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Former ISI chief Faiz indicted for misusing powers

- Detained officer also faces charges of engaging in politics, violating anti-espionage law
- Ex-chief spy being tried by Field General Court Martial

By Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: The army on Tuesday said that the former chief of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) had been indicted by a military court on three counts — engaging in political activities, violating anti-espionage laws, and abusing his authority.

"Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (retd) has been formally arraigned on charges of engaging in political activities, violations of Official Secret Act detrimental to safety and interest of the state, misuse of authority and government resources and causing wrongful loss to a person(s)," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's public affairs wing, said in a statement. The indictment marks the start of the trial of the former intelligence chief before a Field General Court Martial (FGCM).

Gen Hameed has been in custody since August, and the military announced the initiation of FGCM proceedings on Aug 12 on the charges of violating the Army Act and misconduct filed by the owner of a private housing society.

The case against Gen Hameed was made following a Supreme Court ruling in November 2023, which directed petitioner Moosa Ahmed Khan, owner of Islamabad's Top City housing society, to pursue grievances through appropriate channels, including the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Khan had alleged that a May 12, 2017, raid on his property by Pakistan Rangers and ISI officials resulted in the seizure of valuables, including gold, diamonds, and cash, under the pretext of a counterterrorism operation. This is one of the most high-profile court martial cases in Pakistan Army's history, as Gen Hameed is the second three-star general and the first former ISI chief to face such proceedings.

Under military laws, an indictment follows a court of inquiry and a summary of evidence, which form the basis for framing charges. Following his indictment, Gen Hameed will be allowed to hire legal representation. "Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (retd) is being afforded all legal rights as per the law," the ISPR said. Gen Hameed has chosen Mian Ali Ashfaq as his defence lawyer.

The trial will proceed with the defence and prosecution presenting witnesses before a three-member jury led by a major general. Witnesses will be cross-examined, and Gen Hameed will have the opportunity to make a statement. Closing arguments from both sides will precede the verdict, which legal experts predict could be delivered within weeks.

Military law expert Omer Farooq Adam noted that the charges against former spymaster under the Official Secrets Act, a colonial-era law aimed at preventing espionage and unauthorised disclosure of classified information, raise intriguing questions. The allegation of political involvement could, moreover, open Pandora's box, given the military's historical meddling in political affairs, he believed.

The ISPR disclosed that Gen Hameed was also under investigation for

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SWEIDA: People cheer as they gather at the Karama Square to welcome the arrival of rebel fighters from Aleppo and Daraa governorates in the southern Syrian city, on Tuesday. The fall of Bashar Al Assad on Sunday has put Syria at a crossroads, after nearly 14 years of civil war.—AFP Report on Page 12

Cabinet okays deal with eight IPPs to cut power costs

- 79 of 250 Pakistani pilgrims in Syria reach Beirut, cabinet told
- PM emphasises equal rights on International Human Rights Day

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Tuesday approved settlement agreements with eight independent power producers (IPPs) running on bagasse, aiming to reduce electricity tariffs and save around Rs240 billion for the national exchequer.

The decision was made during a federal cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The approval followed recommendations from the Ministry of Energy's power division.

The power plants agreeing to revised production costs include DW Unit I, Unit II, RYK Mills, Chiniot Power, Hamza Sugar, Al-Moiz Industries, Thal Industries and Chiniot Industries.

After the agreements' approval, the Central Power Purchasing Agency will seek approval from the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) for tariff adjustments.

The Prime Minister's Office in a press release said these agreements are expected to reduce electricity prices for consumers and provide an estimated Rs238bn relief to the exchequer.

In October, the government prematurely terminated power purchase agreements with five of the oldest IPPs, including Saba, Lalpir, Atlas, Rousch and the Hub Power Company. These plants, collectively producing 2,463MW, were nearing the end of their contracts and set to expire within the next two to three years.

The move was projected to save Rs411bn and lower average electricity tariffs by 71 paisa per unit, which currently

Continued on Page 5

15 terrorists killed in Zhob operation, says ISPR

QUETTA: Security forces killed 15 terrorists in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the border area of Zhob district on Tuesday when they were entering the Sambaza area from Afghanistan, the military's media wing said.

During the heavy exchange of fire, a soldier embraced martyrdom.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement that the operation was conducted in the general area of Sambaza in Zhob. It added that during the operation, security forces effectively targeted the Khawarij location, killing 15 terrorists.

The government in July designated the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan as Fitna al Khawarij, mandating all institutions to use the term Khariji when referring to the perpetrators of terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives was recovered from the deceased armed men. During the firefight, Sepoy Arifur Rehman, 32, a resident of Mansehra, embraced martyrdom.

A sanitisation operation is being conducted to neutralise any other militant present in the area. —Saleem Shahid

SC ready to hear plea for judicial probe into post-May 9 'suppression'

AAG asked to confirm if govt intends to pursue contempt case against Imran

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The constitutional bench of Supreme Court on Tuesday admitted for hearing a plea moved by PTI founder Imran Khan seeking formation of a judicial commission to probe alleged "state suppression" against party workers and leaders in the wake of May 9 violence.

While the bench removed the objections raised by the registrar office, it did not give any date for fixing the case before it.

In the petition, the PTI founder demanded that a judicial commission look into alleged political and non-political interference in the functioning of the state authorities and violation of their constitutional oaths by the functionaries and identify those responsible for it.

Filed by PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja, the petition asked the apex court to issue order to ensure the protection of fundamental rights of citizens, including the right to life, freedom of assembly, expression, movement, information and fair judicial redress. It highlighted alleged disproportionate application of laws to stifle dissent, impede political participation, and erode public trust in democratic institutions, thereby undermining the rule of law and constitutional governance.

When the matter of registrar's objections was taken up by the bench, senior counsel Hamid Khan remarked that the country was witnessing an "undeclared martial law".

Justice Jamal Mandokhail intervened to remind the counsel that he was making a sweeping statement though the civil government can seek assistance of the army under Article 245. Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar observed the petitioner had to challenge the vires of the constitutional authority under Article 245, adding how the petitioner could call it an undeclared martial law.

At this, Additional Attorney General (AAG) Chaudhry Aamir Rehman pointed out that the court had yet to determine the question as to how the petition was in public interest.

Justice Aminuddin Khan explained that the court was not hearing arguments on the merit of the case but on the objections raised by the registrar's office.

Contempt proceedings

Separately, the constitutional bench suggested that the AAG may take fresh instruction from the government about its intention

Continued on Page 5

PM ordered crackdown on PTI protesters, alleges Ayub

- Opposition leader accuses forces of using Nato weapons to target marchers
- Asif refutes allegations, challenges PTI to launch civil disobedience campaign

By Amir Wasim

ISLAMABAD: On the opening day of the National Assembly's winter session, the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday reiterated its call for a judicial probe into the alleged killing of its workers during the Nov 26 protest at Islamabad's D-Chowk.

Opposition Leader Omar Ayub Khan accused Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of issuing an "order to kill", alleging that security personnel employed lethal weapons provided by Nato for counter-terrorism operations.

At usual, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif took the floor to respond to the opposition leader's speech and refuted all accusations of the opposition, criticising it for using the "provincial card" to build up its false narrative.

The session began with *fatiha* offered for the security personnel and protesters who lost their lives during the Nov 26 showdown.

The opposition PTI took a surprisingly subdued tone by opting to participate in the proceedings rather than disrupting it, marking a departure from its past behaviour, when even on minor issues, its members had sparked loud protests and disruptions.

Earlier in the day, the PTI, in a statement issued after a parliamentary party meeting, had announced that its members would lodge a strong protest in the National Assembly over the alleged use of brutal force against the party by the government.

As it was the first sitting after the Nov 26 episode — when PTI workers

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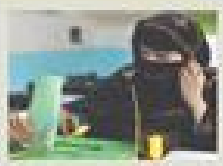
ON OTHER PAGES



Women's share rises in polled votes

The share of female voters in the total polled votes saw a marked increase in the 2024 general elections compared to 2018, with women casting 24.4 million of the 56.9m votes. This reflected an increase of 2.7m, nearly double the growth in male votes, which rose by 1.6m. According to a report, the share of female voters in the National Assembly constituencies rose from 39.4pc in 2018 to 41.4pc in 2024. Page 12

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Three deported from Dubai, held by FIA

GUJRAT: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) immigration authorities claimed to have arrested three illegal immigrants deported from Dubai (United Arab Emirates), at Sialkot International Airport on Tuesday.

As per the FIA sources, the three men had gone to Iran through Taftan border and then reached Dubai through an agent. In Dubai, they tried to travel to Sweden, using fake documents, where they were nabbed and deported to Pakistan, landing at Sialkot airport.

An official of FIA told *Dawn* that during immigration clearance of Flight FZ-337, three passengers – Abdul Rehman (fake name Asim Nazir), having passport No PV9155923, Inamul Haq (fake name Akbar Ali), having passport No AJ6395553 and Ali Haider, having passport No CN5070741 – were found to be deported from Dubai.

The passengers used fake identities with an intent to travel to Sweden from Dubai, where they had reached from Iran after paying Rs2 million each to an agent, Mian Kareem.

During transit in Dubai, the Emirates security officials apprehended them and sent them back to Pakistan. The suspects were later handed over to the anti-human trafficking cell of Gujranwala FIA zone.

Meanwhile, a Philippine national woman was refused entry into Pakistan at Sialkot airport on Monday the last.

As per the FIA officials, the passenger, Daisy Gomez, arrived here from Philippines via Dubai and presented his passport (No P9538203B) for immigration clearance. However, as she had no visa to enter Pakistan, she was deported.—Correspondent

Ex-senator denied pre-arrest bail in housing scam

LAHORE: A Lahore High Court division bench on Tuesday dismissed a pre-arrest bail petition of former senator Waqar Ahmad Khan in billions of rupees scam of Pak-Arab Housing Scheme being investigated by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

The suspect personally appeared before the bench comprising Justice Farooq Haider and Justice Ali Zia Bajwa along with his counsel.

A NAB prosecutor opposed the bail petition, saying the custody of the suspect was required to recover the looted money of the public against plots in the housing society.

After hearing the arguments, the bench dismissed the bail of the former senator, however, he evaded arrest.

Earlier, an accountability court had also denied bail to Waqar, however, he continued to evade arrest by the NAB.

The bureau alleged that the suspect denied plots to people despite receiving money from them. It said the society defrauded the public at large by selling files more than the available plots.

It alleged that the former senator collected Rs10 billion from people who purchased the files of Pak-Arab Society Phase-II, which was also not an approved project by the Lahore Development Authority.—Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Schoolchildren plant saplings under the PHA's 'Lungs of Lahore' project on the banks of the river Ravi.—White Star

Fathers often seek kids' DNA test to avoid maintenance cost: LHC

Rejects plea questioning paternity

By Wajih Ahmad Sheikh

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court has expressed its concern over the growing trend of fathers questioning the legitimacy of their children by requesting DNA analysis, often as a tactic to evade paying maintenance allowances to their ex-spouses.

"It is becoming a common practice in our society that whenever a suit for recovery of maintenance allowance is filed against a person, he comes forward to the court and challenges the legitimacy of the child by moving an application requesting for conducting DNA analysis of the child," Justice Ahmad Nadeem Arshad observed in a judgement issued recently.

The judge said it is for the honour and dignity of women and innocent children, as also the value placed on the institution of the family, that women and blameless children have been granted legal protection and a defence against scurrilous stigmatisation.

He remarked, "Ethically, questioning the paternity of a child during a maintenance suit can be seen as a tactic to evade responsibility rather than a legitimate claim based on evidence."

The judge noted that the request for the DNA test often reflects a desire to avoid financial obligations and may be motivated by personal animosity or financial concerns.

He maintained that such practice should be discouraged and dealt with an iron hand because encouraging such practices would only serve to erode trust in the family unit and the legal system that is designed to protect the interests of vulnerable children.

Justice Arshad noted that when a person questions the legitimacy of the child, it creates an atmosphere of doubt and insecurity.

He stated that this practice undermines the child's sense of identity, dignity, and belonging, which can have long-lasting psychological effects.

The judge said it is crucial that courts focus on the child's needs and emotional welfare, rather than allowing a parent to challenge paternity without valid justification."The use of DNA tests to challenge paternity, while scientifically valid, should not be viewed as a tool for harassment or delay in matters of child maintenance," the judge asserted in the order, dismissing a petition of a man, who assailed decisions of two lower courts whereby his application for DNA examination was dismissed.

The mother instituted a suit for recovery of her maintenance allowance, as well as for her minor son, from Sakhawat Hussain, the father of the child.

The father contested the suit by filing a written statement wherein he denied the paternity of the minor. He also filed an application for DNA examination of the minor by submitting that he was not his son.

However, the trial court and an appellate court dismissed his pleas.

As per the facts of the case, the petitioner contracted marriage with the respondent on Jan 11, 2018, however, he divorced her on Aug 17, 2018.

Following the divorce, the minor was born after almost a six-and-half-month of dissolution of marriage on March 8, 2019.

The petitioner did not deny the marriage with the respondent, however, he denied the paternity of the minor.

Justice Arshad noted that by using DNA technology, the courts are in a better position to reach a just conclusion, but the question is whether the petitioner can be allowed to get a DNA test of the minor conducted and produce the said report as evidence in order to challenge the paternity of the child.

The judge observed that as per Article 128 of the Qanun-i-Shahadat Order, 1984, a child born to a woman during the subsistence of a valid marriage or within two years after its dissolution is conclusive proof of his/her legitimacy, provided that the woman remains unmarried after the divorce.

The judge said the Muslim Personal Law provides that legitimacy/paternity must be denied by the father immediately after the birth of the child as per Imam Abu Hanifa and within the postnatal period (maximum of 40 days) after birth of the child, as per Imam Muhammad and Imam Yousaf.

He maintained that there can be no lawful denial of paternity after this stipulated period.

Justice Arshad concluded that the courts below rightly dismissed the applications of the petitioner. He said the petitioner's counsel, despite hectic efforts and lengthy arguments, remained unable to persuade the court to interfere in the verdicts of the lower courts.

NAB reference

Court assured Parvez to appear on next hearing for indictment

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An accountability court was assured on Tuesday that 'ailing' PTI President Parvez Elahi would appear on the next hearing for indictment in a reference of corruption and kickbacks in billions of rupees funds released for development projects in Gujrat division.

Earlier, Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani took exception to the continuous absence of Mr Elahi in the trial proceedings for health reasons as his lawyer once again sought one-time exemption from appearance.

However, Advocate Amjad Parvez assured the court that his client (Mr Elahi) would appear for the framing of charges on the next hearing.

NAB Prosecutor Waris Ali Janjua argued that the suspect should be indicted without further delay.

The PTI leader's lawyer said his client was unwell, suffering from stomach issues and diarrhea.

The judge instructed that Mr Elahi should be presented on the next hearing for the framing of charges, noting that, "Just as he travels to the hospital in a car, he can come here for attendance."

The judge adjourned the hearing till Dec 18.

Other suspects who are on bail appeared before the court, while suspects in judicial custody including Naeem Iqbal, Atif and Asghar were presented from jail.

The prosecutor told the court that another co-suspect former principal secretary Muhammad Khan Bhatti was admitted to Services Hospital.

The NAB reference alleged that Muhammad Khan Bhatti being principal secretary to then chief minister Parvez Elahi manoeuvered the award of contracts in favour of blue-eyed contractors in connivance with other suspects including officials of government departments.

It said the suspect released full payment to the contractors even before the commencement of construction work only to receive kickbacks.

The bureau alleged that money from the corruption committed by Bhatti had been transferred into the bank accounts of Elahi and his son, Moonis Elahi.

Three booked for 'gang rape' of friend's wife

By Our Correspondent

SAHIWAL: Kaswal police have booked three men for alleged gang rape of their newly-married friend's wife, after the couple took shelter at the outhouse of one of the suspects at 6/14-L village of Chichawatni tehsil.

Kaswal Police Station SHO Amjad Hussain told *Dawn* that the police have arrested two of the suspects.

As per police sources, Iqbal, of Forest Colony, Block No 2, Chichawatni, contracted love marriage with a woman 'A' on Dec 7 at the Tehsil Courts. The couple registered their Nikahnama with the authority concerned.

As per their plan, the couple moved to the outhouse of Iqbal's friend 'S' at 6/14-L village and stayed there for two nights.

On Sunday, 'S' asked Iqbal to shift his wife to the house of their common friend 'N' as her parents could trace the outhouse and nab the couple. Iqbal agreed to the suggestion and was told to stay at the outhouse for the time being. 'S' also locked Iqbal in a room at the outhouse.

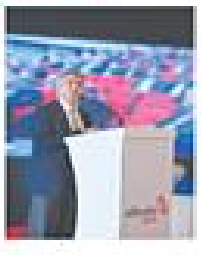
However, after moving the woman to the new place, 'S', 'N' and another suspect 'M' raped her.

Meanwhile, Iqbal's father and uncle arrived at the outhouse and freed him.

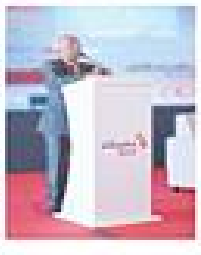
After Iqbal related the entire story to them, they all went to 'N' house, where they came to know about 'A's plight.

Al Baraka Bank (Pakistan) Limited hosts 4th Webinar for Al Baraka Group (ABG) Trade Finance Collaboration with Albaraka Turk Participation Bank

Al Baraka Bank (Pakistan) Limited organized the 4th Webinar for Al Baraka Group (ABG) Trade Finance Collaboration with Albaraka Turk Participation Bank. More than One hundred leading business groups, mainly exporters participated from Pakistan side and about same



number of participants from Turkey. The first three webinars were held with 3 ABG franchises starting with Al Baraka Bank South Africa in September 2023, Al Baraka Bank Egypt in May 2024 and with Al Baraka Islamic Bank Bahrain in November 2024.



The Webinar provided a great opportunity for Pakistan exporters to establish connections with importers in Turkey, aiming at expanding and diversifying Pakistan's exports to non-traditional markets. Leading Export companies from various sectors including Meat, Rice, Commodities, Denim-Garments, Textile, knits and Apparels, Yarn, Home Textile, Ethanol, Chemicals & Allied Products, Confectionary, Electronics, Pharmaceuticals, Oil & Ghee and Information Technology participated from Pakistan.

The webinar was chaired by Mr. Cemal Sangu – Consul General of Turkiye and the Key Note Speaker was Dr. Ishrat Hussain – Ex Governor State Bank of Pakistan. Panel of Leading businessmen from both countries shared their thoughts on enhancing trade between the two countries. From Pakistan side the panelists were Mr. Maqsood Ismail, CEO - Ismail Industries, Mr. Mohamed Bashir, Chairman-Gul Ahmed Textile Mills, Mr. Rasheed Jan Mohammad, CEO-Westbury Group, Mr. Umar Ahsan Khan, MD & CEO Dawlance Group of Companies and Mr. Faisal Hussain, CEO-The Organic Meat Company Limited.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Muhammad Atif Hanif, CEO of Al Baraka Bank (Pakistan) Limited, said, "Al Baraka Group (ABG) franchises exist in 13 countries and the Al Baraka Group (ABG) Trade Finance Collaboration through Webinars and Trade Finance Portal are providing access to Pakistani Exporters to leading businesses in other Al Baraka franchise countries."

By using Al Baraka Bank in both countries, customers can manage trade with lesser cost and quick turnaround time. Al Baraka Group Trade Finance Portal is accessible on bank's website and provides access for Pakistani Exporters to Al Baraka Customers in 7 other countries.

Advertorial

Punjab takes China's help for cleaner air, better environment

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: China and Punjab will collaborate on combating smog, improving environment, enhancing biodiversity, protecting wildlife and promoting afforestation.

A joint working group – Beijing-Punjab Clean Air – was formed during a meeting between Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Chinese Minister for Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu in Beijing on Tuesday.

China and Punjab will exchange environmental expertise, coordinate policies, enhance capacity building, monitor and share data, plan green urban projects and transfer technology.

China will assist Punjab in launching environmentally friendly energy and transportation initiatives. With China's cooperation, an advanced air quality management system will be developed in Punjab.

The two sides also agreed to utilise China's expertise in developing an e-transport system in Punjab. China will support Punjab in the agricultural sector by introducing eco-friendly machinery and sustainable farming practices. Assistance will also be provided in hydropower development and efficient water utilisation.

They agreed on China's support for protecting Punjab from environmental risks through expertise and technology.

Minister Huang Runqiu briefed Ms Nawaz on environmental protection measures and ecosystem preservation. The two sides also discussed biodiversity, wildlife protection, and afforestation projects in detail.

Ms Nawaz informed the Chinese officials about plans to develop model cities in Punjab for environmental improvements.

"We want to adopt China's advanced environmental models to address climate change in Punjab," she said and added that since assuming office in March this year, her administration launched Punjab's first comprehensive smog prevention and environmental improvement plan.

QUETTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

"Re-Invitation of Bids"

Quetta Electric Supply Company QESCO a Power Distribution Company invites sealed bids from the eligible (manufacturers/suppliers) registered with income tax and sales tax department and complying qualification & experience criteria as laid down in the bidding documents as per WAPDA / NTDC specifications/ Drawings without any element of foreign exchange, financed under QESCO's own resources, PSDP & STG funds on FCS basis Delivery to Consignee's Store QESCO T&G Warehouse Sibi Road Quetta:-

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STG-898	Sr. #	1	8 KV Megger (European)	1 No	31-12-2024 at 11:00 AM	31-12-2024 at 11:30AM
		2	11 KV Panel Lifter (Hydraulic) at Control Room	03Nos		
		3	11R Test Set	02Nos		
		4	Breaker Analyzer Test Set Single unit (European)	01No		
		5	Primary Injection Test Set 2000 Amp Continuous (European)	01No		
		6	Open & Short Test Set (European)	01No		
		7	CAGF Test Set 12 KV Single Unit (European)	01No		

Terms and Conditions:- (1) Tender documents can be obtained from the office of Chief Engineer (Development) PMU QESCO headquarter Zarghoon Road Quetta after payment of Rs. 3000/- per tender (non-refundable) cash/pay order upto a day before tender opening date. No tender form will be issued on the date of opening of tenders. (2) The tenders will be opened publicly in the presence of bidders or their representatives who wish to attend on above mentioned date and time in the office of Chief Engineer (Dev) PMU QESCO headquarter Zarghoon Road Quetta. (3) The bid shall remain valid for acceptance for 120 days whereas, Bid Guarantee/CDR shall have **validity** 30 days beyond bid validity period from the tender opening date. Moreover, for all the tenders the Bid Guarantee/CDR shall not less than 2% for registered and 5% for un-registered firm of the total quoted quantity amount & validity shall be as per directions mentioned at 3(i) and 5 (ii) by any Scheduled Bank of Pakistan on specified Performa besides the Sales Tax Registration Certificate shall be provided. (4) Conditional tender or tender without Bid Guarantee will not be accepted. (5) QESCO Reserves all its right regarding rejection of tenders as defined in Clause13 (1) of PPRA Rules 2004. (6) For further information contact on any working days during office hours. (7) This tender is also available on PPRA's and QESCO Website.

Chief Engineer (Development) QESCO Quetta

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Bill to decide seminaries' fate shrouded in mystery

Fazl accuses govt of deception as deadlock persists

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: As the fate of the Societies Registration (Amendment) Act 2024 remains shrouded in mystery, a meeting between JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday failed to break the deadlock, with the former once again accusing the government of 'deception'.

The proposed legislation, commonly known as the madressah registration bill, was sent back by President Asif Ali Zardari with objections, even though it was passed by parliament at the time of the passage of the 26th Amendment.

The bill had some 'typos' which

Madressah politics: Editorial on Page 6

was the reason it was returned by the president, but it was sent back to the presidency the next day after the errors were fixed, the JUI-F sources quoted the speaker as saying.

However, the NA officials feigned ignorance when Dawn approached them about the objections and even suggested that it might have been forwarded to the parliamentary affairs ministry by the presidency.

JUI-F Senator Kamran Murtaza, however, claimed there were no objections to this bill by the president.

"There is no objection by the president over the bill and now they are trying to backdate it after we took up the matter with Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Dec 4," the JUI-F senator said. "Article 75 states that if any bill remains with the Presidency for more than 10 days, it will eventually be 'deemed to have assented'."

The bill sailed through the Senate on Oct 20 and the NA the following day. The government supported it in return for the JUI-F support on the 26th Amendment. The Societies Registration Act 1860 has defined the term society in Section 20 of the Act: "... charitable societies, societies established for the promotion of science, literature, or the fine arts, for instruction, the diffusion of useful knowledge, the diffusion of political education... and other works of art, collections of natural history, mechanical and philosophical inventions, instruments, or designs."

'Missing bill'

The Societies Registration (Amendment) Act 2024 is an extension of the Societies Registration Act 2005 with some minor amendments to Section 21 that pertains to 'Registration of Deeni Madaris'.

The religious institutions had been established under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and after partition, most of the religious seminaries were established under this act.

In 2005, military dictator Pervez Musharraf made registration of seminaries mandatory by adding Section 21 to the act. Section 21 had four clauses that pertained to registration of seminaries, annual reports of education activities, and yearly audits. "One Deeni Madressah, having more than one campus, shall need only one registration," it said. The section also stated no seminary should promote militancy, spread sectarianism or hate speech.

"It was the first time a law was enacted for the compulsory registration of seminaries and the unregistered seminaries got themselves registered at the relevant deputy commissioner's office," said Qari Hanif Jalandhari, chief of Wafaqul Madaris Al-Arabia, the board of seminaries belonging to the Deobandi school of thought, also the largest seminary board.

The 2024 amendment adds three more clauses to this section. According to the proposed law, seminaries shall, subject to their resources, include basic contemporary subjects in their curriculum according to a phased programme.

The other two clauses highlight the seminaries will have to get registered under this act only and that any additional registration is not needed.

According to Qari Hanif, the clauses in the 2024 bill promote the learning of knowledge and skills among the seminaries' students.

"Besides, the seminaries under the current arrangement are required to get registered with many other departments under other laws like charity laws etc, because if the registration process is not simple, people prefer not to get registered and operate outside the ambit of law," Qari Jalandhari added.

Due to public pressure after the APS in 2014, discussions around about placing seminaries under the control of the interior ministry.

After around three years of negotiations, on the recommendation of the seminaries, the madressahs were placed under the education ministry through an order in 2019. However, the Societies Registration Act 2005 also remained in the field.

This decision was welcomed by the joint body of religious seminaries that included five seminaries boards belonging to mainstream sects — Barelvi, Shia, Deobandi and Ahle Hadith, while the fifth board belonged to the seminaries affiliated with the Jamaat-i-Islami.

This administrative order also established the Directorate General of Religious Education under the federal education ministry. The JUI-F, at the time, did not agree with this arrangement and the current push to repeal this order through the passage of the amendment law is spearheaded by the Fazl-led party.

Another problem with this order was the challenge to the monopoly of traditional boards. "...there was another clause in the DGRE and that was the option to get new boards registered," said Amir Rana, director of the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies, a think-tank.

"Soon the five traditional boards realised that their monopoly...was eroding and hitherto around 10 new boards have been established among all four mainstream sects, and some of them are even imparting high standard skill training along with religious education," Mr Rana added.

Against this backdrop, there is a tussle going on between the old guard and newcomers. While Fazl is leading the old camp to bring all seminaries under the Societies Act 2024, the fresh entrants are led by Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, who has limited political standing but enjoys support among the powers that be.

CJP seeks establishment of prison in each division

• Visits Gwadar sub-jail, meets Makran bar representatives • Stresses prioritised justice delivery to marginalised groups

Dawn Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi on Tuesday visited Gwadar sub-jail as part of criminal justice system reforms, reviewed the facilities being provided to undertrial prisoners and called for enhanced focus on inmate welfare and infrastructure improvement.

During the visit, he was accompanied by Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Hashim Khan Kakar, administrative judge for prisons Justice Abdullah Baloch, Gwadar district and sessions judge Rozi Khan Barrech and IG (Prisons).

Realising the challenges posed by the jail's remote location, the CJP urged the establishment of a prison in each division of the province. In response, government officials assured him of their commitment to establishing a jail in Makran division.

The CJP also visited Makran Judicial Complex and held a meeting with judicial officers and Makran Bar Association representatives.

While addressing the bar members, he underscored the integral relationship between the bench and bar, noting that the judiciary to perform its constitutional duties needs bar cooperation. He highlighted the importance of ensuring access to justice for marginalised sections of society, including women, children and persons with disabilities. He stressed that justice delivery for these marginalised groups must be prioritised.

Extrajudicial killings

When the bar requested the CJP to take appropriate action over extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, he assured that the matter would be looked into and noted that compliance of institutions to the will of people embedded in the Constitution was essential for Pakistan to grow.

GWADAR: CJP Yahya Afridi addresses the office-bearers of lawyers' bodies and Makran Bar Association members, on Tuesday — Dawn

CJP Afridi highlighted the pivotal role of judicial magistrates, being the first judicial forum to hear legal matters, to provide relief to the masses in accordance with the law without fear or favour.

He also pointed out the necessity of improving case management and innovative practices such as automation, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and human resource development to improve criminal justice system. He said such endeavours required meticulous planning, sustained patience, and collective efforts of bar and bench.

In his interaction with the lawyers, the CJP listened to their concerns regarding the administration of justice and assured them that their grievances would be addressed effectively.

Earlier, the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) gave briefing to the lawyers of Makran division about the opportunity for lawyers under Access to Justice Development Fund.

Eaffidavit, instant certified copies

On the other hand, Supreme Court registrar Salim Khan introduced two transformative initiatives at the Lahore branch registry of the apex court.

The registrar inaugurated the e-affidavit system and an instant certified copies service, both aimed at enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accessibility within the judicial system.

The e-affidavit system represents a significant leap towards the digital transformation of judicial procedures. This innovative platform streamlines the submission of affidavits, reducing delays and ensuring transparency in the filing process. It is designed to simplify procedures for litigants and legal professionals, ultimately expediting the delivery of justice.

Additionally, utilising the advanced case management system, the SC made it possible for litigants and lawyers to instantly obtain certified copies of cases, whether pending or disposed of in Islamabad, directly from the Lahore branch registry.

This service removes the delays traditionally associated with document disputes, improving efficiency and convenience.

Nasir Iqbal in Islamabad, Sultan Shahid in Quetta and Behram Baloch in Gwadar contributed to this report

Daily energy-only diet costs Rs18 in Balochistan, Rs32 in Sindh: WFP

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: An analysis by the United Nations World Food Programme has estimated that the daily cost of an energy-only diet ranged from Rs18 per capita in rural Balochistan to Rs32 per capita in urban Sindh.

The 'Fill the Nutrient Gap' (FNG) analysis released on Tuesday said nationally only 5 per cent of the population was unable to afford the costs of meeting energy needs.

The analysis on Pakistan is part of case studies carried out in 11 countries. The FNG is a methodology that estimates the cost and affordability of nutritious diets and combines this with secondary data on local food systems and environments.

The daily cost of a diet that meets individual nutrient needs (nutritious diet) was substantially higher, ranging from Rs67 per capita in rural Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Rs78 per capita in urban Sindh.

Non-affordability of the nutritious diet was high — on average, 66 per cent of the population was unable to afford a nutritious diet. Across provinces, non-affordability ranged from 59pc in rural KP to 84pc in rural Balochistan.

The FNG analysis shows that adolescent girls and pregnant and breastfeeding women have relatively higher requirements of specific nutrients, such as iron, folic acid and vitamin B12. In the modelled household, this is reflected by the adolescent girl and the breastfeeding woman having the two highest costs of a nutritious diet within the household, together representing over 50pc of the household's total cost of the nutritious diet in the Sindh.

Children aged 12–23 months have the lowest cost of a nutritious diet compared with other members of the family as they consume less food, and the modelled diet assumes optimal breastfeeding, which covers a large proportion of their nutrient needs.

This age group, however, is nutritionally vulnerable as their smaller stomachs mean that meals must be provided at higher frequency and need to include nutrient-dense foods to cover nutrient requirements. A failure to meet nutrient intake during this age also has lifelong consequences, warns the FNG analysis.

Pakistanis stay glued to Google in 2024

Queries range from showbiz to sports to food recipes

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: Google's Year in Search 2024 released on Tuesday a captivating narrative of Pakistan's digital landscape, one where sports, entertainment, food and technology kept the users hooked to Google, showcasing the nation's content preferences.

Cricket, as it usually does, dominated search trends, with the ICC T20 World Cup capturing the nation's attention. Searches for PSL 2024 schedules and matchups, alongside queries for star players like Shoaib Malik and Sajid Khan, further demonstrated Pakistan's love for the game.

Olympic gold medallist Arshad Nadeem also attracted significant attention from Pakistani users after he won the first gold medal for the country in almost three decades.

This enthusiasm for notable figures extended beyond the sports world, with searches for showbiz personalities Sana Javed and Zoya Nasir, Indian business tycoon Mukesh Ambani, and social media figures Haroom Shah and Minahil Malik.

Entertainment also held a prominent place in Pakistan's digital landscape, with the enduring appeal of Pakistani dramas evident in searches for shows like *Ishq Murshid* and *Kabhi Main Kabhi Tum*. Bollywood films like *Animal*, *Dunki*, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*, and *Stree 2* also generated buzz, along with reality show *Bigg Boss* and the eagerly awaited *Mirzapur Season 3*.

Beyond entertainment, Pakistanis turned to Google for a taste of culinary delights, with searches for recipes ranging from banana bread and creamy pasta to local favourites like *mulpuro* and *naan kulchi*. The popularity of quick bites like garlic bread and egg noodles, along with seasonal drinks like peach iced tea, further showcased the nation's diverse palate.

On the tech front, searches for Gemini, and Remaker AI highlighted the growing interest in AI tools, while queries for the latest smartphones, including models from Infinix, Redmi, Vivo and Apple, demonstrated a desire to stay connected.

"How to" searches revealed a practical side, with queries about polling stations reflecting the election year and searches on making flowers last longer showcasing everyday creativity. Parenting tips, particularly on teaching sharing to four-year-olds, highlighted the importance of family values.

"This year's Year in Search reveals a Pakistan that is both deeply rooted in its traditions and eagerly embracing the possibilities of the digital age. From the cricket pitch to the kitchen, from the silver screen to the search bar, Pakistanis are using Google to explore their passions, connect with their culture, and shape their future. AI has been integral to reimagining what Search can do, and we're looking forward to expanding on our capabilities to help Pakistanis discover more of the web and the world around them," said Farhan Qureshi, Google's Country Director for Pakistan.

Google's Year in Search 2024 offers an interesting outlook of Pakistan's digital preferences, where tradition and modernity blend seamlessly.

Google's annual year-end lists for this year comprise the following six categories:

Cricket: T20 World Cup, Pakistan vs England, Pakistan vs Bangladesh, Pakistan vs Australia, Pakistan vs India, PSL 2024 Schedule, Pakistan vs USA, India vs England, India vs South Africa, and India vs England.

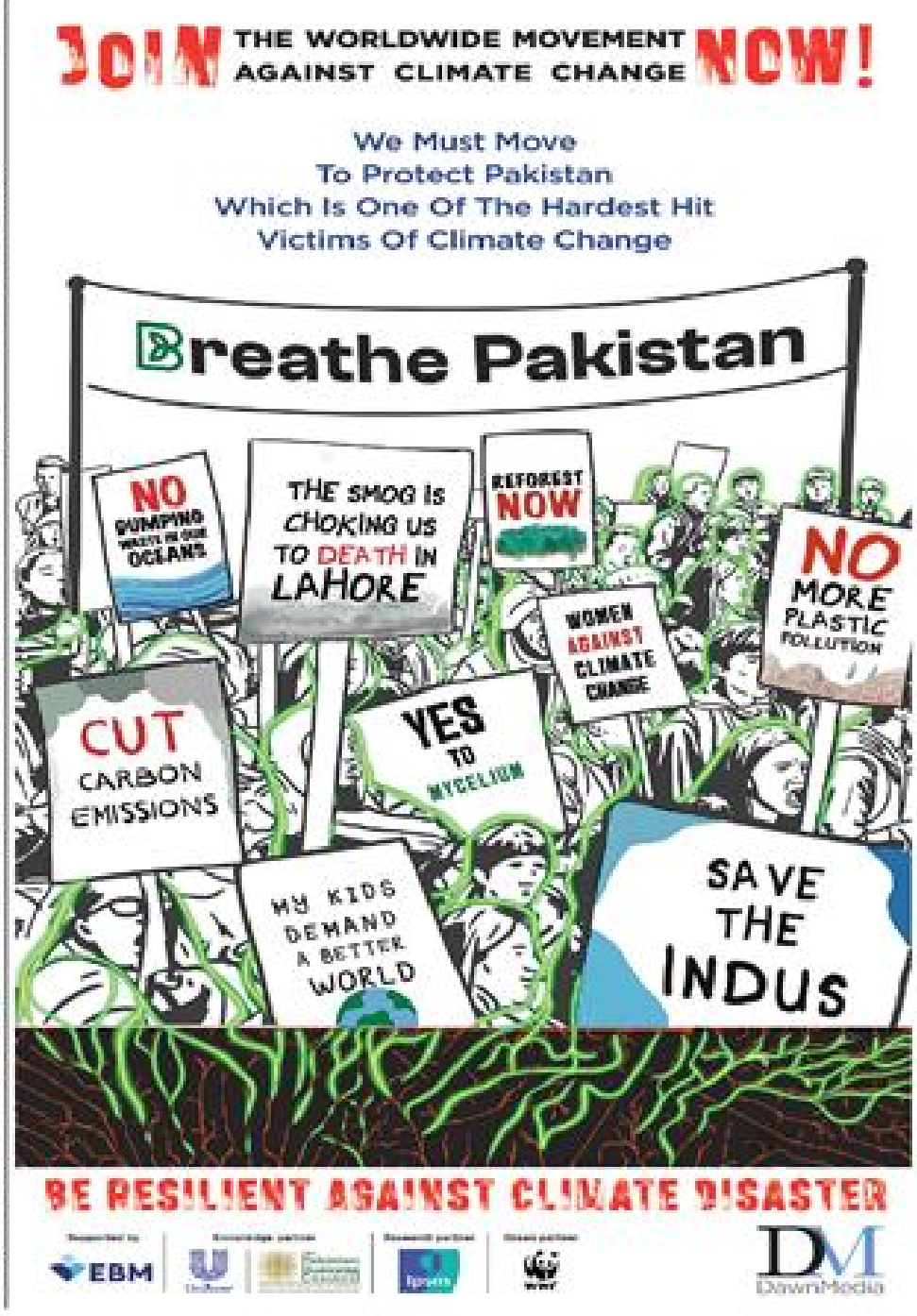
People: Abbas Attar, Eid Adhan, Arshad Nadeem, Sana Javed, Sajid Khan, Shoaib Malik, Haroon Shah, Minahil Malik, Zoya Nasir, and Mukesh Ambani.

Movies & Drama: *Barsaatein*, *12th Fail*, *Animal*, *Mirzapur Season 3*, *Stree 2*, *Ishq Murshid*, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*, *Dunki*, *Bigg Boss 17*, and *Kabhi Main Kabhi Tum*.

How to: How to check polling station; how to make millions before grandma dies; how to buy a used car; how to make flowers last longer; how to download YouTube videos in pc; how to earn without investment; how to teach my four-year-old to share; how to get a green stain out of jeans; how to start working out again after knee injury; and, how to watch world cup live.

Recipes: Banana bread recipe; *mulpuro* recipe; garlic bread recipe; chocolate chip cookie recipe; *taraabdeji* recipe; peach iced tea recipe; creamy pasta recipe; pizza recipe; egg noodle recipe; and, hash brown recipe.

Tools: Chatgpt login; Bing image creator; Infinix note 30; Vivo y100; Gemini; Infinix hot 50 pro; Redmi note 13; iPhone15 pro max; Infinix note 40; and Remaker ai.



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Silk Road Culture Centre opened in Islamabad

By Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD: The inauguration of the Silk Road Culture Centre (SRCC) took place on Tuesday, drawing ambassadors, diplomats and cultural enthusiasts from Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

The organisers said the event marked the beginning of a new chapter in fostering international cultural understanding and collaboration.

SRCC Chairman Jamal Shah appreciated the participating nations for their contributions, which included artworks, cultural artifacts, and other exhibits that highlighted the rich and diverse heritage of the Silk Road nations.

"The remarkable cooperation and generosity of our international partners have truly brought the spirit of the Silk Road to life," he remarked, adding, "This centre now stands as a vibrant space for cultural exchange, reflection, and learning, created through the collective efforts of many."

He emphasised the SRCC's mission as a symbol of unity and diversity, aimed at promoting mutual respect among nations. The centre plans to host exhibitions, workshops, performances, and educational programmes that celebrate the historical Silk Road's shared legacy, inspiring future generations to value cultural diversity.

Gratitude was expressed to the event's sponsors and partners, including Zong Pakistan, Serena Hotel Islamabad and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Hunerkada Islamabad, and the Sir Syed Memorial Society (SSMS), for their critical role in bringing the vision of the SRCC to life.

A significant development announced at the event was the inclusion of SRCC under the SSMS governing body, ensuring a robust foundation for its future initiatives. Additionally, SRCC will host a Sir Syed Research Centre, focused on academic excellence, cultural studies, and innovation inspired by the legacy of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

"The SRCC is more than a venue. It is a platform where art, history, and tradition converge to create meaningful connections," said Mr Shah. "This iconic building symbolises the strength of cultural collaboration and the beauty of togetherness."

The inauguration served as a commitment to the transformative power of cultural exchange in promoting global harmony. As the SRCC opened its doors, it aspired to become a cornerstone of cultural and academic excellence, uniting nations and individuals in the spirit of shared understanding and respect, the organisers of the event maintained.

Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan Albert P. Khorev said that the centre would serve as another bright spot on Islamabad's cultural map.

"It will serve the purpose of raising mutual awareness of the cultures along the great historical route. The Russian culture is one of the jewels in this regard, comprising great masterpieces of architecture, music, theatre, painting, and other forms of art, which represent our national character and diversity of ethnic and religious groups. They all peacefully coexist and enrich each other," the Russian envoy said.

"I am confident of the centre's commitment to developing joint projects, and promoting intellectual and cultural exchanges in the region," Albert Khorev said.

Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin congratulated Mr Shah on establishing the centre. "The ancient Silk route was a network connecting nations across the entire Eurasian continent. Besides trade, it was also about developing cultural ties, exploring new civilizations, new traditions and customs. We believe that such initiative can help us today in terms of reviving those relations, enjoyed in the past," Ambassador Kistafin said.

He informed his audience that Kazakhstan for centuries served as a bridge connecting east and west and was part of the ancient Silk Road. "Our embassy is delighted to contribute to the centre," said the ambassador.

Two women die in twin cities

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: Two women died in separate incidents in the twin cities on Tuesday, police said.

In the first incident, a woman was found dead in a flat under unexplained circumstances in the jurisdiction of Margalla police station.

According to the police, the management of the flat found the dead woman. The police were then informed who reached the flat and shifted the body to the hospital.

The girl was 23-year-old and was a resident of F-7 sector, police said.

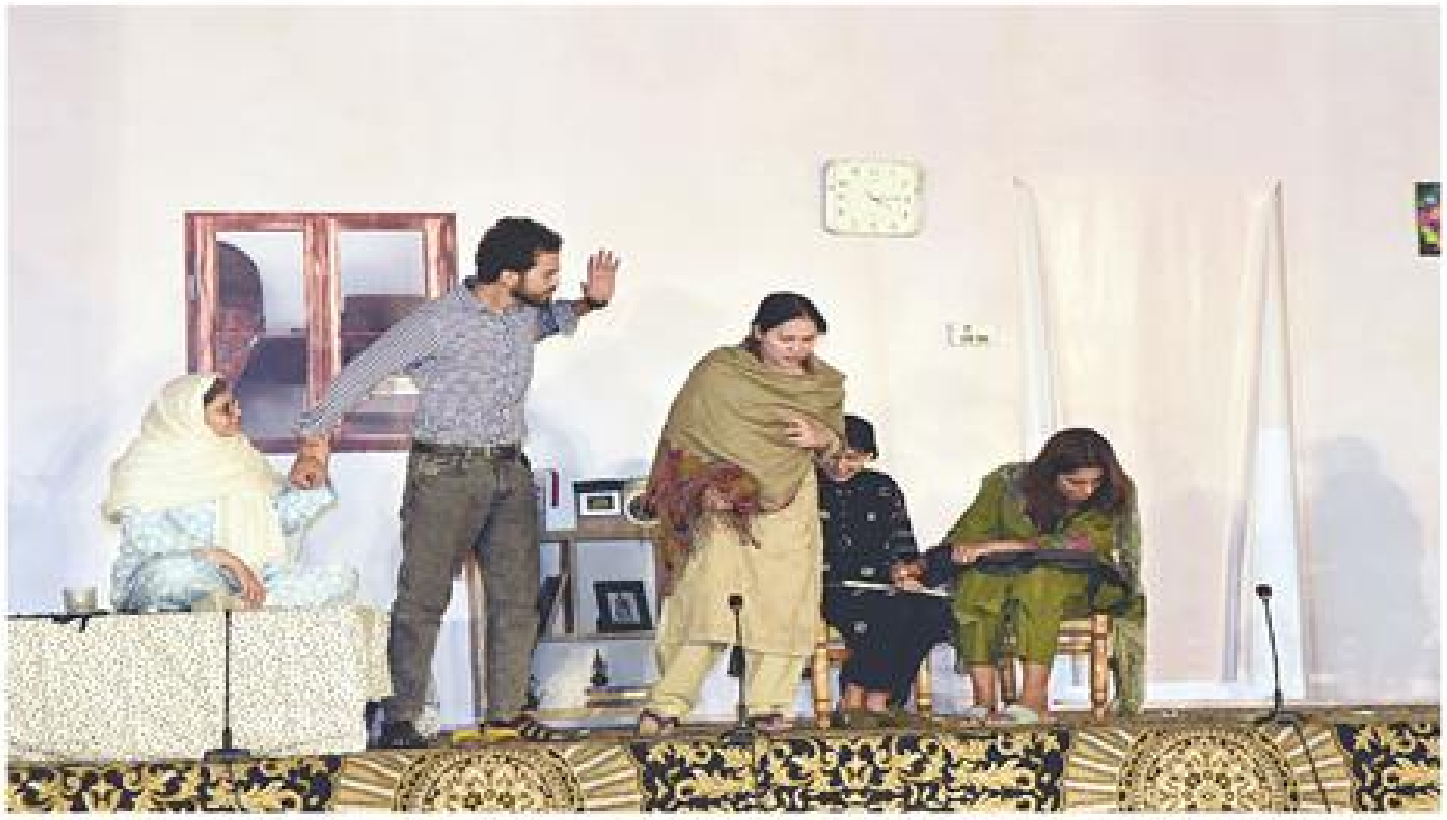
Preliminary investigation suggested that a man had booked the flat on Monday morning and later came there along with the girl. Both stayed there and later the man left the flat. On suspicion, the staff broke into the flat and found the woman dead. The police said there was no mark of injury on the body, however, the cause of death would be established after autopsy. After the girl's identification, her family was approached and informed about her death.

In the other incident, a woman committed suicide in Ratta Amral area.

Police said the woman allegedly killed herself after taking poison — usually kept in houses for cleaning washrooms — after a quarrel with her husband. The victim was rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) after her condition deteriorated but could not survive.

Meanwhile, two young men who were critically injured in a road accident on Lahore High Court Road were shifted to Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH).

They were stated to be in critical condition.—Staff Reporter



ARTISTS perform a play on elimination of gender-based violence at Pak-China Friendship Centre in Islamabad on Tuesday.—Online

Speakers call for addressing shortcomings to tackle gender-based violence

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: A high-level panel of speakers including policy makers, human rights activists and judge of the Supreme Court on Tuesday urged society and institutions to look into the shortcomings for addressing gender-based violence cases.

They were attending a seminar to commemorate International Human Rights Day, under the theme 'Linking Rights to a Future Free from Gender-Based Violence', and celebrating the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The event was organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Justice Ayesha A. Malik of the Supreme Court of Pakistan called for urgent action against gender-based violence and emphasised the deep-seated imbalance between men and women that was entrenched in societal and cultural norms.

She called for societal outrage over the rise in sexual violence, particularly against minors and women.

"The violation of a woman's dignity must not be tolerated," she said, adding that resistance to gathering accurate data hampers efforts to understand and address the crisis.

"Without data, there can be no comprehensive understanding of the problem, let alone a solution," Justice Malik noted, lamenting that the current lack of clarity about domestic violence statistics complicates efforts to tackle this crime effectively.

She criticised the judgmental attitudes faced by women in GBV cases, a problem deeply rooted in subcontinental culture, where women were frequently accused of lying.

This lack of a gender perspective weakens the narrative around GBV and perpetuates societal biases. Justice Malik concluded by calling for gender-based violence to be treated as a priority.

Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted the critical need for educational reforms to address gender-based violence, especially in public schools.

She also pointed out that stigma and societal discrimination continued to suppress women's voices and perpetuate violence.

Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri addressed challenges in the implementation of existing laws, highlighting the gaps in data collection and public awareness regarding avenues for reporting violence. She called for reforms in the police and judicial systems to better support victims of gender-based violence.

Secretary General of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) Harris Khaliqu discussed the alarming global statistics on gender-based violence, noting that one in three women experienced physical or psychological trauma, with even higher rates in Pakistan.

Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) Chairman Riffat Inam Butt underlined the necessity of improving data collection and ensuring access to legal resources for women.

Development Councillor at the British High Commission Andrew Bowden echoed the need to break societal taboos around gender-based violence.

He emphasised that empowering women economically and ensuring gender equality in development were key priorities for UK's global mission.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri emphasised that sustainable development was incomplete without incorporating human rights and gender equity.

UN Women

"The Rolling Resistance: Theatre on Wheels campaign', a cornerstone of UN Women Pakistan's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, reached its conclusion on Tuesday at the Pak-China Friendship Centre.

The groundbreaking initiative, which has travelled across Pakistan, delivered its poignant message of #KoiBawaarNahi (#NoExcuse) to a national audience, sparking dialogue and inspiring collective action against gender-based violence (GBV).

UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Mohamed Yahya highlighted the United Nations' commitment to supporting gender equality.

"As we conclude this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, I want to honour the resilience of survivors of domestic violence. These women and girls have faced unimaginable pain, yet their courage to rebuild their lives inspires us all," Mr Yahya said.

Country Representative Designate UN Women Pakistan Jamshed Kazi opened the event, emphasising the campaign's transformative journey.

"Gender-based violence is not merely a women's issue; it is a profound human rights crisis that impacts every aspect of society. Achieving gender equality and eradicating gender-based violence requires the unwavering dedication of individuals, organisations, and institutions. Campaigns like Rolling Resistance and The Inkvisible exemplify the power of collaboration and the transformative potential of united efforts," Mr Kazi said.

Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environment Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to gender equality, saying, "the government of Pakistan is committed to ensuring that Pakistan becomes a country where women and girls can thrive without the shadow of violence".

The concluding candle lighting ceremony brought together attendees in a solemn moment of reflection and unity, symbolising the shared resolve to illuminate the path toward a violence-free society.

ATC sends 146 PTI workers on judicial remand

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday sent 146 PTI workers, including a 14-year-old teenager, on judicial remand following the expiration of their physical remand.

The individuals were arrested in connection with PTI's D-Chowk protest.

On Tuesday, the prosecution requested ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra an additional 20-day physical remand of the accused, but the defence lawyer strongly opposed the plea, particularly highlighting the case of the 14-year-old teenager.

The defence counsel argued that the adolescent, who had recently arrived in Pakistan for medical treatment with his widowed mother, was wrongfully implicated in the case.

The court was informed that no incriminating evidence or items were recovered from the youngster.

Judge Sipra inquired about evidence linking the teenager to the protests and expressed concerns over police handling of the case, noting that the accusations appeared to lack physical corroboration.

Ultimately, the court rejected the prosecution's plea for extended physical remand and ordered that all 146 individuals be sent to judicial custody.

In a separate case, the ATC extended the identification parade of 54 PTI workers arrested in connection with a case filed with Khanna police station.

The police had requested an additional three days for the identification process, but Judge Sipra granted only a two-day extension, emphasising the high court's directive that identification parades be completed within three days.

The judge instructed that the suspects be produced before the court after the revised timeline, underlining the importance of timely judicial procedures.

Interim bail granted to Omar Ayub

Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub secured interim bail in five separate cases related to protests.

The additional district and sessions court in Islamabad granted bail in cases registered with Bhara Kahu, Koral and Aabpara police stations.

Judge Raja Asif Mahmood approved Ayub's bail in three cases with bonds set at Rs10,000 each, while Judge Mohammad Afzal Majoka granted bail in another case with a bond of Rs5,000. The courts have directed the police to present case records by December 21.

Ruling coalition's constituencies in Pindi get Rs4.7bn uplift projects

Four constituencies won by opposition in Rawalpindi district ignored

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab government has released Rs4.72 billion for at least 205 development schemes to be executed in 15 out of 19 national and provincial constituencies of Rawalpindi district by March end.

The provincial government has released Rs295 million for each constituency, barring the four constituencies won by the opposition, and asked the district administration to start work by the end of December and finish it by the end of March. Interestingly, Rs295 million each was allocated for development schemes for the winner and runner-up candidates in NA-52 Gujar Khan. PPP's Raja Pervez Ashraf defeated PML-N's Raja Javed Ikhlas in this constituency.

A senior official of the district administration told *Dawn* that the Punjab government sought development schemes from PML-N and PPP lawmakers from the district to the tune of Rs1 billion for each constituency but it asked them to prioritise schemes under Rs295 million in the first phase.

He said that for the last five months, PML-N and PPP lawmakers pressed the Punjab government for development works in their constituencies and finally, the government released the funds for the first phase of the development schemes.

The Punjab government secured the funds under the block allocation and the local MPAs and MNAs will get money after convincing the government about the welfare schemes. He said that more funds would be allocated in March for the remaining schemes in the district.

There are total 13 seats of the Punjab Assembly in the district: the ruling PML-N won nine seats, the Sunni Ittehad Council won three seats, while one seat was won by Majlis Wahdat-i-Muslimeen.

There are six seats of the National Assembly in the district and the PML-N won five seats and one seat was grabbed by the PPP. The constituencies in which the PTI-backed SIC and the MWM won elections did not get any projects.

As per the plan, the Local government and Community Development Department will start Rs3.628 billion development works in the district, including 19 schemes worth Rs295 million in NA-52; 29 schemes worth Rs295 million in NA-53; nine schemes worth Rs295 million in NA-54; three schemes worth Rs45 million in NA-55; 10 schemes worth Rs135 million in NA-56; six schemes worth Rs295 million in NA-57; 10 schemes worth Rs295 in PP-07; six schemes worth Rs254 million in PP-09; four schemes worth Rs295 million in PP-10; five schemes worth Rs225 million in PP-11; eight schemes worth Rs295m in PP-12; four schemes worth Rs164 million in PP-14; seven schemes worth Rs117 million in PP-15; six schemes worth Rs235 million in PP-16; and two schemes worth Rs90 million in PP-17. For NA-52, the PML-N ticket-holder got Rs295m for 23 development schemes.

In 15 constituencies, Rs490 million will be spent on water and sanitation works.

The Water and Sanitation Agency will execute eight schemes in NA-56 worth Rs160 million; two schemes worth Rs70 million in PP-11; one scheme worth Rs60 million in PP-16; and 12 schemes worth Rs200 million in PP-17.

The Public Health and Engineering (PHE) Department will launch 37 uplift schemes worth Rs581 million, including Rs250 million for 19 schemes in NA-55.

Moreover, two schemes worth Rs40.2 million in PP-09; 10 schemes worth Rs128.5 million in PP-14; and six projects worth Rs163 million in PP-16 will be executed by the PHE.

The Parks and Horticulture Authority will launch one scheme worth Rs5 million in PP-17 while the Communication and Works Department will start two schemes worth Rs35 million in PP-15.

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Balochistan PAC concerned at dormant accounts, unused funds

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Balochistan Assembly on Tuesday expressed serious concern over dormant bank accounts of different departments, unused public funds and delay in land compensation.

The committee's meeting, which discussed these issues in detail, was presided over by PAC chairman Asghar Ali Tareen. It was attended by PAC members Zabad Ali Reki, Ghulam Dastgir Badini, Noor Mohammad Damrani and senior government officials.

The meeting was informed that the deputy commissioner of Quetta holds 33 bank accounts and nine of them are dormant with Rs310 million deposited in these accounts.

Across different districts, the meeting was further informed, hundreds of dormant accounts hold Rs464 million in unused funds. These funds have not been used for years, benefiting only private banks. The PAC ordered immediate closure of all dormant bank accounts and transfer of funds to the national treasury.

The committee also expressed serious concern over the delay in using funds meant to be used for public welfare, such as compensation for land acquisition. PAC Chairman Asghar Ali Tareen stressed the need for compensating landowners. The deputy commissioner of Quetta reported that out of the Rs1.2 billion allocated for land acquisition, only Rs570 million remained unspent.

Discrepancies in account numbers were also discussed in the PAC meeting. The deputy commissioner of Panjgur reported having one account, but the State Bank of Pakistan revealed that there were 11 bank accounts connected to the DC's office, with unused funds still unallocated. Similarly, the deputy commissioner of Gwadar said his office has 10 bank accounts, but the State Bank of Pakistan report showed that the DC's office holds 43 accounts, with Rs142.3 million remaining unused since 2015.

The meeting was further informed that the bank accounts held by the DC of Gwadar alone holds Rs1.428 billion in unused funds.

The meeting instructed immediate closure of all inactive bank accounts, with funds transferred to the national treasury.

The deputy commissioners were directed to resolve discrepancies in bank account numbers in consultation with the Board of Revenue and the finance department. The deputy commissioner of Gwadar was told at the meeting that he, along with the director general of audit, must submit a detailed report on the land acquisition case in Gwadar to the PAC.

The committee also emphasised that the unused funds should be re-allocated to other projects or deposited into the national treasury after consultation.

Zabad Ali Reki praised the PAC's actions, stating that Rs464 million had already been transferred to the national treasury from dormant bank accounts.

Chairman Asghar Ali Tareen reaffirmed the PAC's commitment to transparency and accountability in managing public funds. He said the PAC will continue to monitor these issues closely.

Cabinet okays deal with eight IPPs to cut power costs

Continued from Page 1

stands at about Rs36 per unit excluding taxes and duties.

During the cabinet meeting, the prime minister said the government was taking all possible steps to reduce electricity prices for citizens.

He emphasised that national interests should always be prioritised in every decision and action. He said promotion of the private sector and industries in the country was a priority for the government.

The federal cabinet was also briefed on the latest situation in Syria and the evacuation of Pakistanis from there. It was informed that out of 250 Pakistani pilgrims in Syria, 79 had reached Beirut, from where they would be brought back to Pakistan. Additionally, out of 20 teachers and students in Syria, seven teachers had also reached Beirut.

The meeting was informed that officials of the Pakistani embassies in Syria and Lebanon were taking all possible measures to ensure the safe return of Pakistanis from Syria.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Defence Production, the cabinet approved the appointment of Brig Asim Bashir Warraich as a member of production control on the board of Heavy Industries Taxila.

The meeting also gave assent to the establishment of the National Commission for the Status of Women Fund on the recommendation of the Ministry of Human Rights.

PM pledges equal opportunities

Separately, addressing a ceremony marking International Human Rights Day, PM Shehbaz said the government was committed to providing equal opportunities to all communities living in the country so that they could excel in different fields of life.

He said the day highlighted the government's commitment to upholding the great cause of human rights and protecting them, besides empowering those communities that needed protection under the challenging circumstances.

"It is our priority, and the government is committed to providing opportunities to all on an equal basis," he added.

About 1,400 years ago, Islam and the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) had enunciated the contours of basic human rights and equality of humans, the premier said, adding that the country's founder Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, in his historic Aug 11 speech, had also advocated equal rights for all citizens regardless of creed, caste or religion.

PM Shehbaz recalled that as chief minister of Punjab, he also supported residents of other provinces with various educational and financial initiatives.

He mentioned the steps taken during his tenure as the chief minister, including the Punjab Endowment Fund and the award of scholarships and laptops on merit.

The prime minister said that the federal government recently sent 1,000 graduates from all parts of the country, including Gilgit-Baltistan, to China to seek the highest technical knowledge and education.

The prime minister commended efforts of the law minister and other stakeholders for the promotion and protection of human rights.

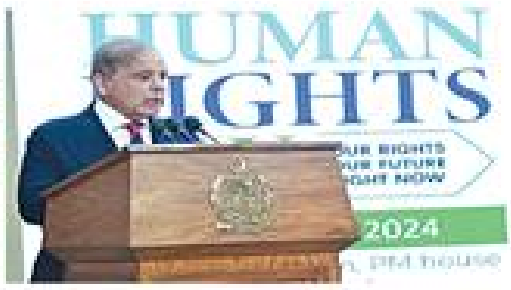
Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Azam Nazeer Tarar, in his remarks, said that on Dec 10, 1948, the world adopted the human rights declaration ensuring that there would be no discrimination among humans.

He said that almost all the provisions of the universal declaration were based upon the teachings of the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) and were also incorporated in the Constitution.

The law minister reiterated the government's commitment to removing disparity in society by upholding basic human rights.

He highlighted that the Ministry of Human Rights, in collaboration with all the provincial governments and Gilgit-Baltistan, had been working on the targets regarding women's rights.

Mr Tarar mentioned achievements of his ministry in the realms of legislation over human rights, including Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Alert, Legal Aid and Justice Authority, Awaz app, 24/7 help services over legal issues, and functioning of different commissions, including human rights and the status of women.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addresses a ceremony to mark the International Human Rights Day, on Tuesday.—APP

PIA resumes Turbat flights

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has resumed operations from Karachi to Turbat as part of its efforts to restore its network. The move is expected to boost the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, which are vital for the country's economy.

According to a PIA spokesperson, the flights from Karachi to Turbat began on December 10, with two weekly flights on Mondays and Wednesdays. He said the national flag carrier is focusing on strengthening its operations for both Turbat and Gwadar.

Earlier, following the EASA's lifting of restrictions on Pakistani flights operating to Europe, PIA announced its first flight from Islamabad to Paris on January 10, 2025. Initially, two weekly flights on Fridays and Sundays will operate, with plans to gradually increase the frequency over time.—Staff Reporter

SC ready to hear plea

Continued from Page 1

to pursue the 2022 contempt plea, pointing out that charges would be framed only in presence of the PTI founder in the court.

Headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan, the constitutional bench issued directions to seek fresh instructions when the AAG claimed the government intended to pursue the matter seriously.

The court had taken up the federal government's petition against Mr Khan for allegedly flouting the court's May 25, 2022, order of restraining PTI from holding rally near H-9 and G-9 sectors despite categorical assurances on behalf of party's top leadership and their counsel that the gathering would not cause any inconvenience to the public at large.

In its petition, the interior ministry regretted that despite assurances, PTI's top leadership, by acting in blatant disregard to the court directions, exhorted supporters to reach D-Chowk, falsely professing as if the court had allowed the march without any conditions.

The contempt plea highlighted the reports furnished by the interior ministry, Islamabad chief commissioner, police chief, ISI and IB DGs stating that PTI leadership was born upon reaching D-Chowk on Mr Khan's directions despite court order.

The government had urged the Supreme Court to also issue a comprehensive guideline for all future protests to be held in the federal capital that should also include providing prior intimation of the date, selection of the venue, assurance of not causing any hindrance to the public life and a commitment to ensure that protesters do not cause any damage to public or private property in order to safeguard fundamental rights guaranteed under the constitution.

Previously, a five-judge bench headed by then CJP Umar Ata Bandial had taken up the government's request and in his additional note, Justice Yahya Afridi had observed that Mr Khan, prima facie disobeyed May 25 court directions, therefore for the alleged disobedience, contempt proceedings should be initiated instead of calling reports from the state agencies.

On Tuesday, when the case was taken up, Justice Mandokhail highlighted that the matter of contempt was between the court and the contemnor and while pointing towards AAG, Justice Mandokhail wondered why the government was getting emotional in this matter. The court is suggesting a way out to the government, Justice Mandokhail remarked.

Meanwhile, Salman Akram Raja, representing Imran Khan, explained that the verbal order of the court had not reached Mr Khan as his lawyers could not inform him about it due to the suspension of mobile phone services.

The court, however, postponed further proceedings for an indefinite period, with directions to take fresh instructions from the government.

Military trial

The constitutional bench adjourned until Dec 12 the intra-court appeal against the Oct 23, 2023, order nullifying civilians' trial by military courts when the AAG requested for postponement as senior counsel for defense ministry Khawaja Haris Ahmed was indisposed.

The court rejected Sardar Latif Khosa's plea to transfer all the suspects arrested in connection with the May 9 incidents to normal prisons.

Advisory council launched to advance child rights

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The Unicef Pakistan Advisory Council (UPAC) was launched on Tuesday to create a platform to advance child rights in Pakistan.

The council brings together thought leaders, philanthropists and advocates who share Unicef's values and a commitment to tackling the challenges facing children, from access to education, nutrition and protection to gender barriers, frontier technologies and climate change, Unicef announced.

"This is an important moment for children in Pakistan. The council brings together a diverse network of leaders and advocates to inspire, engage and collaborate to create a more equitable Pakistan for children. The UPAC will help forge new pathways and co-create solutions that uplift children to reach their true potential," said Unicef Representative in Pakistan, Abdullah Fadil.

UPAC is co-chaired by Abdullah Fadil, Unicef Representative in Pakistan, and Murtaza Hashwani, entrepreneur and philanthropist. The council currently consists of 17 members from the business sector, civil society, media and academia who are committed to promoting child rights and bringing about a positive change in their areas of influence.

The council will convene regularly to discuss strategies, leverage their networks and resources, explore innovations, and share insights and expertise to inform Unicef's programmes and child-centred solutions.

Governor orders filling of 18 magistrate vacancies in Quetta

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffer Khan Mandokhel has directed the authorities concerned to immediately fill 18 vacant magistrate positions in Quetta.

He issued the directive during a briefing on the cleanliness drive and efforts to restore the city's reputation. It was attended by Quetta Division Commissioner Hamza Shafaat and Principal Secretary to the Governor Hashim Khan Ghilzai. The governor emphasised the severe lack of coordination and cooperation among relevant departments such as MCQ, WASA, QDA and QDP in implementing the ongoing cleanliness campaign and the restoration of the city's former grandeur.

He stressed that all stakeholders must unite and actively contribute to restoring Quetta's glory while ensuring complete interdepartmental cooperation. The governor praised the performance of the commissioner and his team, urging them to ensure that the benefits of these efforts extend to the outskirts of Quetta. He highlighted the importance of transparency and strict monitoring in all related activities.

Governor Mandokhel pointed out that cleanliness and restoration are not solely government responsibilities but a collective duty of all citizens, emphasising the need for active participation from both the government and the public to achieve these goals.

He directed the launch of an extensive public awareness campaign by the commissioner and his team to foster positive changes in citizens' mindsets and behaviours, particularly among shopkeepers. The governor called for cooperation among all relevant authorities and for efforts to motivate citizens to take ownership of cleanliness and restoration of their city.

PM ordered crackdown on PTI protesters, alleges Ayub

Continued from Page 1

led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and former first lady Bushra Bibi had to retreat from Islamabad's Blue Area due to a crackdown — everyone in the Parliament House galleries was expecting to see noisy proceedings.

However, they were surprised to see the opposition members silently listening to the firebrand defence minister, who also made some personal attacks on the opposition leader.

In the past, the opposition had several times disrupted the proceedings through noisy protests, even on petty matters, to make their point.

Wearing black armbands, several PTI members were seen entering the assembly hall carrying portraits of the party's founding chairman Imran Khan and different placards inscribed with anti-government slogans. However, they only hung these placards and posters in front of their desks and participated in the proceedings calmly.

Apparently, it all happened due to a government-PTI understanding, which was evident from the announcement made by Deputy Speaker Ghulam Mustafa Shah at the opening of the sitting that he would give the floor to the opposition leader and the government members as per the agreement reached during the House Business Advisory Committee before taking up the 40-point lengthy agenda that had been issued for the private members' day.

The deputy speaker, however, had to adjourn the sitting until Wednesday morning (today) without taking up any agenda item due to a lack of quorum pointed out by a PTI MNA Iqbal Khan, who registered his protest over the chair's refusal to give him the floor to speak on the point of order.

Opposition leader's speech

Taking the floor as the first speaker, Omar Ayub Khan demanded that an "impartial judicial commission" be constituted to ascertain "who fired the bullets and who gave the order to the security forces to open fire on peaceful and unarmed protesters".

"The hands of [PM] Shehbaz Sharif are stained with blood of Model Town [Lahore] and Nov 26 victims," alleged Mr Khan, stating that it was PM Shehbaz who ordered the forces to open fire on the PTI protesters.

Providing the data, Mr Khan claimed that 12 PTI supporters were killed, whereas more than 200 were still missing and could be placed in the category of "presumed dead". Besides, there were thousands of injured PTI supporters who were unable to get treatment at hospitals due to fear of being arrested, he said.

He also claimed that nearly 5,000 party workers were presently under police custody. He alleged that the record of Islamabad hospitals had gone missing, and the families of the deceased were being asked to sign affidavits that their loved ones had met an accidental death.

Highlighting the alleged ethnic profiling, Mr Khan accused the government and Islamabad police of targeting Pakhtuns following the PTI protest. He described how he, Mr Gandapur and Bushra Bibi evaded arrest and fled through a narrow road on Margalla Hills connecting the federal capital to KP, bypassing checkpoints and barricades.

He also alleged that the government tried to assassinate Mr Gandapur through snipers posted atop buildings. He criticised the federal government for sending Rangers officials to KP without seeking prior approval from the provincial cabinet.

He said Imran Khan had constituted a negotiation committee, which was ready to talk to anyone. However, he said, talks would take place only after the release of the party's detained workers and leaders, announcing that the party had the right to launch a "civil disobedience movement".

Govt's response

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif refuted all the allegations levelled by Mr Khan and termed his speech a lie and full of contradictions. He condemned the PTI for using the "provincial card" to further its "anti-state agenda".

He challenged the PTI to launch a civil disobedience movement, stating that it would fail like the party's previous three attempts to march towards Islamabad.

He recalled that Imran Khan had also given a similar call in 2014 and burnt some utility bills, but the people rejected his call.

Former ISI chief Faiz indicted

Continued from Page 1

alleged involvement in the May 9 riots, during which military installations and monuments were vandalised. "During the process, involvement of Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed (retd) in events related to creating agitation and unrest, leading to multiple incidents including, but not limited to May 9, 2023, for fomenting instability at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests, is also being separately investigated," the statement said.

At one point, speculation arose that Gen Hameed might turn state's witness against former prime minister Imran Khan, who is in jail on various charges. However, analysts suggest the indictment signals that such a possibility has passed.

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Note: All terms & Conditions of SPP Rules, 2010 shall be applicable. The Stamp Act and other concerned laws will be applicable.

Tender documents can be downloaded from www.siut.org/jobs-tenders.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This public notice is hereby given to the general public that, pursuant to Notification No. BPRD (ABBLD-02)/2024/5713 and No. BPRD (ABBLD-02)/2024/5714, both dated 06-09-2024, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has revoked the banking license of Industrial Development Bank Limited (IDBL). Furthermore, SBP has directed the de-scheduling of IDBL effective from 02-02-2024, the date upon which IDBL entered liquidation pursuant to the Order dated 02-02-2024, passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Sindh at Karachi in Judicial Companies Miscellaneous Petition No. 29 of 2019, filed by SBP seeking the winding up of IDBL.

In view of the foregoing, all the Depositors/Certificate Holders of IDBL (under liquidation) are requested to please withdraw their deposits/unencumbered certificates from IDBL's Branch Offices situated at Karachi & Lahore within 30 days from the date of publication.

(QASIM NAWAZ)
OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR
State Life Building No.2,
Wallace Road Off:
I.I. Chundrigar Road,
Karachi.
Ph. No. 021-99213615

Optimism about Pakistan's direction has doubled: Ipsos survey

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: Optimism about country's direction has nearly doubled in fourth quarter, as compared to third quarter, reaching its highest level in three years, with males and upper- and lower-income groups being most optimistic, claims Ipsos, a multinational market research and consulting firm that delivers information and understanding of society, markets and people, in its Consumer Confidence Index Survey.

The survey says economic concerns have significantly eased in 2024 with inflation dropping by 16 per cent as top worry among Pakistanis, marking its lowest in 3.5 years. In the survey, over 1,000 persons from the four provinces, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir were interviewed.

The report says that Pakistanis describing the country's state as strong has quadrupled since September 2023. Meanwhile, those perceiving it as weak have steadily declined by 5pc from their peak in the same month. Optimism about local economic conditions has also seen a positive shift of 20pc in Q4, with one in five Pakistanis (19pc) expecting improvements within the next six months, highest in one year.

Since last quarter, Pakistan has surpassed Turkiye in rankings for the first time in two years a positive change (1.2pts) in Global Consumer Confidence Index.

It claims that one in three Pakistanis believe that economic condition of the country is strong or moderate. Males, urbanites, higher educated and middle class seem more optimistic. Similarly, since the worst conditions in September 2023, Pakistanis have shifted their views by 6pc, moving from inability to comfortability in making household purchases.

Moreover, one in five Pakistanis expect improvements within the next six months with males and middle- and lower-income groups being more optimistic than the rich.

After a dip in third quarter, confidence among Pakistanis about future savings has rebounded in fourth quarter. However, confidence in the ability to make major purchases continues to decline, with only 4pc of Pakistanis feeling comfortable making major purchases in fourth quarter.

The report claims that confidence in job security continues to show stability since second quarter, retaining the highest point in over three years.

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DAWN

OPINION

Madressah politics

THE sensitive yet essential process of madressah reform seems to have fallen victim to politics, as the war of words over the Societies Registration (Amendment) Act, 2024, continues between the ruling coalition and the JUI-F. The bill in question, championed by Maulana Fazlur Rehman's party, deals with the registration process of madressahs and was passed by parliament, but has not been given assent by the president due to "technical flaws". The maulana suspects foul play, and has accused the ruling parties of backtracking on their commitment to pass the law in exchange for the JUI-F's support for the passage of the 26th Amendment. But the government and several clerics beg to differ. At an official conference on Monday, a resolution supported by members of the Council of Islamic Ideology, was passed unanimously. It expressed reservations over the new bill. Moreover, the information minister said there were "legal complications" with the proposed law.

While the state and its supporters may be right about lacunae in the proposed bill, it must be asked why parliament passed a legally defective or controversial bill in the first place. It appears that the PML-N and PPP hamstrung Maulana Fazl just to get the 26th Amendment passed, and are now reluctant to approve the new madressah law. While such tactics may be part of politics, an issue as important as madressah reform should not fall prey to internecine struggles and palace intrigues; it needs consensus from all stakeholders. The proposed changes the JUI-F is pushing for would do away with the Directorate General of Religious Education, and hand back the powers of oversight of seminaries to deputy commissioners. This is not a wise idea as madressah reform should move forward, not backwards.

Ideally, all madressahs should be registered with the respective provincial education departments. Maulana Fazl has said madressahs shall not surrender their 'autonomy'. However, autonomy cannot mean exception from state oversight. From the period of the Afghan jihad onwards, there has been a mushroom growth of religious schools in Pakistan. Thousands of these institutions remain unregistered, and there are fears that they may be imparting extremist or sectarian views to the impressionable young students who attend them. Therefore, the state as well as the ulema must remain cognisant of the necessity for every madressah to be registered with the administration, while the funds they receive must be audited transparently. Beyond administrative issues, the curriculum they teach must be free of hate and prejudice, while madressah students need to be taught life skills to later contribute to the economy. Naturally, the clerical class will resist state oversight of 'their' domain, but all religious schools need to adhere to common standards. Therefore, both the ruling parties as well as the JUI-F should resolve this issue amicably.

Targeting travellers

THE country's top tax authority seems to have run out of good ideas. According to news reports, the Federal Board of Revenue first proposed, then withdrew new baggage rules for visitors travelling from abroad that could have potentially caused a lot of unnecessary inconvenience to ordinary people. According to the proposed regulations, the FBR had suggested that anything travellers brought into the country that was deemed to be 'for trading purposes' and was valued at more than $1,200 would be seized by customs authorities. Such goods, once seized, would also not be released, even if the affected party was willing to pay customs duties, taxes and fines, the proposal stated. The proposal further suggested that travellers should not be allowed to bring in more than two phones — one for personal use and one additional — and even the additional phone would be released only on payment of duties and fines.

Why this proposal was floated defies understanding, considering that its aim was not to enhance revenue collection. The FBR seemingly believed these measures would help curb smuggling, but the truth is that very similar measures in the past have already failed to make a meaningful dent in the '*khepia*' racket. The *khepia* smuggling networks have continued to thrive because they operate in connivance with corrupt individuals within the administrative machinery, for whom such regulations mean nothing. Secondly, the proposed regulations placed too much arbitrary power in the hands of customs officials. If the purpose of the goods and their value was to be fixed based on 'prima facie' assessments, as the proposal suggested, this would have exposed ordinary travellers to being harassed during baggage checks and faced with the possibility that their precious baggage could be seized merely on an individual's assessment. Additionally, considering these measures were floated at very short notice before the winter holiday season, there was bound to be much commotion at airports as unaware passengers faced off with airport officials over the rules. It appears that, as the pressure grows on the tax authority to meet its targets, it wants to give the impression that it is thinking outside the box. However, targeting travellers coming to the country was no solution to the massive problems it faces. The FBR would be better served by targeted action against smuggling networks and weeding out bad actors within its ranks.

Grieving elephants

FOR most, the news will perhaps not even register. Another elephant has died in captivity in Pakistan. The death is just the latest in a long line of elephants lost by Pakistani zookeepers to preventable causes. Saheli was the first to die; in 2012, she succumbed to injuries from the chains she was bound in by the Islamabad Zoo. Her surviving partner, Kaavan, came to be known as the "world's loneliest elephant"; he only found sanctuary in Cambodia in 2020 after an international effort. In the interim, Lahore Zoo lost its only elephant, Suzi, in 2017, again to injuries caused by neglect. Last year, Karachi Zoo lost Noor Jehan despite frantic efforts to cure her of a protracted illness. Her sister, Madhubala, grieved alone for more than a year before she was recently shifted to Karachi's Safari Park to be with her remaining sisters, Sonia and Malika.

Alas, tragedy followed her there, and Sonia tragically passed away on Sunday, less than two weeks after being reunited with Madhubala. Initial reports state Sonia may have died of sudden heart failure, although this will be confirmed once the findings of an autopsy are released. Elephants are highly empathetic creatures who feel grief and stress and mourn the loss of their dead. One wonders what effect Sonia's passing will have on Madhubala, who has now lost two companions in two years. These gentle giants display traits similar to those exhibited by human beings. It is perhaps for this reason that they are loved and revered, even worshipped, in cultures around the world. They are also known to be compassionate, even helping other species when they see them in distress. This makes the stories of Pakistan's long-suffering elephants all the more tragic. They have not been treated with the care and kindness they deserve. Perhaps it would be better if they, like Kaavan, were shipped off to gentler hosts. We clearly do not deserve them.

BY ZAHID HUSSAIN

A geopolitical cauldron

Transition will not be easy in a divided country that has just evicted a decades-old dictatorship.

YET another authoritarian regime has fallen. The Syrian rebellion has swept away the Assad family's 53-year tyrannical rule. It was a protracted struggle that had left hundreds of thousands of people dead and displaced millions. But the end was swift. A demoralised Syrian army melted away in the face of the rebel onslaught. Bashar al-Assad has fled and the country awaits a new political order.

What happens next will decide the fate of the fragmented nation and will also have far-reaching geopolitical implications that could drastically alter the political map of the Middle East. Syria has long been a geopolitical cauldron with various contending regional and world powers being directly or indirectly involved in its civil war. The overthrow of the Assad regime has drastically changed the regional power matrix.

A new power game seems to have already started, with some regional countries vying for influence over the course of Syria's political trajectory. The fall of one of the world's longest dictatorships in modern times has come at a point when the entire region is in deep turmoil. Israel's ongoing genocidal war in Gaza and its military action against Lebanon has made the situation extremely dangerous. The Zionist regime, which has been engaged in an undeclared war against Syria for long, is now taking full advantage of the prevailing uncertainty there and has extended its occupation of the border region. Israel's latest military action has alarmed countries in the neighbourhood.

However, the most important question is what happens in Syria now. So far, no major incident of violence has been reported from any part of the country after the fall of Bashar al-Assad. But the situation is tenuous, with disparate rebel militias controlling the country. Will these groups, with their differing interests and external links, agree on a common agenda for a future political set-up? Some of them are proxies of regional countries, and not independent actors. That makes any transition extremely complex.

The most powerful group that has spearheaded the uprising is the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). A breakaway faction of Al Qaeda, it was designated a terrorist group by the US, Turkiye and several other countries. Although the leader of the group, Ahmed al-Sharaa, whose nom de guerre is Abo Mohammed al-Jolani, seems to have moderated his views, his past association with transnational jihadi organisations, including the so-called Islamic State group, has attracted international suspicion.

There is also a fear that the change could lead to another period of authoritarian rule dominated by radical Islamists. But the recent statement by the group leadership may dispel these concerns. Moreover, the other groups which dominate parts of the country may not allow the establishment of a radical religious order.

Among other groups who played a key role in bringing down the Assad regime are the Syrian National Army, backed by Turkiye, and the Kurdish Peoples Protection Units, that controls a part of the territory in the north. It remains to be seen if these diverse groups can agree on a democratic political process. A transitional set-up seems to be in the works but the next biggest challenge would be to hold elections to establish a representative democratic order in the country.

It will certainly not be easy in a divided country that has just evicted a family dictatorship of long standing. Transition is never easy in a fractured political environment with a complex mosaic of power groups espousing diverse ideologies and interests. The deep involvement of external forces will be a strong factor in how things develop in post-revolution Syria.

The overthrow of the Assad regime will reshape regional politics. Several countries, including the US, Russia, Iran, Israel and Turkiye, have a military presence in Syria. Russia and Iran had for long militarily backed the Assad regime in fighting the rebellion that began 13 years ago. With direct military support from these two countries, the regime managed to contain the revolt but could not entirely crush the rebel forces. The inability of these countries to come to the regime's rescue at the end led to Assad's fall.

While Russia is bogged down in its own war in Ukraine, a badly weakened Iran, facing a setback in Israel's war against Tehran's close ally Hezbollah in Lebanon, was not in a position to help the tottering regime. Tehran seems to have come out as the biggest loser in the fast shifting sands of regional geopolitics in the aftermath of the Syrian dictatorship's overthrow.

Moscow is still keeping its airbase and naval facility in the country, but it will not be possible for it to maintain its military presence in the country for long. Moscow's stakes have further fallen with its decision to provide asylum to the ousted Syrian leader and his family. Among the regional countries, Turkiye perhaps wields more power to influence the future course of politics in Syria, given its significant clout with some of the rebel groups in control of certain areas in the country. Ankara also has a military presence in Syrian territory.

America, too, has maintained a military base in Syria's Kurdistan region, with some troops there ostensibly to counter the IS, which is still active in some parts of the country. But Israel remains the biggest destabilising factor in the region, taking full advantage of the uncertain situation in Syria.

Since the fall of the Assad government, Israel has seized more territory in Syria's Golan Heights, tearing up the 1974 agreement between the two countries. But it doesn't stop there. Some ministers of Israel's far-right government are now talking about extending the push further to Damascus. Meanwhile, Israel has continued air strikes on military bases deep inside Syria. It is a dangerous situation. Such bellicosity could affect Syria's search for political stability and threaten the security of the entire region. ■

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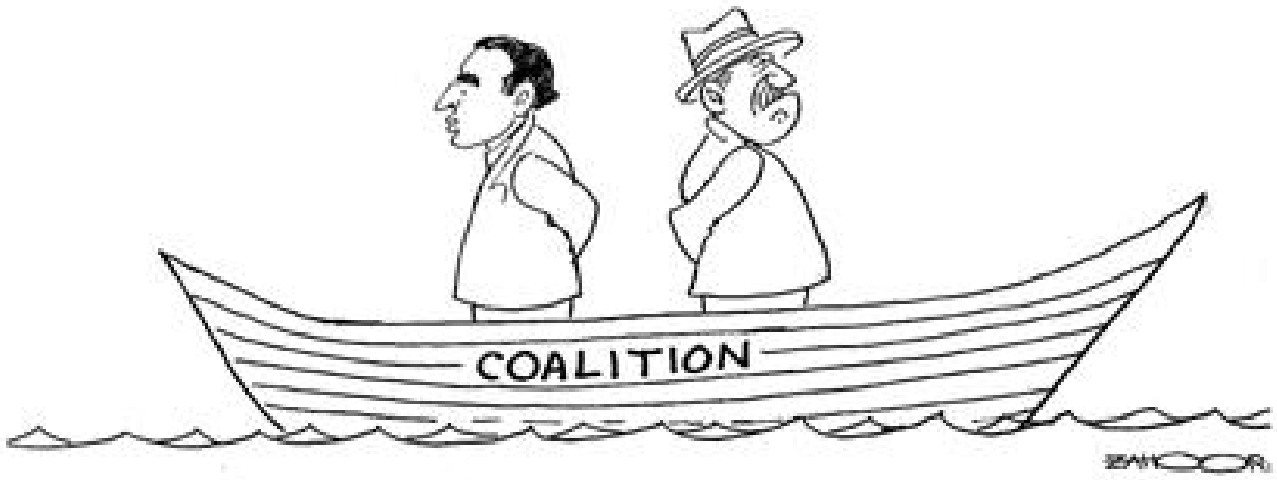

BY RAFIA ZAKARIA

Hooked on artificial intelligence

WHAT if you could tell all your life problems to someone and they would help you deal with them? While most of the conversation around artificial intelligence has focused on what it can do in the business, marketing and knowledge contexts, one increasingly popular iteration is the construction of AI 'companions'. Admittedly, the term 'companion' may be an exaggeration in the sense that the people using these companions to confide in know that they are not real. At the same time, in the words of one user who spoke to a newspaper, they can often be more attentive, responsive, and concerned than any 'real' friends.

Welcome to the realm of AI as a means of talk therapy or just some everyday companionship. It is well known that we live in a world where loneliness has become an epidemic — this does not necessarily mean the physical absence of other people but a sense of alienation even from those that may be around. In Pakistan, for instance, a house or apartment may have many people living in it. But despite the physical proximity, there is little emotional closeness or interaction even between spouses, let alone in other relationships. Resentments, generational differences, money problems, personality clashes, the inability to resolve conflict are all reasons why people often feel estranged from one another. In this sense, 'loneliness' is not only a "Western' epidemic, as it is often imagined to be, but also one that afflicts people everywhere in our modern age.

The creators of AI know this. Enter apps like character.ai, that allow users to create personas based on characters from film or television or even those having certain characteristics such as 'kindness' or 'patience'. These chatbots then interact with you as you tell them all your problems. One friend who is a user told me that she told her AI 'therapist' the problems she was having communicating with her teenage daughter and getting her to take more interest in her studies. The bot helped her come up with a plan of how she should communicate with her daughter. Another friend just uses the app to combat the loneliness she feels after having moved to a new city. The chatbot talks to her just like an actual friend would, and is always present, free and interested in her life.

Undoubtedly, the idea of AI as confidant relies on a central deception; the users know that they have created the bot and that it is not, in fact, an actual person. However, a story was recently reported in the press in which a user of the app said that as her interaction with the bot got deeper and more involved, she tended to 'forget' that she was in fact speaking to a non-living entity. The same three dots appear when the bot is typing a message as the ones that do when a human is at the other end. Unlike humans, the bot is refreshingly judgement-free, also actually free (unlike a human counsellor or therapist) and available all the time. It is like the ultimate friend or therapist, since it has no costs attached nor any human needs of its own.

> Welcome to the realm of AI as a means of talk therapy, or just some everyday companionship.

But before everyone rushes to character.ai or similar apps and sites to avail this option of creating a confidant that knows all your secrets and will never tell others about them, caution is necessary. These apps are provided by companies, which will ultimately own the data that you pour into them. This means that the data can be used to manipulate you further into different kinds of consumption choices that are better for the company than they are for you.

Second, AI is not always good or correct (as even users of ChatGPT will tell you). They can provide advice that is simply wrong. In the case of one user, the bot started to convince her that her boyfriend did not really love her and provided other similarly annoying suggestions that ultimately led her to delete the bot. Finally, in terms of human connection, reliance on such bots is likely to make people in their real lived experiences interact even less with the people around them. So in the long run, they may actually make people even lonelier than they were to begin with.

In places where mental health services may not be easily accessible for reasons of cost, time, etc, AI is increasingly coming to be regarded as 'therapy'. Being able to talk to an entity about one's problems may provide some form of solace to people who are in need of, but are not able to access, therapists. (However, while this is an area of research, it is questionable whether the bots are a substitute for qualified mental health practitioners.)

Character.ai is among the most popular bots these days, apparently with young people. The San Francisco Bay company that created it says that the bot is sentient and has responsive feelings. Some bots have been programmed to develop long-term relationships with users. Meta, too, has a tool called "The Soothing Counsellor". Another company called Chai, also based in California, provides similar chatbot-based interactions.

As we all know, once the cat is out of the bag in tech and something that addresses a particular human need has been created, it is not going to go away. It is up to the user of these bots to gauge whether the interaction is useful or beneficial to them or simply a band-aid for a much larger problem. That said, while not without their drawbacks, band-aids perform a vital function in society, and sometimes after a nasty cut or bruise, they are exactly what the doctor ordered. ■

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OPINION

BY MOHAMMAD ALI BABAKHEL

Student unions

A RECENT news item regarding the restoration of student unions did not receive as much time, space, and attention in the media as it deserved. This issue of importance impacts the political and democratic process, peace on campuses, and human rights.

The government banned student unions in 1984, and the status quo has been maintained. In 1993, the apex court prohibited students from engaging in political activities. In 2022, the Student Action Committee tried to mobilise public opinion for the restoration of unions but failed to get enough attention; the same year, Sindh passed the Students Union Act.

To understand the context, one must be able to distinguish between a student federation and a union. Federations are directly linked with political parties; hence, they bring political agendas to campuses and turn them into battlegrounds. Unions, on the other hand, merely represent student interests. Still, before considering the restoration of unions, several questions should be deliberated, including the advantages, disadvantages, hurdles, and legal and administrative frameworks required to restore them. Weaponisation and growing extremism have significantly impacted peace on our campuses. Would restoring unions be a viable option, or would it further complicate the situation? How will unions function in private educational institutions, and what will be their composition? Can a democratic country afford undemocratic campuses? Does the administration of educational institutions have the capacity to respond to new challenges?

There is no denying that the restoration of unions can prove instrumental in improving leadership talent and creating future leaders. They can serve as nurseries that promote democratic values, foster critical thinking and free speech, and instil democratic values. They can also engage students in constructive activities, help prevent violence triggered by party politics, reduce conflict on campuses, improve student-teacher relations, make students active stakeholders in decision-making, and foster unity among students for a collective cause. Their restoration may also increase accountability and transparency on campuses.

At the same time, unions can also cause disruption of academic activities, trigger violence and radical ideologies, strain teacher-student relations due to undue interference in the academic process, weaken discipline, promote hooliganism, and negatively impact academic progress. In the past, unions operated as subsidiaries of political parties, as reflected in the titles of different student bodies. Party-based student unions often created hurdles in the smooth academic, research and administrative processes of universities, and were active in advancing the agenda of their parent party instead of struggling for their due rights and academic excellence.

After the banning of unions, educational institutions have seen a lack of accountability and arbitrary changes to fee structures and the allocation of scholarships. Students also face issues relating to academics and accommodation. In the absence of student representative unions, university administrations' decisions have started to carry more weight, resulting in students' interests being compromised. Those who advocate for a ban justify it by pointing to the increase in on-campus violence and the negative impact on academic activities seen in the past. However, the same bodies were also successful in securing students' rights and providing them with better academic facilities. Unions also provided space for students to engage in the democratic processes of elections and campaigning.

Banning student unions has also indirectly facilitated the political monopoly enjoyed by the feudal elite, as it deprived lower-middle-class youth of a chance to create future leadership opportunities for themselves by entering politics and undertaking political struggles. A continued ban will further strengthen the feudal hold on Pakistan's politics.

> Can a democratic country afford undemocratic campuses?

Most of our population consists of young people. Banning unions is a form of excluding them from decision-making processes that directly affect them. A decision on revoking the ban on student unions should rise above politics and be based on the pressing need for grooming future leaders and improving academic standards. If restored, the mandate of student unions, the roles and functions of the chief proctor, disciplinary committee, faculty, and administration must be clearly defined, and student-teacher centres and a dispute resolution apparatus between administration and students established.

On the currently polarised campuses, restoring unions without assessing the pros and cons may have further unintended consequences for a deteriorating higher education system. ■

The writer is the author of Pakistan: In Between Extremism and Peace.
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BY MAHIR ALI

Whither Syria?

IT turned out that there were no speed bumps in the fast lane on the road to Damascus. The incredibly swift demise of the Assad regime appears to have astonished everyone, including the rebel force that led the unexpected charge.

The subsequent explosion of relief and joy across much of Syria is hardly a surprise, even though it is tempered with understandable anxiety about what might follow. After all, the regional precedents — from Tunisia, Libya and Egypt to Yemen and Iraq — are hardly reassuring.

Bashar al-Assad was the odd one out when the winds of change ushered in the so-called Arab Spring of 2011, and long-standing dominoes tumbled. As a popular uprising rattled the regime, provoking a deadly state response, it was assumed he would share the fate of Ben Ali, Hosni Mubarak, Muammar Qadhafi or Saddam Hussein. As Robert Fisk recalled, any foreign correspondent who dared to accurately predict that the Syrian dictator might not immediately be toppled was dubbed an Assad apologist.

While Fisk never hesitated to describe in detail the ruthless excesses of the Baathist regime, often targeting unarmed protesters or other civilians, he also had the temerity to point out that the state did not enjoy a monopoly on violence. He noted the frustrations of Al Jazeera correspondents, whose visual evidence of attacks on government forces, and of armed insurgents entering Syria from Lebanon, was rejected by their employer.

Qatar, after all, was among the Arab brothers backing jihadist rebel factions in what had turned into Syria's civil war, alongside the Saudis. Turkiye had its own favourites, and was particularly keen to contain Kurdish militias. The US and its European appendages detested Assad, but saw the Islamic State (IS) as a bigger threat. So did Russia, but unlike the US, it also considered Assad a useful idiot in the Middle East and helped to sustain his regime through force, including the air power that Damascus lacked. Iran proved to be another crucial ally, mainly through Hezbollah, which was keen to maintain the arms supply lines from Tehran via Iraq. That, in turn, gave Israel an excuse to pummel Syria.

There was barely any murmur of surprise when Bashar succeeded his dad in 2000 as the grand pooh-bah when Hafez al-Assad died after nearly 30 years in power. The West spotted a potential pawn in a UK-trained ophthalmologist who hinted at a reformist vision and released a few political prisoners. But soon enough, he reverted to the family playbook in repressing both secular/democratic and Islamist dissent, and eventually overtook even his father's nasty reputation for malicious excesses against perceived opponents and their families.

Many of the prisoners emerging from prison gates in the past few days hadn't seen their families for years, even decades. Some of them had survived the Arab world's most infamous torture chambers — facilities of which the US made full use during its "war on terror". At the same time, some of the neoconservatives in the Bush administration salivated at the prospect of carving a road to Damascus via Baghdad and Tehran. The disastrous occupation of Iraq pre-empted further large-scale misadventures in the Middle East, but the realisation that the region would be best off without Euro-US interference is yet to dawn.

Joe Biden has claimed credit for Assad's departure for Moscow, as has Benjamin Netanyahu, even as both the US and Israel have subsequently been pounding, respectively, IS strongholds and the Syrian army's weapons arsenals. Or so they say. Israel has also pounced on the opportunity to overrun the 50-year-old buffer zone between the occupied (and illegally annexed) Golan Heights and enter Syrian territory. This 'temporary' land grab might not be reversed.

> The current euphoria might be premature.

The leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), ancestrally closely related to both IS and Al Qaeda and a direct descendant of al-Nusra Front), hitherto known as Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, with a $10 million price on his head, has reinvented himself as Ahmed al-Sharaa, and is being paraded on Western media outlets as a 'pragmatist' who has overcome his allegiles to Syria's Alawite, Christian and Druze denizens. The Kurds targeted by Turkiye might be less enamoured of his uncertified credentials.

Whatever name he prefers, al-Jolani is destined for a key role in Syria's purportedly 18-month transition, during which the ideologically and ethnically diverse patchwork of Assad opponents is expected to morph into a coherent government.

HTS's terrorist designation might quickly disappear, but there are many other groups, backed by ill-intentioned neighbours or more distant contenders, jostling for prominence in whatever comes next. Syria's sordid past is open to investigation, but the future is unwritten, and an inclusive, pluralist democratic entity in the short term might require a second miracle. ■

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FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

A welcome visit

EDITORIAL: The visit of Malaysia's Paramount Ruler ... will contribute greatly to the furthering of the close ties that already exist between these two Islamic countries. ... Comparatively young as an independent nation, Malaysia's cultural and historical traditions are over a thousand years old and are deeply influenced by Islam. Not only this common bond of religion but also the logic of international political and economic developments have brought the two countries close to each other. Both achieved independence from British colonial rule after a protracted struggle ... both are placed in a geographical region whose strategic location and consequent political importance have played a key role in the shaping of the two countries' foreign policies. ...

As developing countries of the Third World, both Malaysia and Pakistan share common problems and aspirations. ... Above all, both countries have played and intend to continue to play a vital role in fostering solidarity among the Muslim countries. The visit of the Paramount Ruler ... [speaks] of the brotherly feelings that the people of Pakistan and Malaysia cherish for each other. ... There is great scope for extending these relations in various fields.

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

Jerusalem's status

FLUSHING MEADOW: The United Nations General Assembly tonight [Dec 10] voted in favour of placing Jerusalem under a permanent international regime. It also decided that the international administration should be placed under whatever authority the Trusteeship Council decided. The General Assembly said the term "City of Jerusalem" should include the present municipality of Jerusalem plus the surrounding villages and towns.

The Assembly also decided to ask the Trusteeship Council to complete at its next session (which is thought to be in January) a statute for Jerusalem which will bring in the principle laid down in the paragraphs of the resolution so far agreed. The Assembly also called upon the Trusteeship Council to oppose any action taken by any interested government to divert it from implementing the statute of Jerusalem, as provided by the United Nations.

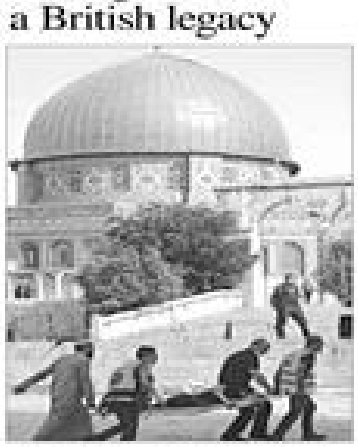
Voting was 39 in favour, 14 against and 6 abstentions. The vote was taken in a crowded Assembly Hall after the most concentrated back-stage attempts to sway the final outcome, in which the United States played a big part. — News agencies

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.

Gaza genocide is a British legacy



THIS is with reference to the editorial "Solidarity with Palestine" (Nov 29), which, among other things, stated that the Palestinians have been "struggling for over seven decades to free their homeland". The fact is that Palestine has been occupied ever since the British came to the region over a 100 years ago. They trained and gave what is Arab land to a people of their own ilk.

This European occupation today under the guidance of their predecessors is continuing and perfecting what the British had taught them in terms of warfare. The genocide is actually the continuing British legacy of colonialism in the Middle East.

It is hypocritical and ironic that the United Nations recognised the occupation in 1948, but then decided to observe Nov 29 every year as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This was done probably to keep the Arabs from revolting against world powers. It is no wonder there are people who have doubts about the actual role being played by various UN agencies regarding the Palestine issue.

Israel, a UN member that is supported by the West, has been attacking UN Secretary-General António Guterres, who has been vociferously talking about the ongoing genocide in occupied Palestine by the Zionist regime.

In essence, such remarks by Guterres portray the United States and member countries of the European Union (EU) badly as they claim to be the champions of human rights and deliver sermons to other nations in this regard while continuing to support Israel in denying the most basic human rights to the Palestinians.

One can only hope that at some point the Arabs would really wake up, sell their properties in the West, withdraw their money from bank accounts, and stop vacationing in countries that blatantly support and arm the genocide against the people of Gaza.

European colonialism and American imperialism in Palestine must end in practical terms. There is no 'two state' solution that has been used as a cover by the West to entrench its hold in the region. As long as the occupation continues, there will never be peace in the region.

The much-hyped peace between Israel and Lebanon, which Joe Biden was hoping to have in place as his face-saving exit from the White House, fell flat as the Zionist state broke the truce and attacked Lebanon.

Unsurprisingly, this is not the first time a peace treaty has been broken by the Zionists, and it is certainly not the last one.

Anjabeen Ahmad
Karachi

Sheer exploitation

BEING a student in Pakistan makes one highly vulnerable to exploitation at every turn. Stepping out of home to pursue university education or prepare for competitive examinations often brings an overwhelming financial burden: travel expenses, hostel charges, and costly academies targeting students under the guise of 'education providers'.

The struggle starts with finding a suitable hostel, followed by separate security and admission fee, and then the heavy monthly hostel charges. Many students are exploited by hostel mafias, only to encounter similar issues at the so-called academies, which often push students to buy their own overpriced books and other material. This journey turns education itself into a secondary concern, overshadowed by the stress of navigating these exploitative systems.

However, the challenges do not end there. Once the students secure a place to stay and enrol in an academy, they face yet another layer of struggle.

For students who commute from nearby towns or villages, the situation is just as difficult. Public transport, where available, is unreliable, and private transportation is costly. Travelling daily not only drains their pockets, but also consumes precious study hours, leaving the students exhausted before they even reach the classroom.

Financial pressures aside, there is the constant mental strain of navigating these hurdles. Students, especially those from modest backgrounds, often take up part-time jobs to fund their education, sacrificing the time they could otherwise dedicate to studying. This constant battle leaves many disillusioned and fatigued, shifting their focus from learning to merely surviving the system.

In the end, the journey of acquiring education in Pakistan, instead of being an empowering experience, becomes a gruelling and exhaustive struggle against a system that seems indifferent to the students' wellbeing and growth.

For girl students, the struggles multiply with the added concerns of safety, limited hostel options, and societal expectations that often push them to abandon their dreams prematurely.

Instead of creating an environment that supports and nurtures future generations, the system leaves students exhausted, battling obstacles at every stage and dampening their motivation and potential.

Those in the corridors of power should reconsider their priorities. How can they demand the youth to build a future when they have thrown every obstacle in their way and made it nearly impossible for the students to achieve anything?

The students are too tired to learn anything. They are too worn out by the system that drains the very will to learn. In fact, they have been beaten down by a system that crushes every ounce of hope and ambition the students are left with.

Rakhshanda Abbas
Gilgit

Blundering move

UNITED States President Joe Biden has permitted Ukraine to deploy and use the US-supplied long-distance Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) missiles inside Russia. This is a serious mistake that may have serious repercussions. It will only escalate the Russia-Ukraine war.

Biden is handing over his job to Donald Trump in a few weeks. He should have refrained from taking any decision that might aggravate the situation. The world could be pushed towards a major conflagration by such hasty moves. Global leaders need to be cautious when there is so much at stake.

The Western countries are over-anxious about Russian designs. Quite simply, President Vladimir Putin does not want Ukraine to join the European Union or Nato because this would bring Nato troops on Russia's borders.

As such, the leaders in the West must understand the Russian concerns. There is no rocket science involved here. Putin is not Adolf Hitler trying to conquer Europe or the world. Ambiguity about Putin's intentions has created a fear psychosis among European countries.

As things stand, the West needs to have a blunt and frank talk with Putin, as boycotting Russia will not solve any problem. It will aggravate the situation.

Unfortunately, many Western leaders as well as analysts are not assessing the situation objectively. Instead of vehemently and constantly criticising Russia, they need to explore ways to resolve the crisis.

Rajendra Aneja
Mumbai, India

Chikungunya spread

PAKISTAN, particularly Karachi, has been grappling with a significant surge in chikungunya cases since May, with more or less all hospitals receiving a number of infected patients daily.

Unfortunately, the outbreak is part of a broader increase in arboviral diseases, including malaria and dengue, linked to rising temperatures.

Chikungunya, a virus primarily affecting tropical and subtropical regions, has become a serious public health concern, causing severe morbidity in affected individuals.

It is a mosquito-borne viral disease that spreads through the bite of infected mosquitoes.

If a mosquito carrying the virus bites a person, the virus is transmitted to that person. But if a non-infected mosquito bites an infected person, it acts as a carrier of the virus by sucking it from that person's bloodstream and transmitting it to others.

Since there is no specific treatment or vaccine available, its management focuses on relieving the symptoms.

Moreover, patients are advised to get plenty of rest, stay hydrated by drinking fluids, and seek symptomatic treatment to manage their condition.

The relevant ministry has issued a national advisory for preventing and controlling chikungunya.

A lot more needs to be done by various government agencies in this regard.

Ahmed Ali
Lahore

Processing time

THIS is with reference to the letter 'Inefficient PMDC' (Dec 5) regarding delay in the processing of professional teaching experience documents by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). Such validations take considerable time to process due to the involvement of multiple procedures and stakeholders.

Another major factor contributing to the delays is the authentication of publications, with each applicant submitting a minimum of five and up to over 40 publications. All of these need to be thoroughly reviewed for authenticity.

To facilitate the applicants, PMDC has recently launched an online portal to expedite the process. Within a month of the launch, 1,702 cases were received, and 1,345 of them were disposed of. The initiative has been a step in the right direction. Besides, the names of relevant staff members with designated cellphone numbers have already been uploaded on the official website.

PMDC spokesperson
Islamabad

► **SKIN DISEASES:** Many residents of Bafia Island face a growing health crisis owing to the spread of common skin diseases that are often overlooked and left untreated. The lack of proper healthcare facilities, along with limited awareness, has made these conditions a serious concern for the local community. Fungal infections, eczema and scabies not only cause pain, but also leave people feeling isolated and embarrassed. Raising awareness and providing proper healthcare services are crucial. Medical camps, better treatment, and education on hygiene practices could greatly improve the health and wellbeing of the people. The authorities should take immediate action to help the affected people.
Verdan Hamed
Karachi

► **ALONE IN THE CROWD:** I recently witnessed an incident that broke my heart and left me in a state of utter gloom. A person in a wheelchair was struggling to navigate through a crowded street, but, despite seeing him struggle to make through the difficult situation, not one person stopped to help him. People simply stepped aside, avoided eye contact, and went on with their day as if he did not even exist. People with disabilities do not ask for special treatment. They simply want to be seen and heard, to be given the same opportunities and respect that everyone else receives. It is time we stopped treating them like invisible beings, stopped looking away when they need help, and considered them equal and valuable human beings that they are.
Dua Ghaffar
Karachi

► **DUG-UP ROADS:** I live in Gulzar-e-Hijri. During the heavy rains in 2020, the residents had dug up the road to let the water flow easily into a nearby brook. It has been four years, but the road has not been repaired yet. The road was dug up for a new water pipeline as well, but it was not repaired after the work was completed. The condition of the road affects the area residents and passers-by. The authorities responsible for the repair should take notice of the matter.
Waqar Hussain
Karachi

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Lawmakers call for probe into Kurram violence, terrorists' infiltration

Complain about 'discrimination' in funds distribution to local bodies

By Mohammad Ashfaq

PESHAWAR: Members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Tuesday urged the government to probe the recent violence in Kurram tribal district and ascertain how terrorist organisations infiltrated the region to threaten public life.

During an assembly session chaired by Deputy Speaker Suriya Bibi, member of the ruling PTI from Upper Kurram Abdul Hadi highlighted the brutality of the recent incidents and complained about the killing of a six-month-old child and the shooting of a four-year-old girl in her mouth during an attack on a convoy headed for Parachinar.

He said those committing such heinous crimes were no less than beasts.

Mr Hadi said the armed people involved in the killing of innocent civilians, including children and women, had nothing to do with Islam as Muslims never killed people without any sin.

He said social media and other platforms pointed out terrorist outfits involved in the recent violence, so the government should conduct a thorough investigation to uncover the truth.

The lawmaker said the residents of Upper Kurram visited religious places in other countries but that didn't denote that they were not Pakistanis.

"We are Pakistani and have been living lives here in line with the Pakistani Constitution and laws," he said.

Mr Hadi alleged that terrorists from across the border were involved in violence.

"The government should conduct a probe into who are the supporters and facilitators of terrorists in Kurram," he said.

Another lawmaker from Lower Kurram Riaz Shaheen alleged that if an operation against the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan could be conducted in Kurram, why that couldn't happen against other terrorist outfits.

He also demanded a government probe into the presence of terrorist organisations in the region and the hoisting of their flags on some bunkers during the recent clashes.

The MPA said residents of the Bagan area were killed and their houses and markets were torched the night after an attack on a convoy of vehicles.

"People of the Bagan area were not involved in the convoy attack," he said, adding that a local TTP commander took responsibility for the terrorist act.

Mr Shaheen also demanded that the government investigate the use of heavy weapons in the recent clashes and from where they came in.

He urged the government to collect heavy weaponry from warring groups in the "larger interest" of the residents.

MPA Makhdoom Syed Afzab came down hard on the provincial government over "discrimination" in the release of development funds to tehsil councils and declared that act a violation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013, and Provincial Finance Commission Award.

He said the provincial government was bound by the LG Act to release 20 per cent of total annual development programme funding to local bodies.

The lawmaker, however, said the provincial government had released development funds to 56 out of 130 tehsil councils whose chairmen belonged to the ruling PTI.

He said the PTI had been ruling KP for the last 11 years but it had done nothing for the people who elected it to power for three consecutive times.

"The PTI has failed to improve education and health facilities and is unable to declare a proper economic policy to put the province on the track of development," he said.

The chair adjourned the session until next Monday.

A MAN warms himself on a roadside in Hashtnagri Bazaar as mercury dropped in the provincial capital on Tuesday. — INP

CM doubles seed funding for Education Endowment Fund

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday announced enhancement of seed money for CM Education Endowment Fund (CMEEF) from Rs1.2 billion to Rs2.4 billion.

Addressing a scholarship distribution ceremony at the chief minister house under the CMEEF, Mr Gandapur said that an endowment fund with Rs2 billion seed money had been established to provide free education up to grade 12 for girls and orphan children.

He said that the provincial government would "go all-out" to halve tuition fees in all public sector higher education institutions from the next fiscal year, according to an official statement.

The chief minister said that efforts were being made to boost the province's revenue through enhanced resource mobilisation to achieve that target.

He said that over the past nine months, the provincial government had achieved a 44pc increase in provincial revenue.

"We will invest the maximum resources in education and the future of our children to transform them into a true national asset," he said.

Mr Gandapur expressed confidence in the youth and said he believed that young people would make not only the province but also the nation proud on both national and international platforms, showcasing the positive image of Pakistan and Islam globally. He said that the provincial government was fully committed to supporting youth.

He felicitated the students and their parents on achieving scholarships, saying, "I commend the hard work of students and their families on achieving these scholarships."

On the occasion, the Chief Minister distributed scholarship certificates among 82 students. These fully-funded scholarships cover tuition fees, free accommodation, and food allowances. So far, under the CM Education Endowment Fund, scholarships worth Rs615 million have been awarded to 526 students, including 366 undergraduate and 150 graduate scholarships, enabling students to study at top-notch educational institutions in Pakistan. Additionally, 10 graduate scholarships have been granted to students for studies at international universities.

The event was attended by higher education minister Meena Khan Afridi, highcops of the higher education department, students, and their parents.

Also, a delegation of the Young Parliamentarians Forum called on the chief minister here on Monday.

The visitors were led by Forum president Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar and composed of members from various political parties and provinces, according to an official statement. — Bureau Report

Court suspends ACE's notice to MNA over land lease

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court on Tuesday suspended a call-up notice, issued by the anti-corruption establishment to a senior Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf leader and MNA Mohammad Atif Khan, in connection with an inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the Malam Jabba land lease and a Mardan private housing society.

A bench comprising Justice Sahibzada Asadullah and Justice Waqar Ahmad put the provincial government and ACE on notice, seeking their response to Mr Atif's petition for declaring the impugned notice, issued to him on Nov 1, illegal.

It directed ACE not to proceed further on its notice.

The petitioner requested the court to quash the notice and declare illegal to his extent all actions taken in consequence to the notice, including any inquiry or investigation.

The respondents in the petition are the ACE director, its circle officer in Peshawar, and the secretary of the establishment department.

Senior counsel Shumail Ahmad Butt appeared for the petitioner and contended that the issuance of the impugned notice was only to subject him to undue harassment and public humiliation to tarnish his reputation.

He said that the matter of Malam Jabba land lease had already been subjected to rigorous investigation by the National Accountability Bureau, which found no trace of any illegality or impropriety and thus the matter stood as "past and closed transaction.

The lawyer said that in 2014, the then provincial government under Chief Minister Pervez Khattak had entered into a contract and leased out land in Malam Jabba area of Swat district to a tourism company, Samsons Group, after a thoroughly competitive process.

He said that the allotment was granted for the establishment of a ski resort and a five-star hotel. Mr Butt contended that at the time of executing the said contract, the petitioner was not the tourism minister and was serving as minister for energy and power department.

He said that the high court decided the matter in favour of that company. The counsel pointed out that the matter was also re-opened by the then chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Noor Alam Khan, but the act was challenged in the high court.

He added that the NAB had re-affirmed before the high court that the inquiry was a closed matter.

Mr Butt said that the ACE had also started inquiry on baseless and irrelevant allegations about ownership of Fazal Garden Township land including alleged conversion of agricultural land into residential society, and alleged misappropriation of government funds for development of the said housing society.

He said that the land in question was purchased by the petitioner's grandfather in 1960, which was inherited by his father and subsequently by him and his brother.

The lawyer said that the allegation of conversion of agricultural land into residential colonies was also baseless and in that respect the relevant agriculture officer had also issued a letter in 2022.

He said that as elected public representative, he had consistently been speaking against corruption and misconduct irrespective of political affiliation and openly criticised government actions whether from the opposition or from his own party.

Mr Butt added that the same reasons led to targeted actions against him even in his own province, where his political party held power.

He contended that in a blatant attempt to stifle his voice, the impugned notice was issued to him by the ACE regarding the Malam Jabba land lease. The counsel contended that the impugned notice was arbitrary and unjustified and without any legal basis. — Bureau Report

PTI in touch with Fazl to launch anti-government movement: Qaiser

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's senior leader and former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser said on Tuesday that they were in contact with Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman regarding the launch of a joint movement against the government.

Talking to reporters on the premises of the Peshawar High Court here, he said that political parties should unite against the 'fascist' government.

Mr Qaiser said that instead of arresting the deteriorating law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, the federal government was 'spending' all its energies on 'suppressing' the PTI. "Instead of going after terrorists, the federal government is going after PTI," he added.

He asked the federal government to avoid declaring politicians as terrorists.

Mr Qaiser said that an event would be held in Peshawar's Bagh Naran on December 15 to remember those who lost their lives in the Islamabad protest. He alleged that direct fire was opened on unarmed protesters in the federal capital. Besides, he reiterated that PTI's mandate was stolen in the last general election. He demanded immediate release of all the political prisoners, and said that the "maltreatment" of Pakhtuns in Islamabad and Punjab was a conspiracy against the country.

On the occasion, MNA Sher Ali Arbab said that 200 PTI workers were still missing. He said that they would not tolerate such 'maltreatment' of Pakhtuns.

MNA Shandana Gulzar Khan was also present on the occasion.

Attack on vehicle leaves three dead in Waziristan

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Three people were killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire on a moving vehicle in the Birmal tehsil of Lower South Waziristan district on Tuesday.

District police officer Asif Bahader confirmed the incident and said that the attackers riding a car opened fire on a moving vehicle in the limits of Raghzai police station and escaped. As a result, three people were killed. They were identified as Noor Khaliq, Rasiq and Sher Rehman, all hailing from Wazir Gangikhel tribe.

Mr Bahadar said that the reason behind the killing was not yet known, but the police had registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident. —Correspondent

Our Faith, Corruption Free Pakistan

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development & Management Company

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KPEZDMC intends to allot industrial lands on leasehold rights for 99 years in the below-mentioned Economic Zones. All Potential Investors/industrial sectors/ businesses are encouraged to apply; however, priority shall be given to Green Industries/Environment-friendly, which play a vital role in the reduction of carbon emissions, New business ideas /High Tech industry, Healthcare, Foreign Direct Investment, and Industry based on the local strengths/ endowments of the area.

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3	Mohmand Economic Zone	10,000,000/- per acre
4	Jalozai Economic Zone	12,000,000/- per acre
5	Peshawar Economic Zone	15,500,000/- per acre
6	Ghazi Economic Zone	9,000,000/- per acre
7	Chitral Economic Zone	2,200,000/- per Kanal

Documents Required:
- A hard copy of the completed online application, the project feasibility study/ business plan, and the processing fee.
- Processing Fee PKR 15,000/ (non-refundable). Those who have already applied in these zones and paid the processing fee are exempted from paying again.
- Only the Feasibility Study/ Business Plan signed and stamped by a registered Chartered Accountant or Business Consultant will be acceptable.
- Bank Demand Draft/ Pay Order of 30% of the applied industrial land price (Refundable/Adjustable) on account of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC).
- Business Profile/ experience in case an existing business applies for the industrial land.
- Undertaking on stamp paper duly attested by notary public mentioning that the applicant will be bound to adhere to all rules/ by-laws of KPEZDMC also start construction in 6 months and ensure commencement of business in 2 years from the date of successful allotment of the land.

Payment Term & Conditions:
The applicant is required to pay 30% of the lease price in advance at the time of submission of the application and the remaining 70% within 10 working days of the offer letter to the successful applicant. All payments will be acceptable only in the shape of a Bank Demand Draft or Pay Order in the name of KPEZDMC.

Submission of Application:
The online application can be submitted at www.kpezdmc.org.pk/formapp/. The hard copy of the duly signed application is mandatory to be submitted at the following address along with all the required documents by December 26, 2024. Those who have already submitted completed applications earlier for the allotment of industrial lands in the above-stated economic zones are required to submit the documents mentioned above (serial 1 to serial 6) as per this advertisement. Only the completed applications will be considered for further processing. However, incomplete applications in all manners will not be entertained. In case of any further queries/ information, please feel free to contact us at the below-mentioned address.

Commercial Department: 120 Industrial Estate, Jamrud Road, Hayatabad, Peshawar25000, KP. 091-5890826 Ext-155.
www.kpezdmc.org.pk, queries.procurement@kpezdmc.org.pk.

www.ogdcl.com

INVITATION TO E-BID
THROUGH SAP ARIBA DISCOVERY

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

S. NO.	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB-HSEQ-272950277-2024	HIRING OF ESG CONSULTANT FOR FUTURE REPORT PREPARATION	30.12.2024 AT 1030 HRS
2.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB-SYS-60-2229-272962319-2024	WARRANTY AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES (TSS) RENEWAL FOR DATACENTER INFRASTRUCTURE WITH MANAGED SERVICES	30.12.2024 AT 1030 HRS
3.	OGDCL-SCM-LBI-PT-CESS-272332999-2024	CONSTRUCTION OF SALE GAS METERING ROOM AT SINJHORO GAS FIELD SANGHAR, SINDH PROVINCE	30.12.2024 AT 1130 HRS
4.	OGDCL-SCM-LBI-WT-CESS-272518164-2024	REPAIR OF APPROACH ROAD TO WELLS THAL EAST-1 AND BHAMBRA-1 DISTRICT SUKKUR SINDH PROVINCE	31.12.2024 AT 1130 HRS

CORRIGENDUM

Reference our Tender Notice published in this newspaper on 06.12.2024, the following amendment may be noted. However, all other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged:

SR #	DESCRIPTION	REVISED TENDER ENQUIRY NO.	
		FOR	READ
1	LAPTOPS AND DOCKING STATIONS	OGDCL-SCM-FO-CB-EXPL-SDPC-271733585-2024	OGDCL-SCM-FO-CB-EXPL-SDPC-272854589-2024

3. All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bids closing date/ time.
4. Tender Notice/detailed instructions are available on Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) website at www.ppra.org.pk.
5. Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through e-procurement portal at https://ogdcl.com/sap-ariba-tenders or discovery.ariba.com/profile/AN01542899625. For details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents.
6. OGDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule 33.

GENERAL MANAGER
(SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT)
OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
OGDCL HOUSE, JINNAH AVENUE, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN.
Phone No. 92-51-9200235/40/3795
No. 284/32
LARGEST TAX PAYER COMPANY OF THE NATION
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QUETTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY (QESCO)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

HIRING OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

QESCO is the geographically largest electricity distribution company in the power sector serving more than 720,733 consumers with 5185 employees and annual revenue base of more than 158 billion operating in area of 347,190 sq KMs of Balochistan province intends to Hire the services of Audit firm (A-rated by State Bank of Pakistan) for the Statutory Audit for F.Y 2024-25 as previous auditors have been retired.

Selection of Auditors is on "Single Stage Two Envelope Method" i.e. (Quality Cum Cost Base Selection) with weightage of

Technical Proposal 90%
Financial Proposal 10%

Detailed RFP can be obtained by submitting written request, from the office of the undersigned. Written request can also be emailed on mca@qesco.com.pk & fdqesco@yahoo.com.

Last date for submission of proposal is
26 December 2024 at 13:00 hrs

Technical Proposal will be opened on the same day at 13:30 hrs

COMPANY SECRETARY QESCO,
QESCO Complex Zarghoon Road, Quetta
Ph # 081-9201154 , 081-9203108

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Power companies' poor performance costs Rs660bn to exchequer

• Fail to meet targets for new connections • Transmission, distribution losses mount despite loadshedding

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The performance of electricity supply companies declined in 2023-24, resulting in a loss of over Rs660 billion to the national exchequer.

This deterioration was attributed to increased inefficiencies, including high losses and low recovery rates. Additionally, most power plants in private and public sectors imposed an even greater, yet unquantifiable, burden on consumers and taxpayers.

In its annual performance reports of the power sector, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra), however, highlighted high standards and strong performance of the nuclear power plants. At the same time, the transmission system showed improvement but remained below expectations during 2023-24.

While none of the distribution companies, including K-Electric, could meet targets for transmission and distribution (T&D) loss reduction and recoveries, their loss-based loadshedding practices used illegally over a decade appeared to be unsuccessful, Nepra said, adding they also failed to meet their safety, security and reliability targets during the year and the number of casualties increased unfortunately.

"T&D losses remain a major challenge in Pakistan's power sector... none of the distribution companies has achieved the required limits", the regulator said, adding that these losses "led to an estimated Rs281bn drain on the national exchequer".

This loss has been calculated, including KE; however, Discos' contribution is around Rs278bn. PESCO, LESCO, QESCO, and SEPCO are the largest contributors to this financial shortfall, accounting for Rs96bn, Rs47.5bn, Rs37bn and Rs28.7bn.

Faisalabad, KE and Islamabad-based companies missed the target for T&D losses by 1.12pc, 1.43pc and 1.54pc respectively, while Peshawar, Sukkur, Quetta and Hyderabad-based companies missed their targets by 18.4pc, 18.2pc, 15.7pc and 9.6pc, respectively.

The regulator said these losses are a major contributor to circular debt, adding that Discos' performance deteriorated in FY24, with T&D losses rising to 18.08pc, up from 16.38pc in FY23. "Despite Nepra setting a target of 12.15pc for T&D losses, the actual losses exceeded the target by a significant 5.93pc.

Billing and collection

"No Disco achieved the target of 100pc recovery in FY24", noted the regulator, lamenting that maximizing revenue collection was crucial for the financial health of Discos for reducing circular debt. Islamabad, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Lahore and Multan (all Punjab-based) came close to recovery rates ranging from 96pc to 97pc, while Peshawar and K-Electric exceeded 90pc.

In contrast, Hyderabad maintained low recovery rates of 76.40pc showing minimal improvement while Quetta and Sukkur-based firms performed the worst, with a troubling recovery rate of just 65.41 and 31.79pc respectively, even lower than the previous year. "These low recovery rates have severely impacted revenues, resulting in a loss of over Rs380bn to the national exchequer".

"The overall recovery rate of 92.18pc in FY24 is concerning, especially in the context of rising circular debt, high T&D losses, and the growing per-unit cost of electricity. Urgent corrective measures are needed to improve recovery rates and reduce the financial strain on the sector", the regulator said.

All companies, including KE, failed to meet power interruption frequency and duration targets. While IESCO, FESCO, LESCO, and MEPCO showed some improvements, they remained close to the targets. In contrast, PESCO, GEPCO, QESCO, SEPCO, HESCO, and K-Electric significantly underperformed and failed to meet the set benchmarks. Additionally, all companies underperformed on interruption duration targets.

Despite surplus capacity, half of the power companies failed to meet targets for providing new connections to applicants. PESCO, LESCO, HESCO, SEPCO, and K-Electric met the requirement, connecting over 95pc of eligible consumers, while GEPCO and QESCO fell just short and IESCO, FESCO, and MEPCO failed to meet the target, leaving 13-14pc of eligible consumers without timely connections.

Safety and high cost

Safety in the power sector took a concerning turn during the year, with 140 fatalities reported across distribution companies — 34 employees and 106 members of the public. K-Electric accounted for the largest share, followed by IESCO and PESCO.

K-Electric attributed many incidents to consumer negligence or accidents occurring on private property.

KE's plea for payment of Rs68bn faces stiff opposition

Utility says the amount accumulated over seven years from FY2017

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The K-Electric's request for Rs68 billion in 'unrecoverable dues' from defaulters came under strong opposition from stakeholders for its additional impact on consumers and taxpayers in the shape of budgetary and tariff adjustment.

The Karachi-based power utility has filed a write-off claim of Rs68bn, which it says accumulated over seven years since FY2017 based on a tariff determination of 2018 that allowed about 149 per cent provision for recovery losses.

The utility's CEO, Moonis Alvi, and Chief Financial Officer Amir Ghaziani called it the company's right which should either be built into the consumer tariff or taken care of by the government.

Most of the consumers and intervenors, in their written comments and during public hearing presided over by Nepra Chairman Waseem Mukhtar, opposed the KE's demand and said it should be rejected.

The KE's team said these write-off claim amounts remained unrecoverable despite the "best efforts against defaulters", including multiple disconnections, engagement with specialised recovery agencies, and area specific initiatives.

Mr Ghaziani said since the start of the tariff control period (FY 2017-21), KE's total billed revenue to non-public sector consumers stood at Rs1.73 trillion while it collected Rs1.6tr.

The write-off claim was around 3.9pc of revenue billed to non-public sector consumers and lower than KE's actual recovery loss of 7.1pc.

"We have requested write-off claims for 2017-2023, as 100pc bill collection is not possible due to law and order and slums," he said, adding that KE actually incurred a loss of Rs119bn on account of low recoveries, but the entire loss could not be written off due to Nepra rules.

Nepra members raised questions as to why legal action was not taken against those who had more than Rs10 million dues. Nepra Member Rafiq Shaikh asked as to who will bear the burden of defaulters and why paying consumers should pay the price for non-payment by others. Mr Ghaziani suggested that the burden of write-off claim could also be taken as a subsidy by the federal government.

The Centre has a budgeted subsidy of Rs88bn and Rs68bn write-off can be adjusted there, he argued.

The representative of Jamaat-i-Islami said that the government should stop rewarding K-Electric, describing its claims as 'fake' and 'bogus'.

Instead of third party auditor, the JI said, the claimed Rs68bn was audited by the KE's own auditor. "Accepting these claims will be a great injustice to consumers who pay their bills despite hardships". He said that KE was silent on the return of Rs54bn to users.

Stay orders

Tanveer Barry of the Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said "we reject the write-off claims as this would affect honest consumers".

He recalled that the utility had obtained stay orders in a staggering Rs300bn it was asked to refund consumers. He said Karachiites were also paying a surcharge which had nothing to do with KE consumers. The KE could claim the same doubtful debt as a write-off again if it had already been used to reduce profits for claw-back calculations in the past, Mr Barry added.

He also questioned the KE claim for non-recovery of bills issued against kock connections and said the company was provided a margin of 5.2pc in its base tariff to account for losses due to law and order situation.

FBR launches faceless customs assessment for trade ease

Establishes CAU in Karachi to ensure transparency in GDs processing

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has established a Central Appraisement Unit (CAU) in Karachi to enhance the quality of assessment and ensure uniformity and transparency in the processing of Goods Declarations (GDs).

The CAU is a key component of the customs reforms under Faceless Customs Assessment (FCA), aimed at modernising customs operations to lighten the workload of appraising officers (AOs) and to enhance trade facilitation.

The new system is notified through a Customs General Order (CGO) No. 06 of 2024.

The CAU will handle consignments arriving at all terminals within Karachi Port and Port Mohammad Bin Qasim (PMBQ). GDs filed at various collectorates in Karachi will be allocated to the CAU for assessment.

In its initial phase, the FCA will operate exclusively within Karachi's port terminals, with plans for a phased rollout to Air Freight Units (AFUs), dry ports, and border customs stations across Pakistan.

The Chief Collector of Customs Appraisement (South), Karachi, will notify the CAU to be located at a designated site in Karachi. The CAU will operate under strict protocols to ensure the security and integrity of its processes.

The chief collector will post deputy/assistant collectors MIS/CAU in CAU, who will be responsible for the resolution of system-related and/or operational issues. The chief collector will also ensure complete isolation/sanitisation of the work environment of the relevant CAU Hall. No cellular phones will be allowed in the CAU.

The GDs allocated to CAU for assessment in the Customs Computerised System (CCS) will be assigned to the AOs posted in CAU randomly in a group-less setting, one GD at a time on a 'first in first out' (FIFO) basis.

The GDs assessment will be completed per provisions of the Customs Act 1969 and rules made thereunder, including Valuation Rulings, Customs General Orders, Public Notices and instructions issued by the FBR from time to time, and other applicable laws and regulations.

CAPI sales plunged 25 per cent to 7,909 units in November from 10,557 units in October. — Reuters file

Auto sales stay high this year despite monthly drop

Demand jumps 50pc to 38,500 units in July-Nov

By Aamir Shahzad Khan

KARACHI: Despite a month-on-month sales drop in November, car sales during SMFY24 clocked in at 38,534 units, rising 50 per cent from 25,746 units a year ago.

Sales of jeeps, vans and pick-ups, after facing a slight fall in November to 2,591 units from 2,551 in October, swelled by 55pc to 12,239 units in July-November from 7,891 units last year.

According to data released by the Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA), car sales plunged 25.08 per cent to 7,909 units from 10,557 in October, while November 2023 sales were 4,875.

Total sales of jeeps, LCVs and vans in November stood at 2,591 compared to 2,551 in October and 1,600 units in November 2023.

PAMA has added a category of electric vehicles (EVs), marked by production and sales of Dewan's Horai Ve of 70 and 63 units, respectively.

Mashood Ali Khan, an auto parts expert and vendor, said that a year-on-year increase in auto sales is a positive sign, motivating the industry to get back on track slowly.

During SMFY25, Pak Suzuki Motor Company Ltd (PSMCL) sales recorded a 41pc rise to 25,812 units followed by 67pc by Indus Motor Company (IMC) to 10,886 units, 50pc by Honda Atlas Cars Ltd to 5,934 units and 2.13pc by Sazgar Engineering to 4,191 units compared to the same period last fiscal year. Hyundai Nishat sales during SMFY25 fell by 1pc to 3,324. Sales of two and three-wheelers increased by 35pc during July-Nov FY25 to 578,364 units from 459,459.

The tractor industry (Massey Ferguson and Al-Ghazi) recorded sales of 3,428 units in November, showing a decrease of 2pc YoY while recovering 98pc MoM. This was mainly due to SRO 565(1)/2022 rescinding. During SMFY25, tractor sales decreased by 50pc to 10,367 units from 20,806 in the same period last year.

Truck and bus sales improved to 1,605 units in July-Nov FY25 from 857 in the same period last fiscal.

Engro eyes tower sharing expansion with Veon tie-up

KARACHI: Engro Corp, through its strategic partnership with Veon, is eyeing expanding telecom tower-sharing coverage in Pakistan and exploring different use cases in telecom infrastructure.

"Pakistan is a very large market in terms of telecom, which keeps growing larger," Samad Dawood, vice chairman of Dawood Hercules Corp, which owns 40 per cent of Engro Corp, told *Reuters*.

"This infrastructure business, with scale, allows us to utilise telecom infrastructure better in Pakistan and eventually also serve international markets as well, said Dawood, identifying countries from "the Atlantic coast of Morocco all the way to Central Asian states" as potential markets.

Engro and Dutch telecommunication and digital services company Veon announced last week plans to pool and manage their infrastructure assets in Pakistan.

The companies plan expanding tower sharing coverage to other operators and looking into other use cases, which could include electronic vehicle charging and drone landing.

Under the partnership, Engro will pay Jazz, Veon's digital operator in Pakistan, $188m and will guarantee the repayment of Dealer's intercompany debt of $375m. — Reuters

Discontinuing gas to CPPs will threaten exports, warns PTEA

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) has strongly condemned the government's decision to discontinue gas supply to highly efficient captive power plants (CPPs) from Feb 1, 2025.

PTEA Patron-in-Chief Khurram Mukhtar called the move a critical threat to the textile industry and a barrier to realising Pakistan's full export potential, according to the association press release issued on Tuesday.

The textile sector has billions of rupees invested in gas-based power generation systems to ensure stable and reliable energy for industrial operations. Across the country, 450 CPPs operate on the SNGPL network and 800 on the SSGC network, relying on combined heat and power (CHP) systems to maintain voltage stability and avoid damaging highly automated machinery.

"The inability of distribution companies (Discos) to provide consistent and reliable power will disrupt production and cause significant financial losses to the textile value chain," said Mr Mukhtar.

CPPs, which provide power and steam for industrial use, are far more efficient than government-operated power plants. The flawed assumption that grid electricity — burdened with transmission and distribution (T&D) losses — will be cheaper than energy from CHP systems underscores the lack of proper planning.

Additionally, technical constraints in the grid make it nearly impossible to meet the energy demands of industrial units, many of which require more than 10MW per hour.

Stocks snap winning streak on profit-taking

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: Stocks snapped the 9-day record-setting streak as the KSE-100 index, after a volatile session, lost over 1,000 points to settle below 109,000 on Tuesday on aggressive profit-taking.

The market opened in the green, extending its overnight bullish momentum fuelled by an expected rate cut optimism. However, the influx of discouraging data took the investors on a roller-coaster ride, making intraday highs and lows by 1,789 and 2,259 points.

Ahsan Mehanti of Arif Habib Corporation said stocks closed bearish on global equities downturn on geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and dismal remittances falling by 5pc month-on-month in November.

He added that consolidation amid concerns for government tax collection shortfalls, weak global crude oil prices and slippages in IMF targets under EFF further depressed investor sentiments.

Topline Securities Ltd said the benchmark index experienced a volatile trading session as the KSE-100 index oscillated within a massive 4,000-point range. The much-needed profit booking took centre stage, with the index hitting an intraday high at 111,759.58 and a low at 107,711.40 points before closing at 109,896 points after losing 1,073.74.

The session began bullishly, driven by robust buying interest in key sectors following encouraging macroeconomic developments. However, the gains were short-lived as investors opted to lock in profits, especially in heavyweight sectors, leading to a sharp intraday decline. Despite the turbulence, the market managed to close off its lows, signalling underlying investor confidence.

Sazgar Engineering Works Ltd from the auto sector closed 5.50pc lower than the previous day, following a decline in four-wheeler month-on-month (MoM) sales. The company reported 384 units in November, a significant drop from 1,002 units sold in October.

Concerns surrounding the advance-to-deposit ratio (ADR) have cast a shadow over the banking sector, with Bank Al-Habib, MCB Bank, United Bank, and Bank Alfalah facing the brunt of the pressure, ultimately closing in negative territory.

Major contributors to the index's surge were Mari Petroleum, Lucky Cement, Attock Refiner, Systems Ltd, and The Searle, which collectively added 508 points. Conversely, UBL, Bank Al-Habib, MCB Bank, Engro Fertilizer, and Engro Corporation dragged the index down, collectively losing 629 points.

The trading volume fell 3.1pc to 1.54 billion shares while the traded value rose 14.17pc to Rs69.8bn day-on-day.

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GAINERS		LOSERS		LEADERS*	
Khyber Textile	51.61	Unilever Foods	362.95	WorldCall Telecom	200.87
Attock Refinery	46.97	Hoechst Pakistan	123.13	Cnergyico PK	150.68
Ismail Industries	40.00	Sapphire Fibres	95.43	K-Electric	73.03
Lucky Core Ind	36.57	Sazgar Eng	63.63	Telecard Ltd	64.20
Macter Int'l	36.14	Nestle Pakistan	56.71	Fauji Foods	60.85

(Share values in rupees) * Volume in billions of traded shares

INDICATORS	Tuesday	Previous		Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points)	109,896.55	109,970.29	▼	1,073.74
KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Points)	33,808.72	34,130.66	▼	321.94
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	13,891.282	14,027.907	▼	136.625
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	69.805	60.251	▲	8.554

ACTIVITY	
Total listed	532
Active	469
Gainers	106
Losers	329

PARTICIPANTS	
Foreign	▲ $3.75m
Companies	▼ $1.66m
Banks	▼ $0.64m
Mutual Funds	▲ $10.16m
Individuals	▼ $8.0m

US DOLLAR BUYING Rs277.31 SELLING Rs279.03
EURO BUYING Rs291.10 SELLING Rs293.24
GBP BUYING Rs352.27 SELLING Rs355.06
UAE DIRHAM BUYING Rs75.42 SELLING Rs76.00
KSA RIYAL BUYING Rs73.70 SELLING Rs74.20
GOLD TOLA Rs277,400 10 GMS Rs237,826

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A-bomb survivors call for a world without nukes

OSLO: Japan's atomic bomb survivors' group Nihon Hidankyo accepted its Nobel Peace Prize on Tuesday, pleading for the abolition of nuclear weapons that are resurging as a threat 80 years after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

One of the three Nihon Hidankyo co-chairs, 92-year-old Nagasaki survivor Terumi Tanaka, demanded "action from governments to achieve" a nuclear-free world.

The prize was presented at a time when countries like Russia — which has the world's largest nuclear arsenal — increasingly brandish the atomic threat.

"I am infinitely saddened and angered that the 'nuclear taboo' thinking is to be broken," Tanaka told dignitaries at Oslo's City Hall, some clad in traditional Norwegian bunads or Japanese kimonos.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly made nuclear threats as he presses the war in Ukraine.

He signed a decree in November lowering the threshold for using atomic weapons. In a strike on the Ukrainian city of Dnipro a few days later, the Russian army fired a new hypersonic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, although in this instance it had a regular payload.

Nihon Hidankyo works to rid the planet of the weapons of mass destruction, relying on testimonies from survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, known as "hibakusha".

The US bombings of the Japanese cities on Aug 6 and 9, 1945 killed 214,000 people, leading to Japan's surrender in World War II.—AFP

OSLO: (Left to right) Representatives of Nihon Hidankyo, Japan's atomic bomb survivors' group which won the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize, applaud during the award ceremony, on Tuesday.—AFP

Trump told Trudeau 'Canada should become 51st US state'

WASHINGTON: US president-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday mocked Canada's Justin Trudeau as the "governor" of a state, rather than prime minister of the giant US neighbour.

According to Fox News, Trump suggested making Canada the 51st US state during discussions with Trudeau in Florida, which followed threats to impose huge trade tariffs when he takes office in January.

The report from Fox News said Trump told Trudeau that if Canada could not withstand his threatened 25 percent tariff on all Canadian imports, then it should be absorbed into the United States. The idea has long been joked about and Trump has a habit of provocative statements, especially on social media, that can be read as jokes or bluster. During his first term, Trump repeatedly discussed buying Greenland from Denmark.

"It was a pleasure to have dinner the other night with Governor Justin Trudeau of the Great State of Canada," posted Trump on his Truth Social platform shortly after midnight.

"I look forward to seeing the Governor again soon so that we may continue our in-depth talks on Tariffs and Trade, the results of which will be truly spectacular for all!"

"Why are we subsidising these countries?" Trump said in a televised interview that aired Sunday, referring to Mexico and Canada. "If we're going to subsidize them, let them become a state," he told NBC. Publicly, Trump and Trudeau said their meeting at the president-elect's Mar-a-Lago estate went well.—AFP

Fierce strikes leave 176 dead in Sudan

Half of Darfur's population displaced amid army and paramilitary fight across the country

PORT SUDAN: At least 176 people were killed in two days of army and paramilitary strikes across Sudan, according to tolls provided by officials, activists and lawyers on Tuesday.

In Omdurman, part of the Sudanese capital, paramilitary shelling killed at least 65 people and wounded hundreds on Tuesday, according to the state's army-aligned governor.

A single shell on a passenger bus "killed everyone on board and turned 22 people into body parts", said Khartoum governor Ahmed Othman Hamza.

He attributed the strike to "the terrorist militia", in reference to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, at war with the army since April 2023. The attack comes a day after an army air strike on a market in the North Darfur town of Kabkabiya killed over 100 people, the pro-democracy Emergency Lawyers reported on Tuesday.

"The air strike took place on the town's weekly market day, where residents from various nearby villages had gathered to shop, resulting in the death of more than 100 people and injury of hundreds, including women and children," said the lawyers' group, which has been documenting human rights abuses during the conflict.

The lawyers also reported six people were killed in North Kordofan state when a drone that had crashed on Nov 26 exploded.

In the famine-stricken Zamzam displacement camp in North Darfur, paramilitary shelling on Tuesday killed five people, according to civil society group the Darfur General Coordination of Camps for the Displaced and Refugees. A UN-backed report in July declared famine had taken hold in the camp after a months-long RSF siege of state capital El-Fasher and the surrounding area.

Worst fighting in months

The war between the RSF and the regular army has so far killed tens of thousands, uprooted 12 million and created what the United Nations has called the worst humanitarian crisis in recent memory.

It has also nearly destroyed Khartoum, control over which both sides have not managed to claim. Most of Omdurman — the capital's twin city across the Nile — is under army control, while the RSF holds Khartoum North (Bahri) to the east.

Residents have continuously reported shelling across the river, with bombs and shrapnel regularly striking homes on both banks.

On Tuesday, eyewitnesses said artillery was striking Omdurman from multiple fronts. "We haven't seen bombing this intense in six months," one eyewitness to the passenger bus shelling said.

Another reported shelling from the Wadi Seidna army base, in northern Omdurman, towards RSF positions in western Omdurman and across the river in Bahri.

The army currently controls parts of the capital, as well as the country's north and east. The RSF has seized nearly the entire vast western region of Darfur, swathes of the southern Kordofan region and much of central Sudan.—AFP

Taiwan alleges China deploying largest naval fleet in decades

TAIPEI: China is deploying its largest navy fleet in regional waters in nearly three decades, posing a threat to Taiwan that is more pronounced than previous Chinese war games, the Taiwanese defence ministry alleged on Tuesday.

Speaking in Taipei, defence ministry spokesperson Sun Li-fang said the scale of the current Chinese naval deployment in an area running from the southern Japanese islands down into the South China Sea was the largest since China held war games around Taiwan ahead of 1996 Taiwanese presidential elections. China's military has yet to comment and has not confirmed it is carrying out any exercises.

"The current scale is the largest compared to the previous four," Sun said. "Regardless of whether they have announced drills, they are posing a great threats to us." Senior ministry intelligence officer Hsieh Jih-sheng told the same press conference there have so far been no live fire drills in China's seven "reserved" air space zones, two of which are in the Taiwan Strait, but there had been a significant increase in Chinese activity to the north of Taiwan over the last day.

The number of China navy and coast guard ships in the region, which a Taiwan security source said remained at around 90, was "very alarming", and China was taking aim at other countries in the region and not only Taiwan, he alleged.

China's deployment in the First Island Chain — which runs from Japan through Taiwan, the Philippines and on to Borneo, enclosing China's coastal seas — is aimed at area denial to prevent foreign forces from interfering, Hsieh alleged.—Reuters

South Korea slaps travel bans on more top officials

SEOUL: South Korean authorities banned more top officials from leaving the country on Tuesday, in the wake of President Yoon Suk Yeol's bungled attempt to impose martial law.

A day after Yoon himself was hit with a travel ban, his party was meanwhile forging a "resignation roadmap" that reportedly could see him step down in February or March before fresh elections, while the opposition plans to organise an impeachment vote every Saturday.

Yoon suspended civilian rule a week ago and sent special forces and helicopters to parliament, before lawmakers forced him to rescind the decree in a country assumed to be a stable democracy.

Investigators are probing the president and a cabal of allies — many from the same school — for alleged insurrection over the sequence of extraordinary events.

On Tuesday Cho Ji-ho, commissioner general of the Korean National Police Agency, and two other top police officials became the latest to be barred from foreign travel, police said.

Already under a travel ban are the former defence and interior ministers and martial law commander General Park An-su, who along with other top brass was grilled by lawmakers on Tuesday.—AFP

Netanyahu testifies for first time in corruption trial

TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took the witness stand for the first time on Tuesday in his long-running corruption trial, saying he was being hounded for his hawkish security policies.

Netanyahu, 75, is Israel's first sitting prime minister to be charged with a crime. He is testifying at the same time Israel is engaged in a conflict in Gaza and facing possible new threats posed by regional turmoil, including in Syria.

Last week judges ruled that Netanyahu, indicted in 2019, must testify three times a week, forcing the longtime Israeli leader to juggle between the courtroom and the war room at Israel's Defence Ministry, minutes away from the courthouse.

He took the stand for about four hours and will resume testifying on Wednesday. Twice his military secretary handed him written messages, the first time requiring a recess and underscoring his having to do double duty as prime minister.

The leader of the right-wing Likud party, Netanyahu assailed the Israeli media for what he called its leftist stance and accused journalists of having hounded him for years because his policies did not align with a push for a Palestinian state.

"I have been waiting for eight years for this moment to tell the truth," Netanyahu told the three-judge court. But I am also a prime minister ... I am leading the country through a seven-front war. And I think the two can be done in parallel."

Netanyahu was indicted in three cases involving gifts from millionaire friends and for allegedly seeking regulatory favours for media tycoons in return for favourable news coverage. He denies any wrongdoing and has pleaded not guilty.

"Had I wanted good coverage all I would have had to have done would be to signal toward a two-state solution. ... Had I moved two steps to the left I would have been hailed," he said.

He stood rather than sat in the witness box while testifying. In lengthy replies, he portrayed himself as a staunch defender of Israeli security, withstanding pressures from international powers and a hostile domestic media.

Underground courtroom

Netanyahu smiled confidently when he entered the Tel Aviv District Court around 10am. The trial was moved from Jerusalem for undisclosed security reasons and convened in an underground courtroom. Before Netanyahu took the stand, his lawyer Amit Hadad laid out for the judges what the defence maintains are fundamental flaws in the investigation. Prosecutors, Hadad said, "weren't investigating a crime, they were going after a person." Several protesters gathered outdoors, some of them supporters and others demanding Netanyahu do more to negotiate the release of some 100 prisoners still held by Hamas in Gaza.

Israel has been waging conflict in Gaza for more than a year, during which Netanyahu had been granted a delay for the start of his court appearances. Last Thursday, judges ruled that he must start testifying.

In the run-up to his court date, Netanyahu revived familiar pre-war rhetoric against law enforcement, describing investigations against him as a witch hunt.—Reuters

NEWSMAKERS

MALIBU: Firefighters work as a wildfire rages near a building in California, on Tuesday. The wildfire has scorched 1,600 acres near Pepperdine University, prompting evacuations along stretches of the US west coast amid high winds.—AFP

MAZAR-I-SHARIF (Afghanistan): A burqa-clad woman sits next to food aid distributed by a charity foundation.—AFP

NAIROBI: Activists chant slogans and hold placards as they take part in a march against femicide and gender-based violence, on Tuesday. Kenyan police teargassed the march and detained a number of protesters even as more streamed onto the streets in support.—AFP

NABIL Mouhamed Mbombo Njoya, (second left), King of the Bamoun, talks to legislators during a ritual ceremony in Foumban.—AFP

Trial of a king: ancient royal ritual in Cameroon promotes peace

FOUMBAN: Chatter muffled as members of a secret society, masked and garbed in honey-coloured robes, entered the court of Foumban, the historic capital of a centuries-old kingdom nestled in hilly northwestern Cameroon.

The 20th king of the Bamoun people, Mouhamouad Nabil Mbombo Njoya, stood up from his ornate throne — a replica of the original, now at a German museum — for the ancient ritual to get under way.

The nearly 600-year-old tradition sees him put on public trial over his governance — with local chiefs reading out indictments destined to put his popularity to the test.

The tradition is part of a set of rituals taking place over a week in a bid to promote dialogue, harmony and peace.

The ceremony is a first for Mbombo Njoya, 38, who took over the throne after his father died in 2021. If deemed to have failed, the monarch could be fined or removed from office. But if he succeeds, he is granted a new mandate and allegiance.

Tourists and officials last week flocked to the remote, grassy region of the West African country to attend Ngiso, a set of royal rituals that date back to 1394, when the kingdom was founded.

The rites, which are followed by celebrations, had not taken place in six years due to the Covid-19 pandemic and other factors, but were recognised in Dec 2023 by Unesco as intangible cultural heritage.

The Bamoun territory, which is home to the ethnic group of the same name, is one of the oldest traditional kingdoms in sub-Saharan Africa.—AFP

PRISTINA: Pedestrians walk near a memorial depicting an Albanian woman using 20,000 pins. Each pin represents a woman raped during the 1998-99 war for Kosovo's liberation. Moment, a small museum, opened its doors last month with the aim of commemorating an estimated 20,000 men and women who suffered sexual abuse during the war.—Reuters

CAIRO: An excavator is stationed outside a collapsed building. Eight people were killed and three more injured in the Egyptian capital on Tuesday when a six-storey residential building collapsed.—AFP

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Trump hush money case must stand despite election win: prosecutors

NEW YORK: Donald Trump's criminal conviction on charges stemming from hush money paid to an adult film star must stand despite his victory in the Nov 5 US presidential election, prosecutors said in urging a judge to deny his bid to dismiss the case.

In a court filing made public on Tuesday, prosecutors with Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office said Trump should receive "temporary accommodations" to make sure the case does not interfere with his presidency, but called wiping out the jury's verdict an "extreme remedy."

"President-elect immunity does not exist," prosecutors wrote. "The overwhelming evidence of defendant's guilt and the critical importance of preserving public confidence in the criminal justice system, among many other factors, weigh heavily against dismissal."

Justice Juan Merchan has not said when he will rule on Trump's bid to dismiss the charges. In urging the judge to vacate the guilty verdict and toss the charges, Trump's lawyers last week said having the case hang over him after he takes office on Jan 20 would improperly impede his ability to govern.

The case stemmed from a $130,000 payment that Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen made to adult film actress Stormy Daniels for her silence before the 2016 election about a sexual encounter she has said she had a decade earlier with Trump, who denies it.

A Manhattan jury in May found Trump guilty of 34 counts of falsifying business records to cover up his reimbursement of Cohen. It was the first time a US president — former or sitting — had been convicted of or charged with a criminal offense. Merchan last month delayed Trump's previously scheduled Nov 26 sentencing indefinitely to give him the chance to seek dismissal. Bragg's office has suggested he defer all proceedings in the case until Trump, 78, is due to leave the White House in 2029.

In their motion to dismiss, Trump's lawyers called that suggestion "ridiculous." They said that would mean sentencing would happen more than a decade after the investigation started in 2018. Trump was charged in three other state and federal criminal cases in 2023, one involving classified documents he kept after leaving office and two others involving his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss.

He pleaded not guilty in all three cases. The Justice Department moved to dismiss the two federal cases after Trump's election victory.—Reuters

Kyrgyz MPs back govt move to 'control' religion

BISHKEK: Lawmakers in Kyrgyzstan on Tuesday gave their backing to new government proposals for tighter controls on religion, prompted by concern about a rise in extremism in the central Asian state.

The authorities in Bishkek want to modify the law on "freedom of religion and religious associations" as part of a wider crackdown on Islamic radicals.

The amendments, which were adopted in first reading at parliament, include banning religiously-based political parties and door-to-door preaching activities.

They also propose creating "central bodies" to regulate religious associations and require anyone wanting to receive religious education abroad to obtain prior consent to prevent a "destructive influence" from outside the country.

Kyrgyzstan is secular but with a Muslim majority. Thousands of people from the country, and other former Soviet republics (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) joined fighter groups in Syria and Iraq in the last decade.

In mid-October, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which includes Central Asian countries, Russia, Iran and China, reported that fighters from the region were among religious groups in Syria that helped bring down strongman Bashar al-Assad last week.

Last month, Kyrgyzstan's President Sadyr Japarov urged the country's main religious leaders to "fight against radical elements" and "guide those who have strayed from the right path".—AFP

Assad's feared dungeons give up their secrets

There were 80 prisoners per cell forcing inmates to take turns to sleep

DAMASCUS: Syrians lived in terror for decades of what went on behind the concrete walls of Damascus's security compound. Now the Assad dynasty has been toppled, its dungeons and torture chambers are giving up their secrets.

Rebel fighters stand guard at the entrances to the forbidden city in the capital's Kafr Sousa district, where the feared security services had their headquarters alongside government offices.

The myriad of different agencies which kept tabs on the lives of ordinary Syrians each operated their own underground prisons and interrogation chambers inside the walled defence ministry compound.

Syrians lived in fear of being summoned for a round of questioning from which they might never return. Agency found first responder Sleiman Kabrajii wandering around the complex this week trying to locate the building where he was questioned and then detained.

He said he was still at secondary school when he was arrested in 2014 on suspicion of "terrorism", a frequent allegation under the rule of now toppled president Bashar al-Assad, who brooked no dissent.

'My dear mother'

"I spent 55 days underground," he said. "There were 55 of us in that dungeon. Two died, one from diabetes." Scribbled graffiti left by the prisoners are barely legible on the walls amid the darkness. "My dear mother," one had scribbled, probably in his own blood.

The cells that were used for solitary confinement are so small there isn't even space to lie down. As many as 80 prisoners per cell were crammed into the larger ones, forcing inmates to take turns to sleep, recalls another former detainee Thaer Moustafa, who was arrested for alleged desertion.

All remaining prisoners were freed on Sunday after their captors fled as the rebels swept into Damascus capping the lightning offensive they launched late last month.

A large crowd broke into the security zone and ransacked the sprawling offices on the upper floors of the complex. Thousands of intelligence files lay abandoned, many of them scattered on the floor, detailing the activities of ordinary citizens subjected to draconian surveillance by security service agents.

One handwritten document lists more than 10,000 prisoners held on suspicion of membership of the Muslim Brotherhood. Brotherhood membership became punishable by death since 1980 two years before Assad's father and predecessor Hafez ordered the army to crush its insurgency with an assault on the central city of Hama which killed between 10,000 and 40,000 people.

Alongside each prisoner's name and date of birth, the security services noted the details of their detention and interrogation, and whether and when they had died. Another abandoned file details the detention of a Briton of Syrian origin, who was subjected to a lie detector test over allegations he was working for British intelligence.

Paid informers

Another, dated this January, details the investigation into a bomb attack on the Mazzeh neighbourhood of Damascus, in which an Iragi was wounded.

Nothing was considered too trivial to escape the security services' attention. There are files recording the activities of ordinary citizens as well as journalists and religious leaders. Not even government ministers were immune. On a list of members of Assad's government, a security service agent has carefully noted the confession of each minister — Sunni or Alawi, Christian or Druze.

The security services operated vast networks of paid informers, who provided the tiniest details of people's daily lives. Families have been arriving at the gates of the Damascus security zone since Saturday, desperately seeking word on the fate of their missing loved ones. Many come after first visiting Saydnaya Prison, a vast detention complex on the outskirts of Damascus where many of those who survived interrogation at security headquarters were taken for long-term incarceration.

"We heard that there were secret dungeons. I'm looking for my son Obada Amini, who was arrested in 2013," said Khouloud Amini, 53, her husband and daughter by her side.

"He was in his fourth year at the engineering faculty. I went to Saydnaya but I didn't find him. "I was told there were underground dungeons here. I hope that all Syrian prisoners are freed".—AFP

MEN just released from a prison dance at the entrance of Aleppo city.—AFP

Asma Assad: London-born first lady not welcome in UK

LONDON: Once celebrated as an advocate of women's rights in the Middle East, British-born former first lady Asma al-Assad has fled into exile with her husband, with UK officials saying she is not welcome to return to London.

Asma al-Assad, 49, her husband and three children have sought refuge in Moscow after rebels ousted Bashar al-Assad from power, according to Russian state news agencies, although the Kremlin has not confirmed the reports.

It is just the latest blow to the shredded reputation of a woman whose glamour and charm had been seen in the past as a key asset to the Syrian government. Asma al-Assad was born in London in 1975 and has spent half her life in the UK, with her parents still living in the west of the capital city.

She retains British citizenship, but foreign minister David Lammy said on Monday that she was no longer welcome in the country, suggesting she may soon lose her UK passport.

"I've seen mentioned in the last few days, Asma Assad (is) potentially someone with UK citizenship that might attempt to come into our country, and I want to confirmed that she's a sanctioned individual and is not welcome here in the UK," he told parliament.

Asma al-Assad had her UK assets frozen in March 2012 amid growing protests against her husband's rule, as part of a European sanction programme that London maintained after Brexit.

The UK has previously stripped citizens of their nationality for joining the militant Islamic State group, Bader Mouna Al Saif, researcher at the Chatham House think tank, said. "If that could be happening to an unknown in an extremist camp, I think the same, if not more, warrants for the case of Asma al-Assad," he added.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that it was "far too early" to discuss such a measure, while minister Pat McFadden told the BBC "we have had no contact" with the former first lady.

Asma al-Assad was born to cardiologist father Fawaz al Akhras and retired diplomat Sahar Otri, both from Syria.—AFP

A DEC 16, 2002, file photo shows Syria's ousted president Bashar Al Assad (left) posing at 10 Downing Street in London with his wife Asma and then British prime minister Tony Blair.—AFP

Russia moves closer to recognising Taliban regime

MOSCOW: Russia moved a step closer towards recognising the Taliban government of Afghanistan on Tuesday as parliament voted in favour of a law that would make it possible to remove the Taliban from Moscow's list of banned terrorist organisations.

Parliament's lower house, the Duma, approved the bill in the first of three required readings, Interfax news agency said.

No country currently recognises the Taliban government which seized power in August 2021 as US-led forces staged a chaotic withdrawal after 20 years of war. But Russia has been gradually building ties with the movement, which President Vladimir Putin said in July was now an ally in fighting terrorism.

Moscow sees a major security threat from militant groups based in a string of countries from Afghanistan to the Middle East, where Russia lost a major ally this week with the toppling of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

In March, gunmen killed 145 people at a concert hall outside Moscow in an attack claimed by the militant Islamic State group. US officials said they had intelligence indicating it was the Afghan branch of the group, Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K), that was responsible.

Western diplomats say the movement's path towards wider international recognition is stalled until it changes course on women's rights. The Taliban have closed high schools and universities to girls and women and placed restrictions on their movement without a male guardian. They say they respects women's rights in line with its interpretation of Islamic law.

Russia has its own complex and bloodstained history in Afghanistan. Soviet troops invaded the country in December 1979 to prop up a Communist government, but became bogged down in a long war against mujahideen.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev pulled his army out in 1989, by which time some 15,000 Soviet soldiers had been killed.—Reuters

Arctic is now emitting more carbon than it absorbs

WASHINGTON: After locking carbon dioxide in its frozen soil for millennia, the Arctic tundra is undergoing a dramatic transformation, driven by frequent wildfires that are turning it into a net source of carbon dioxide emissions, a US agency said Tuesday.

This stark shift is detailed in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 2024 Arctic Report Card, which revealed that annual surface air temperatures in the Arctic this year were the second-warmest on record since 1900.

"Our observations now show that the Arctic tundra, which is experiencing warming and increased wildfire, is now emitting more carbon than it stores, which will worsen climate change impacts," said NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad. The finding is based on average of observations recorded from 2001-2020.

Climate warming exerts dual effects on the Arctic. While it stimulates plant productivity and growth, which remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, it also leads to increased surface air temperatures that cause permafrost to thaw.

Thawing permafrost releases carbon previously trapped in frozen soil as carbon dioxide and methane — two potent greenhouse gases — through microbial decomposition.

In 2024, Alaska recorded its second-warmest permafrost temperatures on record, the report said. Human-caused climate change is also intensifying high-latitude wildfires, which have increased in burned area, intensity, and associated carbon emissions.

Wildfires not only combust vegetation and soil organic matter, releasing carbon into the atmosphere, but they also strip away insulating soil layers, accelerating long-term permafrost thaw and its associated carbon emissions.

Since 2003, circumpolar wildfire emissions have averaged 207 million tons of carbon annually, according to NOAA. At the same time, Arctic terrestrial ecosystems have remained a consistent source of methane.

"Last year, 2023, was the largest fire year on record due to Canadian wildfires, which burned more than twice any other year on record in Canada," report co-author Brendan Rogers said during a press conference.

The fires emitted nearly 400 million tons of carbon — more than two-and-a-half times the emissions from all other sectors in Canada combined, he added. Meanwhile, 2024 ranked as the second-highest year for wildfire emissions within the Arctic Circle.

"Alarming harbinger"

Asked whether the Arctic's shift from carbon sink to source might be permanent, Rogers said it remains an open question. While boreal forests further south still serve as carbon sinks, northern regions are of greater concern. "There is definitely interannual variability," he emphasised. "What I'm reporting on here is the average condition we've seen over a 20 year period." Reacting to the news, Brenda Ekwurzel, a climate scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists said that "the climate catastrophe we're seeing in the Arctic is already bringing consequences for communities around the world." "The alarming harbinger of a net carbon source being unleashed sooner rather than later doesn't bode well. Once reached, many of these thresholds of adverse impacts on ecosystems cannot be reversed." As well as warmer, the Arctic is also growing wetter, with summer 2024 seeing the most rainfall on record.

The trend accelerates coastal erosion, threatening Indigenous communities reliant on stable ice and traditional hunting practices. Warmer temperatures are impacting wildlife too, with the report finding tundra caribou numbers have decreased by 65 percent over the past two to three decades — with summer heat disrupting their movements and survival, alongside changes to winter snow and ice conditions.

Surprisingly, however, Alaska's ice seal populations remain healthy. The report found no long-term negative impacts on body condition, age of maturity, pregnancy rates, or pup survival for the four species of ice seals — ringed, bearded, spotted, and ribbon — inhabiting the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas.—AFP

Macron consults party chiefs before naming PM

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron aims to name a new Prime Minister for France "within 48 hours", party chiefs who met him on Tuesday said after a bid to end political deadlock following the ouster of Michel Barnier.

The president invited leaders from across the political spectrum, leaving out the far-right National Rally (RN) and hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) who hold the key to France's hung parliament.

Macron's initiative came as caretaker ministers scrambled to clarify France's 2025 finances, after the last administration fell over its cost-cutting budget.

Barnier had been supported by the conservative Republicans and Macron's centrist camp. But the alliance was far short of a National Assembly majority and was brought down by the united left, including LFI, and Marine Le Pen's RN. It was unclear how a broader base of support could be built for any new government.

Most leaders are unwilling to compromise on issues such as last year's widely-loathed pension reform, or to tarnish their electoral image by cooperating with the unpopular president. "We would prefer the debate not continue under (Macron's) auspices for a simple reason, because he is not in a position today to be the referee," Socialist Party chief Olivier Faure had said as he arrived.—AFP

TransPeshawar
www.transpeshawar.pk /transpeshawar /transpeshawar

CORRIDENDUM

Date: December 11, 2024

Procurement No. TPC/OPS/OCS/Solar Park/2024-25/909

1. Reference to TransPeshawar (The Urban Mobility Company) advertisement regarding "Establishment of Solar Park (1 MW) at BRT Depot, Chamkani" published in Daily Dawn, Daily Aaj and Daily Jang on November 14, 2024.
2. Some modifications have been made in Bid Solicitation Documents (RFP) in response to the pre-bid meeting held on November 29, 2024. The addendum to the effect may be inspected at the websites of TransPeshawar (http://transpeshawar.pk) and KPPRA (http://www.kppra.gov.pk).
3. The deadline for submission of proposals is hereby extended. Submission of proposals will be closed at 11:30 AM PST, January 07, 2025 and technical proposal will be opened at 11:45 AM PST on the same date.
4. All other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

Chief Executive Officer
TransPeshawar (The Urban Mobility Company)
First Floor, KPUMA Building Main BRT Depot,
Near Northern By-Pass, Chamkani, Peshawar

CDA CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(Procurement & Contracts Agreement-II)
#HamCDA

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

CORRIGENDUM - IV

With reference to the published advertisement in Daily Dawn and Jang through PID (I) 3766/24 dated 04-12-2024. Competent Authority has approved extension in bid submission as following:

Sr. No.	For	Read
1	Proposals (Technical & Financial) accompanied with Bid Security as mentioned in the RFP documents and complete in all respects should be uploaded on or before 11th December 2024 at 11:00 AM	Proposals (Technical & Financial) accompanied with Bid Security as mentioned in the RFP documents and complete in all respects should be uploaded on or before 20th December 2024 at 02:00 PM

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

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

PID(I)3905/24

Society for the Promotion of Engineering Sciences & Technology in Pakistan (SOPREST)

JOB OPPORTUNITY
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RECTOR

The Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute, Topi Swabi District, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, a premier university of Engineering Sciences and Technology in the country, seeks a highly accomplished individual for the position of Rector of the Institute for a three-years term. The University is a private, non-profit institution operating under the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Sciences and Technology in Pakistan (SOPREST). The GIK Institute, now in its thirty-first year of academic excellence, derives its Charter from the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with the President of Pakistan as its Chancellor.

Qualification: The candidate should hold a Postgraduate Degree in Natural Sciences and Technology, Engineering, Computer Sciences, or Information Technology, with extensive management and administrative experience. Eminent academic or distinguished administrator with a proven track record of institution building, attaining academic excellence and management acumen will be an extra advantage. Nomination of candidates would also be accepted. Salary is negotiable.

Experience: The candidate must have served for a minimum 20 years in Academic, Research or Administrative leadership position with wide ranging management experience at the highest level preferably in educational institutions. The last date for submitting the applications is 30th December 2024 on the following address.

Mr. Irfan Ahmad, Acting Secretary, SOPREST
Office # 305-306, 3rd Floor,
ISE Tower, Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area, Islamabad.
Contact # 051 8778429 – 8779429 Email: irfanjanjua911@gmail.com

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DAWN COUNTRY SUPPLEMENTS

DAWN

With rebels' backing Bashir takes over as Syria's interim PM

- New leader was in charge of a small pocket in northwest wrested from the army during uprising against Assad
- Israeli strikes target Syria's military bases

DAMASCUS: Syria's interim leader announced on Tuesday he was taking charge of the country as caretaker prime minister with the backing of the former rebels who toppled President Bashar Al Assad three days ago.

In a brief address on state television, Mohammed Al Bashir, a figure little known across most of Syria who previously ran an administration in a small pocket of the northwest, said he would lead the interim authority until March 1.

The steps towards normalisation came despite intense air strikes from Israel targeting bases of the Syrian army, which melted away in the face of the lightning advance that ousted Bashar Al Assad.

Israel, which has sent forces across the border into a demilitarised zone inside Syria, acknowledged on Tuesday that troops had also taken up some positions beyond the buffer zone, though it denied they were advancing towards Damascus. It mounted air strikes on bases of the now dissolved Syrian army.

Israel's defence minister said he had ordered a "sterile defensive zone" to be created in southern Syria "to protect Israel".

Three security sources said on Tuesday the Israelis had advanced beyond the demilitarised zone. And one Syrian source said the Israelis had reached the town of Qatana, several kilometres to the east of the buffer zone and a short drive from Damascus airport.

In his speech, Mohammed Al Bashir said: "Today we held a cabinet meeting that included a team from the Salvation government that was working in Idlib and its vicinity, and the government of the ousted regime.

"The meeting was under the headline of transferring the files and institutions to the caretaker government." Behind him were two flags: the green, black and white flown by opponents of Bashar Al Assad throughout the civil war, and a white flag with the Islamic oath of faith (Kalma) in black writing.

A *Facebook* page says Bashir was trained as an electrical engineer, later received a degree in Sharia and law, and had held various posts over areas including education.

In the Syrian capital, banks reopened for the first time since Assad's overthrow. Shops also reopened, traffic returned to the roads, construction workers were back fixing a roundabout in the Damascus city centre and street cleaners were out sweeping the streets.

There was a notable decrease in the number of armed men on the streets. Two sources close to the anti-Assad fighters said their command had ordered them to withdraw from cities, and for police and internal security forces affiliated with the Hayat Tahrir Al Sham (HTS) group to deploy there.

The HTS is a former Al Qaeda affiliate that led the anti-Assad revolt.

Israeli action

Israel's incursion in Syria's southwest and its air strikes on bases of the former army create an additional security problem for the new administration, although Tel Aviv insists its intervention is temporary.

Military spokesperson Nadav Shoshani said Israeli troops were in the buffer zone and "a few additional points" in the vicinity, the first apparent official Israeli acknowledgement that they had moved beyond it. He said, however, that there had been no significant push into Syria.

"We are not involved in what's happening in Syria internally, we are not a side in this conflict and we do not have any interest other than protecting our borders and the security of our citizens," Shoshani said.

Israel Katz, the defence minister, claimed Israel's navy had destroyed Syria's fleet.

Regional security sources and officers within the defunct Syrian army described Tuesday morning's Israeli air strikes as the heaviest yet, hitting military installations and air bases across Syria and destroying dozens of helicopters and jets.

Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Egypt and Qatar have condemned the Israeli incursion.

The mood in Damascus remained celebratory, with refugees beginning to return to a homeland they had not seen in years. Anas Idrees, 42, a refugee since the beginning of the civil war in 2011, raced from Lebanon to Syria to cheer the fall of the Assad regime.

After making arrangements for his family to follow, he ventured into the grand Hamidiyeh Souk, in old Damascus, to a popular ice cream parlour, where he ordered a large scoop of the outlet's signature mastic-infused Arabic gelato. A generous heap costs $1 per bowl, served coated in pistachios. "I swear to God, it tastes different now," he said after eating a spoonful. "It was good before, but it's changed because now we are happy inside."

Regular customers at the shop, known as Bakdash, agreed that something felt new. "It's delicious and has gotten even better," said Eman Ghazal, a business student in her 20s.—Reuters

Pakistan asks US to support its reforms, avoid criticism

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has asked the United States to focus on strengthening bilateral ties and supporting its ongoing democratic reforms rather than adopting 'unconstructive' resolutions.

Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs disclosed this at a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, with Senator Irfanul Haq Siddiqui in the chair, on Tuesday.

The officials were referring to foreign ministry's response to the US House Resolution 901 that urged Pakistan to uphold democratic institutions and human rights. The US resolution, passed in June 2024, drew criticism from the foreign ministry for its lack of understanding of Pakistan's political dynamics.

They said Pakistan's embassy in Washington circulated the counter-resolution adopted by the National Assembly of Pakistan that rejected the US stance based on unsubstantiated allegations.

The officials at the Senate committee meeting also highlighted the foreign ministry's efforts to engage the US Congress in a more balanced and informed discussion on Pakistan's democratic progress and human rights advancements.

At the meeting, the senators condemned Israel's recent legislation targeting the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Foreign ministry officials also informed the Senate panel that urgent measures were being taken for immediate evacuation of Pakistanis trapped in Syria. Out of the 180 pilgrims evacuated, 170 have been allowed to leave Syria for Lebanon.

Since Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's contact with his Lebanese counterpart, the Lebanese government has been providing visas to them at the border as they were being shifted to Beirut through buses.

PALESTINIANS check a building destroyed during an Israeli strike in the Nuseirat camp, central Gaza Strip, on Tuesday.—AFP

Israeli air strikes kill 34 Palestinians in Gaza

Most of the deceased belonged to same family, including women and children

CAIRO: Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 34 Palestinians overnight and on Tuesday, medics said, as Israeli tanks pushed into areas in central and southern parts of the enclave.

An Israeli air strike killed at least 25 people in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, where Israeli forces have operated since October, and injured dozens of others in a multi-floored building, medics said.

The Palestinian Civil Emergency said most of those killed were from the same family, including women and children. Images posted online, which Reuters couldn't immediately verify, showed the bodies lined up in a single mass grave in the town.

Another airstrike on a house in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza killed at least seven people. It wounded several others, medics and the Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said, while another killed two people in Rafah south of the enclave.

In Deir Al-Balah near the coast, Israeli naval forces detained six Palestinian fishermen who tried to sail into the Mediterranean Sea earlier on Tuesday, according to residents.

More than 44,700 Palestinians have been killed in the 14-month-old Israeli military campaign on Gaza that has followed, Gaza health authorities say.

Ceasefire efforts by Arab mediators Egypt and Qatar, backed by the United States, have failed to find agreement, but recent signs of optimism among Israeli and Palestinian officials have suggested a deal to end the war could be closer.

On Monday night, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Hamas' increasing isolation after the downfall of Syria's Bashar al-Assad could open the door to a deal to return prisoners but it was too early to say if efforts would succeed.

On Tuesday, a Hamas official declined to disclose the content of negotiations but told *Reuters* mediators had recently stepped up their efforts, citing the group's willingness to show the flexibility needed "to end the aggression on our people".

A Palestinian official with knowledge of the mediation effort said Hamas had asked other Gaza factions to list the names of Israeli and foreign prisoners in their custody, whether dead or alive, signalling potential progress in the talks.

Hamas wants a deal that ends the war and sees the release of Israeli and foreign prisoners held in Gaza as well as Palestinians jailed by Israel, while Netanyahu has vowed the war can only end once Hamas is eradicated.—Reuters

'No winners' in China-US trade war, warns Xi

Says Beijing has 'full confidence' in achieving 2024 growth goal

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping warned on Tuesday that there would be "no winners" in a trade war with the United States and vowed the country would hit its growth goals for the year.

Former US president Donald Trump — who returns to the White House next month — unleashed a gruelling trade war with China during his first term in office, lambasting alleged intellectual property theft and other "unfair" practices.

He has pledged to impose even higher tariffs on China after taking office on January 20, as Beijing is grappling with a shaky post-pandemic economic recovery.

"Tariff wars, trade wars, and technology wars go against historical trends and economic rules, and there will be no winners," Xi said of China-US relations while meeting several heads of multilateral financial institutions in Beijing, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

"China is willing to maintain dialogue with the US government, expand cooperation, manage differences and promote the development of China-US relations in a stable, healthy and sustainable direction," said Xi.

Beijing is targeting annual growth this year of around five per cent, despite sluggish domestic consumption, high unemployment and a prolonged crisis in the vast property sector.

Xi also said during Tuesday's meeting that China had "full confidence" in achieving its 2024 growth goal, state media reported. His remarks come as official data showed the country's exports rose last month at a slower rate than expected while imports shrank further, underscoring the challenges China is still facing.

The latest reading reinforced the need for more support a day after top officials pledged to bolster stuttering growth.

Trade war looms

Overseas shipments this year have represented a rare bright spot in the Chinese economy, with domestic spending mired in a slump and persistent woes in the property sector spooking investors.

Exports jumped 6.7 per cent on-year to $312.3 billion last month, China's General Administration of Customs said.

But the figure was much slower than the 8.7pc anticipated by economists in a Bloomberg survey and well down from the 12.7pc leap in October, which was the strongest in more than two years.

The data showed exports grew 5.4pc on-year in January-November.

"China's exports were perhaps the biggest upside surprise for the economy in 2024," wrote Lynn Song, chief economist for Greater China at ING.

This is "one of the main reasons China is set to achieve its 'around five percent' growth target" for this year, he added.

Analysts have suggested the recent surge in shipments is because foreign buyers fearing another trade standoff were racing to beat any possible tariffs on Chinese goods by Trump.

"We could see some front loading of exports in the coming few months but momentum is likely to soften after this is done, unless the outcome of tariff negotiations is surprisingly positive," wrote Song.

The 3.9pc drop in imports last month extended a slide in the previous month — and was much worse than the 0.9pc rise forecast — as domestic demand continues to be dampened by lacklustre consumer spending.

The readings come as investors closely watch signals from Chinese leaders, who are convening this week in Beijing for a series of key meetings on economic planning for the coming year.

The Politburo, China's top decision-making body, on Monday urged "vigorous" support for consumption and a loosening of monetary policy in 2025.

But observers are still waiting for the announcement of specific policies, particularly any measures to significantly bolster consumption.

Zhang Zhiwei, president and chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management, said in a note that another key meeting on economic policy — expected to take place in the coming days — could "shed more light, particularly on the fiscal policy front".—AFP

Linde bats and then bowls South Africa to victory over Pakistan

DURBAN: Spinner George Linde took four wickets, plus scored 48 runs off 24 balls with the bat, to lead South Africa to an 11-run win over Pakistan in the first of their Twenty20 internationals at Kingsmead on Tuesday.

Linde ensured South Africa, who won the toss and chose to bat first, set a tough target as they made 183-9 off their 20 overs.

Pakistan were 172-8 in reply, falling short of the target.

David Miller top scored for South Africa with 82 off 40 balls in a swashbuckling innings that included four sixes and eight fours.

Linde then took 4-21 in four overs, but was denied a hat-trick when his last ball was initially adjudged to have trapped Haris Rauf leg before wicket.

The decision was overturned on review when the ball tracker said the ball would have missed the leg stump.

Pakistan were always struggling to keep up the required run rate despite captain Mohamed Rizwan batting through to the last over before being dismissed for 74.

The two teams meet next in Pretoria on Friday and then again on Saturday at the Wanderers in Johannesburg.

Next week the two countries will meet in a three-match One Day International series.—Reuters

Scoreboard

SOUTH AFRICA:

R. Hendricks b Abrar	6
R. van der Dussen b Shahnawaz	0
M. Breetzke c Saim b Abrar	8
D. Miller c Irfan b Shahnawaz	82
H. Klaasen c Irfan b Akhtar	12
D. Ferreira c Sufiyan b Akhtar	7
G. Linde c Irfan b Sufiyan	48
A. Simelane st Rizwan b Abrar	4
N. Peter lbw b Shahnawaz	3
K. Maphaka not out	12
EXTRAS (lb 1; w 1)	2
TOTAL (for nine wickets, 20 overs)	183

DID NOT BAT: O. Baartman

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1 (van der Dussen), 2-10 (Breetzke), 3-28 (Hendricks), 4-71 (Klaasen), 5-104 (Ferreira), 6-105 (Miller), 7-156 (Simelane), 8-161 (Peter), 9-183 (Linde)

BOWLING: Shahnawaz 4-0-22-3; Abrar 4-0-37-2 (1w); Haris 4-0-41-0 (1w); Akhtar 4-0-30-2; Sufiyan 4-0-33-1

PAKISTAN:

Mohammad Rizwan c Peter b Maphaka	74
Babar Azam c Simelane b Maphaka	0
Saim Ayub c Breetzke b Simelane	21
Usman Khan c Hendricks b Linde	9
Tayyab Tahir c Ferreira b Baartman	19
Shahnawaz Dahani c Klaasen b Linde	9
Irfan Khan c Simelane b Linde	1
Akhtar Ahmed lbw b Linde	0
Haris Rauf lbw b Linde	2
Sufiyan Muqeem not out	5
EXTRAS (lb 6; w 1)	7
TOTAL (for eight wickets, 20 overs)	172

DID NOT BAT: Abrar Ahmed

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10 (Babar), 2-50 (Saim), 3-75 (Usman), 4-103 (Tayyab), 5-151 (Shahnawaz), 6-153 (Irfan), 7-163 (Akhtar), 8-166 (Rizwan)

BOWLING: Maphaka 4-0-38-2 (1w, 1nb); Baartman 4-0-26-1 (1w); Simelane 4-0-44-1 (1w, 1nb); Peter 4-0-29-0 (2w); Linde 4-0-21-4 (2w)

RESULT: South Africa won by 11 runs

Women's share in polled votes jumps by 2.7m in 2024 elections

The number of women candidates rose from 465 in 2018 to 902 in 2024

By Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: The share of female voters in the total polled votes saw a marked increase in the 2024 general elections compared to 2018, with women casting 24.4 million of the 58.9m votes. This reflected an increase of 2.7m, nearly double the growth in male votes, which rose by 1.6m.

According to a report titled Women in Elections, launched at an event organised by the Free and Fair Election Network (Fafen) on Tuesday, the share of female voters in National Assembly constituencies rose from 39.4pc in 2018 to 41.4pc in 2024. Similarly, in provincial assemblies, the female voter share grew from 40pc to 41.4pc.

The report noted that while both male and female voter turnout dropped across regions — except in Islamabad — the gender gap in turnout narrowed, decreasing from 10 percentage points in 2018 to 9 points in 2024.

Over the last ten years, female voter registration has significantly improved, reducing the gender gap from 12.8pc in 2013 to 7.7pc in 2024. Over the last five years, female voter registration has outpaced that of males by 10 percentage points, with female voter numbers increasing by 27pc compared to a 17pc rise for males.

For the first time since the 2013 general election, the overall voter gender gap dropped below 10 million in 2024, standing at 9.9 million. Of this gap, 78pc was concentrated among women aged 18-35, indicating under-registration in these age groups.

In absolute terms, Punjab accounted for 51pc of the overall gender gap, while Balochistan exhibited the largest proportional gap at 12pc, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (9pc), Sindh (8pc), Punjab (7pc) and Islamabad (5pc).

The number of constituencies with a gender gap exceeding 10pc has significantly declined, from 571 in 2018 (172 national and 399 provincial constituencies) to 140 in 2024 (38 national and 102 provincial constituencies).

Punjab showed consistent progress in narrowing the gap, reducing constituencies with over a 10pc gender gap from 218 in 2013 to just 17 in 2024. Conversely, Balochistan's progress has been slower, with the number of constituencies with over a 10pc gap dropping from 45 in 2018 to 30 in 2024.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also showed improvement, reducing constituencies with significant gender disparities from 105 in 2018 to 24 in 2024. Sindh followed a similar trend, with such constituencies falling from 66 in 2018 to 31 in 2024.

Women contesting elections

Female political participation also witnessed a significant boost. The number of female candidates in the 2024 elections doubled compared to 2018, with 902 women contesting 509 of the 859 national and provincial assembly constituencies. This was a sharp rise from the 465 female candidates contesting 339 constituencies in 2018.

The share of female candidates in the votes polled for national and provincial assemblies also increased, rising from 2.7pc in 2013 to 4.3pc in 2024. A surge in independent female candidates contributed to this trend, with more women contesting and winning votes than in previous elections.

Challenges persist

Despite these gains, the report highlighted areas where progress remains slow. Women remain underrepresented as voters, legislators and political leaders. Political parties continued to favour male candidates when awarding election tickets, limiting female representation.

Additionally, the report identified polling stations where female turnout was exceptionally low. In 230 polling stations across 51 National Assembly constituencies, women either did not vote or polled fewer than 10 votes.

Efforts initiated under the Elections Act 2017 have played a crucial role in narrowing the gender gap and increasing female voter registration. However, challenges persist, particularly in ensuring equal representation and participation in the democratic process.

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SPORT

EPL referee Coote sacked after Klopp video rant

LONDON: Premier League official David Coote was sacked on Monday after referee chiefs described his position as "untenable" over a video making derogatory remarks about former Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp.

Coote was suspended last month after the video emerged on social media in which he branded Klopp "arrogant" and used offensive language.

"Following the conclusion of a thorough investigation into David Coote's conduct, his employment with PGMOL (Professional Game Match Officials Limited) has been terminated today with immediate effect," the PGMOL said in a statement.

"David Coote's actions were found to be in serious breach of the provisions of his employment contract, with his position deemed untenable.

"Supporting David Coote continues to be important to us and we remain committed to his welfare."

Coote has the right to appeal the decision.

The video appeared to refer to a match that Coote officiated between Liverpool and Burnley in July 2020, which finished 1-1.

Klopp criticised Coote after the match, saying the referee had been too lenient in his treatment of Burnley challenges.

The Sun published a video which the newspaper said showed Coote appearing to snort white powder during his time working as a match official at Euro 2024, and UEFA also launched an investigation having suspended the 42-year-old.

The Football Association is investigating further allegations Coote discussed betting on giving a yellow card with a fan before a match in England's second-tier Championship.

His final Premier League game was Liverpool's 2-0 win against Aston Villa on Nov 9.—Agencies

Bove to have removable defibrillator fitted

FLORENCE: Fiorentina midfielder Edoardo Bove is to have a removable heart starter device implanted following his recent collapse during a Serie A game, Italian media reports said on Monday.

Bove, who collapsed on the pitch during Fiorentina's home game with Inter Milan on Dec. 1 leading to the abandonment of the match, will have the operation on Tuesday which is part of the medical protocol before he can be discharged from hospital.

The Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD), a type of pacemaker which can prevent fatal cardiac arrests by discharging a jolt to restore a regular heart rhythm, is not permitted in Serie A.

Once all the results of the medical examinations carried out in recent days on the 22-year-old Italian have been collected, Bove can then decide whether to have the device removed, which would allow him return to play in the Italian league.

Denmark's Christian Eriksen was unable to continue playing for Inter Milan after having an ICD fitted following his cardiac arrest in 2021 during a European Championship match and he later joined Brentford after the Serie A club terminated his contract.—Reuters

LONDON: West Ham United's English Jarrod Bowen (C) shoots to score during the Premier League match against Wolverhampton Wanderers at the London Stadium.—AFP

West Ham's Bowen punishes woeful Wolves defence to leave O'Neil in danger

LONDON: West Ham United's Jarrod Bowen struck midway through the second half to secure a deserved 2-1 Premier League home win on Monday over Wolverhampton Wanderers, whose poor defending cost them again as they languish second-bottom in the standings.

Wolves conceded three minutes after equalising to stay in 19th spot on nine points from 15 games, while West Ham are 14th with 18 points. The 38 goals Wolves have conceded is the highest total in the top flight this season.

The game featured a minutes applause after the ninth minute for 34-year-old Hammers striker Michail Antonio, who is recovering in hospital following surgery on a fractured leg sustained in a car crash on Saturday.

With both managers — West Ham's Julen Lopetegui and Wolves' Gary O'Neil — struggling to turn things around after their teams' disappointing starts to the season, the pre-match talk was all about whose job was most at risk.

After forcing a slew of set pieces in a scoreless first half, it was Lopetegui's Hammers who broke the deadlock in the 54th minute through Tomas Soucek from their 10th corner.

The Wolves defence left the Czech midfielder unmarked at the far post to send a looping header across goal into the net, and he immediately ran to a TV camera holding up nine fingers in a tribute to Antonio, who wears number nine for the Hammers.

The goal was the eighth Wolves have conceded from a corner and the 15th from a set piece excluding penalties this season, more than any other top flight team.

Wolves managed to level through Matt Doherty in the 69th minute with a superbly taken scooped volley into the corner shortly after they had a strong penalty appeal turned down.

The lead was short-lived as Wolves' defensive frailties were exposed again, with Bowen jinking onto his left foot in the box before burying the ball in the corner three minutes later.

Deflated after conceding so soon following their equaliser, Wolves struggled to create any momentum and, a few harmless off-target shots aside, they barely threatened the West Ham goal in the final minutes as the hosts held on comfortably to win and move nine points clear of the relegation zone.

In the aftermath of last week's 3-1 loss at Leicester City, Lopetegui was reported to have survived a board meeting about his position.

But the Spaniard, who replaced David Moyes in the close season, must build on this valuable victory over the team he managed in the 2022-23 season before he can fully relax.

"I don't talk about noise, I talk about football. If you ask me about football, I will. A win is always good for me," Lopetegui said. "The fans have supported us a lot through the bad times. I'm happy for them."

O'Neil, who played for West Ham from 2011 to 2013, heard Wolves fans call for his dismissal during their 4-0 thrashing at Everton on Wednesday.

Now he will anxiously await the verdict from the Wolves board on his future, which looks bleak after the latest blow to Wolves' survival hopes.

O'Neil admitted he was under pressure but insisted that his team were still giving it their all.

"I'm bit disappointed for them, really, because it was a decent away performance under a lot of pressure," he told Sky Sports. "I can only ask them to give what they give, and they're giving absolutely everything, so I hope the supporters are still proud of what they see from the players."—Agencies

BENIDORM: UAE Team's Slovenian cyclist Tadej Pogacar speaks to members of the media during a press conference at the Grand Luxor hotel on Tuesday.—AFP

Pogacar to defend Tour de France and world title on ambitious 2025 program

BENIDORM: Tadej Pogacar insisted on Tuesday he would not ease off after a record-breaking 2024, declaring he was hungry for more success with a plethora of one-day classics and two Grand Tours on the 2025 menu.

Pogacar dominated the 2024 season winning two one-day monuments, the Italian Giro, the Tour de France and the world title on his way to 25 wins in total for the year.

He will get his 2025 season underway at the UAE Tour. He will race the Strade Bianche, Milan-San Remo, the E3 Grand Prix, Gent-Wevelgem and the Tour of Flanders before the Ardennes classics. One race off the agenda is the Paris-Roubaix, suited to better riders due to its old cobbled mining roads.

"I wanted to get back on the cobbles and I'll do it again in the future. I'm saving Paris-Roubaix for later. But I love racing the classics," he said in Benidorm, Spain.

"After the Giro-Tour thing this season, I'd like to do the Tour-Vuelta, or even the Giro-Vuelta. But the Tour is the Tour, and it will still be my priority next year, along with the Worlds," he confirmed.

As well as the Tour de France, which will run from July 5-27, the Slovenian will choose between the Giro and Vuelta once the routes have been revealed.

If he foregoes the Giro (May 9-June 1) in favour of the Vuelta (Aug 23-Sept 14), he will take part in the Criterium du Dauphine (June 8-15) in preparation for the Tour de France.

"What's certain is that he won't be doing the three big Tours next year," Team UAE sports director Joseph Fernandez Matein said.

Pogacar is also due to defend his title at the World Championships, which will be in Rwanda in September, on a course in Kigali.

"I'd like to race all three Tours one-day but there are 30 riders in the team you know, and I can't race everything," Pogacar said.

He should then end his season on Oct 11 at the Tour of Lombardy, the last Monument of the year, where he will look to win straight fifth title.

"Last year was an exceptional year. I had a great time. Everything went super smoothly, I managed to be in great shape," he added.—AFP

Unbeaten Pakistan squash team advance to playoffs

By Our Sports Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Asim Khan, Nasir Iqbal and Noor Zaman led Pakistan's unbeaten run in the pool matches of the WSF World Team Squash Championship in Hong Kong, China, securing a spot in the playoffs on Tuesday.

According a statement issued by the Pakistan Squash Federation, Pakistan topped Pool 'H' with six points, following a 3-0 victory over Italy on Tuesday.

The team's winning streak has propelled them into the next stage of the championship.

Asim, 28, set the tone for Pakistan's triumph, outmanoeuvring Italy's Omar Zaki Massud 11-8, 11-4, 11-7 in a 33-minute battle.

The 30-year-old Nasir then delivered a crushing blow, annihilating Davide De Bartolomeo 11-2, 11-1, 11-1 in a mere 19 minutes.

Noor sealed the deal, dispatching Lorenzo Stourengo 11-4, 11-7, 11-5 in 24 minutes.

Sabalenka named WTA Player of the Year

LONDON: Aryna Sabalenka has been voted the WTA Player of the Year for the first time after the Belarusian won two Grand Slam titles and secured the year-end world number one ranking, the governing body of women's tennis said.

After successfully defending her Australian Open trophy in January, Sabalenka won the US Open crown in September for her third Grand Slam title and leapfrogged Iga Swiatek to top the world rankings a month later.

She also won tournaments in Cincinnati and Wuhan to end her 2024 campaign with four titles.

International tennis media also voted for Paris Olympics gold medallists Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini as the year's top doubles team, while American Emma Navarro was named the season's most improved player.

Ranked 38th at the end of 2023, Navarro broke into the top 10 in September after winning her first title in Hobart and making six semi-final appearances, including at Flushing Meadows, during the season.

Lulu Sun won the Newcomer of the Year award following the New Zealander's run to the quarter-finals at Wimbledon as a qualifier, which helped her climb to 40th in the world after being ranked outside the top 200 in January.

Former world number two Paula Badosa, who ended her 2023 season early due to a back problem that cast doubt about her future in the game, was named Comeback Player of the Year.

After returning to the tour this season, the Spaniard won the Washington title and also matched her best Grand Slam performance by reaching the US Open quarters to finish the year ranked 12th.—Reuters

Real, Barca drawn at fourth-tier minnows in Copa del Rey

BARCELONA: Spanish giants Real Madrid and Barcelona will face fourth-tier minnows Deportivo Minera and Barbastro, respectively in the last 32 of the Copa del Rey after the draw on Monday.

Barca, Madrid, cup holders Athletic Bilbao and runners-up Mallorca enter the event at this stage after skipping earlier rounds because of their participation in the Spanish Super Cup in January.

Record 31-time winners Barcelona beat Barbastro last season in the same round, scraping through with a 3-2 victory.

La Liga holders Real face a Minera side which ousted top-flight Alaves in the previous round.

Copa champions Athletic visit Logrones, with Mallorca at Pontevedra, who knocked out Villarreal, while Atletico Madrid visit third-tier Marbella.

Round of 32 draw: Barbastro v Barcelona, Deportivo Minera v Real Madrid, Logrones v Athletic Bilbao, Pontevedra v Mallorca, Marbella v Atletico Madrid, Palmeruelas v Real Sociedad, Osasuna v Real Valladolid, Tenerife v Granada, Cartagena v Leganes, Melilla v Las Palmas, Elche v Valencia, Amurrio v Sevilla, Racing Ferrol v Rayo Vallecano, Racing Santander v Celta Vigo, Huesca v Real Betis, Granada v Getafe.—AFP

Saudi PIF names Berrettini as tennis ambassador

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) has named Matteo Berrettini as its tennis ambassador, a role in which the Italian will aim to help nurture the next generation of players and elevate the sport globally.

The sovereign wealth fund has made significant forays into tennis in recent months, coming on board as the official naming partner of the men's and women's world rankings as well as partnering several tournaments.

"One of my roles is to inspire the next generation, the youth, the kids," the former world number six said in a video posted social media on Monday. "Together with the PIF I'm going to be able to do that. This is one of the greatest things I can do."

In January, Rafa Nadal was named an ambassador for the Saudi Tennis Federation, with the Spaniard saying that he was eager to help train children and grow interest in the sport.

Barrettini, who has previously played in Riyadh during the Diriyah Tennis Cup in 2022, would also promote inclusivity and create opportunities at all levels of the sport, the PIF said in a statement.—Reuters

Neuer 'probably out for 2024': Kompany

MUNICH: Bayern Munich captain Manuel Neuer will likely not play again in 2024, coach Vincent Kompany said on Monday.

Kompany said "he's got a broken rib, which means he probably won't play again this year.

"What's important is that it heals now. Hopefully from the start of January we'll have Manu back, but for now it's too early."

Kompany confirmed Neuer broke his rib in a collision with Bayer Leverkusen's Jeremie Frimpong on Tuesday, for which the goalie also picked up the first red card of his 866-game career.

Bayern are missing several first-team players as an injury crisis sweeps through the club.

Neuer, Harry Kane, Kingsley Coman, Alphonso Davies, Joao Palhinha, Serge Gnabry, Josip Stanisic, Hiroki Ito and Mathys Tel are all on the injured list, while backup keeper Sven Ulreich is out for personal reasons.

"We're missing a lot of players, but I think we've come through well so far," Kompany said.

Neuer's absence means Bayern's third-choice goalie, Daniel Peretz, will get a chance to start between the sticks. Bayern are currently top in the Bundesliga standing, six points clear of second-place Eintracht Frankfurt.—AFP

Messi excluded as Bellingham, Real dominate FIFPRO honours

AMSTERDAM: Six players from Champions League winners Real Madrid and four from Manchester City feature in this years FIFPRO World 11 announced on Monday by the global players' association, with Lionel Messi absent for the first time in almost 20 years.

The 2024 FIFPRO World 11 is the first edition since 2006 to exclude Messi. The Argentinian, who holds the all-time record with 17 selections, was replaced in the front row by Erling Haaland, Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Jr.

Jude Bellingham topped the men's overall voting, with the Real and England midfielder receiving 11,176 selections from his peers.

Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk was the sole player outside of Real and City included in the men's team of the year.

English players led the 2024 Women's World 11 with five selected: Lucy Bronze, Mary Earps, Alex Greenwood, Lauren James and Keira Walsh.

Bronzes seventh selection tied her with Wendie Renard for the women's appearance record. Zambian Barbra Banda became the first African player in the Women World 11.

MEN'S WORLD 11: Goalkeeper: Ederson (Manchester City, Brazil); Defenders: Dani Carvajal (Real Madrid, Spain), Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool, Netherlands), Antonio Rudiger (Real Madrid, Germany); Midfielders: Jude Bellingham (Real Madrid , England), Kevin De Bruyne (City, Belgium), Toni Kroos (Real Madrid, Germany), Rodri (City, Spain); Forwards: Erling Haaland (City, Norway), Kylian Mbappe (Paris St Germain/Real Madrid, France), Vinicius Jr (Real Madrid, Brazil)

WOMEN'S WORLD 11: Goalkeeper: Mary Earps (Manchester United/Paris St Germain, England); Defenders: Lucy Bronze (Barcelona/Chelsea, England), Olga Carmona (Real Madrid, Spain), Alex Greenwood (City, England); Midfielders: Aitana Bonmati (Barcelona, Spain), Alexia Putellas (Barcelona, Spain), Keira Walsh (Barcelona, England); Forwards: Barbra Banda (Shanghai Shengli/Orlando Pride, Zambia), Linda Caicedo (Real Madrid, Colombia), Lauren James (Chelsea, England), Marta (Orlando Pride, Brazil).—Reuters

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PSL players draft set for Jan 11 with IPL rejects on radar

By Mohammad Yaqoob

LAHORE: The player draft for the upcoming edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) will take place on January 11, a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesperson said on Tuesday.

This year, the PSL is expected to attract numerous top-tier international cricketers, particularly those who failed to secure spots in the Indian Premier League (IPL) teams, as both leagues will run concurrently for the first time. The IPL auction has already been held, leaving many players now looking to make their mark in the PSL.

The PCB decided to schedule the PSL in May, overlapping with the IPL, as it is set to host the ICC Champions Trophy from February 19 to March 9 next year — typically the time slot reserved for the PSL.

The scheduling conflict means that many prominent cricketers, particularly those who missed out on IPL contracts, will now turn to the PSL for opportunities.

However, this overlap with the IPL has raised concerns, especially given the influence of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The BCCI has historically pushed for exclusive windows for the IPL, hoping to prevent other cricket events from clashing with its lucrative tournament.

So far, the BCCI's efforts to ensure that no cricket events take place during the IPL window have largely failed, with numerous countries opting to schedule Test series during this period.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) recently advised its players against participating in any leagues outside the IPL, which has further complicated the PCB's efforts to secure English players for the PSL. However, the English cricketers' association has objected to this directive, and there is hope that some players will still feature in the January 11 draft.

Meanwhile, the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan have caused delays in finalising the schedule for the ICC Champions Trophy, which was originally expected to be announced by November 20.

India has refused to send its team to Pakistan due to political issues, and the ICC has been reluctant to proceed with the event without India, as this would result in significant financial losses and reduced fan interest.

As a result, the ICC has given the BCCI more time to address the matter. Initially, the PCB had been adamant that all matches of the Champions Trophy would be held in Pakistan, rejecting the idea of a hybrid model where India would play their matches at a neutral venue.

However, the PCB recently reversed its stance, accepting the hybrid model but with conditions, including a demand that Pakistan will not tour India for future ICC events if the model is implemented.

It has been reported that the BCCI referred the issue of the hybrid model to the Indian government for guidance, but no response has been received yet. Additionally, the ICC's broadcasters have expressed dissatisfaction with the hybrid model, preferring that both India and Pakistan travel to each other's countries for ICC events.

As time passes, the situation grows increasingly tense for the ICC and its stakeholders. The PCB had hoped the matter would be resolved by Monday, but as of now, the Indian government has yet to make a decision.

The delay is adding to the pressure as the ICC races against the clock to finalise the Champions Trophy schedule.

DURBAN: South African batter David Miller plays a shot during the first Twenty20 International against Pakistan at the Kingsmead Stadium on Tuesday. Miller smashed 82 off 40 balls, hitting four fours and eight sixes in what was a blazing knock. Adding to Miller's effort, George Linde's 48 off 24 (three fours and four sixes), boosted South Africa to 183/9 after they chose to bat first. Pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/32) and spinner Abrar Ahmed (3/37) were the pick of the Pakistan bowlers.—AFP

MADRID: Atletico Madrid's Giuliano Simeone (L), Samuel Dias Lino (C) and Rodrigo De Paul attend a practice session at the club's training ground on Tuesday. Atletico are currently 15th on the table and will host wildcat Slovan Bratislava in their Champions League match on Wednesday. In Wednesday's other fixtures, Borussia Dortmund have a home clash against a free-scoring Barcelona side. Dortmund are fourth on the table, level on points with third-placed Barcelona. Despite flying high in the new format, either side could fall outside the top eight with a loss, such is the traffic jam of teams below them. Juventus host injury-hit Manchester City in a clash between two European giants who are struggling in the new look league format of the competition. Juve are 19th but level on eight points with 17th-placed City after five games. Arsenal and AS Monaco had a similar journey so far in the tournament and both sides will lock horns at the Emirates Stadium when Monaco travel to London. Both sides have three wins, one draw and one loss after five match days. AC Milan, 14th, will look to extend their winning run when they face Red Star Belgrade, languishing in 31st place with one win. The seven-time European champions found their form in the tournament as they recorded three consecutive wins after losing their first two matches. German side VfB Stuttgart will hope to snap their losing streak when they face basement club Young Boys. Elsewhere, Italian outfit Bologna travel to 14th place Benfica while Feyenoord, 21st, take on Sparta Prague. Lille, currently 12th, will also look to increase their chances to qualify in the next round when they host 29th-place Austrian club Sturm Graz.—AFP

Trott to continue as Afghanistan coach until end of 2025

KABUL: Jonathan Trott will continue as Afghanistan's head coach until the end of 2025 after being awarded a one-year extension, the country's cricket board said.

The England international Trott have overseen a breakthrough year, the cricket board said, hailing his "significant contributions".

The 43-year-old has impressed in the role and was linked to the England job in July after Matthew Mott stood down as their white-ball coach.

Afghanistan made significant progress under former English batter Trott, reaching the semi-finals of the Twenty20 World Cup for the first time earlier this year.

He also guided Afghanistan to victories over former champions England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka at last year's One-day International World Cup.

Afghanistan's impressive performances under Trott ensured them a top-eight finish which ensured they will play in the Champions Trophy, the premier one-day competition after the World Cup, for the first time next year.

"Afghanistan Cricket Board confirms the extension of the contract with Mr. Jonathan Trott, the national team's head coach, for the year 2025," the Afghanistan Cricket Board said. "The decision comes in after his successful two and a half-three year tenure, during which he made significant contributions to the team's progress and development."

Trott will oversee the team during the ODI leg of their multi-format tour of Zimbabwe this month but will miss other matches for personal reasons.

Trott's next assignment is a one-day series in Zimbabwe starting next week, but he will not be present for T20s or Tests during the all-format tour because of "personal commitments", the ACB said.

Hamid Hassan will fill in for Trott in Zimbabwe. —Agencies

Nafay fires Markhors to victory over Dolphins

RAWALPINDI: Opening batter Khawaja Nafay smashed a fiery half century to anchor Markhors' two-wicket win over a fighting Dolphins on the fourth day of the Champions T20 Cup at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Nafay's 43-ball 68 spiced with four sixes and as many fours guided Markhors to overhaul the modest 129-run target in 18.5 overs to give them their second win in as many games.

The Misbah-ul-Haq mentored team is now second with four points while Stallions are top of the table, also with four points from two matches but have a superior net run-rate.

Nafay, the 22-year-old from Karachi, lifted his team from the early loss of Fakhar Zaman — who was out for nought — Mohammad Shahzad and Abdul Samad, adding 29 for the fourth wicket with skipper Iftikhar Ahmed who made five.

Dolphins spinner Qasim Akram dismissed Nafay leg-before and then two more wickets fell as they fought back but Mohammad Nawaz made sure the chase was completed with a cautious 19-ball 18 not out including two fours while Akif Javed hit the winning boundary.

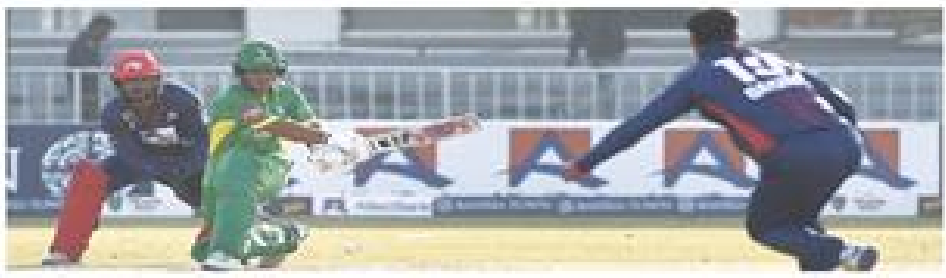
Dolphins, who have now lost both their matches, were given an ideal start by fast bowler Sufiyan Gul who took three early wickets but other than him no bowler could stop the rampaging Markhors.

Earlier, sent into bat, Dolphins lost Sahibzada Farhan in the first over, without scoring. Mohammad Akhlaq hit a 33-ball 40 studded with two sixes and three boundaries while Mirza Tahir Baig knocked 28-ball 29 with two sixes and a boundary.

Dolphins were relying on vice-captain Qasim who scored 38 and experienced batter Umar Amin who managed just 11 as they slumped from 82-2 to 128-9. Nawaz grabbed 3-28 while pacer Akif finished with 2-33.

Scores in brief

QUALIFIER 3: DOLPHINS 129-9 in 20 overs (Mohammad Akhlaq 40, Mirza Tahir Baig 29, Mohammad Nawaz 3-28, Akif Javed 2-33). MARKHORS 131-8 in 18.5 overs (Khawaja Nafay 68, Mohammad Hasnain 18 not out, Sufiyan Gul 3-28, Qasim Akram 2-31). — Sports Reporter



RAWALPINDI: Markhors batter Khawaja Nafay plays a shot during the Champions T20 Cup match against Dolphins at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.—Tanveer Shahzad/White Star

FIFA to confirm 2030 World Cup hosts, hand Saudi 2034 tournament

LAUSANNE: FIFA will confirm the hosts of the 2030 and 2034 World Cups on Wednesday, with a joint bid led by Morocco, Spain and Portugal set to be awarded the former, and the latter being handed to Saudi Arabia.

The awarding of hosting rights for both tournaments will go to a vote during a FIFA Congress to be held virtually, but there is no doubt about the outcomes with neither bid having a rival.

The 2030 tournament will mark a century since the first World Cup was held in Uruguay, and as a result the bid will also see the South American nation hosted a game along with Argentina and Paraguay.

That makes it a remarkable and completely unprecedented bid, involving three different continental confederations.

FIFA already confirmed over a year ago that the joint proposal led by Morocco, Spain and Portugal was the sole contender for 2030, with all other potential candidates having fallen by the wayside.

A joint British and Irish bid was abandoned when they decided to focus on hosting Euro 2028, while there were suggestions of a bid from South Korea, China, Japan and North Korea.

Four South American countries launched a joint bid in 2019, conceived that the centenary World Cup should entirely take place on the same continent where it all began.

In late 2022, UEFA promoted a bid uniting Spain and Portugal with war-torn Ukraine in a show of "solidarity" following the Russian invasion.

However, Ukraine was quietly dropped from that candidacy last year as Morocco joined forces with the Iberian neighbours, while South America agreed to step aside in exchange for being awarded the hosting of three games, one each for Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina.

MOROCCO PLANS MEGA STADIUM

Following these "centenary celebrations" in the comparative chill of the southern hemisphere winter, the six teams involved — along with their fans — will have to cross the Atlantic Ocean to play a part in the remaining 101 matches.

This tentacular tournament will conclude with the final on July 21, and it remains to be seen where that game will be staged.

Spain, which hosted the 1982 World Cup, is set to be the centre-piece as it boasts 11 of the 20 proposed stadiums.

Morocco — which has tried and failed on five previous occasions to be awarded the staging of the tournament — will become the second African nation to host the competition after South Africa in 2010.

Potential venues for the final include the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid and Barcelona's renovated Camp Nou, as well as the planned Hassan II stadium between Casablanca and Rabat, which is set to become "the biggest stadium in the world" with a capacity of 115,000.

Portugal, which hosted Euro 2004, will offer two stadiums in Lisbon and one in Porto, and hopes to stage a semi-final.

As for 2034, FIFA invoked its principle of continental rotation, therefore only welcoming bids from Asia or Oceania — the 2026 World Cup, the first involving 48 teams, will take place across North America.

Controversially, the body gave potential bidders barely a month late last year to submit candidacies, and Australia and Indonesia quickly abandoned their interest.

That left Saudi Arabia as the sole candidate, clearing the way for the World Cup to return to the Gulf region following Qatar's hosting in 2022.

The kingdom's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has been using sport for some time now to amass influence and improve its global image.

Being handed the 2034 World Cup will be a crowning moment, and Saudi will win despite currently only boasting two stadiums with a capacity of 40,000, when 14 are required.

Beyond that logistical challenge, the baking temperatures in the northern hemisphere summer could mean pushing the tournament back to later in the year, as happened in 2022.

However, the fact that Ramadan will take place in December that year is an added complication.

Moreover, the awarding of the World Cup to Saudi will make the issue of human rights a major talking point again, just as in 2022.

Rights groups highlight mass executions in Saudi Arabia and allegations of torture, as well as restrictions on women under the conservative country's male guardianship system. Free expression is severely restricted too.

Saudi Arabia, which is hosting several high-profile events including Formula One and the WTA Finals tennis, is often accused of "sportswashing" — using sport to divert attention from its rights record.—AFP

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DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Wednesday, December 11, 2024

KARACHI

Sunset	05:44 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:06 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	12°C
Maximum	27°C
Humidity	29%
Outlook	Sunny

West Ham's Bowen punishes woeful Wolves defence

Pg.19 SPORT

WORK to construct a new canal to bring water from Hub Dam to Karachi is underway. Mayor Murtaza Wahab (right) inspects the progress during a visit to the project site, on Tuesday. — Dawn

Wahab says work on new Hub canal project 87pc completed

KARACHI: Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that 87 per cent work for the construction of a new canal to supply water from the Hub Dam to Karachi has been completed.

He said that by August 2025, 100 million gallons per day (MDG) water will be supplied to the citizens through this canal.

Inspecting the site of the new canal project at the Hub Dam on Tuesday, the mayor said that the current canal supplying water from the Hub Dam to Karachi was 45 to 46 years old, and due to leakage and seepage, the supply of 100 MGDs of water was not possible.

Therefore, he said, the provincial government planned to construct a new canal from the Hub Dam to Karachi to quickly resolve the city's water shortage issues. "Not only will the construction of the new canal ensure the supply of 100 million MGD water to Karachi, the old canal will also be repaired to provide additional water to various areas of the city, he said.

He mentioned that the earthworks for the new canal from the Hub Dam had been almost completed, and now the project was rapidly moving towards completion.

He congratulated the staff working on the Hub Canal project and said they should continue to work with the same dedication to complete this task.

On this occasion, Deputy Parliamentary Leader of the City Council, Dil Muhammad, Jamman Darwan and other leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party were also present. — APP

'Grave human rights violations' must be put to an end'

On Human Rights Day, govt urged to respect freedom of expression

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: Members of civil society on Tuesday highlighted "grave" human rights problems pertaining to continued enforced disappearances, gender-based violence, labour rights and rights of religious minorities and called on the government to protect and uphold the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable and excluded groups and communities in the country.

The call came from rights activists, academics, labour leaders and others at a conference to mark Human Rights Day here at the Karachi Press Club.

The event was organised by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP).

HRCP chairperson Asad Iqbal Butt announced that there was a Section 144 imposed in District South to stop people from observing Universal Human Rights Day, which resulted in chants of "Shame ... shame" from the packed to capacity hall. He then remembered how the roads were blocked and people were openly beaten on the roads during the recent Rawalpindi March.

"The state only dictates. It is not interested in dialogue," he said.

He also spoke about the eyewash created by the state about its doing great economically. "How is the stock exchange doing well without any new industry?" He asked.

"The state is telling some companies to buy stock from some other companies to make it look like business is booming here. It is not. It is all a lie created by the state because if it were true there would be no inflation, there would be no delay in paying people their salaries. We are being fooled," he pointed out.

"Our labour force are like prisoners who cannot even demand salary increases as things become expensive and utility bills become high because these people are mostly third-party contractual employees, who don't have much say as they are kept under the thumb in the absence of trade unions," he added.

Mehnaz Rahman, director of Aurat Foundation, said that the state doesn't seem to care about the needs of the people. "It is more inclined towards shrinking our space," she said, before counting out some of the problems. "There are conflicts here due to which children miss school. Women are stopped from working due to ego and biases. There is child labour, there are issues due to climate change. There are wrongdoings all around us. We all need equal protection from the law. But are we getting it?" She asked.

Author and academic Dr Tauseef Ahmed Khan spoke about the limited media space. "We need freedom of the press to highlight the ills in our society but here the media is pressured and controlled by the state," he said.

"Our internet is slow and hindered. Social media here remains affected due to this. Any voice which has a complaint against the state is throttled or strangled," he said.

"The print media is also not doing well. There are only a few newspapers here which are able to pay salaries to their employees on time. There are grey areas in the reporting of problems in specific areas. As the print media is being regulated, there is less investigative reporting. The country is also said to be dangerous for reporters," he said.

"The electronic media is even worse than print as its narrative is also controlled. That's exactly why you get to see similar stories on all channels," he said, adding that the media needs to question things and report objectively, which it is not allowed to do.

Labour leader Qamar ul Hassan lamented the fact that there were no proper statistics available on the labour force in Pakistan.

"According to government statistics, we have a workforce of 80 million of whom 65 per cent are rural and 35 per cent urban. Of them

Continued on Page 14

Lethargic officials under fire for incomplete uplift projects despite funds release

LG minister instructs dept to compile a report on the status of projects

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: Expressing grave concern and frustration over the slow progress on the city's ongoing development projects, Local Government (LG) Minister Saeed Ghani has criticised the careless and lethargic attitude of officials in the civic and municipal bodies, and instructed the additional chief secretary of the LG department to compile a report on the status of projects of all subsidiary agencies.

Chairing a meeting of the top officials of the LG department, he also directed the additional chief secretary to initiate work to give authorisation of the development schemes which were still awaiting approval.

The minister directed the officials concerned to ensure the completion of Karachi's ongoing uplift schemes, which were part of the Annual Development Programme (ADP), by the end of the current year especially the schemes for which 100 per cent of the finances had been released.

The LG minister reviewed the progress on each of the ongoing development schemes of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, Karachi Development Authority, Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation, Malir Development Authority, Lyari Development Authority, CLICK and SWEEP.

He expressed frustration at the non-serious and lethargic conduct of the officials concerned in completing these uplift projects. He also questioned the pace of construction works and utilisation of funds released to complete the under-construction projects.

He criticised the officials who failed to compile comprehensive reports on the uplift schemes and censured the officials of the civic and municipal bodies who failed to complete the development projects despite the 100pc release of funds by the provincial government.

The LG minister said that the last provincial government's budget didn't contain any new uplift scheme because of the main cause of ensuring completion of the ongoing development projects in the current financial year.

Mr Ghani said that incomplete development schemes despite passage of six months and release of the sufficient funds proved inefficiency on the part of the relevant officials.

He directed the chiefs of the civic agencies that they should ensure the quality of the development works as there shouldn't be any leniency in observing standards of the uplift projects.

Meanwhile, the local government minister

Continued on Page 14

PML-N man shot dead in Baldia over suspected tribal feud

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: A local leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was shot dead in a suspected targeted attack in Baldia Town on Tuesday morning, police said.

The Madina Colony police said that the victim, 65-year-old Haji Amanullah Afridi, was targeted by unknown assailants riding a motorbike near his residence when he was going to a mosque to offer Fajr prayer.

Kearnari SSP Faizan Ali said that the incident did not appear to be an outcome of a robbery bid.

According to the officials, the CCTV footage of the place of incident shows a young man, clad in shalwar-kameez who was apparently waiting for the victim on the corner of the street, following him when he came out of his home. Later, he shot Mr Afridi from behind at about 6:27am and fled.

The body was shifted to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi for medico-legal formalities.

Mr Afridi was a former union council chairman in the area.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza said, "Mr Afridi had been active in the past at local level in social and political circles of Baldia Town, Kearnari and was also elected as chairman of the Abdullah UC as an independent candidate."

He said that preliminary investigations suggested that the murder was probably motivated by a tribal feud.

He said that the deceased belonged to the Hassankhel tribe, which is "historically involved in a feud with the Fauukhel tribe".

He recalled that in 2022, members of the Fauukhel tribe were accused of murdering deceased's nephew Alam in Peshawar, where a murder case was registered.

There were reports that the suspects involved in the said murder case were enlarged on bail, leading to "retaliatory actions" from the Hassankhel tribe.

"Initial findings indicate that this murder could be part of the ongoing tribal conflict," the DIG said, adding: "Thus the tribal conflict is being examined to determine its connection to the incident."

Meanwhile, Bashir Memon, the president of the Sindh chapter of the PML-N, strongly condemned the murder of their local leader and demanded that the authorities arrest the killers forthwith.

KWSC record rooms gutted in fire

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A fire that erupted at the head office of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) destroyed three records storage rooms on Tuesday evening, rescue officials said. No one was hurt in the fire, they added.

A Rescue-1122 official told *Dawn* that the fire erupted in the water board office on main Shaea Faisal near Awami Markaz.

The official said two fire tenders were sent to put out the blaze. He said that the cooling work was completed by night.

He said the fire had erupted at their record-keeping rooms. Three rooms were completely destroyed.

The staff present there told the firemen that a short circuit had triggered the blaze.

However, the rescue official said they were probing the exact cause of the fire.

Court releases 24 MQM-L workers held for violating Section 144

Hyderabad police register sedition case against six party workers; ATC sends them to prison on judicial remand

By Sumair Abdullah and Mohammad Hussain Khan

KARACHI: A judicial magistrate on Tuesday discharged 24 leaders and workers of the Altaf Hussain-led Muttahida Qaumi Movement, commonly known as MQM-London, who were arrested in Karachi for allegedly violating a ban imposed under Section 144 of the criminal procedure code (CrPC).

A total of 30 MQM-L activists were arrested in Karachi and Hyderabad for holding rallies to mark their party's 'Youm-i-Shuhda' on the call of their London-based leadership.

In Karachi, the investigating officer produced the 24 held activists before Judicial Magistrate (Central) Wajid Ali Channa.

He submitted that they had committed an offence under Section 188 (disobedience to an order lawfully promulgated by a public servant) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) by organising a gathering near Mukka Chowk in Azizabad in violation of Section 144.

The IO also asked the court to send all the suspects to prison on judicial remand till Dec 23.

However, defence counsel Jamal Nazir Parhwar requested the court to discharge the suspects under Section 63 (discharge of person apprehended) of the CrPC.

After hearing the IO and defence counsel, the court discharged the 24 MQM-L men against a personal bond of Rs50,000 each.

The court noted in its order that there were no grounds to remand them in police custody or send them to prison on judicial remand.

The magistrate also directed the IO to file an investigation report within the stipulated period as per law.

A day before, police had picked up 24 MQM-L workers near Mukka Chowk in Federal B Area, when a large number of party workers and sympathisers, including women, tried to reach the Jinnah ground on the call of their London-based leadership, who asked their followers to go there and pay respect at the monument built there in memory of MQM activists and supporters killed over the years to mark 'Youm-i-Shuhda'.

In view of the MQM-L call, the Karachi commissioner, at the request of the city police, had issued a notification and imposed a two-day ban under Section 144 of the CrPC on pillion riding of motorcycle, protests, demonstrations, rallies and assembly of more than four persons in district Central for two days.

A case was registered at the Azizabad police station under Section 188 (disobedience to an order lawfully promulgated by a public servant) of the PPC.

Six Hyderabad activists sent to prison in sedition case

Unlike their colleagues in Karachi, the six activists held a day before in Hyderabad were booked in a terrorism and sedition case.

The police produced the six MQM-L activists — Muhammad Yamin, Abdul Majeed, alias Bhola, Muhammad Ashfaq, Muhammad Arsalan, Syed Ahsan Warsi and Muhammad Akbar Sheikh — before the antiterrorism court in Hyderabad.

The IO asked the ATC judge to remand the suspects in police custody for 14 days.

However, defence counsel Shakeel Zai said that the judge sent them to prison on eight-day judicial remand.

The MQM-L activists were booked in a case registered at the Tori police station on behalf of the state under Sections 121-A (condemnation of the creation of the State, and advocacy of abolition of its sovereignty), 124-A (sedition) of the Pakistan penal Code read with Sections 6/7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997.

The FIR against them stated that they tried to pay their respect to their slain party workers by visiting the Shuhda graveyard in Pucca Qilla. However, the police did not

Continued on Page 14

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PRAYER

Fajr	5.47
Zuhar	12.24
Asr	4.10
Maghreb	5.44
Isha	7.02

Starting time in Karachi

REFLECTIONS

CC POVERTY OFTEN DISABLES AN INTELLIGENT MAN FROM ARGUING HIS CASE.??

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

7SM-1427

Western musical hits from '80s mesmerise audience at Napa

Dawn Report

KARACHI: The National Academy of Performing Arts (Napa) presented a musical evening featuring Western hit songs from the 1980s on Monday evening.

Singer, songwriter and pianist Pirsh Moosa sang all the songs. Most of the songs were selected from the '80s while three were Pirsh's original ones.

The evening started with Dolly Parton's '9 to 5', the famous hit from the 1980 movie named so. Pirsh then moved on to sing 'Everybody Wants to Rule the World', another hit from the era by Tears for Fears.

Among other hits from that time were 'Smooth Operator' by Sade, 'I Have Nothing' from Whitney Houston, 'Just Like Heaven' from The Cure, 'Abide' from Heart, 'Every Breath You Take' from The Police, 'Take My Breath Away' by Berlin, 'Dreams' by Fleetwood Mac and A-ha's 'Take on Me'.

She mesmerised the audience by singing 'Wicked Game' by Chris Isaak, 'Fast Car' by Tracy Chapman, 'Total Eclipse of the Heart' from Bonnie Tyler, 'Can't Fight This Feeling' by REO Speedwagon, and wrounded up the evening with 'Don't Stop Believin' by Journey.

In between, she also presented three of her own original songs, 'Ode to a Girl I Don't Know', 'Dream' and 'Science Fiction'.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed themselves listening to the mix of songs from the '80s and Pirsh's originals.

PIRSH Moosa performs at the event.—Dawn

Govt offers 'full support' to Chinese firms in setting up solar panel plant

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The provincial government on Tuesday extended full support and assistance to Chinese investors for establishing a solar panel manufacturing plant in the province.

During a meeting with a delegation of Chinese investors at his office, Energy Minister Nasir Hussain Shah highlighted the ample opportunities available in the solar energy sector. He assured the delegation that if solar panel manufacturing were undertaken in the province, the government would provide full support to the investors.

The visiting investors expressed interest in exploring opportunities across several fields within the energy sector.

The Chinese delegation included Wang Xin from Wind Power, Xo Zhirgang from Solar Energy Companies, and other investors. Also present at the meeting were Energy Secretary Muzaffar Ahmed Khan, Managing Director of the Thar Coal Energy Board Tariq Ali Shah, Director General of Coal Mines Nasseem Al-Ghani Sahto, Chief Operating Officer of Energy Holding Company Tufail Ahmed Khan, and other officials.

During the meeting, the energy minister gave a detailed briefing on investment prospects in the energy sector. He emphasised the attractive opportunities for both foreign and domestic investors, noting that "profitable investments can be made in the Thar Coal Field and alternative energy sectors, for which the provincial government will provide full cooperation, assistance with documentation, and all necessary facilities regarding land."

Mr Shah informed the delegation that the province is home to 185 billion tons of coal reserves, with 175 billion tons located in the Thar Coal Field. This field, situated 395 kilometers from Karachi, spans an area of approximately 9,100 square kilometers.

The meeting was further briefed that the Thar Coal Field comprises 12 blocks currently under development, each containing two to five billion tons of coal reserves spread over an area of 1,235 square kilometers.

It was further informed that each block had the capacity to generate 4,000 to 5,000 megawatts of electricity for 30 years.

Youth urged to focus on nation's development instead of seeking opportunities abroad

Jahan-i-Masiha Adbi Forum launches its 25th thematic calendar

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Writers, poets and intellectuals have urged the country's influential figures to inspire Pakistan's youth with messages of hope, resilience, and hard work to transform the nation into a developed state, rather than encouraging people to leave the country.

They mentioned that Pakistan holds immense potential for its youth, citing examples of transformational leadership from great figures. They stressed that the youth should focus on contributing to the nation's development instead of seeking opportunities abroad.

Speaking at the launch of the Jahan-i-Masiha Adbi Forum's 26th thematic calendar, the speakers lamented that despite having a visionary poet like Allama Iqbal, who conveyed a universal message for social development, economic growth, and societal stability, the country is currently facing its worst crises in those very areas.

Syed Jamshed Ahmed of the forum highlighted that the launch marked the 26th consecutive year of the Jahan-i-Masiha Adbi Forum's thematic calendars. Former Director of the Quaid-i-Azam Academy, Khawaja Razi Haider, praised the effort, calling it a masterpiece that requires a year of meticulous research to produce.

"These calendars are not just artefacts but sources of authentic knowledge and inspiration," he said, lending the calendar's message and design.

"The speeches included in this calendar convey lessons of persistence and character, which are needed now more than ever. Over 25 years, these calendars have carried messages of hope and hard work to inspire the nation," he added.

He commended the Jahan-i-Masiha Adbi Forum for promoting a culture of intellectual and ethical excellence. He noted that these efforts have resulted in 50 literary publications and countless book fairs, significantly enhancing Pakistan's global soft image.

The event also paid tribute to the renowned poet Ajmal Siraj, who recently passed away, and featured a Mushaira with literary stalwarts such as Khwaja Razi Haider, Ali Khurrada, and Ambreen Haseeb Ambar. The evening blended art and medicine, creating a space for reflection and cultural appreciation.

300 LPG shops to reopen after meeting requirements, meeting told

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The city administration has decided to shut down all LPG sales shops in the city as most of them have been seen to be violating the legal requirements and safety rules for the sale of LPG cylinders.

Official sources said that the decision to this effect was taken on Monday at a meeting chaired by Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi.

The meeting also decided to allow 300 previously closed shops to reopen if they meet the requirements.

The commissioner said that all LPG sales shops operating in residential areas are unsafe and illegal, and would be shut down shortly.

The meeting was attended among others by all deputy commissioners, Additional Commissioner Ghazanfar Ali Shah, Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Rabia Syed, representatives of Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority, Civil Defence, SSGC, Fire Brigade and police.

The deputy commissioners briefed the meeting on the actions taken against the illegal sale of LPG and cylinders in their respective districts and it was decided to launch a crackdown against such shops.

The meeting was informed that over 3,000 shops were operating in the city's streets, most of which were violating the legal requirements and safety rules for the sale of LPG cylinders.

It was decided that strict action should be taken against shopkeepers who violated the rules. The administration issued a warning to all LPG cylinder sellers, directing them to ensure compliance with safety regulations within 15 days. Non-compliant shops will be sealed after the deadline.

Sharjeel asks foreign companies to invest in KCR, other transport projects

Dawn Report

KARACHI: A delegation of international investors met with Sindh's Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon to discuss various transport projects.

The meeting was also attended by the Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Public-Private Partnership, Qasim Nawed Qamar; Secretary of Transport, Asad Zamin; Managing Director of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority, Kamal Hakim Dayo; and other officials.

Minister Memon invited them to invest in projects such as the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), Bullet Train, Bus Manufacturing Plant, Electric Vehicle (EV) Buses, and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems.

The investors expressed interest in developing the KCR, Bullet Train, Bus Plant, and launching an EV Taxi Service.

Speaking on the occasion, he stated that the Sindh government plans to launch an EV Taxi Service to create new employment opportunities.

He assured investors of full support, including the establishment of charging depots for EV buses and taxis.

He also encouraged investment in the Bullet Train project, emphasising its priority status. He highlighted the Karachi-to-Sukkur Bullet Train or High-Speed Train as a transformative initiative that could benefit millions of travelers while providing substantial returns for investors.

Mr Memon underscored the importance of modernising the transport sector through projects like the Bullet Train and sustainable EV infrastructure.

He described the KCR, a flagship project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a significant opportunity for investor participation.

The minister also promoted the Dhabeji Economic Zone, inviting investors to establish a bus manufacturing plant within the zone. He noted that the economic zone, a key CPEC component, offers immense opportunities and assured that the Sindh government would provide all necessary support to facilitate the plant's establishment.

He emphasised Sindh's business-friendly environment and its attractiveness to investors.

The delegation of investors acknowledged Pakistan's strategic position as a gateway to South and Central Asia. They discussed potential technical and financial collaborations on various transport projects.

The investors praised the historic friendship between Pakistan and China, highlighting China's substantial investments in Pakistan. They also recognised Pakistan as a large market with a significant workforce, making it an attractive destination for investment.

Grave human rights violations

Continued from Page 13

15 million are registered with the EOBI [Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution]. So our welfare laws are not benefiting our labour in an informal economy," he pointed out. "The wages are low and working hours are long. The minimum wage of 37,000 rupees is also not for every worker here," he added.

Writer and political activist Jami Chandio pointed to the scarcity of water issues in the country. "People who live at the tail of a river have the greatest right to its water," he said. "The river doesn't discriminate but we build barrages and dams upstream to control its flow," he said.

Representing religious minorities, specifically the Hindu community in Pakistan, Pushpa Kumari said that from 1947 to 2018, Hindu marriages were not even registered here. "Then in 2018, the Hindu Marriage Bill brought us some respite," she said.

She also said that here there is also a quota system for minorities but it doesn't go above the fourth grade. "So despite on getting a government job through the quota system, we cannot dream of going above the position of a sweeper," she pointed out.

"Extremism is also growing in Pakistan, making us feel unsafe as mob attacks increase. There are abductions and forced conversions. In school curricula, we are mentioned as 'Kafirs'," she said. "All these things increase our migration to other lands," she added.

Samni Dean Baloch, a leader of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee, spoke about her life after her father went missing over 15 years ago. "We don't know what outings or picnics are. We only go out for protests," she said. "But raising our voices against the state's questionable policies earns us labels such as 'traitors' and 'enemies of the state'. Still we are humans with human rights. But here the police don't support us. The courts put us off and give dates that are followed by further dates. 'We are called proxies of foreign-funded agendas,' she said.

Speaking about how her father was picked in 2017, human rights defender from Sindh, Sorath Lohar, said that whoever raises their voice for justice, they are seen as 'enemy'.

"But we will not compromise," she said.

HRCP Council member Sadia Baloch, HRCP Sindh vice-chair Qazi Khizar Habib and young activist Nida Tanveer also spoke.

Karachi International Book Fair from tomorrow

By Peerzada Salman

KARACHI: Forty exhibitors representing 17 countries will take part in the 19th Karachi International Book Fair (KIBF), which is set to begin from Thursday (tomorrow) at Expo Centre.

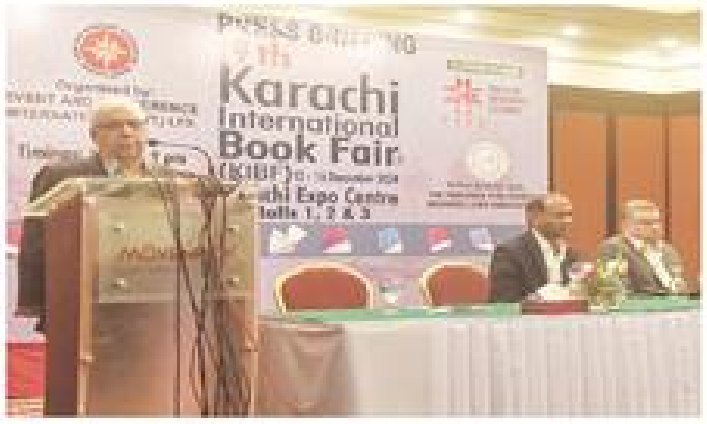
Organisers of the event told a press conference on Tuesday that Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah will inaugurate KIBF 2024 at 5:30pm on Thursday.

Giving details of the event which will continue till Dec 15, KIBF convener Waqar Mateen said this year there will be 330 stalls at the fair, which will be organised at halls 1, 2 and 3 of Expo Centre.

"The good thing is that this year, we have participants from Turkiye and the UK. This means well for us that foreign exhibitors are taking interest in Pakistan and coming over here. That wasn't the case in the past. They approach us themselves," he said, adding that in total, there are 40 exhibitors from 17 countries participating in this year's edition of the fair.

Speaking on the occasion, KIBF chairman Aziz Khalid said the media has supported the event for the past 19 years. "Without a good team, you can't achieve your goals, and the media is part of that team."

He said: "When the fair began, we had three objectives. The first was to project a soft image of Pakistan across the world and to tell everyone that Pakistan has nothing to do with terrorism — it's a country of book lovers. The second was to bring all kinds of books for our children under one roof so that the quality of education could be raised. And the third was that through the fair, our booksellers and publishers get economic benefits in order for them to publish books in a better way."



KIBF chairman Aziz Khalid speaks during the press conference.—Faham Siddiqi / White Star

Court releases 24 MQM-L workers held for violating Section 144

Continued from Page 13

allow them to proceed and they raised anti-state slogans.

Banker remanded in Chinese convoy attack case

Another ATC in Karachi on Tuesday remanded a bank employee in police custody in a case pertaining to suicide bombing targeting a Chinese convoy near Karachi airport.

The IO brought suspect Bilal, said to be associated with a private bank as a business development officer in Hub, to the ATC court in Clifton and asked the judge to remand him in the custody of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) for 14 days for further interrogation.

However, the court remanded him in CTD custody until Saturday and directed the IO to submit a progress report at the next hearing.

The police had registered a second FIR on the alleged confession made by Jawad, implicating the banker and a trader under Sections 302 (murder), 324 (attempted murder), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees) and 34 (common intention) of the PPC read with Section 3/4 of the Explosives Substances Act 1908 and Sections 7, 11-F and 21-I of the ATA.

Lethargic officials under fire for incomplete uplift projects

Continued from Page 13

chaired a separate meeting attended by the regional directors, deputy directors, and assistant directors of the LG department posted on the development projects.

He directed the regional directors to submit the monthly progress reports of the local government councils in their jurisdiction by 5th of every month.

He told the officials that the provincial government had waived the fee collected for the issuance of birth and death certificates for five years and added that reports were being received that different union committees had still been receiving fee for registering new births and deaths.

The LG minister also said that elected councillors were not entitled to be paid a salary or allowance as per the LG law. "Action should be taken against towns and UCs violating this restriction," he added.

He directed the officials of the local government department to perform their duties honestly without coming under any pressure and send a report to their high-ups if they detected any corrupt practice or irregularity.

Arguments on jurisdiction of court sought

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Tuesday directed the parties concerned to advance arguments about the jurisdiction of its regular or constitutional benches to hear and decide a set of petitions filed against a ban on social media platforms as well as suspension of mobile and internet services.

At the outset of the hearing, a two-judge regular bench of SHC comprising Chief Justice Mohammad Shafi Siddiqui and Justice Jawad Akbar Sarwana observed that before proceeding further with these matters, it will decide the jurisdiction's issue first.

The bench asked the lawyers for the petitioners and a federal law officer as to whether these petitions fall within the jurisdiction of regular benches or recently formed constitutional benches of the SHC to proceed with the same and directed them to argue on the subject issue on Dec 18.

The petitioners had approached the SHC against restriction to access to social media platforms including X and disturbance of mobile internet and broadband services during and after the general elections.

Initially, the SHC through an interim order had directed the respondents to ensure the provision of smooth and uninterrupted internet services, as well as access to social media platforms, unless relevant laws were invoked and also specifically ordered to restore X if there was no justification or reasonable grounds for its closure.

PUBLIC NOTICE

APP EMPLOYEES COOPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY LIMITED, KARACHI

This advertisement informs all members of the APP Employees Cooperative Housing Society Limited, Karachi, that the Election of the President and Two Member Managing Committee will be held on 2 February 2025 at 11.00 AM in the Site Office Society, 28-B, KDA Scheme-33, Gulzar-e-Hijri, Karachi.

The detailed election program has been sent to the addresses mentioned in the members' society record. If not received, please obtain from the undersigned at society office during working hours.

Election Committee Members: (1) Muhammad Anwar (2) Syed Ayaz Alam

Syed Kamal Abbas Jaffery (Authorized Election Officer)
Inspector Cooperative Societies, Karachi

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Four men die, two others fall ill after consuming 'poisonous' liquor

By Our Correspondent

NAWABSHAH: Two shopkeepers were booked at the Punhal Khan Chandio police station of Shaheed Benazirabad district for allegedly selling poisonous liquor, which claimed four lives over the last couple of days.

Two other men fell unconscious after consuming the liquor and were fighting for life till late Tuesday.

Preliminary inquiry by the local police suggested that the deceased, Intezar Khoso, 50, Mor Khoso, 28, Mushtaq Jokhio, 45, and Abdul Salam Chandio, 27, as well as the other two persons, Imran and Yousuf, had bought the liquor from the wine shop run by Dilbar Khoso and Inayat Khoso. The victims were residents of different villages situated near Sakrand town.

The shopkeepers were booked but they were yet to be arrested.

Acting upon the findings of the preliminary inquiry, SSP Tanveer Hussain Tunio constituted a two-member committee to further investigate the matter and sought a report within two days.

Policeman shot dead over 'personal dispute'

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: A policeman was shot dead in the riverine area of Ghotki district ostensibly over a dispute between him and a community member.

Officials at the Mirpur police station said that unknown assailants riding a motorcycle targeted the policeman, Sohrab Rahimal Tagar, at Shallon Chowk while he was returning home from his place of duty, the picket No. 35, late Monday night.

Sohrab died on the spot and the assailants drove away after committing the crime, they added.

The body was handed over to the heirs after a post-mortem examination, the police said.

They said that Sohrab had a dispute with a community member, Abid Tagar, adding that the latter along with his associate, might have targeted the victim.

AT reaffirms resolve to resist canals project

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA: Awami Tehreek (AT) leaders, at press conference held in Shahdadkot on Tuesday, strongly condemned federal government's plan to dig Cholistan and five other canal such waterways.

They described the project as a violation of international laws and Sindh's constitutional rights. AT's senior vice president Noor Ahmed Kalar, Sindhi Hari Tehreek president Comrade Ghulam Mustafa Chandio, and AT's Qambar-Shahdadkot president Imdad Pathan, told journalists that the people of Sindh would continue to protest against the project. The reaffirmed AT's resolve to resist the plan tooth and nail.

They noted with concern that the federal government was clandestinely pushing the Cholistan canal plan through the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) "by altering its meeting minutes".

They said no institution, including Ecnec or the CCIWP, could approve canals or dams through the Indus River without Sindh's consent. The federal government, they deplored, was bent upon executing the six canals project unconstitutionally only to the benefit of corporate farming companies at the cost of public resources.

The AT leaders announced that a big rally would be held in Sukkur on Dec 22 to protest against all unacceptable federal moves including proposed amendments to the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) Act.

Audience enjoy 14 plays during two-week Larkana Theatre Festival

By M.B. Kalhoro

ARTISTS perform in a drama staged during the festival. — Dawn

LARKANA: A two-week 'Larkano Theatre Festival' concluded on Monday night with presentation of a reformative play 'Mooshu'.

The Arts Council, Larkana, hosted the festival where a total of 14 plays, covering different themes, were staged.

The festival had kicked off on November 26. The dramatist societies from various cities of Larkana division participated in the festival and staged their plays to the much amusement of the spectators. One drama every night was staged in the Quaid-i-Awam open-air theatre in the Arts Council. The hall was packed by male and female theatre lovers and enthusiasts throughout the festival who keenly watched the plays and admired the presentations.

The festival was inaugurated by Aijaz Ahmed Laghari, chairman of the Larkana District Council.

The plays *Barar bili jahra* (All alike), *Neelami* (Auction), *Adalat* (Court), *Rohran* (Mugger), *Milpat* (Wealth), *Wichhoo* (Separation), *Aawro* (Mirror). The plays, *Aawro*, *Darya paar* (Across the river), *Khali Hath* (Empty hands) and others were based on tragedy, social injustice, societal anomalies, weird human behaviour, humour and romantic stories.

The playwrights included Sikander Abbasi, Ali Roshan Shaikh, Khan Kango, Mehboob Tunai, Faqir Aijaz Chandio and Gul Munir Khokhar.

Prominent among the artists were Aashiq Dayo, Amjad Gul, Saleem Shah Rashdi, Masarrat Naz, Ramsha Khan, Reema Khan, Laraib Sajjan and Riaz Mahesar.

Prof Mukhtar Samoo, writer and founder of the Knowledge Centre Larkana, who watched the play *Aawro* as the chief guest, said in his comments that story of the drama reflected the real face of our society and showed the weakening family ties as well.

It highlighted as to how lofty the social and moral values were being compromised for the sake of one's self-interest. He eulogised the actors for their best performance.

He said that literary and art festivals promote peace, tranquility and fellow-feeling in the society.

Bhai Dur Mohammad Bariro, the founder of Qambar-Shahdadkot Arts Council, and Nayab Sarkash Sindhi also praised the play.

On the concluding night, a senior most artist, Ustad Akbar Baloch, and Larkana Arts Council president, Ismail Jatoi, gave away shields, awards and certificates to the participating playwrights, directors and artists.

Hanif Soltag, Abdul Nabi Sariyo and other office-bearers of the Larkana Arts Council thanked people for their profuse participation that made the festival a success.

The said that the public turnout encouraged the council's team to redouble its efforts in promoting art and culture by holding more cultural programmes and drama festivals in future.

Around 1.5m children begging in country's streets, HR day rally told

Dawn Report

HYDERABAD: A rally was held here on Tuesday under the aegis of the Society for the Protection of Rights of the Child (Spare) in collaboration with the district administration to commemorate the Human Rights Day.

Speaking at the rally, an official of the district administration, Abdul Khaliq Baloch, said that a ban had already been imposed on child begging, adding that provincial social welfare department had been directed to pick up the children found begging and shift them to a rehabilitation centre.

He highlighted the importance of giving children a second chance in life to help them become productive citizens. He said there was no precise data of such children but estimates suggested that 1.2m to 1.5m children were involved in begging on streets in the country.

A social activist, Marvi Awan, discussed significance of civil society in safeguarding children's rights while Syeda Qurat Shah, in-charge physiologist at the women development department, talked about the vital role played by Spare in promoting human rights.

Pushoon Bheel, president of the Brick Kiln Workers Union, expressed his concern over the challenges being faced by kiln workers, especially in the context of climate change. He highlighted the need for policies that could protect these workers' rights.

Spare regional manager Kashif Bajeer criticised kiln owners for failing to contribute towards security of their workers. He mentioned factors that forced children into begging in harsh circumstances.

He said Spare was committed to child protection and human rights, particularly in promoting equality and justice for children. He said Spare's efforts were aligned with global theme of the Human Rights Day 2024: 'Empowering communities for social justice'.

The event concluded with reaffirmation of Spare's commitment to a future where every child's rights and dignity are upheld, reinforcing universal principles of child rights and human rights.

VILLAGE women display placards with slogan of 'Stand up for rights', at the Spare rally on Tuesday. — PPI

Two-day training in Larkana ends

In Larkana, a two-day training session on the 'Child Protection Case Management and Referral System in Sindh' concluded on Tuesday.

Organised in collaboration with Larkana SSP's office and Unicef Sindh, it was aimed at enhancing capacity of the police officers stationed in Larkana district and connected to child protection.

The training sessions covered critical topics such as child protection concerns, legal system in Sindh, inter-agency collaboration, child-friendly interaction by police and stress management for officers.

The facilitators at the workshop engaged the participants through presentations, group discussions and practical role-play exercises to ensure interactive learning.

The sessions were facilitated by Rizwana Jabeen, manager of the Child Protection, Hassan Hameed Shaikh (trainer & mentor) and Tayyab Korejo, child protection officer Larkana.

The training was chaired by SSP Dr Mir Rohal Khan Khoso who emphasised the importance of the skills imparted in addressing child protection concerns effectively.

In his closing remarks, he appreciated the efforts of the organisers and participants, stating: "This training has strengthened our collective resolve to protect vulnerable children and create a safer environment in Sindh". He said the police department played a vital role in collaboration with the child protection unit in providing protection to the children.

Tayyab Korejo said the police department could play an effective role in highlighting children's sensitive issue. "We need to guide parents also about the protection and ensuring the rights of children," he said.

The police officials, specially connected to the investigation of children cases, admired the training and said it as very important and knowledgeable for investigation of cases relating to children issues.

The SSP, along with Mr Korejo the representatives from Unicef, distributed certificates among the participants in recognition of their active engagement and commitment to child protection. The participants also shared their feedback, expressing gratitude for the knowledge and tools provided to them during the workshop. The training was organised with the vision of improving case management and referral systems for child protection in Sindh, fostering collaboration among departments and ensuring the psychological wellbeing of those involved in that critical work.

Need for safeguarding rights to ensure global peace stressed

Dawn Report

SUKKUR: Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, observed the Human Rights Day organised by the Students Societies Centre (SSC) under the directives of Meritorious Prof Dr Mohammad Yousuf Khaskhelli.

SSC coordinator Dr Ali Raza Larbani highlighted the significance of human rights in building a just and equitable society in a session held in the main auditorium on the campus.

The session featured Prof Munir Bashir as a guest speaker who delivered an insightful talk on the need for respecting and protecting human rights to ensure global peace.

A video message from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres underscored the international commitment to human rights.

A dynamic discussion was held among the participants, including notable figures, such as Murad Pirzada, Hira Jatoi, Aisha Soomro and Sadia Larik, besides students, faculty and staff on the collective responsibility to uphold human dignity and justice.

The event reinforced the university's dedication to promoting human rights awareness, inspiring its academic community to contribute to a more inclusive and peaceful society.

In Mirpurkhas, scores of journalists and civil society representatives held a demonstration outside the Digri Press Club in protest against depriving the masses of their basic rights.

Carrying banners and placards on the Human Rights Day, the participants were raising slogans in support of their demands in the lead of their leaders Shahnawaz Jakani, Lachman Das Kolhi, Asad Ali Arain and others.

The protesters blamed that it was due to corruption at the higher level in the government department that the masses were facing various problems.

They said the government had failed in supplying potable water, electricity, gas and other basic facilities to people.

They demanded of the government to take notice into the matter and ensure human rights to the masses and all available facilities without any delay.

Comrade Gianchandani remembered on 10th death anniversary

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA: On the 10th death anniversary of Comrade Sobho Gianchandani, a progressive intellectual and leftist politician, a gathering was held by the Sindhi Adabi Sangat, Larkana chapter, here at Sasia Villas the other day.

Presiding over the event, seasoned politician and writer Amanullah Shaikh said the three personalities which impressed him the most were G. M. Syed, Mir Ghous Bakhsh Khan Bizenjo and Comrade Sobho Gianchandani.

He said G. M. Syed taught people to love homeland while Sobho Gianchandani gave the lessons of garnering affection for and links with the oppressed and down-trodden people.

Besides being a communist, he said, Gianchandani was also a nationalist. He served in jail and underwent tortures, but did not budge back at any cost. He was compelled to migrate after the partition but he did not leave Sindh. Sobho being a lawyer advocated the petitions of labourers and farmers in the court without charging any fees from them, he said.

Dr Sikandar Mughal, a prominent writer who contributed a lot to the literature of science in Sindhi language, said Gianchandani wanted to establish an unconventional society, but after dissolution of the Soviet Union his dream as of all communist were shattered. He also talked about the Middle East situation and Palestine.

Engineer Niramal, son of Comrade Sobho Gianchandani, talking in relation to the family ties said: "Our father treated us like friends and fulfilled our all wishes.

"After my birth when I came of age, I found my father in jail and my mother weeping for him all the time. My father experienced very difficult days in his life, but he did not compromise on his principles."

Dr Pirth Sakina Gaal, a writer and poetess, said Comrade Sobho was the source of inspiration for us all. Dr Zulfikar Rahujo said the lamp of enlightenment which was lit by Comrade Sobho Gianchandani was helping to show us the right path.

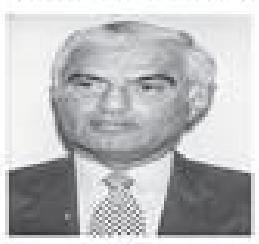
Others who also paid tributes to Gianchandani, included Siraj Kalhoro and Moeral Abro.

Sindhi Adabi Sangat secretary Aijaz Solangi presented an address of welcome and writer Essa Memon conducted proceedings of the gathering.

11th Barsi

Ali Khan Junejo

23rd July 1931 - 11 Dec 2013



Forever in our hearts and always in our prayers.
His memories are forever cherished.

Ali Khan Junejo Family

OBITUARY

Our beloved mother and sister

Zakia Hanafi

wife of Mohammad Hassan Hanafi

passed away on Sunday,
8th December, 2024 in Karachi.

The Namaz-e-Janaza will be held
at 1:40 pm on Wednesday, 11th December
after Namaz-e-Zuhr at Masjid and Imambargah
Abu Talib, Khayaban-e-Tipu Sultan,
DHA, Phase VIII, Karachi.

Seema and Mushtaq Khan
Shirin and Moby Haque
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NOTICE TO PUBLIC

KARACHI

I, Ali Ahmad S/o Nasir Ahmed, Muslim, Adult, holder of CNIC No. 42201-5065203-3, hereby declare that I have given general power of attorney in respect of Flat No. A-12 located on Second Floor, measuring 1197 square feet in the project known as "Jason Terrace" in Sub Plot No. A & B of off Plot No. Comm 4, Block-2, KDA Scheme No. 5, Clifton, Karachi, on 29-04-2008, to my Mother Late Mst. Parvin T. Nasir W/o Nasir Saeed. Nasir Ahmed, holder of CNIC No. 42201-4450280-2, who expired on 08-08-2024, after her demise, the general power of attorney is now stand cancelled now I intend to sell this property. If any Person, Body or Authority having any claim, right, title of any nature should notify the same with documentary evidence to the undersigned and Sub-Registrar-II, Clifton Town, Karachi within seven days from the date hereof, failing which claims, lien or objections if any shall be deemed to have been waived and the sale deed in respect of above property shall be registered. Mr. Ali Ahmad S/o Nasir Ahmed CNIC No. 42201-5065203-3 Officer Colony Garden Road House No. C-33 Karachi South. (100020769780)

MR. Abdul Sattar S/o Sulemon Gangu, CNIC No. 42101-6212261-1, (Transferor) Member of the Society vide Membership No. 1171, and Allottee of Corner Plot No. A-169, measuring 240 sq. yards, Kathiawar Cooperative Housing Society, Sector 10-A/1, KDA Scheme 33, Karachi, will submit papers for transfer in favour of Mr. Farhan S/o Muhammad Ismail Paryani, CNIC No. 42201-5470020-3, Anybody having any claim / interest in this regard, should convey the same in writing within eight days of this publication to Honorary Secretary, Kathiawar Cooperative Housing Society Ltd., Adamjee Nagar Block-A, Tipu Sultan Road, Karachi, failing which no communication from Anybody would be entertained and transfer proceeding would be completed after the period notified. (111020170401)

MY client has contracted to purchase bearing Residential Plot No. 394, measuring 600 square yards approx. Situated at Beach Street 4, Phase VIII, DHA, Karachi, from its Owner Mr. Muhammad Emad Mallick S/o Mohammad Iqbal Mallick, holder of CNIC No. 42201-8208698-5 resident of Karachi. Anyone having any claim, right or share in the said property should notify to DHA Office, Karachi and undersigned, along with documentary evidence under Registered Post with seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which claims, lien or objections if any shall be deemed to have been waived and the said property shall be conveyed and transferred in favour of my client. **IMRAN MAGRANI ADVOCATE HIGH COURT** A-607 & 707, Swima Trade Towers, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi. (100020769784)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Residential Plot No. 704, Sector I-D, measuring 125 yards, DHA City Karachi from Muhammad Arif Khan S/o Muhammad Ashraf Ali, CNIC No. 42201-3714516-5, R/o Karachi, through **KHAN ASSOCIATES** free from all dues, etc. Anyone having any claim / objection should notify us or DHA City Karachi Head Office, with documentary evidence within 7 days only of this publication otherwise transaction shall be completed favoring our client. Talha Khalid 0304-3497160 **A.K. ASSOCIATES.** (110021738816)

MY client has contracted to purchase Bearing Residential Plot No. 445, measuring 500 square yards approx. situated at Beach Street 1-A, Phase-VIII, DHA, Karachi, from its Owner Mr. Sohail Mallick S/o Salahuddin Ahmed Mallick, holder of NICOP No. 42201-8572163-1 resident of Karachi. Anyone having any claim, right or share in the said property should notify to DHA Office, Karachi and undersigned, along with documentary evidence under Registered Post with seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which claims, lien or objections if any shall be deemed to have been waived and the said property shall be conveyed and transferred in favour of my client. **IMRAN MAGRANI ADVOCATE HIGH COURT** A-607 & 707, Swima Trade Towers, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi. (100020769784)

MY client has contracted to purchase Bungalow (Ground + First Floor) on Residential Plot No. 109 measuring 283 square yards situated at Bungalow Cooperative Housing Society Block 7/8 Karachi with physical vacant possession from (1) Mawaada Mahmud W/o Mahmud Alam CNIC No. 42000-0410729-2 (2) Muhammad Shahid Nawaz S/o (Late) Sahabzada Rizwan Ali-Ud Ariz CNIC No. 61450-0139454-3 free from all claims disputes litigations liens interest charge previous commitments and encumbrances of whatsoever nature any Person / Authority Financial Institution Bank having any objection(s) should notify to me with documentary evidence through Registered A/D within 7 days from the date hereof failing which any claim lien objection shall be deemed to have been waived and will not entertain and process of sale deed and thereafter mutation shall be completed in favour of my client. **SOHAIL SATTAR ADVOCATE HIGH COURT** Office No. 101 First Floor Burn Burn Prime Plot No. 196 CP Bahar Society Block 7/8 Karachi. (111020171342)

OUR client has agreed to purchase Plot No. 651, 16th Lane, Phase VII, measuring 1000 square yards, situated in Pakistan Defence Officers Housing Authority, Karachi, from (1) Muhammad Ilyas, CNIC No. 42201-0590461-7 (2) Mst. Ayesa, CNIC No. 42301-4379643-4 (3) Abdul Basit, CNIC No. 42301-8215067-5 (4) Mrs. Rahima Ibrahim, CNIC No. 42201-3452566-6 (5) Mst. Amina (Daughter), CNIC No. 42201-8205454-2 (6) Abdul Qadar (Son), CNIC No. 42301-4142066-3 (7) Muhammad Aslam (Son), CNIC No. 42201-6665220-7 (8) Muhammad Hanif (Son), CNIC No. 42301-5092679-7 (9) Altaf Hussain (Son), CNIC No. 42201-0851723-7 (10) Abdul Rashead (Son), CNIC No. 42201-2368713-7 & (11) Muhammad Ilyas (Son), CNIC No. 42201-0590461-7 **(SERIAL NO. 5 TO 11 LEGAL HEIRS AND CO-SHARER OF LATE ABDUL WAHID)**, free from all encumbrances, charges, liens, mortgages, disputes, litigations, demands and dues. Any Persons, Banks, Authorities, having any claim / objection should notify the same to us and Administrator, DHA, Karachi, with documentary evidence within seven days. Failing which all claims / objections shall be deemed to have been waived and abandoned. **GUL SHER ANGARIA ADVOCATE**, Gulzhar Arif & Co., M-41, Mappa-mine Floor, Glossy Tower, near Town Talkies, Clifton, Karachi. Cell: 0300-2343535. (100020769110)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Office No. 801 9th Floor measuring 1554.43 square feet with one reserved car parking in Basement and Office No. 802 9th Floor measuring 1544.72 square feet with one reserved car parking in basement situated in Progressive Square on Plot No. 11-A, Block-6 PECH Society main Shahrah-e-Faisal Karachi. Mrs. Faiza Amir W/o Amir Yousuf Sheikh CNIC No. 42201-7790090-4 permanent address Ajmal Castle Plot No. 20 1st Floor House No. 100 Madiyaabad Co-operative Housing Society Karachi and present address Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Free from all encumbrances charges taxes dues mortgages litigation claim dispute burdens and liens of any nature any Person / Institution / Bank having any claim right title or interest of any manner are required to inform us Sub-Registrar-I Jamshed Town near DC Office East Civic Centre Karachi within seven days failing which the said property shall be transferred in favour of our client. SA Estate / B-9 Marine Fassal PECHS Karachi (0333-8973641) (100020737508)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Bungalow No. M-771, 10-A Shifaat, (Phase VI) measuring 500 square yards, DHA Karachi, from Mr. Muhammad Moin Parvez Farooq S/o Muhammad Parvez Farooq, CNIC # 42201-2077520-5, resident of Karachi, free from all claims taxes, burdens, disputes dues, charges, liabilities etc. Any Person / Bank / Authority having any claim / objection(s) should notify Sub-Registrar-I, Clifton Town, Karachi and us with documentary evidence within seven days of this publication otherwise the transfer shall be completed in favour of our client **PROPERTY PRIME TIME**, 40-C, Bukhari Comm Lane-5, Phase VI, DHA, Karachi 021-111-779-111. **SOHAIL RAJPUT** 0308-2181700. (100020769047)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Double Story Bungalow No. 603, Khayaban Muhafiz Phase VI, DHA Karachi measuring 633.3 square yards from Ms. Huma Shakir W/o Shamsuddin Ahmed Shakir CNIC No. 42201-5884479, R/o Karachi through First Homes. Free from all claims, demands, disputes, litigation, mortgage, outstanding dues and charges with transfer of title and delivery of vacant possession. Any Persons, Banks / Financial Institutions, Authority having any objection whatsoever should notify to Sub-Registrar 1 DHA Clifton Town Karachi with documentary evidence within Seven days from this publication. **CORPORATE ESTATE** 0321-8215704. (110020671104)

OUR client has contracted to purchase File No. U-R03-45479, Plot No. 599, Sector 5-F, measuring 125 yards DHA City Karachi, from Mr. Muhammad Afzal S/o Muhammad Khan CNIC: 35201196284777 R/o Orakzai free from all claims, objections and encumbrances. Any Person, Bank, Authority having any objection whatsoever should notify to Administrator DHA City Karachi with documentary evidence within Seven days from this Publication. **SOOKO ESTATE ENTERPRISES** 021-35895533, 0300-8215701. (110020671104)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Residential Plot No. 217, Sector 5-E, measuring 125 yards, DHA City Karachi from PCO 40305, Sub (R) Muhammad Bashir S/o Choudhry Gaman, CNIC No. 42103-4461625-5, R/o Kahuta, through **KHAN ASSOCIATES** free from all dues, etc. Anyone having any claim / objection should notify us or DHA City Karachi Head Office, with documentary evidence within 7 days only of this publication otherwise transaction shall be completed favoring our client. Talha Khalid 0304-3497160 **A.K. ASSOCIATES.** (110021738815)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Flat No. 3 3rd Floor, on Plot No. 16-C-1, Bukhari Commercial Lane-5, Phase-VI, DHA, Karachi, from Mr. Rait Jan S/o Mr. Jan Muhammad Kakde, CNIC No. 42301-2579934-9, resident of Karachi, free from all claims, dues, taxes, liabilities any Person / Bank / Authority / Court having any objection whatsoever should notify to Sub-Registrar-I Clifton Town, Karachi and us with documentary evidence within 07 days of this publication, after that no objection will be entertained and transaction should be completed in favour of our client. M/s. Property Solution, Cell 0300-8202208. (100020769240)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 4, 2nd Floor, measuring 900 square feet, 24th Street, Tauheed Commercial Phase-V, DHA Karachi from Abdul Kaiem Son of Abdus Salam CNIC: 42000052192267 residence Karachi any Person / Bank / Authority having any claim should notify Sub Registrar-I Clifton Town Karachi and us within 7 days otherwise transaction shall be completed in favour of my client **MUNIM** Real Estate **MUZAMIL** Munim 7-C, Saba Commercial Lane-1, Shop 4 Phase-V Ext. DHA Karachi. 0300-2089179. (100020800916)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plots No. 2, 3 Plot No C 34 & Saba Commercial Pk V DHA Karachi from Syed Masood Raza S/o Syed Talib Raza Rizvi Plot No. 2 2nd Floor CNIC: 42201-8355031 and from Seema Masood W/o Syed Masood Raza Plot No. 3 3rd floor CNIC: 42201-8597026-8 any Person Authority having any objection should notify us within 07 days **ASLAM BROTHERS** & Sons S/o Khayaban-e-Shamsheer Saba Commercial Pk V DHA Karachi. (100020764049)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 10-E, Bafal Street 27, Phase VIII, 5-B DHA Karachi measuring 500 yards from Mr. Ather Rehman S/o Bashir Ahmed (Late) CNIC: 42204-7069265 R/o Karachi free from all claims, objections and encumbrances. Any Person, Bank, Authority having any objection whatsoever should notify to Administrator DHA Karachi with documentary evidence within Seven days from this Publication. **BADAR ESTATE** Nasser Ahmed 0300-7966630 Office No. 1, 1st Floor 32-C, Bukhari Lane 4 / 11 (Corner) Phase VI, DHA Karachi. (100020767167)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 262, 21st Street Phase VIII, DHA Karachi measuring 1000 yards from Mrs. Yasmeen Khanani W/o Abdul Qadir Khanani R/o Jeddah free from all claims, objections, encumbrances. Any Person, Bank, Authority having any objection whatsoever should notify to Administrator DHA Karachi within seven days of this publication. **MALIK CORPORATION** Tariq Malik 0300-2211884. (110020607166)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Residential Plot No. 3088, Sector I-E, measuring 125 yards, DHA City Karachi from Muhammad Yousuf S/o Allah Dino, CNIC No. 34201-0914509-7 R/o Gujrat, through **KHAN ASSOCIATES** free from all dues, etc. Anyone having any claim / objection should notify us or DHA City Karachi Head Office, with documentary evidence within 7 days only of this publication otherwise transaction shall be completed favoring our client. Talha Khalid 0304-3497160 **A.K. ASSOCIATES.** (110021738815)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 99-G, Saba Avenue, Phase-VII-E, measuring 150 square yards situated in PECHS, Karachi, from Mr. Ahmed Arsalan Arif S/o Muhammad Arif Malik (L), resident of Karachi (CNIC No. 61509-0300950-5) through M/s Habeed Corporation, Comm Area "B" Phase-I, DHA Karachi, free from all claim, litigation, suites, disputes, objections, dues, taxes etc. Any Person, Bank, Authority having any claim should notify to Administrator PECHS Karachi, and undersigned along with documentary evidence within Seven (07) days from the date of publication failing which any claim, whatsoever any nature, shall be deemed to have been waived and transfer shall be completed favouring our client. M/s. **REAL PROPERTY PRIME TIME & SAHIB SULEMAN PROPERTIES** Plot No. 11-C-1, Shahbaz Comm Lane No. 4, off 26th Street, Phase VI, DHA Karachi 75500-Pakistan. Mr. Nadeem Sulemani Cell. # +92 300-8288860. (100020769822)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot of land bearing **NO. S-17, IQBAL LANE-7, PHASE-VII B, MEASURING 100 SQUARE YARDS** or thereabout, situated in Pakistan Defence Officers Housing Authority, Karachi, from Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmed S/o Sharif Uddin Ahmed (L) holding CNIC No. 42201-5424916-1, R/o Karachi, free from all claims and objections whatsoever. Any Person, Bank or Authority having claim or objection should notify Administrator DHA Karachi and us within seven days along with documentary evidence, failing which all claims shall be deemed to have been waived and the transaction will be completed in favour of our client **PROPERTY EXPRESS** 77C/II 1st Floor 21st Comm Street Phase-II-Ext. DHA Karachi. (100020809621)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Residential Plot No. 598, **BEACH AVENUE, PHASE VIII**, measuring 500 square yards DHA, Karachi, from Mr. Syed Muhammad Kaveen S/o Syed Muhammad Nasir CNIC No. 37406-0146507-7, R/o Islamabad, free from all claims whatsoever any Person having any claim should notify us and Administrator DHA Karachi within (7) days of this publication. **KHANANI ESTATE** 91C Almurtaza Lane 1 Opposite Dominos Phase II DHA Kht. **SALMAN KHANANI** 0321-2731475. (100020814044)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Residential Plot No. 555-C, **AL-MURTAZA COMMERCIAL LANE 4, PHASE VIII**, measuring 200 square yards DHA, Karachi, from Mumtaz Nadeem Ahmed S/o Sami Ahmed, R/o Karachi, free from all claims whatsoever any Person having any claim should notify us and Administrator DHA Karachi within (7) days of this publication. **KHANANI ESTATE** 91C Almurtaza Lane 1 Opposite Dominos Phase II DHA Kht. **SALMAN KHANANI** 0321-2731475. (100020814045)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Residential Plot No. 216, Sector 7-D, measuring 500 yards, DHA City Karachi from Fawad Junaid S/o Muhammad Junaid (L), CNIC No. 42201-0852871, R/o Karachi, free from all dues, etc. Anyone having any claim / objection should notify us or DHA City Karachi Head Office, with documentary evidence within 7 days only of this publication otherwise transaction shall be completed favoring our client. Talha Khalid 0304-3497160 **A.K. ASSOCIATES.** (110021738812)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 36, Sector D-E, DHA City Karachi measuring 500 yards from Brig. Muhammad Tariq (Retd) S/o Muhammad Ashraf free from all encumbrances. Anybody having any claim objection should notify DHA / us within seven days of this publication. **FAISAL ENTERPRISES** 45-A, Jami Street 11, Phase VII, DHA. (110020671165)

It is notified to all concerned that I Owais S/o Abdul Rashead have purchased Sub-Divided Residential Leased Plot No. 17-C/1 measuring 439 square yards M.A.M.C.H. Society Ltd Karachi through registered Sale Deed No. RD-2006/07/06 (51618) dated 20-09-2024 from Mrs. Sharjeel Shaikh W/o Shafiqat Ullah Shaikh, the Owner of the above noted Plot and I have applied to the Society for the transfer of Sub-Divided Plot No. 17-C/1 in my name. Any Person / Agency having any objection or claim should notify in writing to the Honorary Secretary of Moulana Muhammad Ali Jouhar Memorial Co-operative Housing Society Ltd at 64 / 21-B Moin Muhammad Shah Road, Karachi and the Section Officer, (SVI) Ministry of Housing & Works Division Islamabad with documentary evidence within 7 days from the date of this publication, failing which claim or objection whatsoever shall be treated as null and void and the transfer formalities of Sub-Divided Plot No. 17-C/1 will be completed in all respect in my favor (Owais S/o Abdul Rashead). I further notify that the said Plot is purely a Residential Bungalow Plot. No bifurcation / sub-division / no alleged unless approved. Use and construction of any type of Town-Houses / Multistoried-Building / Flat-Site / Office-Plaza / Clinic / Hospital / Shopping-Arcade / Super-Market / Commercial-Plaza / Showroom / Restaurant / Hotel / School / Wedding-Lawn / Hall / Cinema-Hall / Cinaplex / Security-Company / etc is not allowed. The undertaking for the same has already been submitted by me. In case, if the Plot is privately sub-divided / bifurcated, the allotment order / mutation letter / sub-lease will stand cancelled. Honorary Secretary Moulana Muhammad Ali Jouhar Memorial Co-operative Housing Society Ltd Karachi. (100020769036)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Residential Plot No. **278-D, 24TH STREET, PHASE VIII** measuring 400 square yards DHA, Karachi, from Mr. Nitish Karim S/o Chand Bibi (L) CNIC No. 42201-4109051-3, R/o Karachi, free from all claims whatsoever any Person having any claim should notify us and Administrator DHA Karachi within (7) days of this publication. **KHANANI ESTATE** 91C Almurtaza Lane 1 Opposite Dominos Phase II DHA Kht. **SALMAN KHANANI** 0321-2731475. (100020814046)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Residential Plot No. **555-E, AL-MURTAZA COMMERCIAL LANE 4, PHASE VIII**, measuring 200 square yards DHA, Karachi, from Mr. Sami Ahmed S/o Sarfraz Ahmed, R/o Karachi, free from all claims whatsoever any Person having any claim should notify us and Administrator DHA Karachi within (7) days of this publication. **KHANANI ESTATE** 91C Almurtaza Lane 1 Opposite Dominos Phase II DHA Kht. **SALMAN KHANANI** 0321-2731475. (100020814047)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Residential Plot No. 3024, Sector D-E, measuring 125 yards, DHA City Karachi from Hamza Nadeem S/o Nadeem Khan, CNIC No. 42101-2700526-3, R/o Karachi, through **KHAN ASSOCIATES** free from all dues, etc. Anyone having any claim / objection should notify us or DHA City Karachi Head Office, with documentary evidence within 7 days only of this publication otherwise transaction shall be completed favoring our client. Talha Khalid 0304-3497160 **A.K. ASSOCIATES.** (110021738812)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 38, Sector D-E, DHA City Karachi measuring 500 yards from Brig. Muhammad Tariq (Retd) S/o Muhammad Ashraf free from all encumbrances. Anybody having any claim objection should notify DHA / us within seven days of this publication. **FAISAL ENTERPRISES** 45-A, Jami Street 11, Phase VII, DHA. (110020671165)

OFFICE OF THE JUDGE, ANTI-TERRORISM COURT-IV KARACHI
Judicial Complex, at Central Prison Karachi

Special Case No. 443-H/2022

The State ..... Versus

ALLAHDAD & OTHERS ..... Accused

FIR No. 779/2022
U/S. 147/ 148/ 149/ 353/ 324/ 302/ 186/ 395/ 427/ 337/+(ii) R/w Sec. 7 ATA
P.S Sohrab Goth, Karachi

PROCLAMATION
REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A ACCUSED PERSON UNDER SECTION 87 C.R.P.C READ WITHS 19(10) OF THE ANTI TERRORISM ACT 1997

WHEREAS, the accused persons namely **(1) Allahdad S/o Khuda E Rahim, R/o Afghan Village near Abdul Ghaffari Masjid, Police Chowki, P.S Gulshan-E-Maymar Karachi, (2) Sabir S/o Wali Muhammad R/o Shah Ali P.O Siseer, Taluka Parshaour District Pisheen,** on bail were called absent since **10-07-2024** in the above said case.

WHEREAS, the non-bailable warrant of arrest has been issued by this court for the arrest of above named accused persons, which has returned unexecuted with the report of police that accused have absconded or concealed them to avoid their arrest.

NOW, THEREFORE, proclamation U/s 87 Cr.P.C. read with section 19(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 is issued requiring their presence before this Court within (07) days after publication of this notice.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the Court, on this dated **07th December, 2024.**

JUDGE
Anti Terrorism Court No: IV,
Karachi

INF-ATT No 392/24

OFFICE OF THE JUDGE
ANTI TERRORISM COURT
NO. IV, KARACHI
JUDICIAL COMPLEX AT CENTRAL PRISON, KARACHI

SPECIAL CASE No. 443-I/2022
The State
Versus
SAKHIDAD & OTHERS.....ACCUSED

FIR NO.779/2022
U/S. 147/148/149/353/324/ 302/186/395/427/337-H (ii) R/W SECTION 7 ATA, P.S. SOHRAB GOTH, KARACHI.

PROCLAMATION
REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS UNDER SECTION 87 CR.P.C READ WITH 19(10) OF THE ANTI TERRORISM ACT 1997.

WHEREAS, the accused person namely (1) **SAKHIDAD S/o Dastagir, R/o Al Asif Square, Sohrab Goth, Karachi,** on bail were called absent since 24-06-2024 in the above said case.

WHEREAS, non-bailable warrant of arrest has been issued by this court for the arrest of above named accused persons, which has returned unexecuted with the report of police that accused have absconded or concealed them to avoid their arrest.

Now, therefore, proclamation U/s 87 Cr.P.C read with section 19(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 is issued requiring their presence before this Court within 7 days after publication of this notice.

Given under my hand seal of this Court On this the dated 07th December 2024.

JUDGE
ANTI-TERRORISM COURT NO. IV
KARACHI

INF-ATT/ 392/24

KARACHI MOBILITY PROJECT
SINDH MASS TRANSIT AUTHORITY
TRANSPORT & MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

1. The Government of Sindh requires services of following Staff for a donor funded project. Interested applicants may express their interest in providing the services through CVs.
2. Eligible applicants which have the following qualifications, experience and skills as mentioned against the positions.

1	Position:	Director Procurement and Contracts — (One Position)
	Qualification:	Master's degree in Civil engineering / Procurement / Construction Law/Supply Chain Management or related discipline from a HEC recognized university. Foreign qualification will be considered an added advantage.
	Experience:	-At least 15 years of post-qualification relevant experience including 5 years at a senior management level position is highly desirable -Services background is preferred, showcasing experience in managing contracts and procurement for service-oriented projects -International work experience with donor funded projects on infrastructure works along with completion is an added advantage. -Professional team building, procurement or any other skills considered relevant for the position. -Must be registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC).
2	Position:	Assistant Director Environment/Occupational Health & Safety — (One Position)
	Qualification:	Minimum Master/Bachelor's degree in engineering, Environmental Sciences, Health Sciences or a related field from a recognized university
	Experience:	-A minimum of 10 years of relevant experience in the Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) or Environmental Management field, with at least 5 years of experience in donor-funded projects or large-scale infrastructure projects, preferably in the transport or construction sectors. -Proven ability to identify OHS issues develop Health & Safety Management Plans, conduct Risk Assessments, and perform Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for infrastructure or construction projects. -Thorough understanding of OHS-related regulatory frameworks, as well as local and international standards and environmental health and safety regulations. -Strong skills in stakeholder communication, preparation of detailed reports, audits, and compliance documentation related to OHS, safety, and environmental regulations. -Must be registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC).
3	Position:	Office Assistant — (One Position)
	Qualification:	Bachelor's degree from HEC recognized university/institute or Diploma in IT (DIT)
	Experience:	-Excellent verbal and written computer skills with exceptional reading and listening abilities. -At least 02 years of experience in a similar role is highly desirable. Must have an average typing speed of at least 30 words per minute. Proficient in dictation and note taking.
4	Position:	Driver — (One Position)
	Qualification:	Middle Pass with a valid driving license
	Experience:	At least 03 years driving experience. Excellent navigation skills and proficiency in using navigation applications to find locations.

3. The mentioned vacancy is purely Temporary / Contractual Basis (to be renewed annually purely on the basis of performance) funded through the International Lending Agency.
4. The candidates shall have no right to claim for regularization of services in the future under any prevailing Government policy.
5. Candidates meeting the minimum eligibility criteria for qualification and experience shall be called for interview.
6. Selection will be purely on merit and after necessary endorsement of the donor agency.
7. Interested candidate may submit their Expressions of Interest in the form of a Covering Letter along with CV and supporting documents through courier to Project Director at the following mentioned address, the Expression of Interest with Covering Letter and CV can also be forwarded through Email **sdbskmpyle@gmail.com** latest by **December 30th 2024** during office hours.
8. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted, the successful candidates will be offered a competitive-based package as per government guidelines.
9. The domicile policy of Government of Sindh shall be applicable as per law / rules.
10. The Department reserves the right to reject any or all applications, or cancel the whole recruitment process at any stage without assigning any reasons.

PROJECT DIRECTOR
Karachi Mobility Project, BRT- Yellow Line
Sindh Mass Transit Authority (SMTA)
D-13, Shahra-e-Ghalib Lane 2,
Block 2, Clifton, Karachi
Tel: 021-99332207-8

INF-ATT/ 392/24

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MISCELLANEOUS

SINDH GOVERNMENT QATAR HOSPITAL, ORANGI TOWN, KARACHI

RECOGNIZED POST GRADUATE PAID TRAINING FCPS-II PROGRAM IN MEDICINE & SURGERY DEPARTMENT

SESSION - JANUARY, 2025

Application is invited for Recognized Post Graduate Paid Training Program in Medicine and Surgery Department Two/ Four years FCPS-II, at Sindh Government Qatar Hospital, Orangi Town, Karachi.

Stipend will be paid FCPS-II trainees as per Government Rules.

Requirements for trainees:

FCPS: Candidates must have cleared FCPS-Part-I.

Last date submission of application is 21th December, 2024.

Written Test on 24.12.2024.

Interviews on 28th December, 2024

(Dr. Rashid Siraj)
Medical Superintendent
Sindh Government Qatar Hospital, Orangi, Town, Karachi.
Contact: 021-99333476, 021-99333477
Fax # 021-99333347
EMAIL: qatarhospital@gmail.com

INF-KRY-3942/24

DAWN
the complete newspaper

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER (ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY & HIGHER SECONDAY) SUKKUR

No. DEO (ESE&HS) Recruit 2024, Sukkur Dated 09-12-2024

The following persons of District Sukkur have qualified the test for the post of PST & JEST through Sukkur ISA 2021 then they have been recommended for the above said posts and issued Offer Letter on 01-11-2024 but they failed to collect within a stipulated time. They are once again given a chance to collect their offer letter from the office of the District Education Officer (Elementary Secondary & Higher Secondary) Sukkur within 3 days positively otherwise their Offer Letters will be cancelled/withdrawn.

The details are as under:

S. No	Name	Father Name	CNIC	Taluka	Offer Letter Issued for the Post of
01	Fayyaz Ahmed	Altaf Hussain	45505-0389409-3	Pano Akil	PST (BPS-14)
02	Wajid Ali	Abdul Rasool	45505-0346531-5	New Sukkur	JEST (BPS-14)
03	Muhammad Shahryar	Saeed ur Rehman	45504-0610081-9	City Sukkur	JEST (BPS-14)

(ABDUL AZIZ KALHORO)
DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER (ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY & HIGHER SECONDARY) SUKKUR

INF-KRY-3944/24

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, AT KARACHI

BEFORE THE ELECTION TRIBUNAL, SINDH AT KARACHI
ELECTION PETITION NO. 05 OF 2024

Muhammad Alamgir Khan son of Obaidullah Khan, Muslim, Adult, Resident of House No.D-141, Block 7, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi Contested General Election 2024 NA 236, Karachi ..... Petitioner

VERSUS

Election Commission of Pakistan & Others ..... Respondents

To,

(The Respondent No.06)

(06) Faysal Nawab bin unknown (independent), Muslim, Adult Resident of House No.A-59, Journalist Society, Gulshan-e-Iqbal Block 4-A, Karachi East.

NOTICE TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENTS

TAKE NOTICE that the above-named petitioner has filed above Petition Under Section 139 of the Elections Act, 2017 relating to constituency No.NA-236, Karachi which shall be heard by the Election Tribunal on the **16th Day of January, 2025 AT 09:15 A.M.** in the High Court of Sindh at Karachi, when you are required to attend the hearing personally or through a counsel, failing which the matter will be heard and decided in your absence.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court 09th day of December 2024.

BY ORDER
REGISTRAR
ELECTION TRIBUNAL SINDH
HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI

CORRIGENDUM

PROCUREMENT OF BUSES

With reference to the invitation for Bids published under PRO No. 2067/22-11-2024 in both Daily newspapers on November 23, 2024, please note the following updates:

1. The quantity of buses has been increased from 9 to 21.
2. Changes have been made to the specifications and special terms and conditions.
3. The revised Bidding Document is available on the SPPRA website under TSE No-24251158257I.
4. The deadline for bid submission has been extended from December 11, 2024, to December 30, 2024, until 12:00 PM PST.
5. Bids will be opened on the same day (December 30, 2024) at 12:30 PM PST at the address provided below.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Address: Secretary Transport office, Block no.09, Civil Secretariat Quetta**Phone no:** 081920370**Fax no:** 081920370**Email:** mumtazkhan12888@gmail.com

PRO No.2289/10-12-2024

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

IN THE ANTI TERRORISM COURT NO. XIV, KARACHI DIVISION

SPECIAL CASE NO. 02/2024
The State
Versus
Kashif Ali S/o Muhammad Akram...ACCUSED
FIR NO. 329/2023
U/S: 4/5 EXP SUBSTANCE ACT,
R/W 7 OF ATA,1997,
PS. JACKSON, KARACHI

PROCLAMATION
REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED UNDER SECTIONS 87 Cr.P.C.

WHEREAS, complaint have been made before me that accused **1. Kashif Ali S/o Muhammad Akram c/o H. No. 342-343, Street No.05, Near Farooq Azam Masjid, Baldia Town, Sector A/B, Karachi,** has committed the offence of punishable U/S: 4/5 Explosive Substance Act R/w 7-ATA 1997, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person cannot be found and whereas, it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person has absconded to avoid the service of the said warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person is required to appear at 09:30 a.m. before this Court to answer the said complaint on 21-12-2024.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 09th December, 2024.

I/C JUDGE
ANTI-TERRORISM COURT-XIV
KARACHI

INF-KRY-3928/24

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Institute of Clinical Psychology
University of Karachi
Phones: 92-21-34614944, 34613584 Fax: 92-21-34615369
Email pedirector@iapuok.edu.pk

Applications on prescribed forms are invited from the candidates having requisite qualifications and experience for the following post by **January 10, 2025** as per terms & conditions given below:

Associate Professor (BPS-20)

Qualification: Ph.D. degree in Clinical Psychology from an HEC recognized University/Post-graduate institution including 3 years' supervised internship under Clinical Psychologist only.

Experience: 10 years' experience. The experience to be counted is to be of teaching/research in an HEC recognized University or a Postgraduate institution. OR professional experience in the relevant field in a National or International recognized organization.

Publications: 10 research publications (with at least 4 publications in the last 5 years) in Journals recognized by the Higher Education Commission, Pakistan.

Application Process:

1. Application forms are available in the office of the Director, Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Karachi against payment of Rs.1000/- in the shape of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favor of the "Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Karachi."
2. Candidates applying for the post of "Associate Professor" are required to submit a crossed postal order / bank draft of Rs.5000/- in favor of the "Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Karachi.
3. Six copies of applications on prescribed forms should be accompanied with attested copies of educational certificates, experience certificate, computerized National Identity Card, attested copies of recent photographs and reprints/photocopies of publications. Acceptance letters for publication of a paper and provisional certificate of any examination passed will not be considered.
4. Acceptance letters for publication of a paper and provisional certificate of any examination passed will not be considered. The candidates applying for the post of "Associate Professor" should also attach a separate list of papers/articles (only published in Journals (local/foreign) recognized by the HEC, Pakistan) with signature. Note: with the link of Research publications or doi number as well.
5. The candidate should not be involved in any in disciplinary behavior in any of the previous jobs/ or current job.
6. The interviews will be held at the "Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Karachi" for which TA/DA will not be admissible.
7. The number of posts shall be considered according to the available positions at the time of selection. The Institute reserves the right not to fill/ withdraw any post/withhold the appointment against any advertised post without assigning any reason.
8. Candidates already in Government, Semi-Government and Autonomous Organizations in Pakistan must apply through proper channel within due date.
9. Application on prescribed forms must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Karachi, 118, Block 20, Gulshan-e-Jauhar, Karachi-75290, Pakistan on or before January 10, 2025.

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview and presentation before the Selection Board.

Director
Institute of Clinical Psychology,
University of Karachi,
118 Block 20, Abul Ala Hafeez Jullundhri Road, Gulshan-e-Jauhar, Karachi-75290, Pakistan.

INF-KRY-No. 3936/24

Sindh Human Capital Investment: 1000 Days Integrated Health and Population program Health Department, Government of Sindh

CAREER OPORTUNITIES

SINDH HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT: 1000 DAYS INTEGRATED HEALTH AND POPULATION PROGRAM

The Health Department invites applications from qualified candidates having domicile in Sindh Province for the contract position / by Transfer in the Program Management Unit at Sindh Human Capital Investment: 1000 Days Integrated Health & Population Program The required academic qualifications, experience, and other requirements for the positions are as under:

S. No.	NAME OF THE POSITION	EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
01	**Technical Advisor on Public Health. (PPS-10) Upper Age Limit: 55 Years**	**Age Limit: 55 Years** **Academic Qualification:** Post MBBS with Postgraduate Degree in Public Health, Health Policy & Management, Health Research, International Health, Health Policy and Management, Family Health, Epidemiology or a field relevant to Mothers and Child Health from an HEC-recognized institution. **Job Experience:** • Minimum of 10 years of experience in technical leadership roles within public health programs with specific expertise in RMNCAH+N. • Proven track record of leading the design, implementation, and evaluation of large-scale health programs, particularly in low-resource settings. • Strong technical expertise in maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, and nutrition, with the ability to apply global best practices to program interventions. • Experience working with government ministries, development partners, and international organizations, particularly on donor-funded projects. • Demonstrated success in managing complex multi-sectoral teams and technical staff. • Strong skills in research, monitoring, evaluation, and data-driven decision-making. • Excellent written and oral communication skills, with the ability to present complex information to diverse stakeholders.
02	**Communication and Media Specialist (PPS-9) Upper Age Limit: 50 Years**	**Age Limit: 50 Years** **Academic Qualification:** • Postgraduate degree in communications, marketing, journalism, public relations, or a related field from HEC recognized institution. **Job Experience:** • Minimum of 3 years of experience in media relations, communications, or public relations, preferably in development sector. • Proven experience in developing and implementing communication strategies for large-scale programs. • Strong understanding of social media platforms, digital marketing, and content creation. • Excellent writing and editing skills, with the ability to produce high-quality content for diverse audiences. • Experience working with the media, including organizing press briefings, handling media inquiries, and building relationships with journalists.
03	**Social Safeguard & Gender Specialist (PPS 08) Maximum Age: 50 Years**	**Age Limit: 50 Years** **Academic Qualification** Master's degree in Social Sciences, Gender Studies, Development Studies, Sociology, or a related field **Job Experience:** • At least 3 years of experience in gender equity, social inclusion, and social safeguards, particularly in large-scale public health or development programs. • Proven experience in developing and implementing gender-sensitive strategies and social safeguard frameworks, preferably within donor funded programs (World Bank, IsDB, etc.). • Strong knowledge of international gender equality standards and social safeguard policies, including World Bank and ISDB frameworks. • Experience conducting social risk assessments and designing mitigation measures for health, infrastructure, or similar projects. • Demonstrated ability to engage with communities and stakeholders to address social vulnerabilities and promote equitable access to services.
04	**Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (PPS-08) Maximum Age: 45 Years**	**Age Limit: 45 Years** **Academic Qualification** Postgraduate degree in Social Science, Public Health, Project Management, Statistics or related technical field from HEC Recognized Institution. **Job Experience:** • Minimum 03 Years of post-qualification professional experience at the National / Provincial level in program planning, Monitoring & Evaluation • Practical experience in community-based research especially in the social development sector is desirable • Experience of working in the World Bank funded project in M&E will be preferable
05	**Microfinancing / Livelihood Officer (PPS- 08) Maximum Age: 45 Years**	**Age Limit: 45 Years** **Academic Qualification:** Post Graduate Degree in Business Administration, International Development, Sustainable Livelihoods, Public Policy, Financial management or other relevant social science **Job Experience:** • A minimum of 03 years post-qualification relevant experience in Microfinancing/ rural development, policy analysis and project Management • Excellent written and verbal communication skills • International experience will be highly preferred.
06	**Sub-Engineer (Civil) (PPS-07) Maximum Age: 45 Years**	**Age Limit: 45 Years** **Academic Qualification:** Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from HEC recognized institution with valid registration as a registered engineer in Pakistan Engineering Council. **Or** B-Tech Hons in Civil Technology from HEC recognized institution preferably government institution. **Job Experience:** • Post qualification experience of 3 years in Civil Engineering in case of bachelor's degree in civil, in a **public or reputable private organization will be preferred.** • Post qualification experience of 6 years in Civil Engineering in case of B-Tech degree in civil, in a public or reputable private organization will be preferred. • Experience in planning, Estimation and costing, & Implementation for health facilities or general building structure. • Extensive knowledge of Sindh schedule rates and market rates • Extensive Knowledge of AutoCAD/drawings and MS word/PowerPoint and Excel • Knowledge of Ms Project and Primavera
07	**Sub-Engineer (Electrical) (PPS-07) Maximum Age: 45 Years**	**Age Limit: 45 Years** **Academic Qualification:** Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from HEC recognized institution with valid registration as registered engineer in Pakistan Engineering Council **Or** B-Tech Hons in Electrical Technology from HEC recognized institution. **Job Experience:** • Post qualification experience of 3 years in Electrical Engineering in case of a bachelor's degree in civil, in a public or reputable private organization will be preferred. • Post qualification experience of 6 years in Civil Engineering in case of B-Tech degree in Electrical, in a public or reputable private organization will be preferred. • This position requires practical experience of selecting and implementing the best suited solar system units in all health facilities based on the site-specific electrical requirements, extensive knowledge of health facility electrical design and implementation. • Extensive knowledge of AutoCAD/drawings and MS word, PowerPoint and Excel.

- Interested eligible candidates are advised to submit their applications along with a detailed CV, attested copies of qualification, experience certificates, CNIC, DOMIL/PPN/PHC along other required documents at the address below within 14 days of publication of the advertisement.
- For online job application visit SIHPP Website, www.sihpp.gos.pk/career.php
- Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for a test and/or interview. Bring your original HEC verified documents at the interview.
- TA/DA will not be admissible to the candidates appearing for interview.
- Those already in Government service may apply through the proper channel.
- The contract employees will be hired on a contract basis / by transfer, which will be extended subject to satisfactory performance.
- Applicants applying for multiple positions are required to apply separately for each position.
- Applicant must mention the position in CAPITAL letters on the top right side of the envelope.

Admin Officer (SIHPP)
Office # 201, Plot # 100-C, Al Murtaza Commercial Lane 2, Phase 8 DHA, Karachi South
Tel: 021-33406145, 021-33406360

INF-KRY-393-1/24

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SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK A4908

	4	6						5
		5	8			6		
9		2		5		8		
1			2	6	7			
				8			4	2
5					1		3	
2					9			
	9					5		1
6		1			5		7	

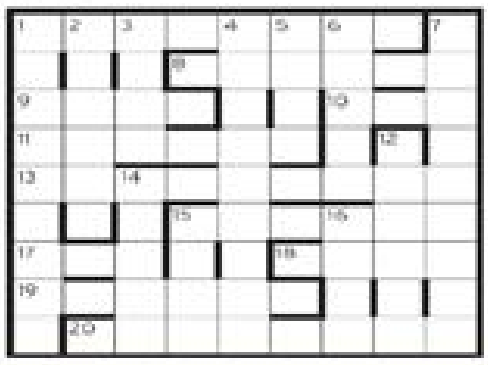
TRICKY B4908

		2						5
	1					4		
		9	6			8		2
				3	6			8
2					7			3
				4		9	7	
	7				5			4
6		8			3		1	
9								

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Rimmeister (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD



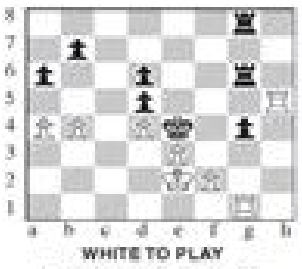
ACROSS

1 Insensitive (8)
8 Very small (6)
9 Jealousy (4)
10 Weaken (3)
11 Brought up (6)
13 Immoderate (9)
15 Engraves (6)
17 Possess (3)
18 Cut-price event (4)
19 Delight or amuse (8)
20 Underground room (8)

DOWN

1 Thus (9)
2 Building extension (8)
3 Spanish sparkling wine (4)
4 Silly fete (anag.) (9)
5 Author, _ Blyton (4)
6 Japanese dish (5)
7 Portray (9)
12 Author, _ Waugh (6)
14 Single-file dance (5)
15 Periods of history (4)
16 Rabbit-like creature (4)

CHESS



WHITE TO PLAY

HINT: FORCE CHECKMATE.

Solution
1. Rxg6+! Rxg6 2. f3 mate!
(from Mars-Brandon 1999)

TARGET

T	U	T
R	B	E
T	A	I

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 18;
Very good 27;
Excellent 36 (or more).

Solution tomorrow

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

DEODORANT

adorn adorned aeon anode aside ardent ardent above atoned dander dam damned dean denar dent DEODORANT donate donated donder done donor donna drone droned earn nard nardoo near neat nent node note noted oaten onto onrate radon rand rant ranted rend rent roan rodent rondo rone tarn tend tenor torn tonder tone toned toner torn tornado trend trodden.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, [illegible]
CPLC	1122, [illegible]
Fire Brigade	16, [illegible]
Bomb Disposal	[illegible]
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	[illegible]
PCAA Flight Inquiry	[illegible]
	[illegible], 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	[illegible]
Civil Hospital	[illegible]
Jinnah Hospital	[illegible]
NICVD	[illegible]
Aga Khan Hospital	[illegible]
Khaqan Sun Hospital	[illegible]
Indus Hospital	[illegible]
Tabba	[illegible]
Dawlatia Hospital	[illegible]
Kiran Cancer Hospital	[illegible]
Liaquat National	[illegible]
Memon Medical	[illegible]
S.G. Clinic	[illegible]
Ralpi Hospital	[illegible]
Holy Family Hospital	[illegible]
Patel Hospital	[illegible]
South City Hospital	[illegible]
Kidney Centre Institute	[illegible]
Ramain-e Hayat	[illegible]
Usman Memorial	[illegible]

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, [illegible]
Chhipa	1020
SIUT's Rescue	1133
St.John	[illegible]
Red Crescent	[illegible]

BLOOD BANK

Patient	[illegible]
Rizwan	[illegible]
PINS (Civil)	[illegible]

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Dace

TODAY'S WORD

DIATRIBE

(DIATRIBE: DYE-uh-tribe: A bitter and abusive speech or piece of writing.)

Average mark 55 words
Time limit 60 minutes

Can you find 69 or more words in DIATRIBE?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

YESTERDAY'S WORD — KITTIWAKES

kite	waist	sike
kitties	wait	site
kittiwake	wake	skat
kiwi	waste	skate
ikat	watt	skew
take	weak	skit
task	weak't	stake
taste	west	state
tack	wise	steak
test	askew	stet
teet	east	stew
tika	sake	sweat
tawak	saki	sweat
twist	safe	
twit	seat	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s" such as "hate" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

2 Pendulum
9 Infirm
10 Fall
11 Oven
13 Glade
18 Disparity
16 Radar
19 Alva
20 Elle
21 Belong
22 Soft spot.

DOWN

1 Withdraws
3 Edits
4 Nile
5 Dungarees
6 Lawn
7 Used to
8 Moneybags
12 Blades
15 Eglue
17 Deaf
19 Yelp.

METRO EVENTS

PLAY

Lollaey Koi Lalitha, a comedy written by Younus Chhotani, is being staged at the Zia Mohyeddin Theatre, National Academy of Performing Arts, at 8pm.

CAR CHECK-UP

Free car check up at Iqra University, DeFence Town campus, from 11am to 4pm.

MUSHAIRA

A mushaira under the auspices of Bismil Arts Council is being organised at Wie Trust, Gulshan Chowrangi, near Children's Hospital, at 5-30pm.

EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of works, *for Outcome / of Outcome*, is under way at Sanat Initiative. The show, curated by RM Naseem, will continue till Dec 18.

The Law of One, an exhibition by Hira Zubair Ghalchar, is under way at Art Chowk Gallery. It will continue till Dec 16.

Painting of a Palette, a solo show by Ayaz Jokhio, is under way at Canvas Gallery. It will remain open till Dec 12, daily from 11am to 7pm, excluding Sunday.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

** This is a poor day to negotiate issues with your kids or anything to do with professional sports, the entertainment world or financial matters in general. Even an agreement about which restaurant to go to or what to do to relax will be tough to reach. (Yikes!) Tonight: Check your money.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

*** Today the Moon is in your sign, which can make you more emotional than usual. Fortunately, it can also improve your good luck. And you will need this today, because discussions with authority figures and family members will be crunchy. Keep a list on things. Tonight: You win!

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

** This is an argumentative day, so it's best to be aware of this from the get-go. Don't try to get your way. Instead, be conciliatory with others and accommodating. Steer clear of nasty discussions; you don't need this. Don't be forced into an agreement. Tonight: Solitude.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

*** This is a poor day for financial conversations, whether they are casual discussions about spending money at home, or professional discussions about major expenditures and big budgets. Postpone these talks for another day, because agreement will be impossible. Tonight: Friendships.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

** This is a poor day to ask bosses, supervisors, parents or teachers (anyone in authority) for permission or approval. Their response might be, "Talk to the hand!" Frankly, this is a tough day for discussions with many people. Everyone is at odds with each other. Stay cool. Tonight: You're noticed.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** You want a change of scenery. You feel restless, and you need to get outta Dodge. Unfortunately, power struggles with others, your kids, romantic partners and other hidden energy might make this impossible for you to do. This will be frustrating. Find a fun place to hide. Tonight: Explore!

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** Discussions about getting the funds for home improvements will be tough today. Likewise, dealings with friends and groups could trigger conflicts, especially about money and budgets. Let's face it, this is a poor day for these discussions! Table them for another time. Be smart. Tonight: Check your finances.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

** This is a poor day to ask for cooperation from parents, bosses and authority figures. Likewise, dealings with spouses and partners, and even members of the general public, could be antagonistic. Accept that this is how things are today. Keep your head down and your powder dry. Tonight: Listen.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

*** This is a poor day to seek agreement about financial matters or anything related to your job, your health or even your pet. Knowing this ahead of time, postpone these discussions for another day, because people are contentious and ready to disagree. (You don't need this.) Tonight: Work.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

*** You have a desire to schmooze and socialize today. You might seek out sports events or fun activities with kids. Nevertheless, your plans could be blocked by power struggles with others, especially about the cost of something or getting the practical support for what you want to do. Ouch. Tonight: Socialize.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

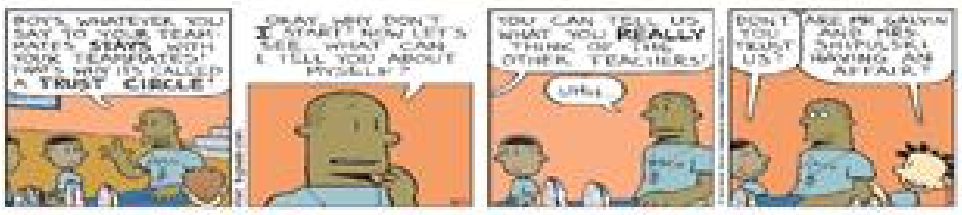
** Your instinct is to lie low, hide at home and relax among familiar surroundings today. You might be able to do this — you might not be able to do this because relations with others are potential power struggles. If you are able to lie low and hide, do it. (Grab some snacks.) Tonight: Relax.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

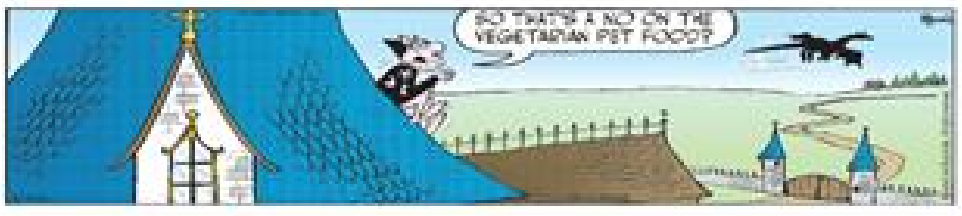
*** Pay attention to everything you say and do today. This is a mildly accident-prone day. An accident doesn't have to happen, but you could be distracted because you're upset with power struggles, especially related to work or your health. Stay chill. Tonight: Conversations.

THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE



THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



BABY BLUES

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunset	06:38pm	06:02pm	06:44pm	06:02pm	06:07pm	06:37pm
Sunrise	07:01am	06:59am	07:06am	06:59am	07:07am	07:14am

Three Day Forecast

	Today			Tomorrow				Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook	Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	7	21	Sunny	11	8	21	Sunny	8	22	Mostly Sunny
Hyderabad	10	21	Sunny	36	9	24	Mostly Sunny	9	24	Sunny
Islamabad	5	18	Partly Cloudy	40	5	19	Sunny	6	20	Mostly Sunny
Lahore	7	20	Sunny	47	7	20	Sunny	8	21	Mostly Sunny
Multan	7	21	Sunny	58	8	21	Sunny	8	22	Sunny
Peshawar	5	18	Mostly Sunny	37	5	19	Sunny	6	20	Mostly Sunny
Quetta	-5	9	Sunny	27	1	10	Sunny	2	10	Partly Cloudy

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Extrasensory perception

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 7 4
♥ J 9 7 3
♦ A Q
♣ K 9 8 4

WEST
♠ J 9 2
♥ Q 6 4
♦ J 10 9 3
♣ J 6 3

EAST
♠ A Q 10 3
♥ –
♦ 8 6 5 4 2
♣ Q 10 7 5

SOUTH
♠ 8 6 5
♥ A K 10 8 5 2
♦ K 7
♣ A 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	

Opening lead – jack of diamonds.

Many contracts fail because of an unlucky lie of the cards, but some of them can be salvaged by careful play.

Assume you're declarer at four hearts and West leads a diamond. You should feel confident of making the contract, since the only thing that can beat you is the highly unlikely possibility that West has all three missing trumps and that East has the ace of spades. The odds against both occurring in the same deal are about 15-to-1.

However, when you win the diamond lead with the queen and play a trump to the ace, East shows out, and your 15-to-1 odds drop enormously. In fact, it now seems certain you will go down one if East has the ace of spades.

But when you consider the matter more carefully, you realize there's a good chance of making the contract even if East has the spade ace.

So you continue with the king of trump, then cash the A-K of clubs and ruff a club. Next you overtake the king of diamonds with dummy's ace and lead the nine of clubs. When East produces the queen, you heave a huge sigh of relief as well as a spade.

This is the first trick for the defense, and you are now sure to make the contract. East has to return either a spade or a diamond. In the former case, dummy's king becomes a trick; in the latter, you'll discard another spade from your hand as you ruff in dummy and lose only your remaining spade.

The outcome demonstrates how good play can sometimes overcome bad luck — provided you keep a cool head when things go wrong.

Tomorrow: Diabolical defense.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A4907

2	3	4	7	1	6	8	9	5
9	6	7	8	3	2	4	1	5
1	5	8	9	4	5	2	7	3
6	7	5	4	2	9	8	3	1
8	2	1	5	6	3	9	4	7
3	4	9	1	7	8	5	2	6
7	8	6	2	9	1	3	5	4
5	1	2	3	8	4	7	6	9
4	9	3	6	5	7	1	8	2

Tricky — B4907

7	2	9	4	6	8	1	3	5
4	1	5	7	3	9	2	6	8
6	3	8	1	2	5	9	7	4
3	7	2	9	8	6	5	4	1
5	9	4	3	7	1	6	8	2
8	6	1	5	4	2	7	9	3
9	5	6	8	1	3	4	2	7
2	8	7	6	5	4	3	1	9
1	4	3	2	9	7	8	5	6

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DAWN

METRO North

ISLAMABAD Wednesday, December 11, 2024

ISLAMABAD

Sunset	05:02pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:59am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	05°C
Maximum	19°C
Outlook	Mostly Sunny

West Ham's Bowen punishes woeful Wolves defence

Pg.17 SPORT

A VISITOR takes interest in posters at an exhibition of the Silk Road Culture Centre at Sir Syed Memorial Society in Islamabad on Tuesday. — INP (Story on Page 16)

Ruling coalition's constituencies in Pindi get Rs4.7bn uplift projects

Four constituencies won by opposition in Rawalpindi district ignored

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab government has released Rs4.72 billion for at least 205 development schemes to be executed in 15 out of 19 national and provincial constituencies of Rawalpindi district by March-end.

The provincial government has released Rs295 million for each constituency, barring the four constituencies won by the opposition, and asked the district administration to start work by the end of December and finish it by the end of March. Interestingly, Rs295 million each was allocated for development schemes for the winner and runner-up candidates in NA-52 Gujar Khan. PPP's Raja Pervez Ashraf defeated PML-N's Raja Javed Ikhlas in this constituency.

A senior official of the district administration told *Dawn* that the Punjab government sought development schemes from PML-N and PPP lawmakers from the district to the tune of Rs1 billion for each constituency but it asked them to prioritise schemes under Rs295 million in the first phase.

He said that for the last five months, PML-N and PPP lawmakers pressed the Punjab government for development works in their constituencies and finally, the government released the funds for the first phase of the development schemes.

The Punjab government secured the funds under the block allocation and the local MPAs and MNAs will get money after convincing the government about the welfare schemes. He said that more funds would be allocated in March for the remaining schemes in the district.

There are total 13 seats of the Punjab Assembly in the district: the ruling PML-N won nine seats, the Sunni Ittehad Council won three seats, while one seat was won by Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen. There are six seats of the National Assembly in the district and the PML-N won five seats and one seat was grabbed by the PPP. The constituencies in which the PTI-backed SIC and the MWM won elections did not get any projects.

As per the plan, the Local government and Community Development Department will start Rs3.628 billion development works in the district, including 10 schemes worth Rs295 million in NA-52; 29 schemes worth Rs295 million in NA-53; nine schemes worth Rs295 million in NA-54; three schemes worth Rs45 million in NA-55; 10 schemes worth Rs135 million in NA-56; six schemes worth Rs295 million in NA-57; 10 schemes worth Rs295 in PP-07; six schemes worth Rs254 million in PP-09; four schemes worth Rs295 million in PP-10; five schemes worth Rs225 million in PP-11; eight schemes worth Rs295m in PP-12; four schemes worth Rs164 million in PP-14; seven schemes worth Rs417 million in PP-15; six schemes worth Rs235 million in PP-16; and two schemes worth Rs90 million in PP-17. For NA-52, the PML-N ticketholder got Rs295m for 23 development schemes.

In 15 constituencies, Rs890 million will be spent on water and sanitation works.

The Water and Sanitation Agency will execute eight schemes in NA-56 worth Rs160 million; two schemes worth Rs70 million in PP-11; one scheme worth Rs60 million in PP-16; and 12 schemes worth Rs290 million in PP-17.

The Public Health and Engineering (PHE) Department will launch 37 uplift schemes worth Rs581 million, including Rs250 million for 19 schemes in NA-55. Moreover, two schemes worth Rs60.2 million in PP-09; 10 schemes worth Rs128.5 million in PP-14; and six projects worth Rs56 million in PP-16 will be executed by the PHE. The Parks and Horticulture Authority will launch one scheme worth Rs5 million in PP-17 while the Communication and Works Department will start two schemes worth Rs15 million in PP-15.

ATC sends 146 PTI workers on judicial remand

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday sent 146 PTI workers, including a 14-year-old teenager, on judicial remand following the expiration of their physical remand.

The individuals were arrested in connection with PTI's D-Chowk protest.

On Tuesday, the prosecution requested ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra an additional 20-day physical remand of the accused, but the defence lawyer strongly opposed the plea, particularly highlighting the case of the 14-year-old teenager.

The defence counsel argued that theaddolescent, who had recently arrived in Pakistan for medical treatment with his widowed mother, was wrongfully implicated in the case.

The court was informed that no incriminating evidence or items were recovered from the youngster.

Judge Sipra inquired about evidence linking the teenager to the protests and expressed concern over police handling of the case, noting that the accusations appeared to lack physical corroboration.

Ultimately, the court rejected the prosecution's plea for extended physical remand and ordered that all 146 individuals be sent to judicial custody.

In a separate case, the ATC extended the identification parade of 54 PTI workers arrested in connection with a case filed with Khanna police station.

The police had requested an additional three days for the identification process, but Judge Sipra granted only a two-day extension, emphasising the high court's directive that identification parades be completed within three days.

The judge instructed that the suspects be produced before the court after the revised timeline, underlining the importance of timely judicial procedures.

Interim bail granted to Omar Ayub

Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub secured interim bail in five separate cases related to protests.

The additional district and sessions court in Islamabad granted bail in cases registered with Bhara Kahu, Koral and Ashpara police stations.

Judge Raja Asif Mahmood approved Ayub's bail in three cases with bonds set at Rs50,000 each, while Judge Mohammad Afzal Majoka granted bail in another case with a bond of Rs5,000. The courts have directed the police to present case records by December 21.

CDA to shift institutions' plots from Kuri to Sector I-17

Civic body decides e-balloting for C-14 to be held next month

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) Board on Tuesday approved a move to shift several plots allotted to government departments and private universities from Kuri to Sector I-17 in light of its joint venture to develop 10,000 kanal of land in the area.

The decision was taken in light of a joint venture of the Defence Housing Authority and the Capital Development Authority for the development of 10,000 kanal in Kuri – a project that impacted several plots allotted to various departments and private universities. As per the agreement, the CDA will get 55pc of the developed plots while the DHA will get 45pc plots.

The plots allotted to several bodies, including the Federal Investigation Agency, were affected by the JV, prompting the CDA to shift them to the 'institutional sector' I-17.

In 2018, the CDA decided to allot the entire sector (7,348 kanal) to the army-run National University of Medical Sciences (Nums) to set up a medical city against a tentative cost of Rs18 billion.

The deal was not executed as Nums could only deposit partial payment and the CDA allotted it a piece of land against the payment made by Nums. The remaining land was decided to be used for some other purpose.

The board which met on Tuesday, with Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, in the chair approved the shifting of plots/land of the affected institutions from Kuri to Sector I-17.

The CDA board also discussed the 'geospatial technology project' of the planning wing, which was started a couple of years ago to address encroachments on the CDA land, the unregulated growth of informal settlements, and challenges posed by urban sprawl. Under this project, the CDA was supposed to work on facilities with an emphasis on e-governance, automation and digitisation, as well as the IT infrastructure.

During the meeting, sources said that the planning member said that this project was very important for the CDA and the planning wing and its term should be extended. The member also stated that this project was of a technical nature and it should remain part of the planning wing.

According to sources, the member technology pleaded that most of the functions of this project came under his wing. The CDA chairman, however, asked both members to sit with the administration member and prepare a viable working paper for the next meeting.

The board also decided to conduct e-balloting of the Sector C-14 plots next month and for this purpose, the board approved the renewal of the CDA Nadra agreement. Meanwhile, the CDA board also approved the reorganisation of the CDA Enforcement Wing and Security Directorate.

During the meeting, it was also decided to allocate space for the Smart Islamabad Initiative at the Jinnah Convention Center. The meeting also deliberated on regulations for establishing electric vehicle (EV) charging points at existing and new fuel stations in Islamabad. It was decided that consultations and feedback would be sought from all stakeholders, ensuring the alignment of these regulations with the federal government's policy. The chairman also directed the CDA to initiate the process of shifting CDA's transport fleet to electric vehicles. Similarly, the CDA board also approved the hiring of consultants under Rule 42(f) for the Khayaban-e-Iqbal signal-free corridor project.

CDA removes tiles from median in G-6 within one year of installation

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has removed tiles from the median in front of G-6 weekly bazaar within one year of their installations.

Barely a year ago, CDA laid red coloured tiles on median of double road in front of Ishi weekly bazaar.

However, all of them have been removed and now new tiles are being installed, sources told *Dawn*.

"This is a sheer misuse of funds. CDA chairmanshould look into the issue and hold an inquiry," said a CDA engineer. The work of replacing tiles is being done by market and road maintenance directorate of CDA.

One of the official claimed that the work is being conducted without calling open tender.

However, this claim could not be verified as CDA's spokesperson was unable to provide details of this project.

"The CDA management should also investigate whether this work is being conducted without calling a tender. I guess this project will provide a big lead to other such projects," the official said. He also claimed that tiles on median near Ashpara were also replaced recently.

The project falls in the domain of directorate of Market and Road Maintenance (MRM) of CDA.

CDA's director media Shahid Kiani when contacted said that he would provide CDA's point of view after getting input from director MRM Mashooq Ali Sheikh.

After an hour, he was contacted but he said: "Since I could not reach the director MRM, I have no details about the project, but let me assure you, if anything wrong has been done, the management will take action," he said.

Two women die in twin cities

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: Two women died in separate incidents in the twin cities on Tuesday, police said.

In the first incident, a woman was found dead in a flat under unexplained circumstances in the jurisdiction of Margalla police station.

According to the police, the management of the flat found the dead woman. The police were then informed who reached the flat and shifted the body to the hospital.

The girl was 23-year-old and was a resident of F-7 sector, police said.

Preliminary investigation suggested that a man had booked the flat on Monday morning and later came there along with the girl. Both stayed there and later the man left the flat. On suspicion, the staff broke into the flat and found the woman dead.

The police said there was no mark of injury on the body, however, the cause of death would be established after autopsy. After the girl's identification, her family was approached and informed about her death.

In the other incident, a woman committed suicide in Ratta Amral area.

Police said the woman allegedly killed herself after taking poison – usually kept in houses for cleaning washrooms – after a quarrel with her husband.

The victim was rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) after her condition deteriorated but could not survive.

Meanwhile, two young men who were critically injured in a road accident on Lahore High Court Road were shifted to Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH).

They were stated to be in critical condition.

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PRAYER

Fajr	05:36
Zuhar	12:05
Asr	03:25
Maghreb	05:03
Isha	06:32

Starting time in Islamabad

REFLECTIONS

"POVERTY OFTEN DISABLES AN INTELLIGENT MAN FROM ARGUING HIS CASE."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)
28AH427

Human Rights Day celebrated with voices of resilience poetry evening

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: As many as 10 emerging poets from across Pakistan showcased the country's rich literary traditions and diverse voices at an event in connection with the International Human Rights Day on Tuesday.

The European Union Delegation to Pakistan and the Embassy of Ireland, in collaboration with Obanopolis Media, celebrated the human rights day with the evening of poetry, "One to All: Voices of Resilience."

Participants hailed from regions as varied as Turbat, Quetta, Wana, Peshawar, Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi. They shared stories of struggle and resilience through their poetic expressions.

Their works, steeped in human rights themes, underscored the power of art in amplifying marginalised voices and addressing social injustices.

EU Ambassador to Pakistan Rima Kionka highlighted the role of poetry in advancing human rights.

"Poetry resonates across the world as a powerful form of artistic expression. In Pakistan, iconic poets like Habib Jalib and Faiz Ahmad Faiz have inspired generations to stand for justice and equality through their words," she said.

Irish Ambassador Mary O'Neill echoed the sentiment, emphasising the shared cultural connection between human rights and poetry.

"Human rights and poetry are close to the hearts of all Irish people. Supporting this evening of creative expression aligns with Ireland's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, a cornerstone of our foreign policy," she remarked.

To foster inclusivity and representation, the participating poets underwent a rigorous selection process and month-long workshops led by renowned filmmaker Farjad Nabi and poet Syed Kashif Raza.

These workshops helped the poets refine their craft and produce original works in their native languages, reflecting the complexities of human rights issues.

The evening began with an interactive blackout poetry art installation, immersing the audience in the art form. This was followed by captivating spoken word performances in Pashto, Sindhi, Balochi, Punjabi, Urdu, and English. Each recitation celebrated Pakistan's linguistic and cultural diversity, amplifying voices from often-overlooked regions.

The poems challenged societal, economic, and governance injustices while inspiring hope through verses of resilience. The event drew diplomats, prominent figures, and members of the public, creating a platform to honour Pakistan's poetic legacy and celebrate its commitment to human rights. By blending the timeless art of poetry with the universal principles of human rights, "One to all: voices of resilience" marked a meaningful tribute to the resilient spirit of Pakistan and its people.

Kashmiri activists protest against Indian terrorism in held valley

By Our Staff Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiri activists marked International Human Rights Day on Tuesday with a demonstration condemning ongoing military terrorism in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and renewing their appeal to the United Nations and global human rights organisations to take urgent notice of India's war crimes and ensure the release of thousands of political prisoners.

The demonstration, organised by Pasban-i-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir (PHJK), an organisation representing post-1989 refugees, was held in the Chattar neighbourhood.

Speaking to demonstrators, Ghulam Mohammad Safi, convenor of the AJK chapter of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), declared Indian-occupied Kashmir the largest prison in the world.

He decried the stripping of basic human rights, which the United Nations was obligated to protect, in the occupied territory.

PHJK Chairman Uzair Ahmed Ghazalisaid under the guise of a so-called democracy, India had trampled all fundamental human, political, social, and religious rights of Kashmiris.

Referring to the ongoing military siege in occupied Jammu and Kashmir since August 5, 2019,he said it had denied 13 million residents even the freedom to breathe freely.

APHC leader Shamim Shawl focused on the suffering of women in Kashmir, stating that Indian military violence had orphaned over 120,000 children and widowed 24,000 women. Another 2,700 women, she noted, were forced into lives as half-widows.

PPP leader Shaukat Javed Mir condemned the imposition of draconian laws such as POTA, TADA, UAPA, AFSPA, and PSA in the occupied territory, and accused the Narendra Modi-led BJP government of systematically targeting Kashmiri youth through fake encounters to carry out a genocide of the Muslim majority population.

Tributes paid to Sawar Mohammad Hussain Shaheed

By Our Correspondent

GUJAR KHAN: Tributes were paid to Sawar Mohammad Hussain Shaheed on his 53rd anniversary at ceremony in which a large number of locals and military personnel participated.

An active contingent of the Pakistan Army presented a guard of honour to the martyr while Major General Intikhab Alam laid a floral wreath at the monument of Sawar Muohammad Hussain on behalf of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Syed Asim Munir.

The press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that "On this day in 1971, during the Indo-Pak war at the Zafarwal-Shakargarh Sector, Sawar Mohammad Hussain Shaheed displayed unparalleled courage and extraordinary devotion to duty. By identifying enemy tanks and directing the crew of recoilless rifles, he contributed to the destruction of 16 enemy tanks. During this valiant act, he was struck in the chest by enemy machine gun fire and embraced the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty."

It added that the anniversary of Sawar Mohammad Hussain Shaheed stands as an enduring testament to the unwavering commitment and supreme sacrifices of the Armed Forces of Pakistan in safeguarding the sovereignty and dignity of the motherland.

Meanwhile, the statement issued by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the entire nation, including him, was proud of the martyrs and their families. PM said that Sawar Mohammad Hussain Shaheed Nishan-i-Haider displayed unparalleled bravery and courage in the 1971 war, and his sacrifice for the safeguard of the motherland would never be forgotten by the nation.

Token tax defaulters warned of cancellation of registration

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Excise and Taxation Department of Islamabad on Tuesday issued a 15 daydeadline to vehicles' owners to pay the token tax to avoid cancellation of registration over non-payment.

The Excise and Taxation Office said that decision was made to cancel the registration of the vehicles over non-payment of the token tax. The cancellation of the vehicle's registration over non-payment of the toke tax will be started from January 1.

The office's software will identify such vehicles and after the given time their registration will be cancelled. After the cancellation, the owner will pay 200 percent fine/penalty for restoration of the registration.

The decision to cancel the registration of the vehicle was made as the number of defaulters is increasing gradually.

During checking of vehicles on roads the officials of the excise and taxation often find token tax defaulter, it added.

Over non-payment of the token tax the officials of the department fined the owner of the vehicles, the office said, adding that however, the fine do not make any difference, as the officials caught such vehicles a couple of times.

Director Excise and Taxation Bilal Anam Khan has asked the vehicles' owner to pay the token tax immediately to avoid any legal action.

Alleged car lifter killed in shootout with police

TAXILA: A member of an interprovincial car lifting gang was killed during an exchange of fire with police in Taxila early on Tuesday, said a police spokesman.

Naseem Khan was wanted in various heinous criminal cases, including murder, attempted murder with robbery as well as vehicle theft.

The spokesman said Khan had stolen a car from Wah Saddar police station limits and was escaping when a police team led by SHO Inspector Rana Mohammad Kashif attempted to intercept Khalid Mahmood Hamdani appreciated the efforts of the SHO and his team for the swift action.

Meanwhile, two persons were killed in separate incidents in the limits of Taxila police station.

In the first incident, a man shot dead his younger brother over a dispute related to drug use by the latter in the limits of the Taxila police.

Mohammad Naseem reported to police that his 25-year-old son Usama Shahzad was a crystal methamphetamine (ice) addict. His elder brother Umer Shahzad advised him not to use drugs. During heated arguments over the issue on Tuesday, Shahzad took out his pistol and shot Usama dead and escaped.

Separately, the bullet-riddled body of a man was found at his house in the same police station limits.

Jamal Khan reported to the police that he went to meet his father Munsor Khan at his house and found him in a pool of blood with bullet injuries. Meanwhile, three persons, including a married woman, were abducted from various parts of Wah on Tuesday. — Correspondent

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DESPATCH COMPANY
LETTER OF INVITATION

Subject: Consultancy services for design review, construction supervision and allied activities including verification of construction invoices and testing & commissioning of Lot-1: 500kV D/C Quad Bundle Transmission Line from 500kV Mains Switching Station to 500kV Islamabad West Substation (121 Km Approx.) & Lot-II: 500kV D/C Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Karot HPP to 500kV Mains Switching Station (20 Km Approx.)

1. BACKGROUND — Date: 11-12-2024

Suki Kinari HPP is being constructed in the Northern areas of Pakistan. For the dispersal of the power generated by this Power Plant, a 500kV D/C Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Suki Kinari HPP to the 500kV Mains Switching Station is being constructed. Further, for power dispersal from Karot HPP, a 20 Km long 500kV D/C Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Karot HPP to the 500kV Mains Switching Station is to be constructed. The power is further transmitted from the 500kV Mains Switching Station to Islamabad West Substation through a 121km long 500kV Double Circuit Quad Bundle Transmission Line which is the scope of work of this Project. The transmission line will be constructed through NTDC's own resources in accordance with the Bidding Documents. To ensure successful implementation of the project as per technical specifications, the Employer intends to hire consultancy services for design review, construction supervision and other allied activities of the project.

2. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

i. To implement this project, NTDC requires the services of a competent consulting firm with the appropriate capabilities and experience to carryout services detailed in Annex-2 of RFP. A firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) and procedures described in the RFP.
ii. RFP consists of the following documents:
i. This Letter of Invitation
ii. General Information to Consultants (Annex-1)
iii. Terms of Reference for Consultants (Annex-2)
iv. Break up of Man month Inputs of Key Personnel (Annex-3)
v. Format for Technical Proposals (Annex-4)
vi. Format for Financial Proposal (Annex-5)
vii. Standard Contract Agreement for Consulting Services (Annex-6)
viii. Schedule 6, 8, 8B

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

You are invited to submit a comprehensive Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal, each in triplicate (one original + two copies), in separate sealed envelopes, for the Services required under the Terms of Reference (TOR) as provided in Annex-2, not later than 11:00 hours on 13-01-2025.

4. VALIDITY OF PROPOSAL

The Proposal shall be valid for a period of 120 days after last date of submission, extendable further on the expiry of this period through mutual agreement.

5. VISIT TO NTDC

The firms are expected to inform themselves fully of all aspects of the assignment, required consultancy services for the Project and the local conditions before submitting the Proposal by paying a visit to the Project site and sending written queries to the undersigned. The consulting firms will have no claim against NTDC or any of its representatives for damages, losses, costs or expenses, of any nature whatsoever incurred by the firm resulting from any misunderstanding as to the nature, scope, risks and conditions of the assignment/consultancy services for the project.

6. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

All correspondence, the Technical & Financial Proposals should be addressed at the following address:

Chief Engineer (Material Procurement & Management), NTDC
(6th Floor Shaheen Complex, Egerton Road Lahore, Pakistan)
Postal Code: 54000, Telephone No. 92-42-99202927
Fax No. 92-42-99202123 E-mail add cos: cemmp@ntdc.com.pk

7. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In the event you require any explanation to RFP documentation, you may contact the office of the undersigned not later than one week before submission date of the Proposal. PID(11411)24

Chief Engineer (MP&M) NTDC

UNIVERSITY OF SWAT
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
PPA MODEL ON BOT BASIS

The University of Swat invites sealed proposals (Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure) in accordance with KPPRA/PPRA/PEC Rules and the Request for Proposal (RFP) from well-reputed Firms registered with PEC in Category C-8 and AEDB in Category C-1 for the "PROCUREMENT OF AGGREGATE 500 KWP ROOFTOP ON-GRID SOLAR PV SYSTEM ON PPA BOT MODEL" at Main Campus, University of Swat, Charbagh Swat.

Terms and Conditions:

1) Firms/Companies having the mentioned categories, while owing valid ownership can only apply for this work. RFP will be issued upon written request along with attachments (1) Application on letter head of the firm/company, (2) National Identity Card (CNIC copy), (3) Valid registration of Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant Category, (4) Ownership deeds/documents, (5) Active registration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority and Federal Board of Revenue (6) Valid Registration of AEDB in the relevant Category (7) Original Fee Receipt.
2) RFP will be issued to the Firms till December 26, 2024 to those who applied and have deposited required fee of Rs. 6,000/- (non-refundable) to be deposited online in A/C No. 4156463740, National Bank of Pakistan, Main Branch, Saidu Sharif-Swat, (Branch Code 1130). Sealed RFP complete in all respects (duly signed and stamped on each page) along with Bid Security (02% of Bid Price) in shape of Deposit at Call from Scheduled Banks in favor of the Vice Chancellor, University of Swat must be submitted as per the procedure laid in the RFP. The complete RFP (both original and duplicate) shall be sealed in one envelope.
3) Last date for submission of the RFP shall be December 27, 2024 at 11:00 am. The RFP must be submitted through Courier at Administration Block, Main Campus, Charbagh, University of Swat. RFP delivered by hand will not be accepted. RFP will be opened on December 27, 2024 at 11:30 am at the Committee Room, Administration Block, University of Swat, Charbagh by the Committee in the presence of the participants (who wishes to participate). Any Firm who provides incorrect information/false documents shall be disqualified, and their disqualification will be communicated to PEC & AEDB. The additional Security (if required) will be sorted from the successful Firm in light of KPPRA Rules. University of Swat may reject any or all proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of the proposal in accordance with KPPRA Rules.

DIRECTOR WORKS, UNIVERSITY OF SWAT
Administration Block, Main Campus, Charbagh,
University of Swat, Contact: 0946-730505

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DESPATCH COMPANY
AMENDMENT NO. 03

TO THE TENDER NO. ADB-401E-01R(C)-2024
PROCUREMENT OF 500/220KV, 750MVA (3*250MVA) AUTO TRANSFORMER BANK AT 500KV GRID STATION FAISALABAD WEST (ONE BANK) UNDER LOAN NO. 4271 - PAK: SECOND POWER TRANSMISSION ENHANCEMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM TRANCHE 4

Reference invitation notice for the above tender published in national dailies. The submission date of bids has been extended. Now the bids will be received on or before 26.12.2024 at 11:00 A.M. instead of existing i.e., 11.12.2024.

Note: All other terms and conditions of the tender notice shall remain unchanged. PID(11618)24

CHIEF ENGINEER (MP&M) NTDC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DESPATCH COMPANY
AMENDMENT NO. 04

TO THE TENDER NO. ADB-401E-01R(D)-2024
PROCUREMENT OF 500/220KV, 450MVA (3*150MVA) AUTO TRANSFORMER BANKS AT 500KV MULTAN & DADU GRID STATIONS (TWO BANKS) UNDER ADB LOAN NO. 4271-PAK: SECOND POWER TRANSMISSION ENHANCEMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM - TRANCHE 4

Reference invitation notice for the above tender published in national dailies. The submission date of bids has been extended. Now the bids will be received on or before 26.12.2024 at 12:00 P.M. instead of existing i.e., 12.12.2024.

NOTE: All other terms & conditions of tender notice shall remain unchanged. PID(11449)24

CHIEF ENGINEER (MP&M) NTDC

ADVERTISER

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For display advertisements please contact:
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E-mail: shahid.ayub@dawn.com

COURT NOTICE

MIRPUR

IN the Court of Altaf Hussain Civil Judge Court No. 1 Mirpur(AJK). Case No. 104/24. Institution 20-10-2024. Title: Imdad Ur Rehman vs Muhammad Ibrahim etc. Proclamation for (4) Muhammad Tanveer Khan S/o Muhammad Ashraf (10) Gulzareen Khan Bint (11) Raseema Akhtar (12) Shakeelullah D/o Muhammad Akhtar R/o Dhoak Bahlyala Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:00 am on 14-10-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277956)

IN the Court of Altaf Hussain Civil Judge Court No. 1 Mirpur(AJK). Case No. 125/10. Institution 20-05-2010. Title: Muhammad Nawaz vs Rafiaq Begum etc. Proclamation for (1) Qudsi Bibi Widow (2) Bashar Ali son (3) Asia Bibi (4) Tazeem Akhtar D/o Muhammad Shafee (1) Azad Hussain son (2) Bilqees Akhtar D/o Hussain Alam R/o Mozia Pinyam Chakswari Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:00 am on 17-10-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277956)

IN the Court of Altaf Hussain Civil Judge Court No. 1 Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 172/21. Institution 19-01-2021. Title: Affaq Ali vs Muhammad Arif etc. Proclamation for (10) Sheikh Mahmood S/o Reeda Khan (21) Mangroo Hussain S/o Nikangla R/o Gandy Balkass Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:00 am on 11-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277956)

IN the Court of Altaf Hussain Civil Judge Court No. 1 Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 273/23. Institution 25-09-2023. Title: Allab Altaf vs Parveen Akhtar etc. Proclamation for (3) Abeel Abbas S/o Qamar Abbas R/o Baerise Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 27-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277956)

IN the Court of Altaf Hussain Civil Judge Court No. 1 Mirpur(AJK). Case No. 311/24. Institution 31-10-2024. Title: Muhammad Ahmed vs Qudsi Bibi etc. Proclamation for (1) Qudsi Bibi W/o (2) Arsalan (3) Zeshan S/o Ahmed R/o Bandhuman Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 20-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277956)

IN the Court of Shahzad Akram Additional District Judge Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 12/24. Institution 12-06-2024. Title: Arif Mahmood vs Municipal Corporation etc. Application. Proclamation for (5) Sohail Sarfraz (6) Amir Sarfraz (8) Umer Sarfraz sons (10) Sania Nawaz (11) Ismaliyaa (12) Usma Zahid D/o Captain (I) Muhammad Sarfraz R/o House No. 260 Sector F/1 Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 12-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277956)

IN the Court Of Sohail Aslam Senior Civil Judge Mirpur(AJK). Case No. 20. Institution 13-03-2024. Title: Afzal Ahmed vs Abdul Razaq etc. Application. Proclamation for (2) Alia Begum W/o Abdul Razaq R/o Sector G/4 Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 12-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277956)

IN the Court of Sohail Aslam Senior Civil Judge Mirpur(AJK). Case No. 171. Institution 20-12-2023. Title: Muhammad Arif vs Abdul Salam etc. Suit Proclamation for (3) Mubarik Bibi (4) Sheen Bi D/o Jalal Khan R/o Chikar(Mujla Khan) Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 20-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277956)

IN The High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 402/23. Institution 25-09-2023. Title: Naseem Akhtar vs Custodian Evacuee etc. Writ. Proclamation for (2) Qamrul Sun (3) Parveen D/o Lehrasb(Khan (8) Allah Dita S/o Riyasat Khan (17) Altaf S/o Ahyat S/o Bostan Khan legal heirs of Ahyat R/o Khdari Tehsil Dadyal District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 23-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277956)

IN The High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 51/22. Institution 20-04-2022. Title: Altaf Hussain vs Abdul Ajaz etc. Revision Petition. Proclamation for Abdul Aziz S/o Meher Din Cast Jatt R/o Pathuwala Tehsil & District Bhimber. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 30-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277956)

IN The High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 62/23. Institution 22-03-2023. Title: Muhammad Bashaarat vs Muhammad Mustfa etc. Civil Appeal. Proclamation for Muhammad Mustfa S/o Ghulam Mustfa R/o House No. 01 Sector F/4 Azad Bashees Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 27-01-2025 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277956)

IN The High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 70/21 Institution 10-06-2021. Title: Majid Bashir vs Muhammad Rashid etc. Civil Appeal. Proclamation for (1) Muhammad Rashid S/o Muhammad Jan (2) Muhammad Yousaf S/o Fatha Muhammad Cast Bawria Rajput R/o Islamgarh Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 12-02-2025 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277956)

TALAGANG

IN the Court of Raja Muhammad Ajmal Sethi Additional District Judge Talagang Kiran Parveen W/o Ishaq Ahmed Ajmal Ishaq Ahmed S/o Khuda Bakhsh cast awan resident Mohallah Bakhsh awan Lawa, Tehsil Lawa District Talagang. Now abroad. You are directed to appear in the Court on 11-12-2024 at 9:00 am. Otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated. (3761277956)

ABBOTTABAD

IN The Court Of Muhammad Salman Civil Judge VI Abbottabad Case No: 201-1 Muhammad Arif Vs Farhan Khan, Farhan Khan S/o Faheem Khan R/o Kakul Mohalla Khalwat Zia. Abbottabad. You are informed to attend the Court personally, through council or attorney on 04-01-2025 otherwise Next Proceeding shall be initiated Against you ex-parte. (3761277956)

BANNU

IN the Court of Samia Razaq Civil Judge IV Bannu Suit No. 61/1 Institution No: 319/2024 Ghulam Zar Vs Hafiez Khan Hero of Jowaki Khan (2) 271 Abid Khan, 272 Rehmat Ullah, 273 Ghani ur Rehman resident of Cemetiya Suraki Bannu Present UAE. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the above mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed under Order 5, Rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 8 am on 13-1-2025, the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. No arguments of any nature shall be entertained thereafter. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. (3761277956)

CHARSADDA

IN the Court of Ashfaq Ahmed Additional District and Session Judge III Charsaddda, Next date of hearing 17-12-2024 Case Title. Farid Ullah Vs Mushtaq Notice to No.-(1) Arshad son of Sarabber (2) Kashif Ali son of Arshad R/o Rajar Amir Abad Charsaddda (1/3) Luqman (1/3) Shahzan (1/4) Noman sons of (1/5) Sadia Meena Widow (1/6) Mashal D/o Mushtaq Khan R/o Peshawar Road Land Mark Charsaddda. In the above titled suit the service of above defendants are not possible through ordinary means. Therefore, you defendants are informed through this publication that on 17-12-2024 at 8:00 am you has / have to appear before this Court either personally or through attorney or through counsel to pursue the suit noted above, otherwise Ex-parte proceedings will be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. Sd/- Additional District & Session Judge-III, Charsadda. (3761277956)

GUJAR KHAN

IN the Court of Attab Ahmed Civil Judge Tahsil Gujar Khan District Rawalpindi. Shahid Naseem Versus Amjad Hussain etc. Suit for Declaration etc. To. Tooqeer Bhatti son of Bashir Hussain Kiss Bhatti, resident of Dhoke Bhatian, P/O Mosa Kasaral, Tahsil Gujar Khan District Rawalpindi. Currently in Abroad. You are inform to attend the Court personal through counsel or attorney on 19-12-2024 at 9 am to avoid ex-parte proceedings. (3761277956)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

PESHAWAR

PUBLIC at large is informed that Mr Tariq Usman S/o Sahib Zada, is the owner of a Plot No: 524 Sector 4C/1 measuring 5 Marla at Zone 4 Regi Model Town Peshawar. He has given its power of attorney to Mr Noor Wali Khan S/o Sheikh Payao through vide Deed No 1068 Bahi No. 4, Volume No 242 Date 05-11-2024. Now Mr Noor Wali Khan wants to transfer the plot through given attorney. Therefore, if any bank, department, firm, or individual have any objection on this transfer, he should contact the undersigned with written proof within 10 days. Otherwise, the plot shall be transferred and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Officer (Transfer), Regi Model Town Peshawar. (3761277956)

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Silk Road Culture Centre opened in Islamabad

Organisers say it is a new chapter in fostering international cultural understanding and collaboration

By Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD: The inauguration of the Silk Road Culture Centre (SRCC) took place on Tuesday, drawing ambassadors, diplomats and cultural enthusiasts from Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

The organisers said the event marked the beginning of a new chapter in fostering international cultural understanding and collaboration.

SRCC Chairman Jamal Shah appreciated the participating nations for their contributions, which included artworks, cultural artifacts, and other exhibits that highlighted the rich and diverse heritage of the Silk Road nations.

"The remarkable cooperation and generosity of our international partners have truly brought the spirit of the Silk Road to life," he remarked, adding, "This centre now stands as a vibrant space for cultural exchange, reflection, and learning, created through the collective efforts of many."

He emphasised the SRCC's mission as a symbol of unity and diversity, aimed at promoting mutual respect among nations. The centre plans to host exhibitions, workshops, performances, and educational programmes that celebrate the historical Silk Road's shared legacy, inspiring future generations to value cultural diversity.

Gratitude was expressed to the event's sponsors and partners, including Zong Pakistan, Serena Hotel Islamabad and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Honerkada Islamabad, and the Sir Syed Memorial Society (SSMS), for their critical role in bringing the vision of the SRCC to life.

A significant development announced at the event was the inclusion of SRCC under the SSMS governing body, ensuring a robust foundation for its future initiatives. Additionally, SRCC will host a Sir Syed Research Centre, focused on academic excellence, cultural studies, and innovation inspired by the legacy of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

"The SRCC is more than a venue. It is a platform where art, history, and tradition converge to create meaningful connections," said Mr Shah. "This iconic building symbolises the strength of cultural collaboration and the beauty of togetherness."

The inauguration served as a commitment to the transformative power of cultural exchange in promoting global harmony. As the SRCC opened its doors, it aspired to become a cornerstone of cultural and academic excellence, uniting nations and individuals in the spirit of shared understanding and respect, the organisers of the event maintained. Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan Albert P. Khorev said that the centre would serve as another bright spot on Islamabad's cultural map.

"It will serve the purpose of raising mutual awareness of the cultures along the great historical route. The Russian culture is one of the jewels in this regard, comprising great masterpieces of architecture, music, theatre, painting, and other forms of art, which represent our national character and diversity of ethnic and religious groups. They all peacefully coexist and enrich each other," the Russian envoy said.

"I am confident of the centre's commitment to developing joint projects, and promoting intellectual and cultural exchanges in the region," Albert Khorev said.

Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin congratulated Mr Shah on establishing the centre. "The ancient Silk route was a network connecting nations across the entire Eurasian continent. Besides trade, it was also about developing cultural ties, exploring new civilisations, new traditions and customs. We believe that such initiative can help us today in terms of reviving those relations, enjoyed in the past," Ambassador Kistafin said.

He informed his audience that Kazakhstan for centuries served as a bridge connecting east and west and was part of the ancient Silk Road. "Our embassy is delighted to contribute to the centre," said the ambassador.

ARTISTS perform a play on elimination of gender-based violence at Pak China Friendship Centre in Islamabad on Tuesday. — Online

Speakers call for addressing shortcomings to tackle gender-based violence

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: A high-level panel of speakers including policy makers, human rights activists and judge of the Supreme Court on Tuesday urged society and institutions to look into the shortcomings for addressing gender-based violence cases.

They were attending a seminar to commemorate International Human Rights Day, under the theme 'Linking Rights to a Future Free from Gender-Based Violence', and celebrating the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The event was organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Justice Ayesha A. Malik of the Supreme Court of Pakistan called for urgent action against gender-based violence and emphasised the deep-rooted imbalance between men and women that was entrenched in societal and cultural norms.

She called for societal outrage over the rise in sexual violence, particularly against minors and women.

"The violation of a woman's dignity must not be tolerated," she said, adding that resistance to gathering accurate data hampers efforts to understand and address the crisis.

"Without data, there can be no comprehensive understanding of the problem, let alone a solution," Justice Malik noted, lamenting that the current lack of clarity about domestic violence statistics complicates efforts to tackle this crime effectively.

She criticised the judgmental attitudes faced by women in GBV cases, a problem deeply rooted in subcontinental culture, where women were frequently accused of lying. This lack of a gender perspective weakens the narrative around GBV and perpetuates societal biases. Justice Malik concluded by calling for gender-based violence to be treated as a priority.

Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted the critical need for educational reforms to address gender-based violence, especially in public schools.

She also pointed out that stigma and societal discrimination continued to suppress women's voices and perpetuate violence.

Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri addressed challenges in the implementation of existing laws, highlighting the gaps in data collection and public awareness regarding avenues for reporting violence. She called for reforms in the police and judicial systems to better support victims of gender-based violence.

Secretary General of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) Harris Khaliqur discussed the alarming global statistics on gender-based violence, noting that one in three women experienced physical or psychological trauma, with even higher rates in Pakistan.

Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) Chairman Riffat Inam Butt underlined the necessity of improving data collection and ensuring access to legal resources for women.

Development Counsellor at the British High Commission Andrew Bowden echoed the need to break societal taboos around gender-based violence. He emphasised that empowering women economically and ensuring gender equality in development were key priorities for UK's global mission.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qayyum Suleri emphasised that sustainable development was incomplete without incorporating human rights and gender equity.

UN Women

The Rolling Resistance Theatre on Wheels campaign, a cornerstone of UN Women Pakistan's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, reached its conclusion on Tuesday at the Pak-China Friendship Centre.

The groundbreaking initiative, which has travelled across Pakistan, delivered its poignant message of #KoiJawaabNahi (#NoExcuse) to a national audience, sparking dialogue and inspiring collective action against gender-based violence (GBV).

UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Mohamed Yahya highlighted the United Nations' commitment to supporting gender equality.

"As we conclude this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, I want to honour the resilience of survivors of domestic violence. Those women and girls have faced unimaginable pain, yet their courage to rebuild their lives inspires us all," Mr Yahya said.

Country Representative Designate UN Women Pakistan Jamshed Kazi opened the event, emphasising the campaign's transformative journey.

"Gender-based violence is not merely a women's issue; it is a profound human rights crisis that impacts every aspect of society. Achieving gender equality and eradicating gender-based violence requires the unwavering dedication of individuals, organisations, and institutions. Campaigns like Rolling Resistance and The Inkredible exemplify the power of collaboration and the transformative potential of united efforts," Mr Kazi said.

Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environment Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to gender equality, saying, "the government of Pakistan is committed to ensuring that Pakistan becomes a country where women and girls can thrive without the shadow of violence".

The concluding candle lighting ceremony brought together attendees in a solemn moment of reflection and unity, symbolising the shared resolve to illuminate the path toward a violence-free society.

122 ASIs, 93 head constables promoted

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Region Babar Sarfraz Alps issued promotion orders to 122 ASIs to the post of Sub-Inspector and 93 Head Constables to the post of ASI, following recommendation of a special board consisting of police officers of five districts.

A special board consisting of district police officers of all the five districts was constituted under the leadership of RPO Rawalpindi Region Babar Sarfraz Alps for the promotion of personnel.

A spokesman for the police said on Tuesday that Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Region Babar Sarfraz Alps has issued promotion orders of 122 ASIs of Rawalpindi region to the post of sub-inspectors and 93 head constables to the post of ASI on the recommendations of the departmental board, which was chaired by RPO Rawalpindi Region Babar Sarfraz Alps, while the board members included City Police Officer Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Mahmood Hamdani, DPO Attock Dr. Sardar Ehtaz Gul Khan, DPO Chakwal Lt (retd) Ahmed Mohiuddin, DPO Jhelum Nasir Mehmood Rajwa and DPO Murree Asif Amin Awan.

The board appreciated the excellent service of all the officials. After checking the records and all the data made their recommendations, on the basis of these recommendations 122 ASIs were promoted to the post of Sub-Inspector while 93 Head Constables were promoted to the post of ASI.

Region Police Officer (RPO) Babar Sarfraz Alps while congratulating the promoted officers said that according to the orders of IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar, the process of timely development of the force will continue.

They have been promoted to the next position because of their performance, now their responsibilities have increased, so they should perform their duties with more effort and dedication and be devoted to the spirit of service and ensure the delivery of justice to the citizens, said the RPO while addressing to the promoted police officials.

High Court Road cleared of encroachments: RDA

RAWALPINDI: In order to enhance the flow of traffic and maintain public safety, encroachments on High Court Road were removed on the directions of Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Director General Kinza Murtaza.

A spokesperson for the RDA said the action aimed to restore order, improve road accessibility and ensure a safer environment for commuters and pedestrians.

"The Enforcement Squad initiated a comprehensive operation to clear illegal structures, vendors, and unauthorised street installations obstructing traffic and posing a risk to public safety. The operation, which was carried out in collaboration with local law enforcement, received widespread support from the general public who have long expressed concern over the increasing encroachments in the area."

The spokesperson said that the operation was part of the broader efforts to restore the city's infrastructure, and make sure that all roads remained accessible and safe for the public, the RDA spokesperson quoted DG Kinza Murtaza as saying.

"Encroachments not only create traffic congestion but also present significant hazards. The RDA is committed to maintaining the integrity of Rawalpindi's urban spaces."

She said the operation targeted illegal constructions along High Court Road, including unauthorised shops and street vendors, which had been contributing to the growing traffic congestion and hindering smooth movement in the area.

"Local authorities have emphasised that the removal of these encroachments will significantly improve the overall traffic management system and enhance the aesthetic value of the local city," she said.

She said RDA was also planning a series of operations across Rawalpindi to eliminate encroachments on other major roads as part of a larger urban planning strategy aimed at optimising the city's infrastructure and providing a better experience for both residents and visitors.

"The public is urged to cooperate with authorities to ensure that encroachment-free zones are maintained and that the city's streets remain safe and accessible for all," she said. — Staff Reporter

Challenges facing Pakistani youth explored

By Syeda Shahrbano Kazim

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has hosted a panel discussion, 'Voices for Change: Youth Perspectives on Challenges and Opportunities' to mark the 16 Days of activism campaign against gender-based violence.

The event held on Monday brought together young activists, student leaders and various organisations to explore the challenges faced by Pakistani youth, particularly women and girls, and discuss innovative opportunities for their empowerment and engagement in the country's development.

The panel featured young speakers who have made substantial contributions addressing issues of human rights, climate change, transgender rights, entrepreneurship and political engagement moderated by Usama Khilji, Director of Bolo Bhi, a research and advocacy organisation focused on digital rights and freedom of expression.

Dutch Ambassador Henny de Vries welcomed the guests, saying, "I'm very pleased to see so many of you here. We're here today because we are in the middle of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and we felt we should speak more to young people, the youth. In policies, in foreign policies we speak a lot about the youth, we make policies for the youth but we don't talk a lot with the youth. Today, we want to get your ideas, your suggestions."

She said: "We selected as panelists people who reflect the different areas that the embassy works on; we have panelists who have experience in human rights, climate change, entrepreneurship, integration and cohesion, et cetera. For us, it is very important to learn and hear from you about what is needed because 64pc of the Pakistani population is below 30 years of age and that is a huge number. And we know that policy makers, ministers, politicians, parliamentarians are normally people of a higher age and there is a disconnect."

"We feel the voice of the young people should be heard, they should be engaged in discussions and should be able to influence policies," she added.

The panel included Mahnoor Rashid, who works on climate and gender at Dastak Foundation as the Amplify Feminism Fellow and serves as chairperson of the Children and Youth Advisory Board on Climate Change at Climate Forward Pakistan; Nayyab Ali, a transgender rights activist who has contributed to laws and policies in the country, Fizza Amjad, CEO and co-founder of atomcamp, an innovative, tech-enabled edtech platform to up-skill the workforce; Mahnoor Omer, a human rights activist, a legal researcher and an organiser of the Aurat March, and Ayesha Rahimi, a student in Peshawar who fled Afghanistan when she was in the 11th grade.

Mahnoor Rashid said: "That Pakistan is the fifth most vulnerable country to climate change is an established fact but not all people in Pakistan face climate change in similar ways. There are different vulnerable communities that have different experiences when disasters hit and women are one of the most vulnerable populations in Pakistan. For example, in 2022, when the floods hit, 33 million people were affected but what is less reported is that 650,000 women were pregnant."

She went on to share women and girls have little or no access to essential hygiene facilities and experience escalating incidents of gender-based and sexual violence. These lived experiences from the grassroots must be communicated to supplement the data and inform responses.

Ayesha Rahimi brought up the challenges Afghan refugees, especially women and girls, face in Pakistan.

"As refugees we are displaced from our own country and we affected mentally and physically by the war and hardships we face. We all, men and women, face lack of legal documentation and social discrimination, we have fewer opportunities for education and employment and these are systemic issues," she said.

Ms Rahimi highlighted the importance of legal rights and documentation to ensure access to healthcare, education and financial opportunities.

Nayyab Ali said: "Our representatives take immense pride that we have one of the most progressive legislations in the world, which is the Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Act, which categorically allows self-perceived gender identity to the individual without any medical gate-keeping."

But, Nayyab Ali said, the situation on the ground that we face is very different.

Mahnoor Omer spoke about the challenges Pakistani women face particularly in the context of politics, the issues entering the political space and the consequences of using one's voice.

She said: "If we had more female representation in politics, many of the issues being discussed would not exist."

"Around 50pc of our population is women and yet less than 20pc of the seats are reserved for them in the National Assembly. We need positive discrimination because how else will the problems that Afghan women face, that climate victims face, that transgender women face, be addressed if they do not have representation," she added.

Fizza Amjad said technology was democratising everything – it is democratising progress and it is available to all.

"Inclusive capacity-building and upskilling so individuals are able to access opportunities is one way to develop," she added.

DUTCH Ambassador Henny de Vries poses with panelists at her residence in Islamabad. — Dawn

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CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the advertisement published in Daily Mashriq dated: 10/12/2024, "Applicants who have already applied for the post of Demonstrator vide this office advertisement dated 28/2/2024 (in Daily Mashriq), shall not apply again, as their previous applications are valid and will be considered for test/interview".

Dean/Chief Executive Officer
Bannu Medical College,
Bannu

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DAWN

METRO Central

LAHORE Wednesday, December 11, 2024

LAHORE

Sunset	05:02 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:50 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	7.0°C
Maximum	20.0°C
Outlook	Mainly Sunny

AQI

Maximum (Yesterday)	268

West Ham's Bowen punishes woeful Wolves defence

Pg.17 SPORT

SCHOOLCHILDREN plant saplings under the PHA's 'Lungs of Lahore' project on the banks of the river Ravi. — White Star

Fathers often seek kids' DNA test to avoid maintenance cost: LHC

Rejects plea questioning paternity

By Wajih Ahmad Sheikh

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court has expressed its concern over the growing trend of fathers questioning the legitimacy of their children by requesting DNA analysis, often as a tactic to evade paying maintenance allowances to their ex-spouses.

"It is becoming a common practice in our society that whenever a suit for recovery of maintenance allowance is filed against a person, he comes forward to the court and challenges the legitimacy of the child by moving an application requesting for conducting DNA analysis of the child," Justice Ahmad Nadeem Arshad observed in a judgement issued recently.

The judge said it is for the honour and dignity of women and innocent children, as also the value placed on the institution of the family, that women and blameless children have been granted legal protection and a defence against scurrilous stigmatisation.

He remarked, "Ethically, questioning the paternity of a child during a maintenance suit can be seen as a tactic to evade responsibility rather than a legitimate claim based on evidence."

The judge noted that the request for the DNA test often reflects a desire to avoid financial obligations and may be motivated by personal animosity or financial concerns.

He maintained that such practice should be discouraged and dealt with an iron hand because encouraging such practices would only serve to erode trust in the family unit and the legal system that is designed to protect the interests of vulnerable children.

Justice Arshad noted that when a parent questions the legitimacy of the child, it creates an atmosphere of doubt and insecurity.

He stated that this practice undermines the child's sense of identity, dignity, and belonging, which can have long-lasting psychological effects.

The judge said it is crucial that courts focus on the child's needs and emotional welfare, rather than allowing a parent to challenge paternity without valid justification. "The use of DNA tests to challenge paternity, while scientifically valid, should not be viewed as a tool for harassment or delay in matters of child maintenance," the judge asserted in the order, dismissing a petition of a man, who assailed decisions of two lower courts whereby his application for DNA examination was dismissed.

The mother instituted a suit for recovery of her maintenance allowance, as well as for her minor son, from Sakhawat Hussain, the father of the child.

The father contested the suit by filing a written statement wherein he denied the paternity of the minor. He also filed an application for DNA examination of the minor by submitting that he was not his son.

However, the trial court and an appellate court dismissed his pleas.

As per the facts of the case, the petitioner contracted marriage with the respondent on Jan 11, 2018, however, he divorced her on Aug 17, 2018.

Following the divorce, the minor was born after almost a six-and-half-month of dissolution of marriage on March 1, 2019.

The petitioner did not deny the marriage with the respondent, however, he denied the paternity of the minor.

Justice Arshad noted that by using DNA technology, the courts are in a better position to reach a just conclusion, but the question is whether the petitioner can be allowed to get a DNA test of the minor conducted and produce the said report as evidence in order to challenge the paternity of the child.

The judge observed that as per Article 128 of the Qanun-e-Shahadat Order, 1984, a child born to a woman during the subsistence of a valid marriage or within

Continued on Page 14

Three deported from Dubai, held by FIA

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) immigration authorities claimed to have arrested three illegal immigrants deported from Dubai (United Arab Emirates), at Sialkot International Airport on Tuesday.

As per the FIA sources, the three men had gone to Iran through Taftan border and then reached Dubai through an agent. In Dubai, they tried to travel to Sweden, using fake documents, where they were nabbed and deported to Pakistan, landing at Sialkot airport.

An official of FIA told *Dawn* that during immigration clearance of Flight FZ-337, three passengers – Abdul Rehman (fake name Asim Nazir), having passport No PV0155023, Inamul Haq (fake name Akbar Ali), having passport No AJ6395553 and Ali Haider, having passport No CN6970741 – were found to be deported from Dubai.

The passengers used fake identities with an intent to travel to Sweden from Dubai, where they had reached from Iran after paying Rs2 million each to an agent, Mian Kareem.

During transit in Dubai, the Emirates security officials apprehended them and sent them back to Pakistan.

The suspects were later handed over to the anti-human trafficking cell of Gujranwala FIA zone.

Meanwhile, a Philippine national woman was refused entry into Pakistan at Sialkot airport on Monday the last.

As per the FIA officials, the passenger, Daisy Gonsaz, arrived here from Philippines via Dubai and presented his passport (No P0538020B) for immigration clearance. However, as she had no visa to enter Pakistan, she was deported.

Ex-senator denied pre-arrest bail in housing scam

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A Lahore High Court division bench on Tuesday dismissed a pre-arrest bail petition of former senator Waqar Ahmad Khan in billions of rupees scam of Pak-Arab Housing Scheme being investigated by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

The suspect personally appeared before the bench comprising Justice Farooq Haider and Justice Ali Zia Bajwa along with his counsel.

A NAB prosecutor opposed the bail petition, saying the custody of the suspect was required to recover the looted money of the public against plots in the housing society.

After hearing the arguments, the bench dismissed the bail of the former senator, however, he evaded arrest.

Earlier, an accountability court had also denied bail to Waqar, however, he continued to evade arrest by the NAB.

The bureau alleged that the suspect denied plots to people despite receiving money from them. It said the society defrauded the public at large by selling files more than the available plots.

It alleged that the former senator collected Rs10 billion from people who purchased the files of Pak-Arab Society Phase-II, which was also not an approved project by the Lahore Development Authority.

Punjab takes China's help for cleaner air, better environment

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: China and Punjab will collaborate on combating smog, improving environment, enhancing biodiversity, protecting wildlife and promoting afforestation.

A joint working group – Beijing-Punjab Clean Air – was formed during a meeting between Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Chinese Minister for Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu in Beijing on Tuesday.

Under the agreement, China and Punjab will exchange environmental expertise, coordinate policies, enhance capacity building, monitor and share data, plan green urban projects and transfer technology.

China will assist Punjab in launching environmentally friendly energy and transportation initiatives. With China's cooperation, an advanced air quality management system will be developed in Punjab.

The two sides also agreed to utilise China's expertise in developing an e-transport system in Punjab. China will support Punjab in the agricultural sector by introducing eco-friendly machinery and sustainable farming practices. Assistance will also be provided in

Continued on Page 15

NAB reference

Court assured Parvez to appear on next hearing for indictment

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An accountability court was assured on Tuesday that 'ailing' PTI President Parvez Elahi would appear on the next hearing for indictment in a reference of corruption and kickbacks in billions of rupees funds released for development projects in Gujrat division.

Earlier, Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani took exception to the continuous absence of Mr Elahi in the trial proceedings for health reasons as his lawyer once again sought one-time exemption from appearance.

However, Advocate Amjad Parvez assured the court that his client (Mr Elahi) would appear for the framing of charges on the next hearing.

NAB Prosecutor Waris Ali Janjua argued that the suspect should be indicted without further delay.

The PTI leader's lawyer said his client was unwell, suffering from stomach issues and diarrhoea.

The judge instructed that Mr Elahi should be presented on the next hearing for the framing of charges, noting that, "Just as he travels to the hospital in a car, he can come here for attendance."

The judge adjourned the hearing till Dec 18.

Other suspects who are on bail appeared before the court, while suspects in judicial custody including Naseem Iqbal, Asif and Asghar were presented from jail.

The prosecutor told the court that another co-suspect former principal secretary Muhammad Khan Bhatti was admitted to Services Hospital.

The NAB reference alleged that Muhammad Khan Bhatti being principal secretary to then chief minister Parvez Elahi manoeuvered the award of contracts in favour of blue-eyed contractors in connivance with other suspects including officials of government departments.

It said the suspect released full payment to the contractors even before the commencement of construction work only to receive kick backs.

The bureau alleged that money from the corruption committed by Bhatti had been transferred into the bank accounts of Elahi and his son, Moonis Elahi.

Moot on Christians in Pakistan

Justice Cornelius remembered as role model for all

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: "That was a beautiful place," said the 23rd chief justice of Pakistan, Mr Justice (retired) Jawwad S. Khwaja, while referring to Pakistan during the life of his mentor – Justice Cornelius, who was the CJP from 1960 to 1968.

Speaking at the Christianity and Christians in Pakistan' conference held at the Forman Christian College (FCC) here on Tuesday, a collaboration between the University of Oxford, IT University and ThinkFest, Justice Khwaja recounted how Justice Cornelius's time was a more inclusive, open and engaging period in the country's history.

Justice Khwaja then related incidents from the life of Justice Cornelius, who exuded integrity, judicial acumen and kindness. "Justice Cornelius refused plots, while today's judges are running after them," noted Khwaja, who worked with the legendary judge from 1978 till his death in 1993.

He said that he simply 'absorbed' certain things from the towering personality of Cornelius, which got reflected in his (Khwaja's) 16 years as a judge in Pakistan. "There are very few words which can describe my relationship with Judge sahib, it was a lived experience."

He hoped that the FCC would teach modules on Justice Cornelius. "He is an example for all Pakistanis, especially the Christians, and his thoughts and life must be taught," he said.

Discussing Cornelius' legacy, Khwaja noted that while he agreed that Cornelius should not have become the law minister in dictator Gen Yahya Khan's cabinet, but it is hard for him to 'judge' today the decisions made by Cornelius in 1969, since "there were different times and considerations".

"Justice Cornelius' legacy is simple: a strict adherence to the Constitution of the country and the courage to pen judgments accordingly. Are today's judges willing to do this?" Justice Khwaja wondered.

Earlier, Joseph Cardinal Coutts, Archbishop Emeritus of Karachi and only the second Pakistani Cardinal, delivered the keynote address at the conference.

Hearkening back to a time when Pakistan was a more open and accepting society, the Cardinal recounted how his elevation to the rank of a bishop in 1988 was celebrated by his Muslim neighbours equally. "I wonder if this would be possible today?," Cardinal Coutts asked.

Mentioning identity as the major issue in Pakistan, Cardinal Coutts said: "More than 70 years down the line, Pakistan is still searching for its identity, leading to several problems in the state and society. Only by basing our citizenship on equality can Pakistan find its true identity," he said.

Speaking about the need for a dialogue, Cardinal Coutts, who has been working on inter-religious dialogue internationally, observed that the word 'dialogue' leaves much to be desired. "Like Pope Francis and the Grand Mufti of Al-Azhar, we should call it 'human fraternity,' which is deeper and more lasting," he emphasised.

Talking about the theme of the conference, he said that while the it was about Christianity and Christians 'in' Pakistan, time has come to consider the minority community 'of' Pakistan, as "only then will Christians find their real place in the Pakistani polity," he exclaimed.

The first day of the conference also featured a session on Christians and education in Pakistan, where FCC Rector Dr Jonathan Addleton traced several seminal ways in which the college had been tied to the history, development, and the developing future of Pakistan.

Another panel featured Dr Paul Rollier from France and Dr Dominic Eder from LUMS, who spoke about questions of caste and Christian-Muslim relations in urban Pakistan.

The conference will continues at the IT University on December 11 and 12.

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PRAYER

Fajr	5.24
Zuhr	1.00
Asr	3.24
Maghrib	5.02
Isha	6.27

Starting time in Lahore

REFLECTIONS

"POVERTY OFTEN DISABLES AN INTELLIGENT MAN FROM ARGUING HIS CASE."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.) (78AH-42?)

Three booked for 'gang rape' of friend's wife

By Our Correspondent

SAHIWAL: Kassowal police have booked three men for alleged gang rape of their newly-married friend's wife, after the couple took shelter at the outhouse of one of the suspects at 6/14-L village of Chichawatni tehsil.

Kassowal Police Station SHO Amjad Hussain told Dawn that the police have arrested two of the suspects, and started investigation.

As per police sources, Iqbal, a resident of Forest Colony, Block No. 2, Chichawatni, contracted love marriage with a woman 'A' on December 7 at the Tehsil Courts, after their elopement. The couple registered their Nikahnama with the authority concerned.

As per their plan, the couple moved to the outhouse of Iqbal's friend 'S' at 6/14-L village and stayed there for two nights.

On Sunday, 'S' asked Iqbal to shift his wife to the house of their common friend 'N' as her parents could trace the outhouse and nab the couple. Iqbal agreed to the suggestion and was told to stay at the outhouse for the time being. 'S' also locked Iqbal in a room at the outhouse.

However, after moving the woman to the new place, 'S', 'N' and another suspect 'M' gang-raped her, and threatened her to keep silent or they would kill her.

Meanwhile, Iqbal's father and uncle arrived at the outhouse and freed him.

After Iqbal related the entire story to them, they all went to 'N' house, where they came to know about 'A's plight.

Iqbal then reported the matter to Kassowal police, which registered a gang-rape case under section 375A against the three suspects.

SHO Amjad told Dawn that the police are also investigating Iqbal for leaving his wife at his friend's house without informing his family.

Fathers often seek kids' DNA test to...

Continued from Page 13

two years after its dissolution is conclusive proof of his/her legitimacy, provided that the woman remains unmarried after the divorce.

The judge said the Muslim Personal Law provides that legitimacy/paternity must be denied by the father immediately after the birth of the child as per Imam Abu Hanifa and within the postnatal period (maximum of 40 days) after birth of the child, as per Imam Muhammad and Imam Yousaf.

He maintained that there can be no lawful denial of paternity after this stipulated period.

Justice Arshad concluded that the courts below rightly dismissed the applications of the petitioner. He said the petitioner's counsel, despite hectic efforts and lengthy arguments, remained unable to persuade the court to interfere in the conclusions of the lower courts.

An elderly man sells face masks and other items at Bath Chowk. — White Star

Drug dealer arrested with 11kg hash

By Our Correspondent

SARGODHA: police claimed to have arrested a drug peddler, recovering 11kg hashish from him on Tuesday.

According to sources, Urban Area police arrested a suspected drug dealer Irfan and recovered hashish and Rs30,000 from his possession.

A case has been registered against the suspect and police are busy investigating.

DPO Dr Asad Ijaz Malhi congratulated the police team that arrested the drug dealer and said indiscriminate action against narcotics sale will continue.

Crackdown on massage centres ordered

LAHORE: The capital city police officer on Tuesday ordered a crackdown on massage centres, guesthouses and hotels involved in unethical activities and social crime.

Presiding over a meeting, Bilal Siddique Kamyana assigned the SSP Operations the task of launching the crackdown to eliminate social crime involving and destroying future of particularly the young generations.

He also directed special security arrangements on the eve of Christmas and New Year, emphasizing measures to prevent kite flying, aerial firing and one-wheeling.

The CCPO directed the police command to form teams and carry out operations to round up criminals involved in online drug selling, particularly around educational institutions.

He instructed continued search and combing operations in these areas.

Stressing a zero-tolerance policy, he said there would be no compromise on corruption or highhandedness. — Staff Reporter

LDA to implement digital reforms

Crackdown on illegal commercial activities underway

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Minister for Housing Bilal Yasin has directed the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) to implement digital reforms to eradicate corruption and eliminate manual processing systems.

Chairing a meeting after visiting the LDA Johar Town complex on Tuesday, the minister urged swift action to replace outdated methods with digital solutions.

"We aim to completely end the manual system and replace it with a digital one to curb corruption," Yasin said.

LDA Director General Tahir Farooq and senior officials attended the meeting.

Discussing the surge in commercial activities in Lahore, the minister ordered a crackdown on illegal commercial operations along 58 designated commercial roads.

He directed the LDA administration to issue certificates to legal businesses, ensuring they are displayed prominently at their premises.

To strengthen operational capacity, Yasin also instructed LDA authorities to increase the number of interns in the town and metropolitan planning wings.

He emphasised the need to halt the overmilling of plots by developers.

During the meeting, the LDA DG briefed the minister that over 7,500 illegal commercial businesses had been digitally mapped, with plans to map an additional 20,000 gradually. Teams have been tasked with recovering commercialisation fees from these businesses.

LESCO: Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) teams have detected a total of 505 connections from where the consumers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) during its anti-power theft campaign on Tuesday.

The Lesco spokesman told the media here on Tuesday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against electricity thieves, out of which 187 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 31 accused have been arrested by the respective police.

During the last 24 hours of the anti-power theft campaign, the spokesman added, large commercial consumers were also found involved in electricity theft.

Some 24 commercial, four agricultural, one industrial and 476 domestic connections were disconnected and charged with a total of 357,240 units as detection bill amounting to Rs35.8 million.

Meanwhile, the teams also recovered Rs5.008m from 210 defaulters in all the five districts. The teams recovered outstanding dues of Rs0.08m from 21 defaulters in Northern Circle; Rs0.051m from 17 defaulters in Eastern Circle; Rs1.057m from 35 defaulters in Central Circle; Rs290,000 from 14 defaulters in Southern Circle; Rs200,000 from 23 defaulters in Nankana Sahib Circle; and Rs 0.045m from 31 defaulters in Sheikhupura Circle.

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DESPATCH COMPANY
LETTER OF INVITATION

Subject: Consultancy services for design review, construction supervision and allied activities including verification of contractor's invoices, and testing & commissioning of Lot-1: 500kV D/C Quad Bundle Transmission Line from 500kV Main Switching Station to 500kV International Grant Substation (11 Km Approx.) & Lot-2: 500kV D/C Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Karot HPP to 500kV Mansa Switching Station (20 Km Approx.)

1. INTRODUCTION — Date: 11-12-2024

Suki Kinari HPP is being constructed in the Northern area of Pakistan, for the dispersal of the power generated by this Power Plant, a 500kV D/C Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Suki Kinari HPP to the 500kV Mansa Switching Station is being constructed. Further, for power dispersal from Karot HPP, a 20 Km long 500kV D/C Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Karot HPP to the 500kV Mansa Switching Station is to be constructed. The power is further transmitted from the 500kV Mansa Switching Station to Islamabad West Substation through a 131 km long 500kV Double Circuit Quad Bundle Transmission Line which is the scope of work of this Project. The transmission line will be constructed through NTDC's own resources in accordance with the Bidding Documents. To ensure successful implementation of the project as per technical specifications, the Employer intends to hire consultancy services for design review, construction supervision and other allied activities of the project.

2. INTEREST TO PROPOSAL WILL

1. To implement this project, NTDC requires the services of a competent consulting firm with the appropriate capabilities and experience to execute services required in Annex-2 of RFP. A firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) and procedures described in the RFP.
2. RFP consists of the following documents:
   i. This Letter of Invitation
   ii. General Information to Consultants (Annex-1)
   iii. Terms of Reference for Consultants (Annex-2)
   iv. Break up of Man month Inputs of Key Personnel (Annex-3)
   v. Format for Technical Proposals (Annex-4)
   vi. Format for Financial Proposal (Annex-5)
   vii. Standard Contract Agreement for Consulting Services (Annex-6)
   viii. Exhibits d, e, f, g

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

You are invited to submit a comprehensive Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal, each in triplicate (one original + two copies), in separate sealed envelopes, for the services required under the Terms of Reference (TOR) as provided in Annex-2, not later than 11:00 hours on 13-01-2025.

4. VALIDITY OF THE PROPOSAL

The Proposal shall be valid for a period of 120 days after last date of submission, extendable further on the expiry of this period through mutual agreement.

5. COST OF PROPOSAL

The firms are expected to inform themselves fully of all aspects of the assignment, required consultancy services for the Project and the local conditions before submitting the Proposal by paying a visit to the Project site and seeking written clearance to the undersigned. The consulting firms will have no claim against NTDC or any of its representatives for damages, losses, costs or expenses, of any nature whatsoever, incurred by the firm resulting from any misunderstanding as to the nature, scope, risks and conditions of the assignment/consultancy services for the project.

6. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

All correspondence, the Technical & Financial Proposals should be submitted at the following address:

Chief Engineer (Material Procurement & Management), NTDC
5th Floor, Shaheen Complex, Egerton Road Lahore, Pakistan
(Postal Code: 54000) Telephone No: 92-42-99202907
Fax No: 92-42-99202731 - mail address: cempm@ntdc.com.pk

7. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS

In the event you desire any explanation to RFP documentation, you may contact the office of the undersigned not later than one week before submission date of the Proposal.

PDI(I-1041)/24

Chief Engineer (MP&M) NTDC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DESPATCH COMPANY
AMENDMENT NO. 04

TO THE TENDER NO. ADB-401E-01R(D)-2024

PROCUREMENT OF 500/220kV, 450MVA (3*150MVA) AUTO TRANSFORMER BANKS AT 500kV MULTAN & DADU GRID STATIONS (TWO BANKS) UNDER ADB LOAN NO. 4271-PAK: SECOND POWER TRANSMISSION ENHANCEMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM - TRANCHE 4

Reference invitation notice for the above tender published in national dailies. The submission date of bids has been extended. Now the bids will be received on or before 26.12.2024 at 12:00 P.M. instead of existing i.e., 12.12.2024.

NOTE: All other terms & conditions of tender notice shall remain unchanged.

PDI(I-1040)24

CHIEF ENGINEER (MP&M) NTDC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DESPATCH COMPANY
AMENDMENT NO. 03

TO THE TENDER NO. ADB-401E-01R(C)-2024

PROCUREMENT OF 500/220kV, 750MVA (3*250MVA) AUTO TRANSFORMER BANK AT 500kV GRID STATION FAISALABAD WEST (ONE BANK) UNDER LOAN NO. 4271 - PAK: SECOND POWER TRANSMISSION ENHANCEMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM TRANCHE 4

Reference invitation notice for the above tender published in national dailies. The submission date of bids has been extended. Now the bids will be received on or before 26.12.2024 at 11:00 A.M. instead of existing i.e., 11.12.2024.

Note: All other terms and conditions of the tender notice shall remain unchanged.

PDI(I-1039)24

CHIEF ENGINEER (MP&M) NTDC

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE
MR. JUSTICE (R) MEHMOOD MAQBOOL BAJWA
ELECTION TRIBUNAL, PROVINCIAL ELECTION COMMISSION
10-COURT STREET, LAHORE.

ELECTION PETITION NO.21/2024
Rashida Tariq Vs, Ch. Mehmood Bashir Virk Etc.
Proclamation Under section 145(2) (a) Election Act-2017 Notice to-

1.Ch. Mehmood Bashir Virk, R/o House No.59-DC Road, Gujranwala. Whereas the above named petitioner has instituted an Election Petition in this Tribunal under Election Act-2017 and the same was fixed for hearing before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 27-11-2024 actual. You have been impleaded as respondent in the above noted petition. You are, therefore, hereby informed through this proclamation to appear before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 12-12-2024 at 10:00 a.m. (sharp) personally or through attorney/counsel, otherwise the case will be heard and decided in your absence. No arguments of any nature shall be entertained thereafter. Given under my hand and seal of the Election Tribunal, Lahore on this 10th day of December, 2024.

(BUSHRA RASHEED CHAUDHARY) REGISTRAR
Election Tribunal Lahore

از دفتر کنٹونمنٹ بورڈ شورکوٹ کینٹ

حتمی شوکاز نوٹس

محترمی خالد صاحب ولد محمد ۱۰ سٹیشن گلاں بیرا تحصیل شورکوٹ کینٹ بورڈ شورکوٹ کینٹ سائل کی ایک شکایت موضع پیرو ۱۰ ایک قطعہ اراضی جنگ سوار 14-02-2024 سے متعلق ڈی سی ایبٹ آباد کے تحریر حاضر ہے۔ اس تحریر میں اس کی جناب تحصیل کمانڈر PF/336/999 مورخہ 21-02-2024 PF1792/999 نمبر 13-03-2024 مورخہ PF/403/999 نمبر PF/2018/999 مورخہ 28-10-2024 مورخہ 25-11-2024 بذریعہ ڈاک کے گھر بھیجے گئے اس کے باوجود ڈاکیہ نے کوئی جواب نہیں دیا۔ مورخہ ڈی سی ایبٹ آباد نے ایک ریٹائرڈ فوجی کی پنشن بند کرنے کا حکم دیا ہے جو کہ آرمی ایکٹ کی دفعہ 14 کی خلاف ورزی ہے۔ لہٰذا آپ کو ہدایت کی جاتی ہے کہ اس تحریر کے ملنے کے 15 دن کے اندر اندر تحریری جواب دیں کہ آپ کے خلاف کیوں نہ کارروائی عمل میں لائی جائے۔ اگر آپ نے مقررہ مدت میں جواب نہ دیا تو آپ کو کچھ کہنا نہیں ہے سمجھا جائے گا اور اس کے مطابق فیصلہ کر دیا جائے گا۔

کنٹونمنٹ ایگزیکٹو آفیسر
پی ایس ایف کے سامنے، سرکلر روڈ شورکوٹ کینٹ
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COURT NOTICE

GHAKHAR

IN the Court of Mr. Rizwan Ahmad Nadi Tehsildar Haliqa Ghakhar. Application Takseem Anaji. Title: Shahnaz Begum Vs Zafar Iqbal etc To: Muhammad Ashraf Son Khurshed Bibi Caste Arain. Realted Ali Son of Ch. Ghulam Rasool. Muhammad Yousaf Son of Ahmad Din Caste Gujar R/o Jamkala Dhabwala Tehsil Wazirabad. Whereas service of defendants / respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants / respondents is effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants / respondents are directed to appear in the Court in person or through counsel on 19-12-24 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25/TS/20/2040)

LAHORE

IN the Court of Muhammad Kashif, Addl District & Session Judge Lahore. Case No. 4654/1-10-10-2024. Mehar Ahmad Vs Syed Tehseen Ahmad Zaidi etc. Notice To: 1/ Fatima Salaam Butt C/o Salaam Ahmad Butt 1 Fawad Riaz Ahmad Khawaja S/o Riaz Ahmad Khawaja R/o House No. 23 Street No. 9 Old Anarkali Lahore, currently residing at 69-58, 64 Street Glendale Ny 11385 USA. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the above mentioned person(s) be served in the ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5, rule 20 CPC that The said person(s) shall appear personally or through duly authorized representative or plead in Court at 09:00 am on 12-12-2024 otherwise the proceedings will be taken against you ex-parte, no arguments of any nature shall be entertained thereafter. (25/TS/20/4715)

GUJRAT

At the Court of Mr. Salman Asif, Civil Judge 1st Class Gujrat. Suit for Declaration with Consequential Relief & Permanent and Mandatory Injunction. Title: Atiqa Ejaz etc Versus Kashif Nawaz etc. Notice To: Mr Akbar S/o M Sharif, Rashaad Ahmad S/o Arif Hussain, Yasir Butt S/o M Anwar, Syed Ali Abbas S/o Syed Ghulam Abbas, Syed Ghulam Abbas S/o Syed Atif Shah R/o Zafarwal Khurd Tehsil & District Gujrat. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants is effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants / respondents are directed to appear in Court in person or through counsel on 11-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25/TS/20/2075)

IN the Court of Mr. Salman Asif, Civil Judge 1st Class Gujrat. Suit for Recovery. Title: Muhammad Asghar Ali etc Vs Hamza Ilyas etc. Notice To: Hamza Ilyas S/o Muhammad Ilyas R/o Guraz Tehsil & District Gujrat, at present out of Country. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants be effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants are directed to appear in Court in person or through counsel on 11-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25/TS/20/2077)

IN the Court of Miss. Nabila Zaheer, Civil Judge Gujrat. Suit for Application Guardian. Title: Ijaz Ahmad Versus Public at Large. Notice To: Rashida Parveen R/o Abid Hussain R/o Main Mian Sahib Lunay Post Office Mirpur Tehsil & District Gujrat present address CALLE Mercedes Arteaga 21 P Madrid 28019 Madrid Spain. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants be effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants are directed to appear in the Court in person or through counsel on 16-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25/TS/20/2072)

WAZIRABAD

IN the Court of Mr. Humayun Khalid Wattoch, Tehsildar Haliqa City 1 Wazirabad. Application Takseem Anaji. Title: Shahnaz Begum Vs Amir Sohail etc To: Sadaqat Ahmad Son of Salah Muhammad Caste Jutt Sayal R/o Kot Khajoor Tehsil & Distt Wazirabad. Whereas service of defendants / respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants / respondents is effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants / respondents are directed to appear in the Court in person or through counsel on 16-12-24 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25/TS/20/2066)

IN the Court of Mr. Humayun Khalid Wattoch, Tehsildar Haliqa City 1 Wazirabad. Application Takseem Anaji. Title: Shahnaz Begum Vs Ghulam Fatima etc To: Muhammad Ameer Zafar son of Zafar Iqbal, Acher Bashir son of Muhammad Bashir, Zareena Begum D/o Ali Ahmad Caste Arain R/o Tehsil Wazirabad. Whereas service of defendants / respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants / respondents is effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants / respondents are directed to appear in the Court in person or through counsel on 16-12-24 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25/TS/20/2064)

IN the Court of Mr. Humayun Khalid Wattoch, Tehsildar Haliqa City 1 Wazirabad. Application Takseem Anaji. Title: Shahnaz Begum Vs Muhammad Ameer etc To: Sadaqat Ahmad son of Salah Muhammad Caste Jutt Sayal Muhammad Nadeem son of Abdul Rashed Caste Mangal R/o Kot Khajoor Tehsil & Distt Wazirabad. Whereas service of defendants / respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants / respondents is effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants / respondents are directed to appear in the Court in person or through counsel on 16-12-24 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25/TS/20/2065)

YAZMAN

IN the Court of Faraz Arshad, Civil Judge Class-I Judge Family Court Yazman. Title of Case: Sanam Fatima VS Syed Shah. Suit for Dissolution of Marriage. Notice to: Syed Shah son of Manzoor Shah Caste Syed Resident of Sandiana Syedan, Sialkot. is hereby informed regarding Suit/Amended. You are summoned for 16-12-2024, make your attendance possible in the above mentioned Court on fixed date of hearing, otherwise ex-parte proceeding will be initiated. Under the Law. Civil Judge Class-I Judge Family Court Yazman. (25/TS/20/2076)

GUJRANWALA

IN the Court of Miss. Sumaira Aslam, Civil Judge Gujranwala. Suit: For Declaration. Title: Hasham Raza Vs Javaid Ahmad Butt etc To: Safeek Aslam son of Muhammad Aslam R/o P.O. Khas Bhopal Wala Chak Kalma Tehsil Sambrial Distt Sialkot. Whereas service of defendants / respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants / respondents is effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants / respondents are directed to appear in the Court in person or through counsel on 04-01-25 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25/TS/20/2067)

MANDI BAHAUDDIN

IN the Court of Mr. Mujeeb-Ur-Rehman Shami, Civil Judge 1st Class Mandi Bahauddin. Suit For Mariana Petition Claim. Title: Bashir Ahmad etc Vs Naz Ahmad etc. Notice to: Bushra Amna Nusrat Kalsoom Daughters of Abdul Hakeem Noor Muhammad S/o Naz Ahmad Usama Hamza Usman (Minor) Sons, Sidra Iqra Mahnoona Hamna (Minor) Daughters and Bilqees Bibi Widow Muhammad Ramazan, Saz Ahmad S/o Naz Ahmad Caste Gujjar Residents of Sohawa Bhatti Tehsil and District Mandi Bahauddin. The above titled case is pending adjudication in the Court of undersigned. Many times process has been issued against the above said respondents but all in vain. So the respondents are hereby informed through this proclamation and directed to appear before this Court on the next date of hearing 12-12-2024 at 09:00 am, in person or through their counsel, otherwise ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against the defendants otherwise no excuses will be entertained. Civil Judge 1st Class Mandi Bahauddin. (25/03/20/4661)

D.G. KHAN

IN the Court of Muhammad Ahsan, Civil Judge 1st Class Dera Ghazi Khan. Suit for Dekhalyata. Title: Kanwal Bibi etc Vs Sabir Hussain etc. Notice to Sabir Hussain S/o Ghulam Hussain Caste Khokhar R/o Block "T" District DG khan New R/o Jeddah Post Box No. 2806 Saudi Arabia. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants be effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants are directed to appear in the Court in person on 12-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated. (25/TS/20/2075)

LIAQATPUR

IN the Court of Syed Kashif Raza Addl Family Judge Liaqatpur. File No. 254. Suit for Reg u Mahar etc. Title of case: Samia Bibi etc Versus Muhammad Irfan Hanwad etc. Notice to: Muhammad Irfan Hanwad S/o Abdul Hanwad caste Arain R/o Mouza Miani tehs Tehsil Liaqatpur Present Address: Awaad Sunnyvah Dalala Omah. Phone No. 00966501148870. Whereas service of defendants / respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So service of defendants / respondents be effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants / respondents are directed to appear in the Court in person or through counsel on 14-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. With my signature and seal of the Court, Family Judge Liaqatpur. (25/TS/20/2068)

PASRUR

IN the Court of Khalid Hayat, Civil Judge Pasrur. Suit: Title: Muhammad Ashraf etc versus Khadim Hussain etc. Suit for possession with permanent injunction. In the name of advertising, Tajwam Shahzad son of Abdul Razzaq (late) cast Fagan R/o near Shah Masjid Zafarwal road Chawinda teh pasrur District Sialkot, present address abroad. All are deliberately avoiding receiving the summons in the above titled Case and escaped. Therefore, this ad is being issued for all of you. If you do not appear on the dated 19-12-2024 at 09:00 am in person or through counsel in the Court, the proceedings of the case ex-parte would be done against you and after that no objection and excuse would be accepted. This ad is being issued by the stamp and sign of this Court. (25/TS/20/2076)

ZAFARWAL

IN the Court of Khan Mahmood ADJ Zafarwal. Gulam Abas Vs Muhammad Aslam etc. Civil Revision. Muhammad Saqib S/o Muhammad Aslam, Muhammad Afzal S/o Muhammad Ashraf Cast Rajput R/o Ad gha Road Hawelian Tehsil Zafarwal district Narowal. You are deliberately avoiding receiving the summons in the case and are escaped. Therefore, this ad is being issued for all of you. If you do not appear on 12-12-2024 at 09:00 am in the Court the proceedings would be done one sided and after that no objection and excuse would be accepted. This ad is being issued by the stamp and sign of this Court. (25/TS/20/2077)

IN the Court of Khan Mahmood ADJ Zafarwal. Gulam Abas Vs Muhammad Saqib etc. Civil Appeal. Muhammad Saqib S/o Muhammad Aslam, Muhammad Afzal S/o Muhammad Ashraf Cast Rajput R/o Ad gha Road Hawelian Tehsil Zafarwal district Narowal. You are deliberately avoiding receiving the summons in the case and are escaped. Therefore, this ad is being issued for all of you. If you do not appear on 12-12-2024 at 09:00 am in the Court the proceedings would be done one sided and after that no objection and excuse would be accepted. This ad is being issued by the stamp and sign of this Court. (25/TS/20/2074)

LOST & FOUND

LAHORE

I Dr. Fatima Hassan would like to inform that my original Pharm D Degree has been lost. I graduated in 2018 as a category A Pharmacist. Registration No. BPC-12120047. Finder may return it to Address: 76 Attaturk Block, New Garden Town, Lahore. Contact 0300-1450134. (25/TS/20/2060)

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Death penalty for three brothers in murder case

By Our Correspondent

NAROWAL: The additional district sessions court judge of Shakargarh sentenced on Tuesday three brothers to death for killing two siblings over a petty dispute.

The verdict was announced after a three-year trial in a case that drew public attention due to its tragic nature.

The incident occurred on Aug 19, 2021, when Ishtiaq Khan, of Sultanpur Afghanan village in Shakargarh, reported to the police that his two young sons, 10-year-old Shaheer Khan and 17-year-old Shafeer Khan, were shot dead by their neighbours.

According to Ishtiaq, his sons left home for shopping but were attacked by Javed Khan, his wife Alia and their sons, Imran Khan, Irfan Khan and Ali Khan.

The dispute allegedly arose after the deceased Shafeer Khan forbade the accused from tying a donkey in the street.

On Ishtiaq's complaint, the Noorkot police registered an FIR under sections 302, 148, and 149 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Additional Sessions Judge Amir Mukhtar Goedal handed down the death penalty twice to Imran Khan, Irfan Khan and Ali Khan and imposed a fine of Rs2 million per person. Failure to pay the fine would result in an additional six months of imprisonment for each convict.

However, Javed Khan and his wife Alia Javed were acquitted due to insufficient evidence against them.

Following the sentencing, the three convicts were transferred from Shakargarh to Narowal District Jail under tight security.

RAPE: Police in Sialkot have registered a case against a man accused of sexually assaulting his daughter.

According to the police, a woman of Pasrur lodged a complaint stating that her 23-year-old niece disclosed the crime. She alleged that her father forcibly took her to a room in their house and raped her.

The suspect reportedly threatened to kill his daughter if she disclosed the incident.

The FIR was registered under Section 376 of the Pakistan Penal Code at Pasrur police station. Upon learning of the FIR, the suspect absconded. Police investigation teams have launched efforts to locate and arrest him.

Two private hospitals' dialysis units sealed

By Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Health commission raiding teams sealed dialysis units of two private hospitals in Multan on Tuesday.

After the Nishtar Hospital's incident, the health commission has launched inspection of public and private hospitals' dialysis units.

The commission officials said these hospitals were found violating the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the dialysis units as the Hepatitis B, C and HIV/AIDS tests of the patients were must before their dialysis.

ARRESTED: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) claims to have arrested seven people on charges of inflammatory posts on social media.

According to sources, the arrested youths, whose names were not disclosed, were taken into custody from Trust Colony, Bahawalpur, Hassra Basti and other areas of the city. It is learnt that two of them were rounded up from a restaurant by an FIA team.

All the arrested people were shifted to Multan FIA office for further interrogation.

Meanwhile, the FIA claimed on Tuesday to have arrested a black-listed passenger identified as Muzaffar Khan at Multan airport. He had come from Sharja by a PIA flight. The FIA officials said the passenger was wanted by FIA Islamabad.

ACCIDENT: A woman, Khurshid Bibi, was killed when a speeding car hit a motorcycle-rickshaw on new court road in Bandipur on Tuesday.

Police have registered a case against the absconding car driver and shifted the body to the THQ Hospital.

Meanwhile, a woman was killed in firing allegedly by two motorcyclists in Chenab Town near Adda Band Bosan in the limits of Alagpur police station.

She was identified as Allah Wasaya and was going to purchase vegetables when the bikers shot her dead.

Punjab takes China's...

Continued from Page 11

hydropower development and efficient water utilization. They agreed on China's support for protecting Punjab from environmental risks through expertise and technology.

Minister Hiang Rongjin briefed Ms Nawaz on environmental protection measures and ecosystem preservation.

The two sides also discussed biodiversity, wildlife protection, and afforestation projects in detail.

Ms Nawaz informed the Chinese officials about plans to develop model cities in Punjab for environmental improvements. "We want to adopt China's advanced environmental models to address climate change in Punjab," she said and added that since assuming office in March this year, her administration launched Punjab's first comprehensive smog prevention and environmental improvement plan. She also told the Chinese about the large-scale afforestation and forest restoration projects in Punjab.

"Pakistan and China are iron brothers, and CPEC is critical for Pakistan's development," she said and added the second phase of CPEC, focusing on environmentally friendly energy projects, held immense significance.

The Chinese officials assured the CM of their cooperation in urban environmental protection and sustainable development projects.

انتقال/ قرآن خوانی

مرحومہ نسیمہ بیگم زوجہ محمد یونس اپنے دیرینہ کرم فرما کی دائمی جدائی پر رضائے الٰہی سے انتقال کر گئیں

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

مرحومہ کے صاحبزادے ڈاکٹر آئی ایم یونس 11 دسمبر بروز بدھ سہ پہر 3 بجے سے 15 بجے تک گلبرگ ٹاؤن ہوم کے قریب ایک سیمینار ہال میں قرآن خوانی ہوگی۔

LMT 0300-8846399

LAHORE: A protest against human rights violations in India-held Kashmir at Shimla Pahari Chowk on the International Human Rights Day. — White Star

Robber killed in firing by 'accomplices'

By Our Correspondent

TORA TEK SINGH: A robber was killed in an encounter with Thikriwala police in Faisalabad on Tuesday night.

Police claimed that a police party was chasing three outlaws but they entered a sugarcane field near Chak 71-JB and started firing which was retaliated. When the firing stopped, the police found one of the outlaws dead while his two accomplices managed to flee.

Police claimed that the outlaw identified as Aqib of Chak 273-JB was killed in firing by his accomplices. He was wanted by police in more than a dozen robbery cases.

DEAD CHICKEN: A Punjab Food Authority (PFA) team, headed by Assistant Safety Officer Waseem Iftikhar, raided a shop on Gojra Road at Adda Bawakhri on Tuesday and recovered more than 40kg meat of dead chicken.

According to a press release, the shop owner was handed over to Gojra Saddar police.

ACCIDENT: Two persons were killed and another was injured when their car overturned after a tyre burst near Chak 281-GB on Satiana Road late on Monday, according to Rescue 1122.

The deceased were identified as Zakir Mahmoob, 20, and Anwar Bibi, 50, while the injured, Irfan Hussain, 28, was rushed to Jaranwala THQ Hospital. All victims were residents of Jaranwala Chak 375-GB and were travelling to Faisalabad when the accident occurred.

RIVALRY KILLING: A man was killed, and another injured in a shooting incident in the Latif Garden area of Faisalabad on Monday night.

Reports said that Syed Wazir Ahmad and Sikandar Ali were attacked by their rival Gulfam Rajwa and his accomplices. Ahmad, a resident of Waziristan employed as a gunman for Sikandar Ali, an estate developer, died on the spot. Ali sustained injuries and was shifted to DHQ Hospital.

Police sent Ahmad's body for autopsy at Allied Hospital. The head reportedly stemmed from an old enmity between the two estate developers.

FDA: The Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) foiled attempts to establish unauthorised housing schemes in a grand operation conducted on Tuesday.

Led by Town Planning Director Asma Mohsin and Estate Officer Mian Qamar Shehzad, the FDA team raided areas near Shahbaz Nagar on Masjid Ismail Road.

Seven unlawful settlements were sealed, and equipment from their offices was confiscated.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: In observance of International Human Rights Day, the Minority Rights Movement (MRM) convened a national conference in Faisalabad under the theme *'Is the plight of religious minorities in the country according to the Charter of Universal Human Rights? Are they comparable?'*

Lala Robin Daniel, Patron-in-Chief of the MRM, and former MPA Pervaz Rafique, also Central President of the MRM, addressed the conference. They highlighted the challenges faced by religious minorities in Pakistan and proposed steps to ensure the protection of their human rights.

Prominent speakers included Bishop Dr Indrias Rehmat of the Catholic Diocese Faisalabad, Romana Bashir, a community activist advocating for women and minority rights, Tanveer Jahan, Human Rights Defender and Director of the Democratic Commission for Human Development, and Zakria Shah, human rights activist.

The speakers emphasised that the plight of religious minorities must align with the Charter of Universal Human Rights, urging the government to take immediate and practical steps to ensure inclusivity and equal rights.

Bishop Dr Indrias Rehmat stressed the importance of safeguarding religious freedoms and fostering interfaith harmony.

The conference adopted several resolutions aimed at addressing the issues, including increased political representation, enhanced educational opportunities, and the protection of religious minorities' places of worship. It also demanded that minority seats in National and Provincial Assemblies be increased, with selection conducted under Article 226 of the Constitution.

The state was urged to ensure fair participation and resource allocation for religious minorities. The two per cent education quota for minority students should be raised to five per cent and funding for minority scholarships should be increased.

Also, the registration of minority religious organisations should be streamlined, and international aid supporting these organisations should be protected to bolster their development efforts.

The events in Jaranwala and Sargodha should be re-investigated, with those responsible held accountable.

The government was also called upon to take concrete measures to safeguard religious minorities' places of worship, communities, and properties.

Sanitary workers go on strike over non-payment of salaries

Dawn Report

NAROWAL: The city has been thrown into chaos as sanitary workers went on strike after not receiving their salaries for three months.

The streets, markets and residential areas are buried under piles of garbage, causing an unbearable stench and health concerns for residents.

Hundreds of workers from the Narowal Municipal Committee protested outside the committee office, demanding immediate payment of their dues.

They chanted slogans against the municipal committee and the district administration. They expressed outrage over the prolonged delay.

"We haven't been paid for three months. There's nothing left to eat at home and our children are starving," said Naseem, one of the protesting workers.

"We can't pay electricity or gas bills, and our children are falling ill due to the change in weather. We can't even afford medical treatment."

Another worker, Khurshid, said both the municipal committee and the contractor are passing blame for the non-payment.

"The officers claim Rs180 million has been paid to the contractor for salaries, but the contractor says the money hasn't arrived," he said.

The timing of the strike is especially critical, as Christian workers highlighted their inability to buy clothes or shoes for their children ahead of Christmas celebrations.

Citizens are bearing the brunt of the strike, with streets and public spaces covered in rotting waste.

The worsening conditions have prompted workers to call for the intervention of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to resolve the crisis.

The protestors vowed to continue their strike until their demands are met, raising concerns about the growing public health and sanitation crisis in the city.

TORA TEK SINGH: Scores of sanitary workers from the Faisalabad Waste Management Company (FWMC) staged a protest on Tuesday on Dijkot Road against wage deductions by a new contractor.

The workers blocked traffic for an hour by parking garbage containers on the road.

Speaking to reporters, they said the contractor had deducted 10 days' wages, citing 'training sessions' during the initial days after the cleanliness operations were transferred from Faisalabad Waste Management Company to the contractor.

They also demanded the timely payment of their December salaries before Christmas.

Thieves take away cash, gold worth Rs43.8m from house

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: Thieves took away cash and gold ornaments worth Rs43.8 million from a house in DC Colony locality of Gujranwala Cantonment police precinct on Monday night.

Reports said the suspects wearing helmets to conceal their identity barged in the house of Anwar Sandhu, whose family had gone to attend a wedding, and made off with 195-tola gold ornaments and Rs3.8m in cash.

Police have registered a case and started investigation.**BAIL:** A former federal minister and a PTI leader Mehdi Hassan Bhatti has been granted bail before arrest in a graft case lodged against him with the Rafaqatwal Anti-Corporation Establishment circle.

The court granted him bail before arrest until Dec 19.

Meanwhile, Gujranwala anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday sent 13 PTI workers to the district jail on judicial remand.

The workers were produced before the court after completion of their physical remand and the police again sought extension in their physical remand but the court ordered to send them to jail on judicial remand.

Tatley Aali police had lodged a case against PTI workers and former lawmakers in connection with the Nov 24 protests. Later, at least 13 workers were arrested who had earlier been handed over to the police on physical remand.

Autumn flower show opens at UAF

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: The three-day annual Chrysanthemum and Autumn Flower Show 2024 began at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) on Tuesday.

The event, which drew students, faculty members and flower lovers, showcased a vibrant array of chrysanthemum and ornamental plants, highlighting the beauty and diversity of floriculture.

Speaking on the occasion, UAF Vice Chancellor Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan said flowers give us the message of peace, love and harmony, and such exhibitions provide an opportunity to get refuge from the monotonous routine and spend quality time to avoid stress and depression.

He said the Netherlands is the world's largest flower exporting country, following Colombia, Kenya, Belgium and others.

He said Pakistan can also tap the world $60 billion floriculture market and earn foreign exchange.

Director Horticulture Dr Ahmad Sattar said the event also provides a platform to the horticulture students to arrange flowers in creative ways and excel in the field.

Dr Iftikhar Ahmad said more than 200 types of flower have been displayed in the exhibition in which students of UAF Institute of Horticulture and six other universities are participating.

He said that 20 varieties of flowers developed by UAF were also showcased in the exhibition.

Various autumn varieties of chrysanthemum remained a centre of attraction for the visitors.

Former MPA Najma Afzal, former president of FCCI Dr Khurram, Students Affair Principal Officer Dr Riaz Virk, Chairman Entomology Dr Jalal Arif, Director Soil Science Dr Zahir Ahmad Zahir, Dr Muhammad Usman, Chief Hall Warden Dr Tayyab, Principal Officer Estate Management Dr Nadeem Akbar, Dr Rai Arif, Dr Mohsin Bashir, Registrar Tariq Mehmood Gill, Treasurer Zeeshan Ishfaq Bukhary and Deputy Treasurer Umar Saeed Qadri also attended the show.

WORKSHOP: The Institute of Art and Design at Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF) organised a calligraphy workshop and exhibition on Tuesday, aimed at promoting Islamic art and preserving cultural heritage.

The event was inaugurated by GCUF Vice-Chancellor Dr Rind-I-Aram, who highlighted the importance of calligraphy as a reflection of civilisational history and a medium for preserving aesthetic and cultural values.

Dr Muhammad Asghar, Director of the Institute, said the purpose of the event was to educate participants and also celebrate calligraphic traditions.

The exhibition featured works by Wasal Shahid, including gold-leaf masterpieces that captivated the audience.

Shahid also conducted a special session, sharing insights into the art of calligraphy and its historical significance.

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DAWN

METRO North

PESHAWAR Wednesday, December 11, 2024

PESHAWAR

Sunset	05:07pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:07am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	05°C
Maximum	19°C
Outlook	Sunny

West Ham's Bowen punishes woeful Wolves defence

Pg.17 SPORT

A MAN warms himself on a roadside in Hashtnagri Bazaar as mercury dropped in the provincial capital on Tuesday. — INP

Lawmakers call for probe into Kurram violence, terrorists' infiltration

Complain about 'discrimination' in funds distribution to local bodies

By Mohammad Ashfaq

PESHAWAR: Members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Tuesday urged the government to probe the recent violence in Kurram tribal district and ascertain how terrorist organisations infiltrated the region to threaten public life.

During an assembly session chaired by Deputy Speaker Suriya Bibi, member of the ruling PTI from Upper Kurram Abdul Hadi highlighted the brutality of the recent incidents and complained about the killing of a six-month-old child and the shooting of a four-year-old girl in her mouth during an attack on a convoy headed for Parachinar.

He said those committing such heinous crimes were no less than beasts.

Mr Hadi said the armed people involved in the killing of innocent civilians, including children and women, had nothing to do with Islam as Muslims never killed people without any sin.

He said social media and other platforms pointed out terrorist outfits involved in the recent violence, so the government should conduct a thorough investigation to uncover the truth.

The lawmaker said the residents of Upper Kurram visited religious places in other countries but that didn't denote that they were not Pakistanis.

"We are Pakistani and have been living lives here in line with the Pakistani Constitution and laws," he said.

Mr Hadi alleged that terrorists from across the border were involved in violence.

"The government should conduct a probe into who are the supporters and facilitators of terrorists in Kurram," he said.

Another lawmaker from Lower Kurram Riaz Shaheen alleged that if an operation against the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan could be conducted in Kurram, why that couldn't happen against other terrorist outfits.

He also demanded a government probe into the presence of terrorist organisations in the region and the hoisting of their flags on some bunkers during the recent clashes.

The MPA said residents of the Bagan area were killed and their homes and markets were torched the night after an attack on a convoy of vehicles.

"People of the Bagan area were not involved in the convoy attack," he said, adding that a local TTP commander took responsibility for the terrorist act.

Mr Shaheen also demanded that the government investigate the use of heavy weapons in the recent clashes and from where they came in.

He urged the government to collect heavy weaponry from warring groups in the "larger interest" of the residents.

MPA Malakzaman Syed Afzab came down hard on the provincial government over "discrimination" in the release of development funds to tehsil councils and declared that act a violation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013, and Provincial Finance Commission Award.

He said the provincial government was bound by the LG Act to release 20 per cent of total annual development programme funding to local bodies.

The lawmaker, however, said the provincial government had released development funds to 56 out of 130 tehsil councils whose chairmen belonged to the ruling PTI.

He said the PTI had been ruling KP for the last 11 years but it had done nothing for the people who elected it to power for three consecutive times.

"The PTI has failed to improve education and health facilities and is unable to declare a proper economic policy to put the province on the track of development," he said.

The chair adjourned the session until next Monday.

CM doubles seed funding for Education Endowment Fund

Says tuition fee in govt higher education institutions to be halved next year

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday announced enhancement of seed money for CM Education Endowment Fund (CMEEF) from Rs1.2 billion to Rs2.4 billion.

Addressing a scholarship distribution ceremony at the chief minister house under the CMEEF, Mr Gandapur said that an endowment fund with Rs2 billion seed money had been established to provide free education up to grade 12 for girls and orphan children.

He said that the provincial government would "go all-out" to halve tuition fees in all public sector higher education institutions from the next fiscal year, according to an official statement.

The chief minister said that efforts were being made to boost the province's revenue through enhanced resource mobilisation to achieve that target.

He said that over the past nine months, the provincial government had achieved a 44pc increase in provincial revenue.

"We will invest the maximum resources in education and the future of our children to transform them into a true national asset," he said.

Mr Gandapur expressed confidence in the youth and said he believed that young people would make not only the province but also the nation proud on both national and international platforms, showcasing the positive image of Pakistan and Islam globally. He said that the provincial government was fully committed to supporting youth.

He felicitated the students and their parents on achieving scholarships, saying, "I commend the hard work of students and their families on achieving these scholarships."

On the occasion, the Chief Minister distributed scholarship certificates among 82 students. These fully-funded scholarships cover tuition fees, free accommodation, and food allowances. So far, under the CM Education Endowment Fund, scholarships worth Rs615 million have been awarded to 526 students, including 366 undergraduate and 150 graduate scholarships, enabling students to study at top notch educational institutions in Pakistan. Additionally, 10 graduate scholarships have been granted to students for studies at international universities.

The event was attended by higher education minister Meena Khan Afridi, high ups of the higher education department, students, and their parents.

Also, a delegation of the Young Parliamentarians Forum called on the chief minister here on Monday.

The visitors were led by Forum president Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar and comprised of members from various political parties and provinces, according to an official statement.

It added that the country's political landscape and matters of national interest came under discussion during the meeting.

Mr Gandapur emphasised the need for smaller provinces and administrative units to enhance governance and service delivery.

He said that large administrative setups hindered effective management, whereas smaller units would resolve up to 90 per cent of administrative issues and address public grievances at grassroots level.

The chief minister also urged young parliamentarians to study international governance models and recommend the same to the government to be adopted.

Touching upon his government's initiatives, he mentioned the establishment of regional secretariats using existing resources with the aim to improve governance and public service delivery at regional level.

Mr Gandapur stressed the importance of enhancing the country's international credibility, which, he said, has been hampered by unfulfilled commitments to global institutions. This, he noted, deters foreign investment.

"We must work on improving our credibility to regain international trust," he said.

PTI in touch with Fazl to launch anti-government movement: Qaiser

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's senior leader and former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser said on Tuesday that they were in contact with Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman regarding the launch of a joint movement against the government.

Talking to reporters on the premises of the Peshawar High Court here, he said that political parties should unite against the 'fascist' government.

Mr Qaiser said that instead of arresting the deteriorating law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, the federal government was 'spending' all its energies on 'suppressing' the PTI. "Instead of going after terrorists, the federal government is going after PTI," he added.

He asked the federal government to avoid declaring politicians as terrorists.

Mr Qaiser said that an event would be held in Peshawar's Bagh Naran on December 15 to remember those who lost their lives in the Islamabad protest. He alleged that direct fire was opened on unarmed protesters in the federal capital. Besides, he reiterated that PTI's mandate was stolen in the last general election. He demanded immediate release of all the political prisoners, and said that the "maltreatment" of Pakhtuns in Islamabad and Punjab was a conspiracy against the country.

On the occasion, MNA Sher Ali Arbab said that 200 PTI workers were still missing. He said that they would not tolerate such 'maltreatment' of Pakhtuns.

MNA Shandana Gulzar Khan was also present on the occasion.

Attack on vehicle leaves three dead in Waziristan

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Three people were killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire on a moving vehicle in the Birmal tehsil of Lower South Waziristan district on Tuesday.

District police officer Asif Bahadar confirmed the incident and said that the attackers riding a car opened fire on a moving vehicle in the limits of Raghzai police station and escaped. As a result, three people were killed. They were identified as Noor Khaliq, Raziq and Sher Rehman, all hailing from Wazir Gangikhel tribe.

Mr Bahadar said that the reason behind the killing was not yet known, but the police had registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident. — Correspondent

Three mutilated bodies found in Bannu

LAKKI MARWAT: Three mutilated bodies were recovered from a mountain in the Wazir subdivision of Bannu district on Tuesday.

The police said that local tribesmen spotted the bodies in Kundey area and informed the police about them.

He said that the police along with the municipal workers reached the spot to shift the bodies to a nearby hospital.

The deceased had been killed with a firearm a few days ago and their bodies were dumped in the mountain, they said.

The police said that the slain could not be identified immediately.

The police have launched an investigation into the incident. — Correspondent

High court suspends ACE's notice to MNA over land lease

Seeks govt response to Atif's plea against call-up notice

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court on Tuesday suspended a call-up notice, issued by the anti-corruption establishment to a senior Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf leader and MNA Muhammad Atif Khan, in connection with an inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the Malam Jabba land lease and a Mardan private housing society.

A bench comprising Justice Sahibzada Asadullah and Justice Wiqar Ahmad put the provincial government and ACE on notice, seeking their response to Mr Atif's petition for declaring the impugned notice, issued to him on Nov 1, illegal.

It directed ACE not to proceed further on its notice.

The petitioner requested the court to quash the notice and declare illegal to his extent all actions taken in consequence to the notice, including any inquiry or investigation.

The respondents in the petition are the ACE director, its circle officer in Peshawar, and the secretary of the establishment department.

Senior counsel Shumail Ahmad Butt appeared for the petitioner and contended that the issuance of the impugned notice was only to subject him to undue harassment and public humiliation to tarnish his reputation.

He said that the matter of Malam Jabba land lease had already been subjected to rigorous investigation by the National Accountability Bureau, which found no trace of any illegality or impropriety and thus the matter stood as 'past and closed' transaction.

The lawyer said that in 2014, the then provincial government under Chief Minister Pervez Khattak had entered into a contract and leased out land in Malam Jabba area of Swat district to a tourism company, Samsons Group, after a thoroughly competitive process.

He said that the allotment was granted for the establishment of a ski resort and a five-star hotel.

Mr Butt contended that at the time of executing the said contract, the petitioner was not the tourism minister and was serving as minister for energy and power department.

He said that the high court decided the matter in favour of that company.

The counsel pointed out that the matter was also re-opened by the then chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Noor Alam Khan, but the act was challenged in the high court.

He added that the NAB had re-affirmed before the high court that the inquiry was a closed matter.

Mr Butt said that the ACE had also started inquiry on baseless and irrelevant allegations about ownership of Faisal Garden Township land including alleged conversion of agricultural land into residential society, and alleged misappropriation of government funds for development of the said housing society.

He said that the land in question was purchased by the petitioner's grandfather in 1960, which was inherited by his father and subsequently by him and his brother.

The lawyer said that the allegation of conversion of agricultural land into residential colonies was also baseless and in that respect the relevant agriculture officer had also issued a letter in 2022.

He said that as elected public representative, he had consistently been speaking against corruption and misconduct irrespective of political affiliation and openly criticised government actions whether from the opposition or from his own party.

Mr Butt added that the same reasons led to targeted actions against him even in his own province, where his political party held power.

He contended that in a blatant attempt to stifle his voice, the impugned notice was issued to him by the ACE regarding the Malam Jabba land lease.

The counsel contended that the impugned notice was arbitrary and unjustified and without any legal basis.

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PRAYER

Fajr	05:41
Zuhar	12:10
Asr	03:30
Maghreb	05:08
Isha	06:37

Starting time in Peshawar

REFLECTIONS

"POVERTY OFTEN DISABLES AN INTELLIGENT MAN FROM ARGUING HIS CASE."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)
Nahjul Balagha

A POLICE instructor gives self-defence training to students at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, on Tuesday. — Dawn

Young women get training in self-defence skills

PESHAWAR: The US Consulate General in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police organised a two-day training to empower young women and raise awareness against gender-based violence.

Forty students from Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University (SBBWU) and the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences) Peshawar participated in the self-defence training.

A statement issued here said that the training was held at the Eleanor Roosevelt Corner, SBBWU, and was part of the US Consulate's 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign.

On the occasion, public affairs officer Rob Tate remarked: "Self-defence is crucial for everyone regardless of gender or location. This training underscores our commitment to empowering women and ensuring their safety so that they can thrive and contribute positively to the society."

The hands-on training was led by regional security officer of the consulate Rory Kennedy, alongside female officers from the KP police department.

The programme aims to equip participants with essential self-defence skills, enabling them to train their peers and other young women in their communities.

This initiative is a joint effort of the Eleanor Roosevelt Corner Peshawar and Lincoln Corner Peshawar, both part of a network of 19 Lincoln Corners across Pakistan that serve as vital forums for Pakistani youth to learn, innovate and explore. — Bureau Report

Cricket tournament begins in Bajaur

By Our Correspondent

BAJAUR: The first Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) inter-college T-20 tournament began in Bajaur tribal district on Tuesday.

The opening ceremony of the tournament, the first of its kind in the district to be organised by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), was held at Bajaur Sports Complex in Khar, said a press statement.

According to the statement, about 12 colleges of Bajaur, Swat, Lower Dir ,Upper Dir and Mohammad districts are participating in the tournament, supervised jointly by district administration and local sports department.

The opening match of the tournament was played between government post-graduate college Bajaur and government degree college Upper Dir which was won by the former.

All the matches of the tournament, which would continue for more than a week, will be played at Bajaur Sports Complex in Khar.

PTI leaders, lawmakers get protective bail from PHC

Bench directs them to approach relevant courts till Dec 24

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court on Tuesday granted protective bails to several leaders and lawmakers of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf till Dec 24 and directed law enforcement agencies not to arrest them in the cases registered against them till now.

A bench comprising of Justice Sahibzada Asadullah and Justice Wiqar Ahmad directed the petitioners to approach relevant courts for getting relief in cases against them by Dec 24. The bench also directed federal government and its law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to provide details of cases registered against them.

The petitioners included Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, Deputy Speaker Surayia Bibi, MNAs Arbab Shir Ali, Shandana Gulzar, Fazal Mohammad Khan, Syed Ahad Ali Shah, Asif Khan, Yousaf Khan, Zubair Khan, Junaid Akbar, Saleemur Rehman, Sohail Sultan, Sajid Khan, Sahibzada Sibghatullah, MPAs Shafiullah Khan and Mahmood Shah and former MPA Arbab Jehandad Khan.

Advocates Alam Khan Adenzai and Ahad Shah appeared for most of the petitioners and stated that scores of fabricated cases were registered against their clients on political grounds. They stated that many cases were registered against the petitioners after the Nov 24 and demand protests by PTI in Islamabad.

They contended that the petitioners were not informed about the cases registered against them. They added that the petitioners wanted to approach relevant courts but they apprehended their arrest.

They argued that it was the constitutional right of petitioners to be informed about the cases wherein they were charged.

Meanwhile, granting protective bails to three MPAs from Punjab named Mohammad Ahmad Chatha, Asif Ali and Mohammad Ahsan Awan and a PTI leader Sanam Javed, the bench disposed of their respective petitions.

The bench directed them to approach relevant courts by Dec 24 in the cases against them. The bench also directed them to approach Lahore High Court for getting details of cases registered against them there.

Moreover, a single-member bench of PHC Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim granted transit bails to MNAs Asad Qaiser and Badar Khan till Dec 31 in some cases registered against them after the recent Islamabad protests of PTI. The bench directed them to approach relevant courts by that date otherwise the present order would become ineffective.

The petitioners' counsel Alam Khan Adenzai stated that they were charged in multiple cases registered in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and other cities after the recent protests. He stated that the court had earlier granted transit bail to Mr Qaiser in seven of the cases, but now they came to know that he was charged in three more cases.

He requested the bench to grant them transit bails so that they could surrender before relevant courts.

Residents demand rat-culling operation in Aloch

By Our Correspondent

SWANGLA: Residents have demanded of the local administration to launch a rat-culling operation in Aloch, the Puran tehsil headquarters, and its adjacent areas, as rampant rodent infestation is causing inconvenience to them, especially children.

Members of Puran welfare committee made the demand during a meeting with tehsil municipal officer Asmatullah Khan.

The committee's president Shahid Ali Khan and general secretary Murad Ali said a large number of big rats appeared in the streets and homes at night, disturbing the residents and destroying food items inside homes and shops.

He said the rodents also damaged wooden doors and plastic-made items.

Mr Shahid said rats sometime bit schoolchildren in the morning and disappeared during the daytime. He said locals used different pills and substances to kill the rodents, but of no use.

Murad Ali told the Puran TMO that the rats were so big that even adults were afraid of them and avoided coming out of their homes after evening.

He said initially the rodents were few but now the entire Aloch and its surrounding neighbourhoods had been infested with them.

TMO Asmatullah assured the committee members that the civic body would launch a rat-culling operation in Aloch and its suburbs while placing toxic pills. He said the culling operation would continue on Thursday and Friday. He urged the people to avoid sending children and livestock out during the operation for their safety.

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DESPATCH COMPANY
LETTER OF INVITATION

Subject: Consultancy services for design review, construction supervision and allied activities including supervision of construction, erection and testing & commissioning of Lot-1: 500kV D/C Quad Bundle Transmission Line from 500kV Mains Switching Station to 500kV Islamabad West Substation (121 Km Approx.) & Lot-II: 500kV D/C Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Karot HPP to 500kV Mains Switching Station (20 Km Approx.)

1. BACKGROUND — Date: 11-12-2024

Suki Kinari HPP is being constructed in the Northern areas of Pakistan. For the dispersal of the power generated by this Power Plant, a 500kV D/C Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Suki Kinari HPP to the 500kV Mains Switching Station is being constructed. Further, for power dispersal from Karot HPP, a 20 Km long 500kV D/C Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Karot HPP to the 500kV Mains Switching Station is to be constructed. The power is further transmitted from the 500kV Mains Switching Station to Islamabad West Substation through a 121km long 500kV Double Circuit Quad Bundle Transmission Line which is the scope of work of this Project. The transmission line will be constructed through NTDC's own resources in accordance with the Bidding Documents. To ensure successful implementation of the project as per technical specifications, the Employer intends to hire consultancy services for design review, construction supervision and other allied activities of the project.

2. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

i. To implement this project, NTDC requires the services of a competent consulting firm with the appropriate capabilities and experience to execute services detailed in Annex-2 of RFP. A firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) and procedures described in the RFP.
ii. RFP consists of the following documents:
i. This Letter of Invitation
ii. General Information to Consultants (Annex-1)
iii. Terms of Reference for Consultants (Annex-2)
iv. Break up of Man month Inputs of Key Personnel (Annex-3)
v. Format for Technical Proposals (Annex-4)
vi. Format for Financial Proposal (Annex-5)
vii. Standard Contract Agreement for Consulting Services (Annex-6)
viii. Schedule (I, II, III)

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

You are invited to submit a comprehensive Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal, each in triplicate (one original + two copies), in separate sealed envelopes, for the Services required under the Terms of Reference (TOR) as provided in Annex-2, not later than 11:00 hours on 13-01-2025.

4. VALIDITY OF PROPOSAL

The Proposal shall be valid for a period of 120 days after last date of submission, extendable further on the expiry of this period through mutual agreement.

5. VISIT TO NTDC

The firms are expected to inform themselves fully of all aspects of the assignment, required consultancy services for the Project and the local conditions before submitting the Proposal by paying a visit to the Project site and sending written queries to the undersigned. The consulting firms will have no claim against NTDC or any of its representatives for damages, losses, costs or expenses, of any nature whatsoever incurred by the firm resulting from any misunderstanding as to the nature, scope, risks and conditions of the assignment/consultancy services for the project.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence, the Technical & Financial Proposals should be submitted at the following address:

Chief Engineer (Material Procurement & Management), NTDC
6th Floor Shaheen Complex, Ferozepur Road Lahore, Pakistan
Postal Code: 54600, Telephone No. 92-42-99202927
Fax No. 92-42-99202123 E-mail add cm: cemmpm@ntdc.com.pk

7. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In the event you require any explanation to RFP documentation, you may contact the office of the undersigned not later than one week before submission date of the Proposal. PID(11411)24

Chief Engineer (MP&M) NTDC

UNIVERSITY OF SWAT
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
PPA MODEL ON BOT BASIS

The University of Swat invites sealed proposals (Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure) in accordance with KPPRA/PPRA/PEC Rules and the Request for Proposal (RFP) from well-reputed Firms registered with PEC in Category C-3 and AEDB in Category C-3 for the "PROCUREMENT OF AGGREGATE 500 KWP ROOFTOP ON-GRID SOLAR PV SYSTEM ON PPA BOT MODEL" at Main Campus, University of Swat, Charbagh Swat.

Terms and Conditions:

1) Firms/Companies having the mentioned categories, while owing valid ownership can only apply for this work. RFP will be issued upon written request along with attachments (1) Application on letter head of the firm/company, (2) National Identity Card (CNIC copy), (3) Valid registration of Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant Category, (4) Ownership deeds/documents, (5) Active registration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority and Federal Board of Revenue (6) Valid Registration of AEDB in the relevant Category (7) Original Fee Receipt.
2) RFP will be issued to the Firms till December 26, 2024 to those who applied and have deposited required fee of Rs. 5,000/- (non-refundable) to be deposited online in A/C No. 4156463740, National Bank of Pakistan, Main Branch, Saidu Sharif-Swat, (Branch Code 1130). Sealed RFP complete in all respects (duly signed and stamped on each page) along with Bid Security (02% of Bid Price) in shape of Deposit at Call from Scheduled Banks in favor of the Vice Chancellor, University of Swat must be submitted as per the procedure laid in the RFP. The complete RFP (both original and duplicate) shall be sealed in one envelope.
3) Last date for submission of the RFP shall be December 27, 2024 at 11:00 am. The RFP must be submitted through Courier at Administration Block, Main Campus, Charbagh, University of Swat. RFP delivered by hand will not be accepted. RFP will be opened on December 27, 2024 at 11:30 am at the Committee Room, Administration Block, University of Swat, Charbagh by the Committee in the presence of the participants (who wishes to participate). Any Firm who provides incorrect information/fake documents shall be disqualified, and their disqualification will be communicated to PEC & AEDB. The additional Security (if required) will be sorted from the successful Firm in light of KPPRA Rules. University of Swat may reject any or all proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of the proposal in accordance with KPPRA Rules.

DIRECTOR WORKS, UNIVERSITY OF SWAT
Administration Block, Main Campus, Charbagh,
University of Swat, Contact: 0946-730505

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DESPATCH COMPANY
AMENDMENT NO. 03

TO THE TENDER NO. ADB-401E-01R(C)-2024
PROCUREMENT OF 500/220KV, 750MVA (3*250MVA) AUTO TRANSFORMER BANK AT 500KV GRID STATION FAISALABAD WEST (ONE BANK) UNDER LOAN NO. 4271 - PAK: SECOND POWER TRANSMISSION ENHANCEMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM TRANCHE 4

Reference invitation notice for the above tender published in national dailies. The submission date of bids has been extended. Now the bids will be received on or before 26.12.2024 at 11:00 A.M. instead of existing i.e., 11.12.2024.

Note: All other terms and conditions of the tender notice shall remain unchanged. PID(11616)24

CHIEF ENGINEER (MP&M) NTDC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DESPATCH COMPANY
AMENDMENT NO. 04

TO THE TENDER NO. ADB-401E-01R(D)-2024
PROCUREMENT OF 500/220KV, 450MVA (3*150MVA) AUTO TRANSFORMER BANKS AT 500KV MULTAN & DADU GRID STATIONS (TWO BANKS) UNDER ADB LOAN NO. 4271-PAK: SECOND POWER TRANSMISSION ENHANCEMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM - TRANCHE 4

Reference invitation notice for the above tender published in national dailies. The submission date of bids has been extended. Now the bids will be received on or before 26.12.2024 at 12:00 P.M. instead of existing i.e., 12.12.2024.

NOTE: All other terms & conditions of tender notice shall remain unchanged. PID(11449)24

CHIEF ENGINEER (MP&M) NTDC

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COURT NOTICE

MIRPUR

IN the Court of Altaf Hussain Civil Judge Court No. 1 Mirpur(AJK). Case No. 104/24. Institution 20-10-2024. Title: Imdad Ur Rehman vs Muhammad Ibrahim etc. Proclamation for (4) Muhammad Tanveer Khan S/o Muhammad Ashraf (10) Gulzareen Khan Bint (11) Raseema Akhter (12) Shakeelullah S/o Muhammad Akhter R/o Chouk Bahlwala Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 14-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN the Court of Altaf Hussain Civil Judge Court No. 1 Mirpur(AJK). Case No. 125/10. Institution 20-05-2010. Title: Muhammad Nawaz vs Rafiaq Begum etc. Proclamation for (1) Qudsi Bibi Widow (2) Bashar Ali son (3) Asia Bibi (4) Tazeem Akhtar D/o Muhammad Shafee (1) Azad Hussain son (2) Bilqees Akhtar D/o Hussain Khan R/o Mozia Pinyam Chakswari Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 17-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN the Court of Altaf Hussain Civil Judge Court No. 1 Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 17/21. Institution 19-01-2021. Title: Affaq Ali vs Muhammad Arif etc. Proclamation for (10) Sheikh Mahmood S/o Reeda Khan (21) Mangroo Hussain S/o Nikangla R/o Gandy Salkani Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 11-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN the Court of Altaf Hussain Civil Judge Court No. 1 Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 273/23. Institution 20-09-2023. Title: Allah Altaf vs Parveen Akhtar etc. Proclamation for (3) Abeel Abbas S/o Qamar Abbas R/o Baerise Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 27-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN the Court of Altaf Hussain Civil Judge Court No. 1 Mirpur(AJK). Case No. 311/24. Institution 21-10-2024. Title: Muhammad Ibrees vs Qudsi Bibi etc. Proclamation for (7) Qudsi Bibi W/o (8) Arsalan (9) Zeshan S/o Ibrees R/o Bandhuman Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 20-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN the Court of Shahzad Akram Additional District Judge Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 12/24. Institution 12-06-2024. Title: Arif Mahmood vs Municipal Corporation etc. Application. Proclamation for (6) Sohail Sarfraz (8) Amir Sarfraz (9) Umer Sarfraz sons (10) Sania Nawaz (11) Ismaliyaa (12) Usma Zahid D/o Captain (I) Muhammad Sarfraz R/o House No. 260 Sector F/1 Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 12-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN the Court Of Sohail Aslam Senior Civil Judge Mirpur(AJK). Case No. 20. Institution 13-03-2024. Title: Afzal Ahmed vs Abdul Razaq etc. Application. Proclamation for (2) Alia Begum W/o Abdul Razaq R/o Sector G/4 Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 20-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN the Court of Sohail Aslam Senior Civil Judge Mirpur(AJK). Case No. 171. Institution 20-12-2023. Title: Muhammad Arif vs Abdul Salam etc. Suit Proclamation for (3) Mueed Bi (4) Sheen Bi D/o Jalal Khan R/o Chikar(Mujla Khan) Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 20-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN the High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 21/24. Institution 05-03-2022. Title: Shefid Mahmood vs Khalid Mahmood etc. Application. Proclamation for (1) Khalid Mahmood S/o Muhammad Allam R/o Abu Wala Tehsil & District Bhimber (2) Muhammad Afzal S/o Muhammad Bota R/o Khadotha Tehsil & District Bhimber (3) Kismat Hussain S/o Ghulam Hussain (4) Danish Ali (5) Daniyal Akram (6) Jawad Akram S/o Muhammad Akram Guardian Shahid Mahmood. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 10-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN the High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 01/24. Institution 07-02-2024. Title: Sahibzada Islam Rashid vs Mawlvi Raza Shah etc. Proclamation for (2) Afzal S/o Gul Zahoor Ahmed R/o English Present Hamid Abbad Colony Chikswari Mirpur. Presently live abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 30-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN The High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 60/23. Institution 20-09-2023. Title: Naseem Akhter vs Custodian Evacuee etc. Writ. Proclamation for (2) Qamrul Sun (3) Parveen D/o Lehrasib Khan (4) Allah Dita S/o Riyasat Khan (17) Altaf S/o Ahyat S/o Bostan Khan legal heirs of Ahyat R/o Khdari Tehsil Dadyal District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 23-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN The High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 51/22. Institution 20-04-2022. Title: Altaf Hussain vs Abdul Ajaz etc. Revision Petition. Proclamation for Abdul Ajaz S/o Meher Din Cast Jat R/o Pathuwala Tehsil & District Bhimber. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 30-12-2024 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN The High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 62/23. Institution 22-03-2023. Title: Muhammad Bashaarat vs Muhammad Mustfa etc. Civil Appeal. Proclamation for Muhammad Mustfa S/o Ghulam Mustfa R/o House No. 01 Sector F/4 Azad Sadhem Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 27-01-2025 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

IN The High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 70/21. Institution 10-06-2021. Title: Majid Bashir vs Muhammad Rashid etc. Civil Appeal. Proclamation for (1) Muhammad Rashid S/o Muhammad Jan (2) Muhammad Yousaf S/o Fatha Muhammad Cast Bawria Regoot R/o Islamgarh Tehsil & District Mirpur. Presently abroad. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08:30 am on 12-02-2025 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (3761277656)

TALAGANG

IN the Court of Raja Muhammad Ajmal Sethi Additional District Judge Talagang Kiran Parveen W/o Ishaq Ahmed Ajmal Ishaq Ahmed S/o Khuda Bakhsh cast awan resident Mohallah Bakhsh wala Lawa, Tehsil Lawa District Talagang. Now abroad. You are directed to appear in the Court on 11-12-2024 at 9:00 am. Otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated. (3761277656)

ABBOTTABAD

IN The Court Of Muhammad Salman Civil Judge VI Abbottabad Case No. 201-1 Muhammad Arif Vs Farhan Khan, Farhan Khan S/o Faheem Khan R/o Kakul Mohalla Khalwat Zia. Abbottabad. You are informed to attend the Court personally, through council or attorney on 04-01-2025 otherwise Next Proceeding shall be initiated Against you ex-parte. (3761277656)

BANNU

IN the Court of Samia Razaq Civil Judge IV Bannu Suit No. 61/1 Institution No. 3/3/2024 Ghulam Zar Vs Hafiez Khan Heirs of Jamail Khan (2) 271 Abid Khan, 272 Rehmat Ullah, 273 Ghani ur Rehman resident of Cemetery Sunati Bannu Present UAE. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the above mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way. It is, therefore, proclaimed under Order 5, Rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 8 am on 13-1-2025, the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. No arguments of any nature shall be entertained thereafter. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. (3761277656)

CHARSADDA

IN the Court of Ashfaq Ahmed Additional District and Session Judge III Charsadda, Next date of hearing 17-12-2024 Case Title: Farid Ullah Vs Mushtaq Notice to No.-(1) Arshad son of Sardiber (2) Kashif Ali son of Arshad R/o Rajar Amir Abad Charsadda (1/3) Luqman (1/3) Shafiyan (1/6) Noman sons of (1/3) Sardar Meena Widow (1/6) Mashal D/o Mushtaq Khan R/o Peshawar Road Land Mark Charsadda. In the above titled suit the service of above defendants are not possible through ordinary means. Therefore, you defendants are informed through this publication that on 17-12-2024 at 8:00 am you has / have to appear before this Court either personally or through attorney or through counsel to pursue the suit noted above, otherwise Ex-parte proceedings will be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. Sd/- Additional District & Session Judge-III, Charsadda. (3761277656)

GUJAR KHAN

IN the Court of Attab Ahmed Civil Judge Tehsil Gujar Khan, District Rawalpindi. Shahid Naseem Versus Amjad Hussain etc. Suit for Declaration etc. To. Tooqeer Bhatti son of Bashir Hussain Kiss Bhatti, resident of Dhoke Bhatian, P/O Mosa Kasaal, Tehsil Gujar Khan District Rawalpindi. Currently in Abroad. You are inform to attend the Court personal through counsel or attorney on 19-12-2024 at 9 am to avoid ex-parte proceedings. (3761277656)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

PESHAWAR

PUBLIC at large is informed that Mr Tariq Usman S/o Sahib Zada, is the owner of a Plot No. 524 Sector 4C/1 measuring 5 Marla at Zone 4 Regi Model Town Peshawar. He has given its power of attorney to Mr Noor Wali Khan S/o. Sheikh Payao through vide Deed No 1068 Daftar No. 4, Volume No 242 Date 05-11-2024. Now Mr Noor Wali Khan wants to transfer the plot through given attorney. Therefore, if any bank, department, firm, or individual have any objection on this transfer, he should contact the undersigned with written proof within 10 days. Otherwise, the plot shall be transferred and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Officer (Transfer) Regi Model Town Peshawar. (3761277656)

DAWN the complete newspaper

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

HMC treats over 200 stroke patients with new injection

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: More than 200 stroke patients have successfully been treated at Hayatabad Medical Complex with the help of a new injection.

The medical director of the hospital, Prof Shehzad Akbar Khan, told a ceremony here on Tuesday that HMC was the first public sector institution in Pakistan to provide thrombolysis treatment to such a significant number of stroke patients. The ceremony was held to mark the completion of treatment of 200 stroke patients at the hospital.

Prof Shehzad said that since the programme began in February 2022, the dedicated efforts of the hospital administration and trained stroke care team ensured successful recovery of patients. He said that patients received treatment at 50 per cent payment of injection at neurology department of the hospital under trained specialists.

He said the ischemic strokes account for 89 per cent of cases while haemorrhagic strokes comprised 11 per cent of the cases. He said that globally, 5.5 million people were affected by strokes annually.

The head of neurology department, Dr Mian Ayazul Haq, said that stroke survivors came on stretchers and wheelchairs to hospitals but went back healthy for homes without any support. He said that stroke was sudden onset of weakness in limbs or face, which was the most disabling disease of world.

He said that stroke caused deaths and disabilities. "It all depends on how quick a patient is shifted to hospital and administered the injection imported from abroad," he added.

Dr Mian Ayaz said that the result of patient's treatment depended on their early arrival at hospital and prompt treatment. He said that cure rate was as per global standard. "We are also imparting skills to our trainee doctors," he added.

He said that they were requesting government to include the injections in Sehat Card Plus programme so all the patients could get it. He said that patients were discharged from hospital on average after five days, depending on their condition.

The adviser to chief minister on health, Ibrahim Ali, promised to include thrombolysis treatment in SCP scheme. He said that health and education were top priorities of government. "The government is working on digitization to improve overall service delivery," he added.

Hazesco not fully functional, claims Wapda union

MANSEHRA: All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Workers Union central vice president Jamil Tanoli on Tuesday urged the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) and Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) to issue a licence to the Hazara Electric Supply Company (Hazesco) without delay to ensure its smooth functioning.

"The government has appointed the chief executive officer to Hazesco but he is powerless to the suffering of commercial and domestic consumers," Mr Tanoli told reporters here.

Accompanied by other union leaders, Mr Tanoli said that technical issues facing the newly-formed electric company had caused prolonged power outages and low voltage in the Hazara division.

"Once Nepra and SECP issue the licence, Hazesco will be able to serve its consumers more effectively and generate revenue for the government," he said.

Mr Tanoli said chairman of the National Assembly standing committee on power Mohammad Idrees had also recommended to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif the immediate nationalisation of Lower and Upper Kohistan and Kolai Palas with Hazesco.

"We are current by getting only 600 megawatts of electricity instead of the requirement of 1,000 megawatts, causing prolonged power outages and low voltage issues," he said.

Mr Tanoli said Hazesco had yet to become fully functional, as 60 per cent of its positions, including those of meter readers, clerks, assistant linemen and bill distributors, were vacant. He said the federal cabinet was likely to discuss and resolve these issues in its upcoming meeting.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced Rs2.5 billion for the establishment of Hazesco offices, so he will hopefully lay the foundation stone for this mega complex soon," he said.

Meanwhile, residents and local government representatives of Sari Sokdian area in Oghi tehsil on Tuesday urged the government to finish the construction of their local primary school.

"The school work has been suspended for the last six years, forcing students to receive education in a local mosque," local councillor Javed Sikandar told reporters in Oghi. Accompanied by a group of residents, Mr Sikandar said it was the only school that provided primary education to the local children.

"We raised this issue with local lawmakers and senior education officials but no action has been taken," he said.

The councillor said the provincial government made call claims about educational reforms but students here attended classes without a proper school building.

"If the government does not resume school construction within a week, we will take to the streets," he said. — Correspondent

A VENDOR serves chicken soup to his customers at Hospital Chowk, Landi Kotal, Khyber tribal district. — Dawn

CDA to shift institutions' plots from Kuri to Sector I-17

Civic body decides e-balloting for C-14 to be held next month

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) Board on Tuesday approved a move to shift several plots allotted to government departments and private universities from Kuri to Sector I-17 in light of its joint venture to develop 50,000 kanal of land in the area.

The decision was taken in light of a joint venture of the Defence Housing Authority and the Capital Development Authority for the development of 10,000 kanal in Kuri – a project that impacted several plots allotted to various departments and private universities. As per the agreement, the CDA will get 55pc of the developed plots while the DHA will get 45pc plots.

The plots allotted to several bodies, including the Federal Investigation Agency, were affected by the JV, prompting the CDA to shift them to the "institutional sector" I-17.

In 2018, the CDA decided to allot the entire sector (7,344 kanal) to the army-run National University of Medical Sciences (Nums) to set up a medical city against a tentative cost of Rs14 billion.

The deal was not executed as Nums could only deposit partial payment and the CDA allotted a piece of land against the payment made by Nums. The remaining land was decided to be used for some other purpose. The board which met on Tuesday, with Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, in the chair approved the shifting of plots/land of the affected institutions from Kuri to Sector I-17.

The CDA board also discussed the 'geospatial technology project' of the planning wing, which was started a couple of years ago to address encroachments on the CDA land, the unregulated growth of informal settlements, and challenges posed by urban sprawl. Under this project, the CDA was supposed to work on facilities with an emphasis on e-governance, automation and digitisation, as well as the IT infrastructure.

During the meeting, sources said that the planning member said that this project was very important for the CDA and the planning wing and its term should be extended. The member also stated that this project was of a technical nature and it should remain part of the planning wing.

According to sources, the member technology pleaded that most of the functions of this project came under his wing. The CDA chairman, however, asked both members to sit with the administration member and prepare a viable working paper for the next meeting.

The board also decided to conduct e-balloting of the Sector C-14 plots next month and for this purpose, the board approved the renewal of the CDA Nadra agreement. Meanwhile, the CDA board also approved the reorganisation of the CDA Enforcement Wing and Security Directorate.

During the meeting, it was also decided to allocate space for the Smart Islamabad Initiative at the Jinnah Convention Center. The meeting also deliberated on regulations for establishing electric vehicle (EV) charging points at existing and new fuel stations in Islamabad. It was decided that consultations and feedback would be sought from all stakeholders, ensuring the alignment of these regulations with the federal government's policy. The chairman also directed the CDA to initiate the process of shifting CDA's transport fleet to electric vehicles. Similarly, the CDA board also approved the hiring of consultants under Rule 42(1) for the Khayaban-e-Iqbal signal-free corridor project.

Health dept asked to make Dir medical college operational

PESHAWAR: The adviser to chief minister on health, Ibrahim Ali, has directed relevant officials to expedite process of recruitments and procurement of equipment for operationalisation of Timergara Medical College.

He issued the instruction at a meeting held at health department to address the challenges hindering operationalisation of Timergara Medical College, a press release said.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Population Welfare Malik Liaqat, Minister for Prisons Humayun Khan, MNA Bashir Khan, MPA Shafiullah Khan, MPA Ghazibar Rehman, Special Secretary Health Sharif Hussain, Additional Secretary Health Fayaz Sherpao, Lower Dir Deputy Commissioner Arshad Khan, Chief Planning Officer Qaiser Alam, Principal of Timergara Medical College Prof Samiullah and other relevant officials.

Prof Samiullah briefed the participants of the meeting on the obstacles impeding the activation of the medical college. Ibrahim Ali directed special secretary health to complete an inquiry into construction deficiencies, recruitment and procurement processes within 15 days and submit a detailed report.

He also issued instructions to expedite supply and inspection of equipment purchased for the college. The meeting was informed that former project director Dr Shaukat Ali would formally hand over the procured items to the principal.

The health adviser ordered immediate provision of faculty to operationalise the college at the earliest. The meeting was informed that of 436 sanctioned positions, 228 were vacant. Recruitment for posts in BPS-7 to BPS-16 has been completed, but the remaining positions require urgent attention.

In response, Ibrahim Ali instructed officials to fill the vacant positions through walk-in interviews to ensure timely availability of staff and faculty. — Bureau Report

'Open day' held at Governor's House to resolve problems of peoples

PESHAWAR: Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday held 'open day' at Governor's House to address problems of people on priority basis. He said that 'open day' would be held three times in a month, within every 10 days.

The event was attended by people and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) provincial president Mohammad Ali Shah Bacha, secretary coordination Farzand Ali Wazir, deputy general secretary Abrar Saeed Swati and Peshawar division president Midahuddin.

The governor said that the initiative was taken to facilitate direct communication between the provincial leadership and people. He said that during "open day", he and PPP provincial leadership would meet people and party workers at Governor's House to listen to their concerns, complaints and work for resolving the same.

He also acknowledged the longstanding issues and challenges faced by PPP workers, which led to the decision to hold "open day".

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting, he discussed the role of Young Parliamentarians Forum of Pakistan in shaping the country's future leadership.

He held the meeting with delegation of Young Parliamentarians of Pakistan at Governor's House. The delegation was led by Member of National Assembly Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar.

The forum, comprising members from different political parties, is meant to provide guidance on various issues and offer training to new members. The governor highlighted the forum's significant role in connecting young politicians and providing a platform to them to contribute to country.

He discussed the province's ongoing challenges with the delegation and shared insights on the factors contributing to the current situation. He expressed hope for the active participation of young parliamentarians in representing youth and addressing the province's issues in the national parliament.

Similarly, MPA Iqbal Wazir and former MPA of ANP Salahuddin and a delegation of Peoples Lawyers Forum led by Mohsin Afridi called on the governor.

During the meetings, the members of the delegations exchanged views on various matters with him. The governor assured them to resolve their problems on priority basis. — APP

Students asked to wage struggle against corruption

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University in collaboration with the commissioner's office hosted an event titled 'zero tolerance for corruption' here on Tuesday.

Mattani assistant commissioner Ayesha Tahir was the chief guest.

Mehwish Gul, deputy director National Accountability Bureau, was also in attendance, according to a statement issued here.

The event aimed at raising awareness regarding the critical issue of corruption prevailing in the society.

A two-kilometre marathon race was also organised, followed by an awareness walk.

The students of various departments of the university designed different creative posters to highlight the event's theme and the importance of spreading awareness against the menace.

The students also delivered inspiring speeches.

Speaking on the occasion, Ayesha Tahir highlighted the significance of maintaining integrity and transparency, mentioning corruption as a chronic disease that undermined society. She urged students to take it as a moral responsibility to play their role in eliminating the curse from the society. She also encouraged the students to remain focused and opt for impactful careers to ensure they got a chance to be a part of promoting a corruption-free society.

Call for awareness about individuals' social, cultural rights

Functions, walks held to mark Human Rights Day

Dawn Report

LOWER DIR/KHYBER: Functions and walks were held in Lower Dir and Khyber districts to mark the Human Rights Day on Tuesday.

The administration in collaboration with the district youth affairs department, the Malakand youth assembly and the child protection unit organised a seminar at a government high school in Balambat. Later, a walk was also organised.

The district administration in collaboration with National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) arranged another function at government degree college, Culalai.

Government officials, including additional deputy commissioner Badsher Khan, college principal Abdus Salim Khan, child protection officer Tayyab Khan and district youth officer Malik Shehzad Tariq were in attendance.

Akbar Khan, a human rights activist, emphasised that the purpose of the day was to raise awareness about individuals' physical, social and cultural rights and to ensure their welfare. He also explained the rights of children enshrined in Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

ADC Badsher Khan shared his thoughts on the role of NCHD in fostering human rights in the country.

Principal Abdus Salim highlighted the global framework of human rights and the implementation status of international human rights treaties.

Mr Tayyab emphasised the importance of child protection and discussed the legal framework that supported it. He highlighted various laws and regulations designed to safeguard children's rights and ensure their well-being. "This includes mechanisms for reporting abuse, providing support services for affected children and promoting awareness of children's rights within the community."

Meanwhile, a vibrant event bringing together people from various walks of life, including elders, youth, elected representatives and government officials, marked the Human Rights Day in Khyber.

The event, organised by district emergency operations centre, focused on the theme of health, polio eradication, essential immunisation and promotion of human rights.

STUDENTS sing the national anthem at an event held in Balambat, Lower Dir, on Tuesday. — Dawn

Speaking on the occasion, Said Afzal Shinwari, communication officer, Khyber polio eradication programme, highlighted the critical intersection of health and human rights, emphasising that access to healthcare, including essential immunisation, was a fundamental human right.

With the upcoming polio campaign scheduled from Dec 16 to 22, he urged the community and other stakeholders to collectively work toward polio eradication. He said the practice of linking demands with polio vaccination should be discouraged.

Tehsil chairman Shah Khalid reflected on UDHR, noting that health was a cornerstone of human dignity, and promoting health and well-being of communities was a shared responsibility. He said they must ensure that no child was left unvaccinated.

Landi Kotal additional assistant commissioner Rawia Ali Shah underscored the government's commitment to upholding the rights of all citizens, particularly the right to health. "The fight against polio is a shared mission, requiring collective action and awareness at every level," he added.

The session concluded with a call to action for community members, government bodies, and other stakeholders to champion the cause of polio eradication and uphold the rights and responsibilities enshrined in UDHR.

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CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the advertisement published in Daily Mashriq dated: 10/12/2024, "Applicants who have already applied for the post of Demonstrator vide this office advertisement dated 28/2/2024 (in Daily Mashriq), shall not apply again, as their previous applications are valid and will be considered for test/interview".

Dean/Chief Executive Officer
Bannu Medical College,
Bannu

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