality Index (AQI) of Islamabad is 192 on Wednesday on the basis of Particulate Matter PM2.5, Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) and Carbon Monoxide (CO). "The smog situation is under control in Islamabad as per the current AQI issued by Pak-EPA. It was decided that EPA would officially release AQI on regular basis. During the meeting, DG Pak-EPA briefed the meeting about the current smog situation, major hot spots and areas for concern and a road map for improving the air quality index of Islamabad," says a press release issued by CDA after the meeting.

It said that during the meeting it was briefed that there are no major industrial emissions in the city and there is a check on emissions from the industrial sector in Islamabad and are being monitored for use of environment friendly technology.

In order to control vehicular emissions, the meeting decided to ensure vehicle fitness certifications for all vehicles in the Capital. "It was decided to follow a zero-tolerance policy and launch a crackdown for vehicles emitting smokes. The FIRs will be registered against non-compliant vehicle owners especially for heavy vehicles and bus owners," the press release said.

It said that the meeting also decided to carry out monitoring of border areas of Islamabad and the hot spot areas which will be closely watched for emission control by the departments concerned.

It was decided to sprinkle water on construction and development to minimize dust pollution. The meeting observed that there is no major emissions from crop residues burning in Islamabad. The meeting decided to monitor the hot spot areas regularly to prevent waste burning and fire burning on the dumping points will also be kept under watch.

The meeting also decided that the brick kilns in Islamabad which are not complying with the signing technology will be shut down permanently in this connection, Safe City project cameras will be used for monitoring of emissions, the press release said.

The meeting also decided that CDA Hospital in collaboration with other public sector hospitals of Islamabad will organize a symposium on smog, an awareness walk, featuring posters on the health risks of smog. In this connection, health advisories will also be prepared and issued for the public to adopt preventive measures.

The general public will be sensitized to use masks to minimize exposure to the smog. The meeting also discussed that a major awareness campaign should be launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Islamabad police FM stations and other relevant departments.

The meeting concluded that the collective measures and effective coordination is required from all relevant stakeholders to improve the air quality in Islamabad and safeguard the health of its residents.



RENOVATION work is underway on a temple in Sadiqpur village in Islamabad. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

NA body calls for providing facilities to schools in capital's rural areas

Takes up subcommittee's report that highlights deficiencies; wants effective monitoring system in FDE

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary panel on Wednesday called for providing facilities to schools in rural areas and ensure an effective monitoring system within the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE).

The FDE is a supervisory body which oversees affairs of 431 schools and colleges of Islamabad. The directorate has been without a director general ever since the post got vacant in July last year. Since then, the education ministry has been looking after the affairs of the directorate under ad-hoc arrangements.

Recently, the education ministry, after a competitive process, moved a summary to the PM Office that carried three names. It is now expected that the FDE will finally get a regular director general.

National Assembly Standing Committee on Federal Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture, which met at the PNCA with MNA Dr Azeemuddin Zaidi Lakervi in the chair, took up a report of the subcommittee, which highlighted deficiencies in rural area schools.

The detailed report of the subcommittee highlighted several critical issues related to schools, particularly in the rural areas. The subcommittee prepared the report after visiting several schools in the rural areas.

In its report, the subcommittee also identified existing facilities in many rural schools, particularly those that had suffered years of neglect.

The report said many of these schools lacked basic infrastructure, including adequate sanitation facilities. It went on to say that water facilities in

these schools were unsatisfactory, which further compounded the problem. Moreover, the School Management Committees (SMCs), which are supposed to support school governance and management are not functioning optimally, and their capacity needs to be enhanced to improve school operations.

The committee also pointed out that the infrastructure in some schools remains under, with outdated blackboards still in use.

To improve teaching conditions, the committee has recommended replacing these blackboards with whiteboards to facilitate a better learning environment. In light of these issues, the subcommittee outlined several key recommendations aimed at addressing these challenges.

The subcommittee also stated that first, the process for the appointment of a regular FDE director general should be initiated on an urgent basis to provide strong leadership and direction for the directorate.

The committee also emphasized the need for accelerated recruitment of teachers to address the shortage, particularly in rural areas, and urged the areas education officers to ensure that schools with a shortage of furniture, computers, and other essential resources are promptly supplied.

It said that one of the key concerns was the ongoing teacher shortage, which had been exacerbated by delays in the recruitment process. This shortage is particularly evident in rural schools, where there is an urgent need for qualified educators.

Additionally, the report highlights the absence of IT infrastructure in many schools, with the lack of IT labs and computer teachers hindering the progress of digital education.

The committee has recommended that these resources be made available in all rural schools to ensure equitable access to technology for all students.

Another significant issue raised was the ineffectiveness of monitoring systems within the FDE. It said that weak monitoring mechanisms have made it difficult to ensure effective oversight of

school performance and the proper implementation of educational programmes.

The subcommittee recommended the implementation of an enhanced monitoring system to ensure more effective oversight of schools and the allocation of resources. To address the infrastructure gaps in rural schools, the committee called on the finance ministry to allocate funds for the immediate improvement of school facilities, including better sanitation, water supply, and general infrastructure and bridge the gap between rural and urban areas in terms of facilities and services in ICT educational institutions.

The committee appreciated various interventions undertaken by the ministry in both rural and urban schools.

MNA Raja Khuram Nawaz shared his concerns over the highly deplorable condition of rural area schools.

He said the education ministry was undertaking multi-billion rupee project but focused only on urban areas, adding that he was part of the subcommittee that visited the schools and found the situation highly shameful.

He said in one of the rural schools, stray dogs were also seen. The MNA demanded the ministry pay proper attention to institutions in the rural areas.

Education Secretary Mohyuddin Ahmad Wari told the committee that the ongoing project was started before his tenure began, however, he said under this project, 80 rural schools were being facilitated and missing facilities provided.

He said work in 10 schools have already been completed and simultaneously were continuing in other rural area schools. Mr Wari also shared details of the initiatives with the committee that included interventions of 50 digital technology learning labs, teacher training, recruitment of 285 new teachers, school meal programme, provision of sports kits and schools sanitation project.

Earlier, under the ongoing over Rs2 billion project, the ministry facilitated schools of urban areas and provided new facilities.

CDA to engage cyber security firm to safeguard digital infrastructure

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Following the cyber attack on Capital Development Authority's (CDA) website by Indian hackers, the CDA board on Wednesday decided to engage a cyber security firm to safeguard digital infrastructure and services.

Recently, Indian hackers after hacking CDA's website put the data on the dark web. However, after a few days, the website was restored, but this hacking raised alarm bells not only in the civic body but at the federal government level as well.

Sources said the PM Office also took notice of this issue and recently a meeting of the federal government IT experts and CDA officials was also called. Besides other agenda matters, the board, which met with CDA Chairman Mohammad Ali Razaq in the chair, discussed the cyber security issue.

The board authorized the CDA to engage a cyber security firm under a training contractor to safeguard digital infrastructure and services. Moreover, the board also directed to provide requisite human resources to understaffed technology and digitalisation wing of the CDA. The board also approved the Rehabilitation Regulations 2024. Under these regulations, only financial compensation will be given for acquisition of land and built-up property (BLUP) claims.

The CDA has yet to clear large number of BLUP claims of local landlords whose land and houses had been acquired by the civic body.

The landlords were entitled to get plots against BLUPs for their rehabilitation. The CDA board, in the light of a recent order of the Islamabad High Court, decided that instead of plot, cash compensation would be made to the land-affected people.

There are conflicting reports about whether this policy would be implemented for future acquisition or would it be enforced for pending cases.

However, one of the officers claimed that it will be implemented for all pending and new cases.

The board also discussed the outsourcing of Gandhara Cricket Club. The board was told that the CDA wants to outsource the proposed club for running it under profit sharing formula between private bidder and CDA and this process would be done after competitive process.

The board was told that this club would be opened for all, but members would get some discount while using facilities.

Rain expected today

RAWALPINDI: Rain is expected in Rawalpindi and Islamabad and in upper parts of the country from November 14 to 15.

The Met Office predicted that a frontal weather system is likely to approach upper parts of the country on November 14.

Under the influence of these weather systems, rain-wind/thunderstorms, with snowfall over mountains are expected in Chitral, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Shangha, Battagram, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Buner, Malakand, Rajauri, Mohmand, Khyber, Swabi, Nowshera, Mardan, Charsadda, Kurram, Orakzai, Kohat, Murre, Galiyat, Kashmir (Nasikum valley, Muzaffargarh, Rawalakot, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber, Mirpur) and Gilgit-Baltistan (Diamir, Astore, Skardu, Gilgit, Hunza, Ghazni, Shigar) from Nov 14 (evening/night) to Nov 15 (afternoon).

Light rain-wind/thunderstorm is also expected in Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Talagang, Jhelum, Peshawar, Hangu, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Waziristan, Dera Ismail Khan, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Lahore, Muzaffar, Khushab, Sargodha on Nov 14 (evening/night) and Nov 15. White, in Quetta, Dera, Zhob, Barkhan, Muzakhat, Gilla Saluhah, Shikhar, Laryyah and Dera Ghazi Khan on Nov 15.

The Met Office said that prevailing smoggy conditions are likely to subside in Islamabad, Pothohar region, parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, upper Punjab and air quality conditions are likely to improve during the forecast period.

Dense foggy conditions are likely to develop in the plains of Punjab following the wet spell.

Farmers are advised to manage their activities keeping in view the weather forecast.

Travelers and tourists are advised to remain cautious and manage their traveling according to weather forecast. — Staff Reporter

Over 400 examiners face the music for wrong marking in annual matric examination

Punishments include salary deduction, disqualification from carrying out board duties

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: As many as 435 examiners were punished for wrong marking in the first annual SSC exam 2024, which forced students to contact the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Rawalpindi for rechecking of papers.

During rechecking, the BISE Rawalpindi found mistakes committed by paper checkers, especially in counting of total marks.

As many as nine secrecy branch officials, 66 head examiners, 210 sub-examiners, 129 assistant to head examiners, 22

special checkers, eight representatives of BISE and one data entry operator were given warnings, their salaries deducted and disqualified from all duties of the board from one to three years depending on the nature of the mistake.

According to BISE spokesman Arslan Cheema, to ensure transparency and merit of paper marking in the matric first annual 2024 examination, BISE Rawalpindi Chairman Mohammad Adnan Khan ordered an inquiry against the marking staff on the recommendation of Controller Examinations Tawsoor Anghar Awan.

"A total of 435 people faced strict disciplinary action after their incompetence and negligence were proven. The board chairman, Mohammad Adnan Khan, and Controller Examinations Tawsoor Anghar Awan said negligence and incompetence in the marking of papers would not be tolerated under any circumstances," Mr

Cheema said. He said candidates appearing for the matric first annual 2024 examination highlighted the negligence and incompetence of the marking staff in the re-checking of papers and pointed them out in written applications.

Controller of Examinations Tawsoor Anghar Awan immediately formed an inquiry committee against them on the written complaint of the students.

The board chairman, Mohammad Adnan Khan, took immediate notice and ordered strict disciplinary action against 435 marking staff including BISE officials, head examiners, sub-examiners, assistant to head examiners, special paper checker, representative board, data entry operator from the marking centre and directed that the report be submitted to the chairman office after thorough investigation.

He said the five-member committee headed by the chief

secrecy officer matric submitted its report to the controller examinations.

The board chairman agreed with the report sent by the controller examinations and directed that the punishments recommended by the inquiry committee against them be immediately enforced.

He further said that merit and transparency will be maintained in the marking of papers.

Controller Examinations Tawsoor Anghar Awan recommended disciplinary action on the written complaints of the students and got the inquiry completed and punishments imposed.

"The rights of the students will not be violated in any way and all possible facilities will be provided to them. In order to improve the quality of marking, teams consisting of teachers of different subjects will be formed during the marking process, through which the quality of marking will be checked at any time and the head exam-

iner, sub-examiner, assistant to the head examiner, special superintendent or any person involved who does not meet the standards will be held accountable," he said.

Meanwhile, Employees Welfare Association Rawalpindi Education Board has expressed resentment over the suspension of President Qazi Imran.

President of the Employees Welfare Association Rawalpindi Education Board Raja Usman Shahid said Qazi Mohammad Imran was suspended for raising his voice for the rights of all teachers and employees of Rawalpindi district and Punjab, which we strongly condemn.

The association demands immediate withdrawal of this suspension order and pledged that they stand by the Punjab Teachers Union and employees at every forum.

It stated that the government and administration could never suppress the voice of employees with such low tactics.

**PRAYER**

Fajr 05:15  
Zuhr 11:56  
Asr 03:31  
Maghreb 05:09  
Isha 06:35

Starting time in Islamabad

---

**REFLECTIONS**

**CC OPPORTUNITIES DO NOT REPEAT THEMSELVES. 33**

— HAZRAT ALE (A.S.)  
TRAFAD7

# Diabetic patients can control sugar level with self-education

By Dr Fiazan Khan

**D**iabetes is a complex and chronic disease affecting millions of Pakistanis. The most effective means to attain successful health outcomes and improved quality of life for people living with diabetes is Diabetes Self-Management (DSM).

DSM is an ongoing process for individuals with diabetes to actively participate in managing their condition and control blood glucose levels and prevent complications.

Diabetes self-management (DSM) primarily takes place at home. It encompasses a range of activities, including blood glucose monitoring, maintaining a balanced diet with appropriate portions, regular exercise, proper hydration, and adhering to prescribed medications.

In Pakistan, there is a pressing need to

enhance Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME), as it is an effective, side-effect-free approach to managing the condition.

DSME empowers patients to understand how various factors like insulin use, meal planning, physical activity and stress management impact their health.

By mastering these components, individuals with diabetes can effectively control their blood sugar levels and, in some cases, even reverse the disease.

However, it is crucial to access proper nutritional support while developing your DSM practices, as wrong information is very commonly shared, which promotes overly restrictive diets for diabetes management. These unnecessary dietary restrictions make compliance difficult.

Proper diet compliance may increase need for additional medication, with further side effects. The stress that eating out key nutrients can have negative impact on health outcomes.

A common misconception is the belief that if you take medication to manage diabetes, you can eat whatever you want!

Medication cannot do all the work alone and must be used in combination with diet and lifestyle change which can preserve the body's insulin producing function.

Similarly, there is the wrong belief that diabetic folk need to

eat three meals and two to three snacks per day.

The reality is that meal frequency and timing can be individualised, and what is right for one person is not necessarily true for another.

Carbohydrates do not affect blood glucose levels equally for everyone, and your genetics and unique body determine how they are absorbed.

Diabetes self-management requires you to develop a skill for continuous glucose monitoring.

You should also keep a food journal (records) of everything you eat and in what amounts. List the symptoms—if any—you experience after eating certain foods.

This will help you to notice which meals result in blood glucose levels higher than the target.

By remaining vigilant, you will learn to have symptoms causing foods less often, change some of the ingredients, or change the amount of food.

For better glucose control, choose high-quality carbs, include healthy fats in diet, eat a bigger breakfast, move calories earlier in the day and eat during the most active daytime hours.

Timing and size of meals are critical in lowering blood sugar. Accurate carbohydrate counting and making a habit of reading nutrition labels can significantly contribute to better food choices and overall diabetes management.

Dietitian consultations are invaluable resources in educating patients about lifestyle modifications and diabetes management.

In Pakistan, there are currently many qualified dietitian nutritionists available to provide expert guidance to people living with diabetes.

The writer is a diabetic specialist and nutritionist

# Senate chairman stresses importance of economic zones along Ring Road

**R**AWALPINDI: Senate Chairman Syed Yasir Raza Gilani has stressed the importance of economic zones around Ring Road and recognised them as essential for sustainable growth.

He also urged public-private partnerships were crucial for driving socio-economic progress and reaffirmed the parliament's commitment to supporting recovery efforts.

He stated this during his visit to Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI).

The chairman's president, Usman Shabbaz, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Farooq, Group Leader Sohail Akmal, along with former presidents and executive committee members welcomed the Senate chairman. Representatives from Anjuman Tajran and RCCI members also attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Gilani acknowledged the business community's pivotal role in national economic development and endorsed RCCI's call for an economic charter, policy stability and business representation in key committees.

He emphasised that public-private partnerships were crucial for driving socio-economic progress and reaffirmed the parliament's commitment to supporting recovery efforts.

He highlighted government initiatives such as the

Business Income Support Programme (BISP) as part of efforts to assist the needy. He said political stability directly impacted economic growth, underlining the importance of a conducive business environment and consistent policies for national progress.

He called for reduced imports, increased exports and a stable policy framework to attract long-term investment, reassuring the business community of parliament's support in promoting Pakistan's economic prosperity.

RCCI President Usman Shabbaz provided an update on RCCI's ongoing initiatives, noting improvements in Pakistan's macroeconomic indicators. He highlighted reduced inflation and interest rates, a stable business environment and increased exports and investments.

He also called for accelerating construction work of economic and industrial zones around Ring Road, underlining the strategic importance of these zones in fostering growth.

Other leaders further advocated for an economic charter to ensure policy continuity and suggested business community representation in the Senate finance and commerce committees.

They recommended that the chamber president's term be reduced from two years to one for greater dynamism. — Staff Reporter

## DATE EXTENSION

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

An Advertisement regarding above subject, was placed in Newspapers, Daily Dawn on August 31, 2024 & Daily Jang on September 02, 2024 bearing AJK 23-D/08/2024. The date for submission of applications has been extended upto **November 24, 2024**. Interested candidates meeting the eligibility criteria as mentioned in the above referred advertisement may send their CVs to [careers@mh9.biz](mailto:careers@mh9.biz) by clearly mentioning the position applied for in bold writing. All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

AJK 23-08/11/2024

### MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION - HAYATABAD MEDICAL COMPLEX-PESHAWAR

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications are invited for the following post / vacancy at Medical & Teaching Institution Hayatabad Medical Complex Hayatabad Peshawar. The candidates must have domicile of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa / merged districts with the following conditions:

**DIRECTOR I/D**

Qualification	MDS with a postgraduate level III degree/diploma in the relevant clinical specialty i.e. urology / transplant / nephrology or support diagnosis and therapeutic specialties functional in I/D.
Gender	Male/Female
Term	The services of the selected candidate will be for a term of 03 years, extendable for 02 further terms at the discretion of Govt-MTI-HMC.
Experience	Relevant and equivalent to faculty position i.e. Assistant Professor and above as per PMDC criteria for the concerned specialty.

**Terms & Conditions**

- Curriculum Vitae (CV) accompanied with complete bio-data and academic/experience / domicile certificates along with 02 recent photographs and OAC photocopy duly attested must reach the office of the Secretary of Board of Governors (Room No. 05 Administration Block) MTI-HMC within 02 weeks of the first publication of this advertisement on a prescribed form.
- Application Forms are available on MTI-HMC website i.e. <http://www.hmc.gov.pk/> downloads/physicn will be submitted in the Office of Secretary BoG— MTI-HMC along with Bank Draft / Payment Order of Rs. 2,000/- in favor of Hospital Director MTI-HMC or through direct deposit in Bank of Khyber, HMC Branch, Receipt Account Branch Code 0105, A/C Number: PLS-3002107102.
- The applications duly completed with supported attested documents should reach personally or through registered courier services to undersigned on or before due date of closing.
- The services of the concerned will be governed, under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical & Teaching Institutions Reform Act 2015 (pending from time to time) and relevant regulations.
- In case of civil government employment, all applications must be accompanied with NOC from relevant competent authority.
- If the closing date fixed for the receipt of application form falls on an official holiday, the next working day shall be considered as the closing date.
- An application after the closing time and date shall stand rejected.
- Scrutiny Committee shall be competent to reject applications which are incomplete. However, the aggrieved candidates can appeal to the competent authority of HMC for review. The decision of the competent authority shall be final.
- Any candidate may be disqualified or excluded from interview if he/she was (a) Convicted by the court of law, (b) Dismissed from public service, (c) Knowingly furnishes any false information, (d) Suppresses any information which may lead to his/ her disqualification, (e) Attempts to obtain support for his/ her candidature by improper means, (f) Submits forged certificates, (g) Tampered with the entries in his/ her age and academic certificates, (h) Misbehaves in the interview.
- Original documents should be produced at the time of interview.
- MTI-HMC reserves the right to cancel the whole process without assigning any reason.
- No SAC shall be allowed for Test / Interview.

**SAHIBZADA KAMRAN ULLAH** (M.P.S/19/2024)  
SECRETARY-BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION-HAYATABAD MEDICAL COMPLEX,  
PESHAWAR.

### NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DESPATCH COMPANY LIMITED

## AMENDMENT NO. 02

### TENDER NO. AFD-13-2024

**TENDER NO. AFD-13-2024: PROCUREMENT OF POWER TRANSFORMERS, PAD MOUNTED TRANSFORMERS, DIESEL GENERATORS, 220V & 110V BATTERY BANKS AND TESTING & MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT FOR 500KV VEHARI, 500KV SIALKOT AND 220KV ARIFWALA SUBSTATIONS NTDC**

FINANCING UNDER AGENCIE FRANCAISE DE DEVELOPPEMENT (AF/D) LOAN

REFERENCE INVITATION NOTICE FOR THE ABOVE TENDER PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL DAILIES. THE SUBMISSION DATE OF THE BIDS HAS BEEN EXTENDED. NOW THE BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 26-11-2024 AT 10:00 A.M. INSTEAD OF EXISTING i.e. 12-11-2024.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE TENDER NOTICE SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED. (PUBLI 102/2024)

### CHIEF ENGINEER (MP&M) NTDC

26, P.O. Box, Bahawalpur Cantt., Bahawal Road, Bahawal, P.O. (81 42 002 2024)

### KHYBER MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Institute of Public Health & Social Sciences  
Committed to Excellence in Academia & Research

## ADMISSION NOTICE - Spring 2025

### MPHI COMMUNITY DENTISTRY (2 YEARS) MORNING SESSION

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

1. Citizens (18 years) of education in Dental College must be a graduate.
2. 80% in equivalent examination through Govt/PMDC.
3. 50% in Dental Technology.

**ADMISSION PROCEDURE:**

1. Applicants are required to apply through the MDC Admission Portal at [mphi.computer.kmu.edu.pk](http://mphi.computer.kmu.edu.pk). The application form should be submitted online only after filling in the necessary information and uploading the required documents.
2. Download the form (subject to Rs. 2000/- non-refundable) deposit it at any branch of Bank of Khyber (BOK) or Bank of Khyber Medical University. Payment will be applied to the bank on the portal.
3. Hospital/college application form will not be accepted.

**ADMISSION DATES:**

1. Last date for submission of form	25-11-2024	2. Last date for submission of queries regarding Provisional Seat List	25-11-2024
3. Last date for submission of documents	25-11-2024	4. Display of Provisional Seat List	26-12-2024
5. Last date for submission of documents	26-11-2024	6. Last date for submission of documents	26-11-2024
7. Display of Provisional Seat List	27-11-2024	8. Date for commencement of classes	27-11-2024

**NOTES:**

1. Medical/Technical University reserves the right to make changes in the admission process at any time. Changes made will be notified to candidates.
2. All the selected candidates will receive their admission fee as prescribed bank draft to be received from the Institute of Public Health & Social Sciences.
3. Final merit list/candidates are not eligible for seats.

**DIRECTOR**  
Institute of Public Health & Social Sciences  
Khyber Medical University, Phase-2, Hayatabad, Peshawar  
Phone: 92-91-2622011 Email Address: [info@kmu.edu.pk](mailto:info@kmu.edu.pk)

# Parliamentary secretary pledges to strengthen AJKTU

By Tariq Naqash

**MUZAFFARABAD:** Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barriyar Daryal Chaudhry has pledged to strengthen the state-owned Azad Jammu and Kashmir Television (AJKTU) Centre in terms of infrastructure and resources to effectively counter India's propaganda, build consensus and promote local talent.

"I strongly believe that our neighbour India is investing significantly to fuel anti-Pakistan sentiments in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, while also attempting to reduce the affection for Kashmiris in Pakistan.

"But these vile activities will never succeed," he said during his visit to AJKTU Centre, which operates out of tin-roof shacks in the heart of the state capital.

The parliamentary secretary, visit-

ing Muzaaffarabad as part of a delegation from the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YFP), was the first federal official to inspect the centre since its only studio was destroyed by fire in August. Since then, the centre has been unable to record or broadcast programmes live.

After inspecting various sections of the centre, Mr Chaudhry gathered feedback from local journalists, anchors, and playwrights, accompanied by General Manager Shafiq Chishti and Programme Manager Ghousfar Abdullah Khan.

He acknowledged that India had made concerted efforts to tarnish Kashmir's indigenous and popular freedom movement by weaponising the media.

"Their dramas, films, and media coverage constantly try to suggest that we [Pakistan] have instigated the people of Indian-occupied Kashmir against India; otherwise, they are happy with them," he noted.

"This is 100% false... Kashmiris are fighting India on their own for their rightful cause, and they have a natural love for Pakistan. We need to effectively use our media to convey this message to the world," Mr Daryal said.

He also supported the proposal to broadcast local news from the Muzaaffarabad centre, adding that he would soon hold a formal meeting to establish procedures.

"Not only will you be kept in the loop, but your ideas will also be sought," he added.

### OFFICE OF THE DEAN/ CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### NOWSHERA MEDICAL COLLEGE/ MTI NOWSHERA, KP, PAKISTAN

## ADDENDUM

Reference to the advertisement through information Department KP, vide Advertisement No. INF/P/2003/24 Date 2-11-2024 in this regard **01 Post of Assistant Professor Neonatology be added as per Policy Board/PMSC Criteria.**

Terms & Conditions: Already published in advertisement No. INF/P/2003/24. [www.ppsc.gov.pk](http://www.ppsc.gov.pk)

**(PROF. DR. ANWAR KHAN WAZIR)**  
DEAN/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
NOWSHERA MEDICAL COLLEGE, MTI NOWSHERA

# ADVERTISER

**TO ADVERTISE IN DAWN**

For display advertisements please contact:

Landline: +92-01-2302701-5 Ext. 328  
Mobile: +92-333-5483594  
E-mail: mohammad.ataif@dawn.com

For classified advertisements please contact:

Landline: +92-01-2302701-5 Ext. 303  
E-mail: ahfad.ayub@dawn.com

**NOTICES TO PUBLIC**

**PESHAWAR**

PUBLIC at large is informed that Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Qureshi (S/o Shafiq Muhammad Khan) is the owner of Two Flats No. (1) 116 (2) Flat No. 117, Sector JCI measuring 5-meters of Zone-2 Reg Model Town, Peshawar. He has given its power of attorney to Mr. Nisar An. S/o Khan Waheed through deed No. 1067 (Sah. No. A. Volume No. 243) Date 16-11-2024. Mr. Nisar An. wants to transfer the plot through attorney. Therefore, if any bank,

Pakistan, Muzaaffarabad and Jerusalem, Ring Model, have an all concrete plot. 2. Delivery Time: Deadline is to MDC. The required quantity within 2 months after the contract being signed. It should be arranged for materials delivery early fortnight which are manufactured or ready. 3. Destination: Sah. No. Pakistan. 4. Qualification for the Bidder: 4.1 Must purchase the Bidding Documents from the purchaser. 4.2 Independent legal entity. 4.3 Years registration as company/business for manufacturing or selling the Bidding items or similar description, the experience of providing the same product and services in Pakistan. 4.4 The quality of the product is good and stable, has good performance in the business in Pakistan, provide the copies of the contracts and every certificate, promise to fulfil the requirements in the bidding documents. 5. Time and place for selling the Bidding Documents: An interested bidder, please purchase the Bidding Documents between 9:00 to 17:00 from MDC. Bidding office in Karachi between 14th Nov. 2024 to 17th Nov. 2024. The non-returned bids are for the Bidding Documents is free. 6. Submission of the Bidding Documents: Time and place for the bid opening: 6.1 The deadline for submission and time for opening of the bid 10:00 am 25th Nov. 2024. 6.2 The place for submission and opening of the bid conference room in office building in No. 66/1 Khyberabad/Section of 4th Street Phase 3 (D.A. Karachi). 6.3 Late bid is unacceptable. 7. Media for Bidding Advertisement: The Bidding Documents would be announced on the Pakistan newspaper. 8. The contact information: MCC

Karachi Office Contact Person Mr. (S/o) Mr. Araf Ali (S/o) 0300-1000110 (Land) 340 2222888 (E-mail) [arafa@mcg-mcg.com](mailto:arafa@mcg-mcg.com) / [arafa@mcg-mcg.com](mailto:arafa@mcg-mcg.com) Address: No. 66/1 Khyberabad/Section of 4th Street Phase 3 (D.A. Karachi) 75200270270

**COURT NOTICE**

**ISLAMABAD**

In the Court of Skander Khan, Judge Banking Court Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 2. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 3. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 4. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 5. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 6. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 7. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 8. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 9. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 10. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 11. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 12. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 13. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 14. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 15. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 16. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 17. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 18. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 19. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 20. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 21. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 22. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 23. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 24. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 25. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 26. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 27. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 28. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 29. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 30. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 31. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 32. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 33. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 34. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 35. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 36. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 37. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 38. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 39. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 40. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 41. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 42. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 43. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 44. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 45. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 46. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 47. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 48. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 49. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 50. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 51. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 52. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 53. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 54. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 55. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 56. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 57. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 58. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 59. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 60. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 61. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 62. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 63. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 64. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 65. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 66. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 67. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 68. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 69. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 70. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 71. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 72. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 73. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 74. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 75. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 76. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 77. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 78. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 79. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 80. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 81. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 82. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 83. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 84. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 85. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No. 76, Sector-11/1, Islamabad. 86. Journal Court Order and 1/9 Shro 4/3 Islamabad. M/s Habib Bank Ltd versus Aftab Salam, Dr. Aftab Salam son of Allah Bukhar (S/o), 1 House No. 1850, Street No.



LAHORE
Sunset 05:08 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:28 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 16.0°C
Maximum 27.0°C
Outlook Partly Cloudy
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 748

METRO Central



Alcaraz beats Rublev to open ATP Finals account Pg.18 SPORT



DRIVER of this overloaded motorcycle-rickshaw has no space to manoeuvre his three-wheeler on Circular Road. — White Star / M. Araf

Patient dies, 30 others test positive for HIV at Nishtar's dialysis unit

Panel formed to probe into how patients were put on dialysis machines meant for HIV positive cases

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: In what appeared to be a distressing incident, a kidney-failure patient died while 30 others contracted Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) infections during dialysis treatment at the Nishtar Hospital, Multan.

The official said the administration rejected the requests of the treating doctor claiming the isolation wards were designated for the patients suffering from the infectious disease like dengue and others.

While sharing further information, the official said panic gripped the doctors, nurses and other employees of the department concerned when it transpired that the HIV/AIDS infections transmitted to 30 other patients, the highest number of the persons got infected in a public sector hospital in one go.

The emergence of such a large number of HIV/AIDS infected patients has put the entire staff members including doctors and nurses of the nephrology department at risk as they have been in contact with the infected patients during the treatment process.

Attack on ex-CJP PA resolution for filing case through UK govt

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution condemning the attack on former Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa in London, calling for prosecuting the accused through the UK government.

The resolution tabled by a treasury member, Ahsan Raza, said the attack was on the state (as the ex-CJP was travelling in the Pakistan High Commissioner's car when it came under attack) and not just on Mr Isa, accusing a political party (read PTI) of planning the assault.

Punjab reports first dengue death as girl dies at Mayo

LAHORE: The first dengue-related death was reported in Punjab this year on Wednesday when a teenage girl succumbed to dengue complications in the Mayo Hospital.

Dr Masood said that after the onset of the disease again, she was shifted to the Suburban District Headquarter Hospital (SDHQ) where she developed serious complications.

She had Myocarditis (inflammation of heart muscle), renal failure, and was diagnosed with Dengue Expanded Syndrome (Dengue-EGS).

Italian mime's mischievous elf delights audience at Dosti Fest

By Shoab Ahmed

LAHORE: Ajoka's Dosti International Theatre Festival continued to captivate audiences on its 5th day at Alhambra Arts Council.

Remains Silent. Directed by Marius, this performance delves into themes of love, jealousy and betrayal set against the backdrop of traditional Indonesian culture.

The importance of such international collaborations in enriching the cultural landscape of Pakistan. "The Dosti International Theatre Festival is a testament to the power of theatre to bridge cultures and bring people together through art," he said.





# Man gets death, life term for killing woman in acid attack

By Our Correspondent

**RAHWAL:** Anti-Terrorism Court Special Judge Khalid Khan on Wednesday handed down death sentence, life imprisonment and Rs500,000 fine to a man who threw acid on a married woman for refusing to have relations with him, resulting in her death.

According to the prosecution, on April 25, 2023, the convict subjected a married woman, Rubina Billo (30) to acid attack in Anwar Colony, Quabool in Arifwala tehsil. She suffered third-degree burns and was initially referred to the Sahawal Teaching Hospital and later to Jinnah Hospital, Lahore, where she succumbed to her acid burns on May 28, 2023.

Quabool police booked Shoukat and Ikram under sections 302, 304B and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code, on a complaint filed by the victim's husband, Nour Hassan, a salesman.

The court acquitted, however, acquitted the second suspect, Ikram, due to a lack of evidence.

The court directed that the Rs500,000 fine would be distributed among the legal heirs of Rubina Billo. In case of non-compliance, Shoukat will have to undergo an additional six-month imprisonment.

The court ordered that the confirmation of the death sentence is subject to the order of the Lahore High Court, for which a separate reference under section 374 of the CrPc shall be made.

**ARRESTED:** Ghala Mandi police claimed to have arrested two main suspects who allegedly shot at and critically injured two employees of a petrol pump over a parking issue, near the General Bus Stand.

The police charged Muhammad Naveem, Farukh Mahmood, and seven unidentified individuals under sections 309, 148, and 324 of the PPC for shooting at petrol pump employees, Rawan and Mustafa.

According to police sources, the firing incident occurred over parking of a car at the petrol pump. Eyewitnesses say that a suspect, Naveem, exchanged words with Rawan and Mustafa over the issue. Later, Naveem returned to the petrol pump with six motorcycles and after resorting to aerial firing, shot the both employees, alleging they insulted him.

The injured men were shifted to the Sahawal Teaching Hospital by a Rescue 1122 team.

Ghala Mandi police claimed to have arrested the two main suspects and started investigation.



SARGODHA: A trader sells jaggery in the Gaur Market. — AFP

# DGK police to collaborate with KP and Balochistan to tackle stolen bikes trade

By Tariq Saad Birmari

**DERA GHAZI KHAN:** In a bid to curb the rising incidents of motorcycle thefts and armed snatching, the Dera Ghazi Khan police are set to meet officials from Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) police.

According to sources, the meeting will address the trafficking of stolen motorcycles from Dera Ghazi Khan to neighboring regions.

Sources said stolen motorcycles were transported and sold in the areas like Musakhel and Barkhan in Balochistan and Dera Ismail Khan in KP.

Temporary markets in locations like Karkana reportedly facilitate these illegal sales,

raising concerns over potential use of the vehicles in criminal activities.

District Police Officer Syed Ali confirmed that a preliminary meeting will take place between sub-divisional police officers from Dera Ghazi Khan and counterparts from Barkhan, Musa Khail and Dera Ismail Khan. This will pave the way for a larger meeting among senior police officials to devise a joint strategy aimed at curbing the cross-border trafficking of stolen vehicles.

**UNFIT VEHICLES:** The deteriorating condition of public transport on the roads of Dera Ghazi Khan has raised serious safety concerns, with numerous accidents attributed to the questionable fitness of these vehicles.

From rickshaws to heavy-duty trucks, many vehicles operate without proper maintenance, compromising road safety and endangering lives.

The traffic police are not performing their duty properly, as they have not installed speed check guns on frequently used routes such as Dera-Quetta Road, Dera-Multan Road, Jampur Road and Tansen Road. This negligence has resulted in daily road accidents and the loss of precious human lives.

The traffic police have also failed to provide safe crossings for commuters at dangerous points in and out of the city, such as Model Town Gaddai Road Chokk on Dera-Quetta Road, and Pol Dera, where

heavy traffic passes at high speeds. Despite the clear requirements under the Punjab Motor Vehicle Ordinance of 1967 and Motor Vehicle Rules of 1969, which mandate a fitness certificate for all public service vehicles registered in Punjab, the lack of enforcement in Dera Ghazi Khan has allowed unfit vehicles to continue running unheeded.

According to the ordinances, all commercial vehicles—whether light-duty, heavy-duty, or rickshaws—must undergo fitness testing every six months. However, routine checks remain irregular, and unfit vehicles are a common sight on the city's roads, posing a risk to human lives and contributing to the worsening smog issue.

Smog, exacerbated by emissions from these unfit vehicles, is becoming a seasonal hazard, impacting the health of residents and reducing visibility on the roads, which increases the risk of accidents.

To address this, the Punjab government has established Vehicle Inspection and Certification System (VICS) centres in various cities, including Dera Ghazi Khan. However, the VICS centre in Dera Ghazi Khan is inactive.

Civil society in Dera Ghazi Khan is calling on the RTA secretary, the minister of transport authority, deputy commissioner, and the commissioner to launch an urgent campaign to enforce vehicle fitness checks.

# Smog-related road crash Student dies, three others, driver injured

By Our Correspondent

**RAHWALPUR:** A Government Rafiq College for Women University (GRCWU) student died, while three others, along with the driver, were seriously injured on Wednesday when their van collided with a trailer because of the poor visibility caused by thick smog on Bahawalpur-Lodhran highway, about 20km from here.

Lodhran Rescue 1122 media coordinator told Dawn by phone that the van carrying four GRCWU students was on way to the varsity in the morning when a trailer suddenly appeared on the road after leaving a roadside workshop, during the heavy smog enveloping the region.

Meanwhile, a bus came from the opposite direction and its driver was blinded by the heavy smog, he said.

He said that due to very poor visibility caused by the smog, the

drivers of the van and the bus could not spot the trailer, and both vehicles collided with it.

As a result, the varsity students - Farwa, Amina (18), Arfa Siddiqui (20), Sumaira Nadeem (20) - and van driver Maroof (21), suffered serious injuries. They were shifted to the Lodhran District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital, where Farwa succumbed to her injuries.

The remaining three students and the van driver are being treated in the DHQ hospital.

Deceased Farwa, daughter of Muhammad Nawaz, a resident of Lodhran, was a 5th Semester student in the GRCWU's Zoology department. Her parents collected her body from the DHQ hospital.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Shazia Anjum condoned the student's death and sympathized with the three injured girls, directing the varsity officials to ensure provision of proper treatment to them.

# Seminary teacher arrested for torturing minor student

By Our Correspondent

**MUZAFFARGARH:** A madrasa teacher was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly torturing an 11-year-old student in the Uttarai Sainsodia area after the boy refused to ask for donations.

The suspect, identified as Abid Hafeez, reportedly chained and beat Muhammad Azeem after the child declined to collect donations, commonly known as 'charanda' from local residents.

The incident came to light when the victim's father, Muhammad Akhtar, reported it to the Karan Dal Querehri police station.

Station House Officer Shahid Riazan confirmed the arrest and stated that the police had registered a case against the teacher.

Azeem was taken to the hospital for medical examination to proceed with further legal action.

**TNA TEST:** Thousands of primary schoolteachers across Manjafargah district boycotted the Training Need Assessment (TNA) test, but a select few participated. Their results were announced on Wednesday.

Government Primary School Radeswala Headmaster Malik Hafizullah Badli secured the top position in the test.

Muzaffargah Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Education Inayat

Baq held a ceremony to honour the successful participants. Hafizullah was awarded a certificate of appreciation and a bouquet.

District Education Officer Saifullah Gopang was also present at the event. The education CEO said Hafizullah would receive a Rs100,000 reward and recommended his promotion to higher authorities.

TNA qualified teachers urged the government to promote teachers who passed the test.

The TNA test, held on Oct 28, saw limited participation as most primary teachers across the district boycotted it, with only a few choosing to attend.

# Agri, revenue staff persuade farmers to grow wheat

By Shahid Bhatti

**RAHWAL:** Officials of the agriculture and revenue departments are persuading local farmers to accomplish wheat sowing target for the upcoming Kharif crop in the district.

Dawn learnt from official sources out of 305,000 acres target, farmers have sown wheat over 140,250 acres, which is 46 per cent of the target.

This is because the Punjab government stayed away from wheat procurement last year and did not announce the support price, leaving farmers at the mercy of market forces.

There are apprehensions farmers may sow less wheat and shift to some other cash crop as they suffered heavy losses last year.

Farming Bajwa, a wheat grower from village 734-B, told Dawn wheat farmers suffered a great loss last year as they failed to get even their production cost.

"This year farmers may opt for other crops," he said.

It is learnt officials have directed lease-holders of Ghari Tal schemes and other state farms to only grow wheat. Arjun Marri, ADCR, said Dera around 800 leaseholders have been mobilised along with other revenue and agriculture officials to persuade farmers to grow wheat on maximum area.

The Kharif crop sowing season starts from Nov 1 and ends in mid-December.

A senior official from the agriculture department said the government must announce wheat support price at the early stage to encourage growers to sow wheat otherwise there can be shortage of wheat next year.

# PA resolution for...

Continued from Page 11

Malik Ahmed Bhachar, outside Adiala jail, Rawalpindi.

PTI MPA Rana Shahbaz alleged that Mr Bhachar had been tortured before his detention in the Adiala police station.

The house adopted another resolution, recommending doubling the number of beneficiaries of Christmas gifts. The mover, Rabita Khudim Hussain, said that the Punjab government gives cash gifts to 10,000 deserving Christians on the eve of Christmas and the number of the beneficiaries should be doubled this year.

Meanwhile, chairman of the standing committee on agriculture, Nour-Ahmed Wattoo, tabled in the house the report of the body on the Punjab Agriculture Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2024.

The speaker, however, deferred the discussion and passage of the bill till Thursday's sitting.

He urged the opposition to come up with their amendments, if any, to the bill when it would be put to vote on Thursday and openly express their reservations about the proposed law.

He welcomed PTI lawmaker Rana Aftab's views that tax should not be imposed on the farmers across the board.

# Chenab embankment approved to protect Hafizabad villages

By Our Correspondent

**GUJRAT:** A 2km long embankment will be constructed at a cost of Rs 200 million to save agricultural land of six villages from the erosion of Chenab river in Hafizabad district.

The irrigation department has also approved the scheme after recommendation by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

The scheme has formally been approved at the Divisional Development Working Party with Gujratwala Commissioner Naveed Haider Sheerazi in the chair whereas Hafizabad Deputy Commissioner Akhbar Razaq also participated in the meeting through video link.

The commissioner said that the six villages, including Mehmoed Pse, in the outskirts of Hafizabad city have been facing erosion by the river 8 km

down stream.

However, he said with the establishment of embankment at least 4000 people would be protected from the danger of erosion as well as flooding. Gujratwala region Director Development Akhbar Razaq also briefed the participants about the project.

The meeting decided to expedite the tendering process as well as ensuring the use of quality material in the execution.

# UAF to launch wheat sowing drive in five Punjab divisions

By Our Correspondent

**TODA TER SINGH:** The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) is going to launch 13-day wheat sowing campaign from November 18, in collaboration with the Punjab Agriculture Extension Department to disseminate useful information among the farmers to increase crop productivity.

This was announced by UAF Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan while chairing the donors' committee meeting on Wednesday.

He said that during the drive, thousands of postgraduate degree and 5th Semester BSc students of the UAF, under the supervision of experts, will visit fields in various villages of the five divisions of Punjab to disseminate recommendations in order to help increase per acre wheat output.

The divisions to be covered during the campaign include Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Gujrat, and Gujratwala, he added.

He said the campaign would also help the students get first-hand on-field knowledge of issues faced by the farming community.

The VC said that in the drive, the students will persuade farmers to adopt the latest wheat sowing practices, use certified seeds and balanced usage of fertiliser.

**GCUP MOOT:** The three-day International Microbiology Conference started at the Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF) on Wednesday, attended by scientists, professors and researchers from all over Pakistan, along with those from UK, Japan, USA, Canada, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia.

The event, presided over by VC Dr Rauf-Azeem, is aimed at addressing the challenges in the fields of microbiology, agriculture, industry, medicine and environment and suggest a coherent plan to overcome these in the future.

The chief organisers of the conference are Institute of Microbiology Director Dr Hidayat Rasool and Life Sciences Dean Dr Farhat Jabeen.

In his address on the first day of the conference, VC Dr Rasool said such conferences provide an opportunity to scientists and researchers to set new paths for their respective fields in the light of their research.

He further said that in the context of changing conditions, research and new inventions in the field of microbiology are indispensable.

He called for regular updates in the curriculum being taught in Pakistan according to modern requirements to address the needs of industry and protect

the environment.

Dr Hidayat Rasool also spoke.

**ARRESTED:** A youth has been arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency's cyber-crime circle at Faisalabad for his alleged involvement in child pornography.

A press release says on Wednesday that accused Aamir Haaz of Samundri and his accomplices were involved in uploading edited pornographic pictures of children on social media.

It says the FIA has seized the suspect's mobile phone which contained the edited obscene pictures, while raids are being conducted to arrest his other accomplices.

**MAN DIES:** A man died when a motorcycle hit a trailer's rear part due to poor visibility caused by smog near Nadhar Bypass Road at Faisalabad on Wednesday.

Police say Khalid Mukham

(56) of Gujra, along with his daughter Arosha Billo (17), was going to Faisalabad on motorcycle when it hit the trailer.

As a result, Khalid died instantly, while his daughter was injured critically. She was shifted to the All India Hospital.

**SIBLING DIES:** A young man and his sister died on Wednesday as their motorcycle tumbled over by two racing tractor-trolleys laden with maize, near Chak 303 GB, Bhutta Stop, near Tardilwala Faisalabad Road.

Reports said Shahzad Ahmad (24) of Sargodha was returning to Faisalabad, along with his sister Ghulam Zainab (22), when two tractor-trolleys coming from the opposite direction first collided with each other and then ran over their bikes.

As a result, the siblings were seriously injured and Shahzad died instantly, while his sister succumbed to her injuries in Tardilwala THQ Hospital.

PESHAWAR
Sunset 05:17pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:43am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 14°C
Maximum 22°C
Outlook Cloudy



Alcaraz beats Rublev to open ATP Finals account

Pg.18 SPORT



A CUSTOMER purchases traditional footwear Khussa for his toddler from a roadside vendor at Hashnagi Chowk, Peshawar, on Wednesday. — BFP

Employees recruited during caretaker govt facing the axe

Officials insist such recruits total over 10,000 with majority appointed to police department

By Muhammad Ashtaq

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has begun the process of sacking thousands of employees recruited in various departments under the last caretaker government. The employees will be removed from their services through the enactment of a proposed law, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Employees (Removal from Service) Act, 2024, official sources told Dawn. They said the draft bill had already been approved by the provincial cabinet. The sources said that the government had started collecting data of those employees from all departments. They said the government believed that the caretaker government recruited over 10,000 employees in different departments and those attached formations. The sources said the finance department put the number of those employees at 9,662. They said that the number of the recruited employees highlighted by the finance department in its figures was higher as the department had no data of the employees appointed to be autonomous bodies and attached formations during the caretaker government. There are over 100 attached formations in the province, including universities, different authorities,

and civic bodies. The sources said the majority of those recruited employees were appointed to posts below BPS-16. According to the initial data, the police department has more than 4,900 of them followed by the elementary and secondary education department (2,500), and local government department, public health engineering, irrigation, communication and works, and health departments (around 200 each). The draft Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Employees (Removal from Service) Act, 2024, says it aims "to remove certain employees appointed by various departments of government through initial recruitment during the tenure of caretaker government. Section 2 of the bill says, "It shall apply to all the employees, appointed by the various government departments through initial recruitment against regular posts during the tenure of caretaker government from 22-01-2023 to 29-02-2024." According to the proposed law, the employees were recruited in the period on court orders or in line with their judgements, on the recommendations of the public service commission, against the deputed non quota, and other cases where tests and interviews were conducted prior to the Election Commission's Jan 22, 2023, notification regarding a ban on recruitment. Section 3 of the bill is regarding the removal of the employees. It states, "All employees appointed through initial recruitment by various departments against the regular posts during the tenure of the caretaker government are hereby declared to be unconstitutionally appointed

and void ab initio." For the collection of data of the recruited employees, the establishment department has directed all government departments to furnish details of the employees recruited during the tenure of the last caretaker government. "The provincial cabinet in its meeting held on 24-10-2024 constituted a ministerial committee with the directions that all departments shall submit attested/verified data of appointments made during caretaker government and instructed that provision of incomplete or inaccurate data will lead to action against head of the departments," reads an establishment department letter sent to the other departments. It added that the ministerial committee had noticed that the departments concerned had provided incomplete and inaccurate data about those employees. "You are requested to submit attested and verified data of appointments made during caretaker government in the administrative departments, attached departments and autonomous bodies," it said. The information sought from departments include "nomenclature of posts and basic pay scale, the number of posts and appointments, method of recruitment, categories of appointments open merit, minority, deputed non and court orders, date of appointment, NOC obtained from S&P through the establishment department, NOC obtained from the ECP directly by the departments and number of appointments where test and interview conducted before January 22, 2023."

Kundi pledges to highlight KP's issues in SIFC

PESHAWAR: Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that efforts were under way to highlight the issues of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially of southern districts, in Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) regarding trade and business.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Kohat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its president and vice-president of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Rashid Ahmad Psacha. During the discussion, the governor emphasised the importance of business community in fostering trade and industrial growth in the region. He said that federal government allocated funds for establishment of an expo centre by Trade Development Authority in Peshawar, which was expected to be completed soon. He said federal minister for information also approved establishment of a hall for cultural activities. He also mentioned his efforts to strengthen ties between traders from Saudi Arabia and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as explore opportunities for business growth with Tajikistan. Mr Kundi said that there were seven trade routes between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Central Asia. "If these routes are restored, they can significantly change the province's economic outlook," he added. The delegation also highlighted the increasing interest in setting up factories in Kohat and other southern districts of the province. However, it raised concerns over lack of institutional support, inadequate facilities and poor connectivity, which remained main obstacles for investors. The delegation requested the governor to forward to relevant authorities its recommendations for establishment of a Sonada office in Kohat, reduction in electricity tariffs and provision of other facilities and incentives. In response, Mr Kundi assured the delegation of his full support and commitment to resolving the issues. He said that federal government was also serious about promoting trade and industry. He said that international institutions acknowledged the improving economic situation in Pakistan. The meeting concluded with the delegation thanking the governor for his assurances of cooperation and expressing the hope that the discussion would yield positive results for the province's industrial and commercial development. — APP

Man killed as bomb goes off outside his house in Bajaur

By Our Correspondent

BAJOUR: A man was killed when a bomb went off near his house in Gobar area of Mamund taluk in Bajaur district here on Wednesday. Local people and police officials said that the explosive device was planted along a pathway near the house of Saleem Jan. They said it exploded when Saleem's elder son, Abdul Raheem, 58, stepped over it. They said that Raheem was critically injured in the explosion and died while being shifted to a local health facility. DSP Hoonar Khan told reporters that a police team was immediately rushed to the locality to find out the nature of the explosion and to trace the people involved. "We have launched an investigation into the incident," he said. No one claimed responsibility for the explosion. Meanwhile, the police on Wednesday defused explosive devices recovered during different actions in Bajaur district. The devices, including bombs and hand grenades, which had been seized by the police bomb disposal squad during several actions, were defused on the orders of the district and sessions judge issued a couple of days ago during the hearing of a case related to the recovered devices, according to a statement. The statement issued from the district police office said that the bombs and grenades were defused in the presence of senior civil judge Mujib Rahman, district police officer Zawal Haq and SIF investigators Nawaz Iqbal.

Policeman shot dead in Hangu

By Our Correspondent

KOHAT: Unknown assailants shot dead a policeman in Hangu, while a notorious proclaimed offender was arrested in injured condition after an exchange of fire with the police in Jerna area of Kohat on Wednesday. The policeman, Qadirullah, was attacked by unknown motorcyclists near his house. Soon after the incident, the police launched a search operation to track down the attackers. Meanwhile, a proclaimed offender was arrested with a Kalashnikov, two hand grenades and cartridges while fleeing in a van in Tangi Banda area of Jerna here. A police official said that after seeing a raiding party he opened fire, forcing the cops to return the fire, leaving the outlaw injured critically. He was shifted to a hospital. The official said that the outlaw was wanted in several heinous crimes.

Mining in Swat River banned

By Our Correspondent

SWAT: Swat deputy commissioner Dr Shahzad Mahmood on Wednesday imposed a two-month ban on illegal mining and excavation within the boundaries of the Swat River under Section 144. An order issued from the deputy commissioner's office said that illegal gravel mining not only harmed the river's environment and aquatic life but also endangered essential protective embankments, bridges and public property, increasing the risk of floods. The order said that any violation of the ban would result in strict legal action under Section 188 of Pakistan Penal Code. Large-scale illegal gravel extraction has long been going on in the Swat River with social activists repeatedly asking the authorities to curb the practice. "These activities are not only damaging the natural beauty of the Swat River but also posing serious threats to aquatic life," said Arif Ali, a social activist, adding that the illegal gravel extraction had left large pits in the riverbed, where stagnant water promoted mosquito breeding, leading to diseases like dengue and malaria. "Furthermore, there has been a rise in incidents of local residents drowning in these deep pits." The activists said that despite the ban on gravel mining, the mafia continued its activities at night. They urged the district administration to conduct nighttime operations to curb the illegal activities effectively.

Burns prevention authority put on the back burner

A plan was devised two years ago for the purpose

By Ashtaq Yasufzai

PESHAWAR: The provincial government has failed to establish a burns prevention authority despite preparing a plan for the purpose two years ago. "Had we a burns prevention authority, the fire at the tissue factory erupted last month could have been avoided. There were no arrangements to get out of the fire at the industrial estate despite days of efforts," said experts, who were part of the government's plan to establish burns prevention authority. They told this write that factories, government and private

buildings in Peshawar and elsewhere in the province did not have any arrangements to cope with fire incidents. In August 2022, the government had planned legislation to make it obligatory for all buildings and factories to install fire extinguishers and make arrangements for safe exit of people in case of fire but there was no progress on the plan, they said. Experts said that a process had been initiated with members of the provincial assembly for passing laws to set up an authority that would make it mandatory for shopping malls, industries and government and privately-owned buildings to install proper mechanism for putting out fire in a timely manner and ensuring protection of people. In this connection, several meetings have also been held that have been attended by rep-

resentatives of health department and lawmakers to ensure safety measures," they said. They added that it was the basic responsibility of the owners of buildings and industries to have maximum protection in case of fire and the same was discussed but no progress was made on legislating for the purpose. They said that the present provincial government had no problem in passage of law due to its majority in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly but the plan had been put on back burner and people had to suffer. "Local plastic surgeons have volunteered their services to help in drafting the law as they know that those suffering from burn injuries never come to normal lives despite timely treatment while those with minor burns even if survive have to face complications and disabili-

ties," said experts. They said that an authority on modern laws had been suggested to cover all aspects including mandatory installation of smoke detectors and mechanism for exit of people in case of fire. "Currently, factories and buildings don't have arrangements to cope with fire incidents and as a result people are exposed to burn injuries," they said. Plastic surgeons in Peshawar told Dawn that the estimated number of annual burn incidents in Pakistan was approximately 1.3 million to 1.5 million that could be brought down through legislation and public awareness. They added that 10 per cent of those incidents were life threatening and required hospitalisation. They said that nearly 15 to 20 per cent victims of the incidents got crippled and require multiple surgeries and prolonged rehabili-

tation. "The lamentable part is that 70 per cent of the burn victims are in the most productive age group of 15 to 40 years and 80 per cent of them belong to poor families," they said. The situation has further been deteriorated due to absence of specialised burn care at primary and secondary level hospitals. "The silver lining is that 90 per cent of burn injuries are totally preventable provided the government takes steps for prevention of fire incidents," they said. Plastic surgeons said that burns were the most grievous injuries one could imagine. Besides legislation, the government is strongly advised to integrate burns prevention education into the school curriculum from primary to secondary levels and encourage schools to organise awareness events and competitions on burns prevention," they said.





UNHYGIENIC conditions at the Peshawar vegetable market invites attention of the authorities concerned. — IWP

# JUI-F plans protests against Gaza genocide

### Moot to be held in Peshawar to show solidarity with Palestinians

By Nisar Ahmad Khan

MANSHERRA: Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam East provincial emir Maslana Anwar Rehman on Wednesday said that his party was going to launch a protest movement against Israel's genocide in Gaza. "I am here to invite you to our Dec 8 conference in Peshawar to demand an end to the killing of Palestinian men, women, and children by Israeli forces in Gaza," Mr Rehman told a gathering here.

Mohammad also addressed the gathering. Mr Rehman said JUI-F central emir Maslana Faruk Rehman would address the Peshawar conference. "We expect over one million people will attend the moot from across the country, especially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to show solidarity with Palestinians against Israeli brutality," he said. The JUI leader said his party was striving for the enforcement of Shariah in the country through peaceful and political means, hoping that the struggle would eventually succeed. He said the party chief, Maslana Faruk Rehman, helped steer the country out of constitutional and political crises and played a pivotal role in the enactment of 25th Constitutional Amendment, which carried a clause for the elimination of unity from the country. Mr Rehman acknowledged

ribs in the party's Manifesto chapter and promised corrective measures. **DRIVE AGAINST ENCROACHMENT:** The tribal municipal administration on Wednesday launched a campaign against encroachments in Manshera city and its suburbs. "We have removed temporary and permanent (illegal structures to ensure the smooth flow of traffic," tribal municipal officer Masdar Manzoor Aslam told reporters. A joint team from the police and TMA cleared encroachments from along Abbottabad Road, Kashmir Road, and Shikhar Road. It also took away handcarts and goods placed outside shops and markets, and warned traders of strict legal action in case of road and pavement encroachments in the future. "This anti-encroachment drive will be extended to the areas where traders have

already been given notices to voluntarily remove structures obstructing traffic," he said. Mr Awan said handcarts and fruit and vegetable stalls outside the King Abdullah Teaching Hospital were also removed. "We are also taking strict action against TMA's officials who either remained absent or failed to attend to their duties regularly and a forensic system has been installed that verifies staff attendance using facial recognition," he said. The TMA said that officials will absent from duty were served with show-cause notices. "We will terminate employees who remain absent and fail to respond to the notices," he said. The official said dumping sites were being relocated to protect people's health and life. "With the rainy season underway in the district, we have cleared all choked drains and sewage lines along the Karakoram Highway," he said.

# Govt facilitating girls to excel in education, sports: CM

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Wednesday said his government is committed to providing maximum opportunities to girls to excel in education and sports. He said that perseverance was key to success in life and that striving forward with determination and high spirits ultimately led to success. He was speaking at the concluding ceremony of All Pakistan Inter-Board Girls Cricket and Tennis Championship held at the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Peshawar, according to a statement issued from the chief minister's secretariat on Wednesday. The competitions commenced on Nov 5, featuring teams from KP and various other educational boards from across the country. Mr Gandapur welcomed the participants from other provinces and emphasized the importance of organizing sports alongside academic activities. "The purpose of holding such events is to polish the skills of our youth, and get them prepared for practical life ahead," the statement quoted Mr Gandapur as saying. "Challenges are part of the journey to success and should

be faced head-on," he added. "A person becomes great when he dreams big," he said while sporting PTI founder Imran Khan, adding that one must set ambitious goals and move forward with courage. The chief minister congratulated the Lahore Board's cricket team on its victory, and affirmed the importance of investing in youth. Mr Gandapur also announced cash prizes of Rs50,000 for each participating team. He also distributed trophies and shields among the players. In tennis, the Lahore Board secured the first position followed by Mardan, while Peshawar Board and Punjab Board of Technical Education, Lahore, shared the third position. Similarly, the Lahore Board clinched the first position in the cricket tournament, while Peshawar remained the runner-up. The chief minister also inaugurated a newly-constructed gymnasium at the Peshawar BISE, which has been costed at Rs200 million. The facility includes boxing, karate, taekwondo, wrestling rings, a table tennis court and a fitness gym. — Business Report

# Money changer with Rs229m held in Peshawar raid

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Federal Investigation Agency's Commercial Banking Circle on Wednesday arrested a man and recovered Rs229 million cash from his possession during a raid in Anwar Sheher area of the provincial capital, officials said. They said the agency formed a raiding team after receiving information about a hundi-bawala operator in Anwar Sheher Bazaar. The team raided a shop, and arrested an accused, identified as Asadullah. The team also recovered local currency from hidden caches in the shops. The currency was mostly sent from Afghanistan, according to a statement.

The statement said that the agency was also conducting raids to arrest another accused, Khalid Manzoor, who was the gang leader involved in gold smuggling and hundi-bawala. "We conducted a raid but the accused was not present at the place," a senior FIA official told Dawn, adding that Manzoor was also charged in another FIR. Cases were registered against both the accused under relevant sections of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act. On Sept 2, 2023, FIA, as part of its crackdown on illegal forex trade and smuggling of US dollars, raided multiple shops in Chawk Wajidgeri Bazar, the province's largest currency market, and closed 45 shops in the "hub of illegal currency business" in the provincial capital.

# Community health workers in Khyber seek pay raise

### Officials say the issue being considered by donor agencies

By Our Correspondent

KHAYBER: The community health workers (CHWs) performing health-related duty under the supervision of Chip Training Centres (CTCs) in Khyber tribal district have demanded increase in their monthly salaries keeping in view the current wave of rising inflation. Scores of CHWs told Dawn, with a request to withhold their identities, that their services were hired in March 2016 by CTC under the community-based vaccination (CBV) programme of World Health Organisation to enhance anti-polio vaccination in different districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

They said that apart from carrying on a vigorous polio vaccination campaign during its designated days in Khyber and other districts of the province, their services were also required for expanded programmes on immunisation and dengue eradication on different occasions under the same contract for which they were paid a fixed salary of Rs2,000 per month. They said that federal and provincial governments fixed maximum monthly wages at Rs2,000, so they too were entitled to a raise in their monthly stipend as they were hit hard by the rising prices of daily use items. Responding to queries about demand for a raise in the salaries of CHWs, relevant officials argued that raise in salaries of such project employees was subject to approval of additional funds by donor agencies. They said that though the issue was under consideration of donor agencies, it would take some time to materialise. They, however, clar-

ified that fixing of maximum wages by governments had nothing to do with the contracts signed with health workers hired for community-based vaccination projects. **TRAINING:** Station house officers in Khyber have been directed to get a mandatory three-month course of immunisation to be considered eligible for the said posting at any police station. A notification issued from the office of the district police officer the other day directed all the SDOs and heads of police posts along with other interested officials to submit applications for the course. It said that only successful candidates would be considered for posting as SDOs and heads of police posts while those, who were declared failed in the course, would be removed from those posts in near future. Officials said that the training was made mandatory for SDOs as most of them were not well-versed in the required knowledge of immunisation.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC ENGINEERING DIVISION SOUTH WAZIRISTAN TRIBAL DISTRICT**

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Public Health Engineering Division South Waziristan Tribal District at Tank invites electronic bids from eligible firms/contractors in accordance with EPPRA procurement rules 2014 for the following work:

S/No	Name of the Scheme	E/Unit (Rs)	E/Volume (Rs)	Opening Date
District Development Initiatives in South Waziristan Upper under ADP No 081 / 2023 (25)				
1	Construction of Gravity DWWS Near Bannuwa Sub-Division Laffha	5,000	107750	16-11-2024 11:30 A.M
2	Construction of Gravity DWWS Near Bannuwa Sub-Division Laffha	4,800	103760	16-11-2024 11:30 A.M
3	Construction of Gravity DWWS Near Bannuwa Sub-Division Laffha	4,800	103760	16-11-2024 11:30 A.M
4	Construction of Gravity DWWS Near Bannuwa Sub-Division Laffha	3,000	107750	16-11-2024 11:30 A.M
5	Construction of Gravity DWWS Near Bannuwa Sub-Division Laffha	4,800	103760	16-11-2024 11:30 A.M
6	Construction of Gravity DWWS Near Bannuwa Sub-Division Laffha	4,800	103760	16-11-2024 11:30 A.M
7	Construction of Gravity DWWS Near Bannuwa Sub-Division Laffha	4,800	103760	16-11-2024 11:30 A.M
8	Construction of Gravity DWWS Near Bannuwa Sub-Division Laffha	5,000	107750	16-11-2024 11:30 A.M
9	Construction of Sewer Bypass Tunnel (1.5m dia) for Hammar Sub-Division Laffha	8,200	190000	16-11-2024 11:30 A.M

**INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS:**  
Bidders may obtain the bidding documents/information from the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division South Waziristan on address quoted above on any working day.

- All government tenders will be deposited as per government policies.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equal to 2% of the estimated cost in shape of call deposit in the name of Executive Engineer PHE Division South Waziristan.
- The contractor/bidders who quote rates more than 10% below upto 20% below on the BQ shall deposit 5% additional Call Deposit in addition to 2% bid security and if more than 20% will have to submit to extent of financial difference as per conditions notified via CPWA notification No 6258-73 dated May 30, 2022 shall be intact.
- Any bidders who provide incorrect information shall stand disqualified and will be deleted.
- Electronic Bidding shall be done on "above / below system on BQ/Engineer's estimate, based on the MRS applicable. Only two digits after the decimal point shall be considered for evaluation purpose.
- Successful bidder should sign the agreement with the Department within a week time after acceptance of bid.
- Call Deposit of Scheduled Banks shall be acceptable. No banker cheque or pay order will be acceptable.
- The employer has the authority to reject any E-bid or all the E-bids assigning valid reason as per S&P Code.

All bidders are required to be registered with EPPRA/CPWA.

**Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division SWTD**

# Shangla buildings discharging waste into rivers to face action

SHANGLA: The Algori tribal administration on Wednesday issued notices to the owners of houses and commercial buildings to remove the drains emptying into rivers within three days. On the directives of Shangla deputy commissioner Farhad Khan, Algori assistant commissioner Muhammad Hamid Siddiqui visited hotels, restaurants and other commercial and residential buildings, and directed their owners to remove the drainage pipelines, which were found to be connected to the rivers. He said the waste discharge into rivers was a violation of the law as it was causing environmental pollution and spreading water-borne diseases. When contacted, Mr Siddiqui told Dawn that in first phase he had given a three-day deadline to the owners of the buildings to remove the drain pipes, and in case of non-compliance they would face legal action. Meanwhile, the Algori assistant commissioner on Wednesday recovered Rs2 million from a franchisee, which it had illegally collected from 16 retailers of Bazaar Income Support Programme. He told Dawn that upon complaints from BISSP beneficiaries, he called the BISP retailers' union president to his office and inquired into the alleged illegal deductions made from the stipends of beneficiaries. Mr Siddiqui said the union president told him that retailers were made to pay security fee to franchisees, which they deducted from amounts of beneficiaries. He said over Rs2 million had been returned to the retailers, who were asked not to make any deductions from the money disbursed to the beneficiaries. "We have changed the mechanism of BISP disbursements, leaving the retailers from making deductions from the stipend," he said. However, he said franchisees charged the so-called security fee from retailers under a 'loan', and the retailers made up for the money by making illegal deductions from the stipends of BISP beneficiaries, which is illegal," the AC said. He said he had warned the retailers and franchisees not to indulge in illegal activity in future. **SWORN IN:** Chairman of four village councils on Wednesday took oath of their offices. They had won the offices during the local body elections held on October 20 in different taluhs of the district. The oath-taking ceremony was held at the district election office in Algori. District election officer Inayatullah Khan took oath from the newly-elected village council chairmen, according to a notification issued by the election commission. — Correspondent

**KHUSHAL KHAN KHATTAK UNIVERSITY, KARAK**  
27200-Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Pakistan)  
Ph # 0927-291027, Fax # 0927-291035, <http://www.kkuk.edu.pk>

## ADVERTISEMENT NO. 02/2024

The Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak is a Public Sector University Chartered by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The University offers the following Faculty Positions:

S#	Position	Required Qualification & Experience
<b>Associate Professor (BPS-25)</b>		
1.	Computer Science (02)	Minimum Qualification: PhD in the relevant field from HEC recognized University/Institution. <b>Experience:</b> 10 years teaching/research experience in an HEC recognized University or a post-graduate institution or professional experience in the relevant field in a National or International organization.
2.	Information Systems (02)	
3.	Management Sciences (02)	3 years post-PhD teaching/research experience in an HEC recognized University or a post-graduate institution or professional experience in the relevant field in a National or International organization.
4.	Communication and Media Studies (02)	
5.	Geology (02)	
6.	English (01)	
7.	Physics (01)	
<b>Assistant Professor (TTS/WPS)</b>		
8.	Computer Science (02)	Ph.D. Degree/Terminal Qualification in the relevant field from an HEC recognized institution and excellent writing, communication and presentation skills.
9.	Management Sciences (02)	
10.	Communication and Media Studies (02)	
11.	English (01)	

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- The applicant(s) should apply for the advertised post(s) on the prescribed form, downloadable from the University's website ([www.kkuk.edu.pk](http://www.kkuk.edu.pk)) and also available in the Office of the University Registrar, along with the prescribed non-refundable application(s) processing fee in the form of Demand Draft in favor of Treasurer, Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak or Bank Deposit/Online Receipt in A/C No. PK31 0275 0049 0020 0737 2527, The Bank of Khyber Main Bazar Branch, Karak (0049), as per following detail:
  - Rs. 2500/- (non-refundable) for BPS-25.
  - Rs. 2000/- (non-refundable) for WPS-19.
- In addition to the above application processing fee, an amount of Rs. 2000/- should also be deposited by the applicant(s) for the post of Associate Professor (as fee for evaluation of the research publications).
- The applicant(s) should submit attested copies of all degrees, diplomas, certificates etc., with 03 recent passport size photographs.
- The applicant(s) for the post of Associate Professor should prepare a dossier containing four sets of the following documents with the application(s) form:
  - List of research publications showing names of publications, journals in which they are published, and their year of publication.
  - Reprints of the publications along with title pages of the journals.
  - Curriculum Vitae.
  - The University may demand any other additional document(s) as and when required.
- Candidate(s) serving in the Government, Semi-Government or Autonomous Institutions should route their application(s) through proper channel and must provide No Objection Certificate from the employer(s) before the closing date of applications.
- The application(s) along with all aforementioned attachments/documents should reach the office of the Registrar on or before **November 29, 2024** from Indigenous and December 04, 2024 from abroad candidates. In case of a public holiday, the next working day will be considered as the last date.
- Age limit shall be strictly followed as per Statutes of the University.
- The candidate(s) having a Foreign Degree/Certificate shall provide an Equivalency Certificate from HEC/IBCC before the closing date of application, as the date may be.
- Incomplete application(s) or application(s) received after the closing date will not be entertained.
- Separate application shall be submitted for each post.
- The eligibility of a candidate shall be determined on the basis of data /qualifications and experience(s) provided till the closing date of submission of the application.
- Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates issued by the HEC recognized Universities/ Institutions and Government recognized boards will be acceptable.
  - Only eligible candidates will be called for the interview as per rules.
  - Legal action may be taken if any document is found false.
  - Merit for selection will be determined/made as per the Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak relevant rules.
  - Landline, Telephone, Mobile No., Postal and email address must be clearly written in the Application form.
  - No TA/DA will be paid for interview.
  - CGPA less than 3.00/4.00 will not be considered as first division.
  - All interviewed candidate(s) will be observed as and when advisable. In case of special person, the candidate will have to submit a certificate regarding his/her disability from the relevant office.
  - The University reserves the right not to fill any or all post(s) or increase/ decrease the post(s) according to requirements/Budgetary Provision.
  - Errors/Omissions (if any) by the University are liable for rectification.

**Note:** Those who have already applied in response to university's advertisement(s) for the above positions, need not to apply afresh, however they can update their CV's with proof duly attested.

**Registrar**  
0927-291027