FOUNDED BY QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

DAWN

Friday
December 13, 2024
Jumadi-us-Sani 10, 1446

KARACHI

Rs 35.00
18 Pages
Vol. LXXVIII No. 342
Regd. No. SS-022

www.dawn.com

Imran miffed by party's 'all is well' attitude

- Ex-PM, wife Bushra indicted in Toshakhana case over Bulgari jewellery
- PTI founder reiterates civil disobedience call; claims former spymaster was not acting on his own
- Lahore ATC indicts Qureshi, others in May 9 case

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: A day after his party leaders agreed to negotiate with the federal government if the offer was 'serious', former prime minister Imran Khan on Thursday criticised the PTI leadership for acting like "all is well" and reiterated his call for civil disobedience if the government continued to ignore his demands.

The PTI founder made these comments in a conversation with journalists after a court convened in Adiala jail indicted him and spouse Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana case that pertained to Bulgari jewellery. This arraignment coincided with the indictment of his close aide Shah Mahmood Qureshi who, along with several party leaders, was charge-sheeted by an anti-terrorism court in the May 9 riots in Lahore.

Mr Khan expressed disappointment over the lack of accountability and public acknowledgement of violence that occurred during the D-Chowk protests in the last week of November. The PTI had claimed that the government used live ammunition against its supporters that killed 12 people — a claim denied by the federal government.

The former premier criticised the PTI leadership for not raising this issue forcefully in parliament while also expressing displeasure over statements of the party leaders which portrayed 'all is well'. A day earlier, PTI interim chairman Gohar Ali Khan, while speaking in the National Assembly, said: "Even if bullets have been fired, there should at least be the courage to give answers, show remorse, apologise, investigate, and compensate the people."

Mr Khan wondered why the party leadership is giving the impression of being a friendly opposition. "I'm not expressing no confidence in the leadership, but I am concerned with the handling of the D-Chowk incident," the PTI founder said, instructing the party leadership to uphold the names of those who went missing during the D-Chowk protest.

In his media talk, the PTI founder reiterated his demands for the formation of a judicial commission to investigate the D-Chowk crackdown and the release of detained PTI workers. He said if these demands were not met by December 15, the former ruling party would escalate the protest drive, including intensifying its call for civil disobedience and observing a day of mourning.

Regarding the court martial of the former Inter-Services Intelligence chief Faiz Hameed, Imran Khan said that the arrangements was working under then-army chief retired Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and was not acting on his own. Mr Khan lambasted singer Salman Ahmed for hurling baseless allegations targeting former first lady Bushra Bibi and termed the tweets of Salman Ahmed as foolish.

A political resolution: Editorial on Page 6

Indictment in Toshakhana case

The second indictment of the ex-PM in as many weeks came in a corruption case being heard by a special court of the Federal Investigation Agency. Special Judge Central Sharaabh Arjumand presided over the session and read out the charge sheet in the presence of both accused. Both individuals denied the charges levelled against them.

Following the indictment, the court announced that the regular trial would commence by

Continued on Page 11

DAMASCUS: People search documents to find any information on their missing relatives at the Mazzeh military airport, on Thursday. Rebel forces took Damascus in a lightning offensive on Dec 8, ousting President Bashar al-Assad and ending five decades of Baath rule.—AFP

Report on Page 11

Provinces told to pay Rs150bn dues to avoid power cut

- Minister says Discos will be unable to continue power supply unless outstanding amounts are paid • Sindh owes almost Rs60bn to suppliers

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday asked all the four provincial governments to clear their electricity bills amounting to Rs150 billion in order to avoid power cuts and financial loss to the national economy.

In separate letters, Power Minister Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari sought personal intervention of the four chief ministers to help clear dues outstanding against their departments.

He warned that "with limited financial resources available with Distribution Companies (Discos), it would be very difficult to continue uninterrupted electricity supply, not to speak of financial losses to the federal government and the ensuing circular debt which is devouring our economy".

According to these letters, Sindh tops the list with payables totalling Rs59.68bn as of September this year, followed by Balochistan's Rs19.4bn and Punjab's Rs18.01bn. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has the lowest electricity payables amounting to Rs8.88bn.

Mr Leghari told the chief ministers that the federal government had launched a number of reform initiatives to bring back power utility companies on the path of efficient service delivery.

"One key area of the reforms roadmap pertains to consolidation of financial health of the power distribution companies," he said, adding that this was dependent on generating more financial resources and focusing on anti-theft and recovery of outstanding dues which have accumulated over time.

Mr Leghari said the power division was running a campaign for recovery of unpaid bills, wherein beside other challenges, one key issue is the outstanding amounts of provincial government departments that run into billions of rupees.

He asked the chief ministers to personally intervene and direct the provincial departments to clear the outstanding electricity dues.

The power division and Discos' management would provide all possible coordination for clarifications and reconciliation of bills, the minister added.

Biggest defaulter

The government departments in Sindh have total payables of Rs59.68bn, including an amount of Rs38.16bn which is due to Sukkur Electric Power Company (Sepco) and Rs21.5bn to Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (Hesco) as of September this year.

Quetta Electric Supply Company (Qesco) has the highest amount of unpaid bills by public sector consumers belonging to the Balochistan government.

Five Punjab-based Discos have receivables to the tune of Rs58.01bn against Punjab government departments. Lahore

Continued on Page 5

SC sets aside de-seating of MNA over 'floor crossing'

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday set aside the Nov 21, de-seating of MNA Adil Khan Bazai by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for alleged floor-crossing.

"For reasons to be recorded later, these appeals are allowed," said a three-judge regular bench headed by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah.

Also consisting of Justice Ayesha A. Malik and Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi, the three-judge bench had taken up a set of appeals by Mr Bazai against the ECP's decision in response to the Nov 1, reference filed by the speaker National Assembly in terms of Article 63A of the Constitution on defection from the PML-N parliamentary party.

"The impugned judgements passed by the Election Commission of Pakistan are set aside, and the declarations made by the party head of PML-N that the appellant had defected from the political party are not confirmed," said the one-paragraph short order.

"Accordingly, the appellant's (Adil Bazai) membership of the National Assembly from seat NA-262 stands restored as an independent member, not as a member of the Parliamentary Party of PML(N)," the short order explained. The detailed reasons will follow soon.

Earlier, on Dec 9, the regular bench had suspended the ECP's verdict.

In his reference, the

Continued on Page 5

Officials hold out hope for Kurram accord

Road connecting Parachinar to Thall, Hangu remains closed

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A jirga mediating between rival groups in the volatile Kurram tribal district on Thursday sounded a degree of optimism to get the two sides to sign a "sustainable peace agreement" in the next 24 hours.

"It has been exhausting and very tiring, but we have made a lot of ground and achieved consensus on nearly 90 per cent of the issues," a senior administration official told *Dawn* over the phone from Kurram.

The agreement would include the demolition of bunkers and de-weaponisation of the district, the official said.

The road linking the regional headquarters Parachinar with Thall and Hangu and the rest of the country has been closed as fighters took to the mountains and established bunkers.

Police and paramilitary forces have vacated and demolished the bunkers, but the road remains closed owing to a fragile security situation and the fear of reprisal attacks.

"The presence of heavy weapons is the root cause of the problem, which has led to so many

Continued on Page 5

MARKETS in Parachinar have reopened but residents are stranded without food and medicine in more remote parts of Kurram district.—AFP

Kurram's road to suffering: Situationer on Page 12

Apex court scrutinises scope of military courts

Justice Mandokhail asks how Army act can be applied to someone not part of military

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The questions about the legitimacy of military trials of civilians in light of Article 8 were the highlight of Thursday's hearing as the Supreme Court's constitutional bench took up appeals against military trials concerning the May 9 attacks on army installations.

Headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan, the seven-member constitutional bench resumed the hearing on a number of Intra-Court Appeals (ICAs) against the Oct 23, 2023 five-judge order that nullified the trial of civilians by the military courts. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Justice Musarrat Hilali, and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan were also part of the bench.

Justice Mandokhail wondered how an individual, not subject to the Pakistan Army Act (PAA) 1952, could be deprived of fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution if tried under the army's disciplinary structure. Justice Mandokhail noted that the army discipline would be adversely affected in case ordinary civilians were also brought into its ambit.

Justice Mandokhail said army discipline would apply to someone in the military just like the agriculture department's rules would apply to someone working in that department, questioning how the army act could be applied to someone who was not part of the army. Will it not be a violation of Article 8 to bring an unrelated person under the military discipline, he wondered.

A civilian who kills a soldier will always be tried in the ordinary court of law; besides, attacking military installations was also a crime to be tried under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), Justice Mandokhail observed.

Defence Ministry lawyer Khawaja Haris argued that the Oct 23, 2023, judgement in the military trials of the civilians had two parts since the verdict had held that Section 2(1)(d)(i) and 2(1)

Continued on Page 5

Homeland's divisions spill over to Pakistanis in US

Envoy to US holds hectic meetings with lawmakers; pro-govt group calls for ending US 'interference' as PTI ramps up campaign over Nov 26 'killings'

By Anwar Iqbal in Washington

AS Imran Khan's supporters amplify their campaign for his release and seek international condemnation of the Nov 26 action against their rally in Islamabad, a contrasting group of Pakistani Americans in Dallas, Texas, has called on US lawmakers to refrain from interfering in Pakistan's internal affairs.

This growing divergence among Pakistani Americans highlights the complexity of the political landscape within the diaspora, mirroring the divisions in Pakistan itself.

In Washington, Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh has been actively engaging with US lawmakers to present Islamabad's perspective. Over the past week, he has met with more than a dozen lawmakers to emphasise that Pakistan remains governed by a democratically elected administration.

"Pakistan already has a parliament, judiciary, and political parties," says Fayyaz Hassan, co-founder of the Texas based group 'Stand With Pakistan'. "It's not perfect, but we have a functioning democracy."

However, supporters of Imran Khan, gathered at the National Press Club in Washington on Tuesday, strongly disagreed. "You do not open fire at political rallies in a democracy," argued Dr Malik Usman, representing the Pakistani American Physicians Association (PAPA).

The National Press Club event featured several prominent voices, including Sajjad Barki, a PTI representative who recently met US President-elect Donald Trump and other Republican leaders. While Barki described the meetings as "very positive" and "encouraging", he refrained from sharing specific outcomes. When asked if Trump had promised to secure Imran Khan's release, he sidestepped the question, stating, "It's the people of Pakistan who will restore democracy to their country, not external powers."

Other speakers highlighted the alleged violence during the Nov 26 protest in Islamabad, reading out the names of a dozen individuals they claim were killed during the demonstration. "Many, many more are missing, and no one is sharing information about them," said Imran Khan's sister Aleema, speaking via video link from Pakistan. She alleged that security forces had opened fire on peaceful protestors, removed bodies from the scene, and erased hospital records.

These accusations were coupled with calls for international intervention. "Since justice in Pakistan seems unattainable, Pakistanis abroad must raise awareness," said Barrister Ehtesham Amiruddin. He urged collaboration with organisations like Amnesty International to bring the matter before the International Criminal Court.

Barki joined other speakers in urging Pakistani Americans to consider reducing remittances to Pakistan as a means of increasing pressure on the rulers in Islamabad. However, he clarified that PTI had not endorsed calls for civil disobedience.

Diplomatic counter-efforts

Ambassador Sheikh's engagements with US lawmakers have also touched on these issues, as Islamabad seeks to counter PTI's campaign. On Wednesday alone, he held six meetings with members of Congress, focusing on enhancing bilateral relations and addressing the narratives surrounding Pakistan's domestic politics.

In his meeting with Congresswoman Maxine Waters, the ambassador stressed the importance of "deepening trade, investment, defence, and security ties" while fostering people-to-people contacts. Similar discussions occurred in meetings with Congressman Neal Dunn and John Rutherford, with a focus on engaging with the incoming Republican administration.

Yet, the embassy's statements have remained deliberately vague. For instance, after meeting with Congressman Dunn, the embassy stated: "They had an engaging discussion on the broad spectrum of bilateral relations and discussed enhanced cooperation with the upcoming Congress."

Competing campaigns

Meanwhile, the Stand With Pakistan campaign announced plans for nationwide rallies, news conferences, and meetings to counter what they describe as "politically motivated anti-Pakistan propaganda".

Their statement criticised the perceived US Congressional interference in Pakistan's affairs, emphasising the need for Pakistani Americans to foster a "balanced understanding of Pakistan's political dynamics". The group underscored Pakistan's strategic importance as the world's

Continued on Page 5

ON OTHER PAGES

Maryam sees Chinese help against smog

Terming Beijing's approach to combating smog 'inspiring', Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Thursday announced a proposed joint working group to help combat pollution in her province. Speaking at a session on climate change in Shanghai, she said that collaborative technological and policy-based efforts will be taken in Punjab along the lines of the Chinese 'transformation'. **Page 2**

Aaqib in after Gillespie calls it a day

Aaqib Javed has been named the interim test coach for team Pakistan after Jason Gillespie stepped down from the post, the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Thursday. This will be the former's third hat, as he is currently serving as interim coach of the white-ball team, as well as being a member of the national selection committee. **Page 18**

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

Bail granted to Parvez aide in PA appointment case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A special court for anti-corruption on Thursday granted post-arrest bail to former principal secretary to chief minister Muhammad Khan Bhatti in a new case of illegal appointments made in the Punjab Assembly.

Advocate Munir Hussain Bhatti, representing Bhatti, argued that the recruitments from BS-1 to BS-17 were made simultaneously.

He said the trial for BS-17 appointments was already underway, and the defense maintained that the appointment process was unified, so there should have been only one FIR instead of multiple cases being registered for political purposes.

Opposing the bail, a prosecutor alleged that Bhatti and others appointed over 200 individuals in the Punjab Assembly against merit, favouring unqualified candidates from BS-1 to 16.

He said positions such as IT technicians and drivers were also allegedly filled unlawfully.

Judge Muhammad Faisal allowed bail to Bhatti and directed him to submit two surety bonds of Rs500,000 each.

Former chief minister Parvez Elahi has also been nominated as an accused and granted bail too in the FIR.

The Lahore High Court had on June 11 granted bail to Bhatti in the other case of illegal appointments made in the assembly on positions of BS-17.

ATC indicts 12 in playwright honey-trap case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Thursday indicted 12 accused persons, including a woman, in alleged honey-trapping and kidnapping of playwright Khalilur Rehman Qamar.

ATC-III Judge Arshad Javed presided over the hearing, during which all the accused persons were brought to court from jail.

The judge formally indicted the accused, however, they pleaded not guilty and denied the allegations against them.

The judge summoned prosecution witnesses on Dec 20.

The indicted accused include Amna Arooj, Hassan Shah, Tanvir Ahmad, Qaiser Abbas, Rasheed Ahmad, Falak Sher, Mian Khan, Yasir Ali, Javed Iqbal, Zeeshan Qayum and Mamoon Haider.

Denying the prosecution story, main accused Arooj alleged that Shah and Qamar blackmailed her in fact. She said Shah, who was like a brother to her, knew about Qamar's blackmailing.

Arooj claimed that both men were powerful, and she got trapped between them. She also alleged that Shah leaked a video wherein Qamar was insisting on a relationship with her.

PDWP approves six schemes worth Rs15bn

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) has approved six development schemes with an estimated cost of Rs15,378 billion.

The PDWP's 50thmeeting of the current fiscal at the Planning and Development Board, Punjab, held under the chairmanship of board chairman Nabeel Awan, approved construction of the arterial main secondary and distribution network in the eastern part of the city (Linked with the AFD Funded Extension of Water Resources in Faisalabad City Phase-II Project) at a cost of Rs8.454 billion.

The P&D Board approved GIS-based protection regime and establishment of a digital communication cell in the Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Department at a cost of Rs1.2 billion.

The board approved establishment of an eco-tourism facility at Lal Suhanra National Park, as per international best practices (conservation of the desert ecosystem) at a cost of Rs2 billion.

Construction of a green building for EMC, EPD, and allied new entities established under PGDP (DLI-2, PGDP), Lahore, at a cost of Rs3.294 billion.

The PDWP cleared Punjab arterial roads improvement programme (Revised) at a cost of Rs202.458 billion and forwarded to CDWP.

The working party also cleared construction of Ghabir Dam, Chakwal, Punjab, at a cost of Rs23.182 billion and forwarded to CDWP.

The meeting was attended by P&D Board Secretary Dr Asif Tufail, chief economist Masood Anwar, board members and other senior officials.

FAISALABAD: Students portray traditional village life during the Kisan Mela at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad.—AFP

Maryam says a joint working group with China to combat Punjab smog

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has said China's approach to combating smog is inspiring, announcing that a proposed joint working group, comprising members from both countries, will help combat environmental pollution in Punjab.

She was addressing a session on climate change and environment in Shanghai on Thursday.

"Through the Beijing-Lahore working group, collaborative efforts will focus on knowledge sharing, policy making, capacity building, data exchange, and technology transfer. It will also facilitate initiatives for carbon emissions reduction, including green urban planning, green energy, and e-transport systems," she said.

She added that China had undergone a complete transformation, terming its development a beacon of hope for Pakistan and other developing countries.

"China is a living example of an economic miracle with astonishing progress in every sector. China's advancements in infrastructure, skilled human resources, and industrial growth are extraordinary achievements. China's successful control over environmental and air pollution is remarkable and serves as an inspiration for the world," she said.

The chief minister noted that China's effective and sustainable actions reflected its strong commitment to environmental betterment. China is extending support to countries vulnerable to environmental pollution. In Pakistan, the smog issue had become increasingly critical in recent years, she said.

"President Xi introduced the vision of a shared destiny. He not only shares the fruits of his hard work, but also includes others in the journey of success," she said.

"We are determined to strengthen Punjab environmentally and make it more resilient. We are implementing a comprehensive agenda for climate change and environmental improvement," she said and added smog could not be eliminated overnight as Punjab was working on short, medium, and long-term plans to check the menace.

Ms Nawaz highlighted her visit to the Blue Tech Clean Air Alliance, where she gained valuable insights into China's anti-smog initiatives. "We are trying to identify the causes behind the sudden disappearance of smog within a few days," she said and talked about the steps her government had taken so far to address smog issue in the province.

"Eco-friendly reforms are being introduced in the agriculture, transport, and industrial sectors. We are modernising agriculture through e-mechanisation. Traditional farming practices are being replaced with innovative approaches," she said and hoped following China's model, industries were being relocated outside urban areas in Punjab.

PKLI fires 11 employees for corruption

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute and Research Centre (PKLI) has terminated 11 employees of the institute following their involvement in financial corruption.

The action follows complaints from patients and their attendants against coordinators in various departments, accusing them of misusing their institutional authority for personal gain.

A spokesperson for the PKLI said here on Thursday that in response to these complaints, the PKLI formed an inquiry committee to investigate the allegations.

Based on the inquiry findings and substantial evidence, he said, 11 employees were found guilty of financial corruption whose services were terminated.

Furthermore, in the case of seven employees, evidence from the institutional inquiry has been submitted to the Anti-Corruption Establishment for legal proceedings.

The PKLI reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining the highest ethical standards and ensuring the trust of its patients and the public.

The administration remains steadfast in its zero-tolerance policy against unethical behavior and is dedicated to delivering high-quality healthcare services, he said.

LAHORE: A street vendor sprinkles water on radishes to keep them fresh in Samanabad.—White Star

Ex-senator remanded in NAB custody

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An accountability court on Thursday granted one-day physical remand of former senator Waqar Ahmad Khan to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a billions of rupees scam of Pak Arab Housing Society.

A NAB team presented Waqar before the court following his arrest the other day.

A prosecutor requested the court for physical remand of the former senator, stating that investigation was required from the suspect.

He said the suspect previously sought time to hand over his property to the NAB. Waqar also affirmed in court that he was willing to transfer his property to the NAB.

The prosecutor alleged that Waqar along with his brother, Ammar Ahmed Khan, committed fraud worth billions of rupees with people by denying them plots despite receiving money.

He said the society defrauded the public at large by selling files more than the available plots. He stated that Pak Arab Society Phase-II was also not an approved project by the Lahore Development Authority. He revealed that there are hundreds of victims associated with the Pak Arab Housing Society scam.

Judge Nadeem Gulzar allowed the NAB one-day physical remand of the suspect and directed it to produce him again on Friday (today).

Schoolgirl raped by rickshaw driver

LAHORE: The police arrested a rickshaw driver for allegedly raping a 15-year-old schoolgirl in front of her younger sister here on Thursday.

A police official said the rickshaw driver picked the girls before the closure of the school, giving an excuse that their father had been injured in a road accident. He said as the rickshaw driver used to pick and drop the girls, the school administration allowed him to take them on a short leave.

The suspect took them to a quarter where he allegedly raped 'M' in front of her younger sister who later brought the matter into the notice of her parents who alerted the police.

The police shifted the girl to a hospital for medical examination, and took the suspect into custody after registering a rape case against him.

The suspect was the next door neighbour of the girls. —Staff Reporter

Principal, son booked as student found dead in school washroom

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: A private school's principal, his son and three others were booked after a class-IX student was found dead in a washroom of the institute in the People's Colony area of Gujranwala city on Thursday.

The father of the deceased alleged in the complaint that his son was poisoned to death by a fellow student, seeking a murder case against the suspect.

Rescue 1122 and police sources say that the student, Awais Ahmed, had left his home for school in the morning, but was found dead in a washroom of the school later in the day.

On being informed of the incident, Rescue 1122 and police teams reached the scene and shifted the body to the district headquarters hospital. At the DHQ hospital, doctors conducted an autopsy and handed over the body to the student's family.

The family said that Ahmed was fine when he left for school.

However, People's Colony station house officer said the police have started investigation and the cause of death could only be ascertained in the autopsy report that's being awaited.

Gujranwala City Police Officer (CPO) Rana Ayaz Saleem has directed the Civil Lines SP to hold an inquiry and submit a detailed report on the incident. The police have booked the principal of the private school, Zubair, his son Abdul Hadi and three other students under section 302 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) on the report of Mohsin Yousaf, the elder brother of the deceased boy.

The complainant alleged that his brother was a sportsman and he had been murdered over jealousy by the suspects.

WORKERS FAINT: At least six workers of a paper mills at Kamoke fell unconscious while working in the unit, allegedly due to the suffocation caused by the emissions from a coal kiln.

Rescue 1122 sources say the workers passed out while doing their duty at a kiln in the mills at Ghania locality of Kamoke city.

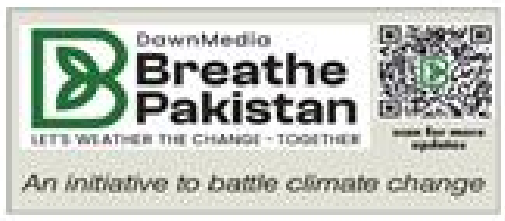
They were shifted to the Kamoke Tehsil Headquarters Hospital by the rescue ambulances.

WOMAN DIES: A 50-year-old woman died allegedly when a fire erupted in a house in the Model Town.

The rescuers say the fire was allegedly caused due to a gas heater left burning in a room of the house, where the old lady was asleep.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

DAWN



Outrage in NA, Senate over ministers' absence

- Deputy speaker terms it 'disgrace' to parliament, says no NA proceedings till ministers' presence; vows to write to PM • Senate chairman defers a number of agenda items • Ministers spend busy time outside parliament

By Amir Wasim

ISLAMABAD: Lawmakers in both the houses of parliament on Thursday expressed outrage over the continued absence of the ministers as Deputy Speaker Ghulam Mustafa Shah termed it a "disgrace" to the parliament and declared that they would not hold National Assembly proceedings, if the ministers would not be present in the house.

"If the ministers will not come next week, we will not run the house. If this is what they want, this is what we will do ..... this is disgrace to the house," declared the deputy speaker after a number of MNAs from the opposition and the treasury expressed their resentment over the absence of the ministers during the question hour for the second consecutive day.

Mr Shah also announced that they would write a letter to the prime minister to apprise him about the situation.

A similar scenario unfolded in the Senate where Chairman Yousuf Raza Gilani had to defer several agenda items due to the ministers' absence.

At the outset of the NA sitting, PTI MNA Asad Qaiser drew the attention of the chair towards the empty treasury benches, saying this showed seriousness of the government. Terming it "condemnable", he asked the chair to "suspend the proceedings in protest". The deputy speaker then announced a 15-minute break. However, when the members assembled again, there was no change in the situation.

Veteran PPP MNA Naveed Qamar said it was the constitutional duty of the ministers to be present in this house. He said despite the fact that they had raised the same issue on Wednesday, the situation had not changed.

"How do they [the ministers] expect that the opposition or anybody will respect parliament when the major beneficiaries of parliament decide not to respect parliament?" asked Mr Qamar.

"This is ridiculous. We keep on raising issues and yet they keep on abstaining themselves," said the PPP MNA, asking the chair to give a "strict ruling".

"Until the ministers are not present here, the house should not proceed," he said amid desk thumping by the members. Opposition Leader Omar Ayub Khan also protested over the minister' absence and termed it an "insult" to the house.

The deputy speaker adjourned the house till Friday (today) without taking up any agenda item.

Senate session

In the Senate, the chairman deferred the calling attention notices and a number of questions due to the ministers' absence following protest by the senators.

JUI-F's Kamran Murtaza asked the chairman to suspend the absent ministers, whereas PPP's Sherry Rehman asked the chair to issue a warning to the ministers.

When the chairman sought a response from PML-N's parliamentary leader Irfan Siddiqui, he expressed his helplessness and termed the situation "regretful" and made no commitments leaving the matter to be decided by the chairman. Mr Gilani deplored the situation and termed it against the parliamentary norms.

Where were the ministers?

Unmoved over the criticism on them, the ministers spent a busy day in various activities outside parliament throughout the day which was evident from the press releases issued by the media managers of their respective ministries to the newspapers and TV channels, requesting them to give prominent coverage.

Except for Information Minister Ataullah Tarar, who had left for Turkiye on a visit, a majority of the ministers were present in the federal capital.

A brief synopsis of the activities of some of the ministers showed that Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal attended at least two different events, besides receiving a delegation of the Local Council Association, Mardan.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi was seen visiting the residence of PTI-Parliamentarians chief Pervez Khattak, whereas Commerce Minister Jam Kamal presided over the board meeting of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb virtually attended the inaugural session of the International Islamic Capital Markets Conference, while Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer first chaired a meeting of the Central Cotton Committee's Governing Body and then attended the Kenyan National Day event.

Similarly, Education Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui gave preference to a scholarship celebration ceremony, while IT Minister Shza Fatima Khawaja found time to receive and host the ambassador of Kazakhstan.

Offer for talks met with derision by govt: PTI

Waqas rejects idea of national coalition as 'disrespect' of mandate; Omar claims 'Nato's arms' were used in Islamabad action against protesters

By Ikram Junaidi

A DELEGATION of the HRCP calls on PTI leaders Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Omar Ayub Khan, Latif Khosa and Asad Qaiser on Thursday. —Courtesy PTI

ISLAMABAD: The PTI has claimed that its olive branch of negotiation hasn't been accepted by the government and also rejected the idea of a multi-party government.

There have been speculations about a national government being formed next year. However, PTI, has dismissed the propositions as "disrespect" of people's mandate.

In a statement, PTI Central Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram said anything short of restoring the party's mandate would be unacceptable.

This would be a "blatant disregard" for democratic principles and a travesty of democracy.

"The nation achieved a peaceful revolution on February 8 by granting PTI a landslide victory, only to be robbed of this mandate through a midnight polls heist," Mr Akram claimed on Thursday.

"This stolen mandate was, in fact, the genuine representation of the people's will, and its restoration is crucial for upholding democratic principles."

Mr Akram made it unequivocally clear that those proffering the idea of a national government had nothing to do with PTI because such a proposal was not workable, and accepting it would be a "disrespect of public mandate".

Mr Akram also categorically denied any negotiations between PTI and the government.

He emphasised that despite PTI founder Imran Khan's consistent advocacy for a peaceful resolution of issues through dialogue, no formal talks were held with the government.

Sources in PTI have lamented that their willingness to negotiate was mistaken as a "weakness" by the government who derided the party as "begging" for negotiations.

Mr Akram said the PTI founder opened the door for talks by constituting a five-member committee.

The PTI would "never beg for talks" as the government's continued persecution of the party's workers and leaders didn't create a conducive environment for talks.

He stressed that it was the government's responsibility to lay the groundwork for negotiations, as any attempts at dialogue under the current circumstances would be an exercise in futility.

Production order

The party has also submitted a request to the upper house of parliament to issue production orders for Ejaz Chaudhary, a Senate member.

In a letter addressed to the Senate chairman, PTI's Dr Babar Awan said Mr Chaudhary has been in prison for one-and-a-half years and wasn't allowed to attend any meetings of the house.

Later, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Opposition Leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub and Dr Awan confirmed in a press conference that an application for the production order had been submitted.

Mr Ayub said the party also took up the issue of PTI workers who were in jail.

He alleged that weapons of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation were used in action against PTI workers.

According to Mr Ayub, around 200 PTI workers were missing and 5,000 under arrest.

Meeting with HRCP delegation

On Thursday, a delegation of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) met PTI leaders and discussed the situation after the party's protest in Islamabad last month.

The meeting was attended by PTI leaders Mr Ayub, Asad Qaiser, Sardar Latif Khosa and other members of the National Assembly.

Mr Ayub claimed security personnel fired "straight bullets" at his party's protesters, which was a "violation of human rights".

Mr Qaiser said some PTI workers arrested after the protest were being implicated in May 9 cases.

Barrister Gohar demanded an inquiry commission to bring facts to light.

Adil Khan Barai, whose disqualification by the Election Commission was recently overturned by the Supreme Court, said he was deprived of his seat and his plaza in Quetta, worth over Rs1 billion, demolished allegedly because he was against the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

The HRCP delegation included Mumtaz Jahangir, Nasir Zaidi, Sadia Ghaffari, Khushhal Khan, Muhammad Asif and others.

Chinese investors keen to set up medical city

President Zardari assures them of support 'in every possible way'

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: Chinese businessmen on Thursday expressed their interest in investing $1 billion to establish a medical city in Pakistan. They received commitment from President Asif Ali Zardari of support for the neighbouring country's investors "in every possible way".

President Zardari also called for greater Chinese investment in other sectors of economy to boost cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides exchanged these views during a meeting between a Chinese delegation and President Zardari at Bilawal House, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Minister for Transport and Information Sharjeel Inam Memon, Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Investment Syed Qasim Qamar also attended the meeting.

The Chinese delegation was led by the consul general in Karachi, Yang Yonghong.

President Zardari emphasised the need for enhanced interaction between the people of two countries, especially between investors and businesses, to increase bilateral trade and economic bonds.

"The delegation expressed interest in investing $3bn to establish a medical city in Pakistan to improve the country's healthcare sector. The delegation also expressed interest to invest in agriculture, livestock, energy, transport, and manufacturing," said a statement issued after the meeting.

Welcoming the delegation, President Zardari said that Pakistan and China shared commonalities of interest and views on important issues, besides enjoying deep-rooted and historic brotherly ties.

"We have been close friends for decades, and it was my vision to develop Gwadar Port into a regional trade and economic hub that would not only improve regional connectivity but would also boost regional trade and economic cooperation," the statement quoted the president as saying.

Govt looks to set up cybercrime forensics agency

KARACHI: The government has proposed a 'National Forensics and Cybercrime Agency (NFCA)' to tackle cyber and digital crimes and investigations related to them amid ongoing efforts to change the country's digital laws, Dawn.com reported.

The development comes amid ongoing efforts to reform the country's cybercrime laws, according to the draft law. A day earlier, newly surfaced proposed changes to the country's cybercrime laws specified that violations could result in seven-year prison terms, with fines hiked up to Rs2 million.

Meanwhile, the draft for the NFCA Act, 2024, said it would apply to the whole country and placed the proposed agency under the interior ministry in Islamabad, adding that it could set up its offices in other places in the country.

The draft explained that the NFCA comes as an upgrade to the existing National Forensic Science Authority from a project to a regular department that would act as a central coordinating agency for conventional, digital and cyber forensics across the country.

It defined cybercrime as criminal activities conducted over the internet or using digital technologies that involved the use of computers, networks and electronic devices to commit offences. "Main branches include cyber fraud, hacking, cyber espionage, terrorism, online harassment and cyberbullying, cyber extortion and cyber warfare etc," the draft said.

The draft also defined deepfakes as audio, video, picture or any other form of fabricated digital media using artificial intelligence deep learning algorithms to impersonate or malign any real or imaginary person.

It further said that the NFCA would be the "supreme agency providing intimate conventional, digital and cyber forensics support to Islamabad Capital Territory, AJK and GB as first-line and to act as a second-tier examination agency for all forensics agencies/ labs in the country, including law enforcing agencies".

It would also establish a law department to "ascertain weakness in the legal system affecting conventional, digital and cyber forensics and propose amendments in laws/devise new laws".

Another main task of the agency would be to collect conventional, digital and cyber forensics material from crime scenes for examination and to provide opinions to the courts or other authorities. —Dawn report

FAISALABAD: Horse riders participate in the tent pegging championship held in connection with Kisan Mela at University of Agriculture. —AFP

UK PM for better safeguards after parents sentenced for Sara Sharif's murder

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday called for better safeguards for home-schooled children and said there were "questions that need to be answered" after the brutal murder of a 10-year-old girl.

Sara Sharif's father and step-mother were convicted of murder on Wednesday in a trial that revealed gruesome details of the abuse inflicted on her, and the failure of child protection services to intervene despite warning signs.

Urfan Sharif, Beinash Batool and Sara's uncle Faisal Malik, who was cleared of murder but convicted of causing or allowing her death, are due to be sentenced on Tuesday.

Months before her death, her father had taken Sara out of school to be taught at home, after one of her teachers reported her bruises to child services.

At the time, child services had probed the incident but did not take any action.

Starmer said the "awful" case was "about making sure that (there are) protecting safeguards for children, particularly those being home-schooled".

The Department for Education said it was "already taking action to make sure no child falls through the cracks" and "bringing in greater safeguards for children in home education".

The government plans to "make sure that schools and teachers are involved in safeguarding decisions", a Downing Street spokesperson said, adding that details would be included in upcoming legislation.

Sara was found dead in her home in August 2023, with extensive injuries including broken bones, burns and even bite marks after being subjected to years of abuse.

She had also been in and out of foster care after Sharif separated from her mother, Olga Sharif, to marry the step-mother Batool.

Despite previous allegations of abusive behaviour against the father made by Olga, Sharif won custody of Sara in 2019, just four years before she was killed.

Children's Commissioner Rachel de Souza said Sara's death highlighted "profound weaknesses in our child protection system".

De Souza said it was "madness" that an at-risk child could be taken out of school, calling for a ban on home-schooling of suspected abuse victims. —AFP

Govt, PTI recriminations mar Senate session for second day

Zafar laments continued persecution of his party's supporters; Irfan says right to protests 'not unconditional'

By Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Senate session, for the second straight day on Thursday, was marred by acrimony between the ruling coalition and PTI as both expressed misgivings about each other's willingness to bring down the political temperature.

While PTI lamented the continued persecution of its workers, the government slammed the opposition party for staging a "violent protest" in the capital.

PTI's parliamentary leader in the Senate, Barrister Ali Zafar, said confidence-building measures were "critically important" for dialogues.

"Our workers are still being arrested", he said and asked the government to create a conducive environment for talks.

He said the government should "apologise" for its actions during the party's protest in the federal capital last month, as it has been confirmed that security forces "indiscriminately fired" at protesters.

He chided members of the federal cabinet for issuing contradictory statements over fatalities, injuries and arrests during the protest and insisted that the PTI protesters were peaceful and unarmed.

The PTI is "ready to fight legal battles" involving its workers and leaders, including Imran Khan, and continue the struggle for people's fundamental rights.

The PTI leader reiterated the call for an independent commission to probe the events of last month and said doors for dialogue must not be shut.

The exercising of the fundamental right to protest cannot be branded as terrorism, he said, alluding to the government's criticism of his party's agitation.

'Only way forward'

In reply, PML-N's parliamentary leader Irfan Siddiqui said the right to protest was not "unconditional".

People cannot raise the slogans of "jihad" at a protest in any country, and protesters are not allowed to bring with them sticks, nails and slingshots anywhere in the world.

He claimed the government was still willing to hold talks with the PTI as there was no other way forward.

"Dialogue and reconciliation are the only solution to these problems", he remarked.

PPP parliamentary leader Senator Sherry Rehman said her party always supported dialogues, but PTI remained averse to it.

She said the party was talking about freedom, but their actual motive was "immunity from justice for a single individual".

"The PPP has never sought the type of freedom you are asking for. Freedom always comes with responsibility", she remarked.

She accused PTI of staging a violent protest and asked it to apologise for May 9 events.

"You brought the country's stability to a tipping point and left power after laying economic landmines", she claimed.

"Even today, you [PTI] are giving calls for civil disobedience."

ANP's parliamentary leader in the Senate, Aimal Wali Khan, questioned the law extending the army's chief's term to five years.

"The house, in its last session, extended the tenure of an important position, but the entire system lacks the courage to talk about that legislation," he said while referring to the amendments made to the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 last month.

He demanded the ruling coalition inform the house of reasons behind the amendment.

Resolution against Israel

"The Senate notes with alarm the exploitation of the political vacuum caused by regime collapse in Syria, which Israel is using to advance its unilateral agenda," the resolution stated.

The Senate also unanimously adopted a resolution condemning Israel's grave violations of international laws.

"This agenda now extends beyond Palestine to violations of the sovereignty of Syria and many other countries," said the text passed with bipartisan support.

The resolution, moved by Ms Rehman, had called for immediate accountability for these actions.

The house also condemned the killing of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) team members since October 7, 2023. As of November 2024, at least 249 UNRWA workers have been killed by Israeli forces, as per the agency.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

IIUI BoT to meet in Riyadh to recommend name for president

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) will be held in Saudi Arabia on December 23.

According to a document seen by *Dawn*, the BoT meeting will be held at Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University Riyadh under the chairmanship of Prof Dr Ahmad Ibn Salem Al-Ameri, the rector of the university. He will chair the meeting as the pro-rector of IIUI.

According to the ordinance of IIUI, the president of Pakistan being chancellor of the university is supposed to chair the meeting.

However, sources said President Asif Ali Zardari had authorised the pro-rector to chair the meeting; therefore, it is being held in Saudi Arabia. The sources said there were certain chances that the BoT will recommend the name of Saudi educationist Dr Ahmad bin Saad Al Ahmad, assistant professor of physiology at Al Imam University Riyadh, for the post of the IIUI president.

In 2020, the BoT had decided that in future the president of the IIUI will be appointed through a competitive process like other Pakistani universities.

The BoT had directed the university's board of governors (BoG) to make rules and regulations for this purpose. Surprisingly, the IIUI BoG did not make the new rules during the last four years and in July this year the tenure of the IIUI president, Saudi educationist Hathal Humood Alotaibi, expired. Since then, the university is being run by the interim president.

Sources said that a few days ago BOG of university had made regulations for appointment of President IIUI on pattern of other public sector universities and those regulations would be presented before the BoT for consideration. The sources said in the upcoming meeting of BoT, there are certain chances that the Saudi educationist will be recommended for the post and the IIUI will be directed to go for the appointment through a competitive process in future.

The Supreme Court recently removed IIUI Rector Dr Samina Malik and last month IIUC Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed took the additional charge of the rector.

Currently, both the president and rector offices are being run through ad hoc arrangements. IIUI is one of the leading public sector universities of the country.

A FISHERMAN lays net to catch fishes at Rawal Lake in Islamabad on Thursday.—Photo by Mohammad Asim

PM's aide blames mass travel on Eids for rising polio cases

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: With 59 cases of polio reported in the country in the current year compared to just six last year, Prime Minister's Health Coordinator on Health Dr Malik Mukhtar on Thursday blamed mass travel on Eidul Fitr and Eidul Azha for the spread of the virus.

Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Health, he said because of mass travel before and after the Eids, the virus travelled from one area to another along with the people.

"People went from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to Karachi along with children and became carrier of the virus. We were polio free for 14 months, but then suddenly the virus started spreading because of Eids. As many as seven cases have been reported from one union council of Dera Ismail Khan," he said.

He claimed that a better strategy had been formulated to control and eradicate the virus.

While sharing the challenges, he said Pakistan was the only country in the world in which 88 polio workers sacrificed their lives while administering polio vaccine to children.

Dr Malik, who seemed attending the meeting of the parliamentary committee without getting a briefing on the issue, said polio cases had been emerging in the current season and expressed the hope that it would be controlled in February.

It may be noted that poliovirus spreads in warm season and becomes less active in the cold season. The period from May to September is called high transmission season for the virus.

Polio Head retired Capt Anwarul Haq claimed that the poliovirus will be controlled in coming months. He said the polio programme was focusing on weak children. He said out of the 59 cases, 19 were of minor paralysis and 10 of major paralysis.

Chairman of the committee Amir Waliuddin Chishti appreciated the efforts of the government for the eradication of the virus.

However, PML-N legislator Irfan Siddiqui said the committee will again take a briefing after three months.

PTI Senator Dr Humayun Mohmand said the southern parts of KP had become no-go areas after unrest. He said polio had become a matter of embarrassment for the country.

"Whenever we apply for the visa of any country, embassies demand vaccination cards. On the other hand, some countries administer polio vaccine by themselves. The whole world has become polio-free apart from Pakistan and Afghanistan," he said.

The PM's coordinator said the government was going to start a polio dialogue with Afghanistan in which door-to-door campaign will be held in border areas.

For the last many years, the polio programme has been conducting campaigns along with Afghanistan in the border areas.

Bachelor of dental surgery

Additionally, the committee took notice of extending the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme from four to five years. The chairman remarked that the decision was taken without consulting stakeholders. The committee decided to deliberate on the matter in the next meeting.

Rawalpindi e-transport project kick-starts by month-end

Bus depot to be constructed followed by bus stops along 10 routes; buses to arrive before November

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab government will start the work on a Rs7 billion project to introduce an e-transport system in the garrison city by the end of this month, with 102 e-buses expected to ply on 10 new routes before the end of 2025.

These routes, spanning 86 kilometres, will connect the city areas with the airport, the railway station, metro bus stations, the general bus stand, Islamabad, and other parts of the town.

"The project will be started by the end of this month, and in the first phase, a bus depot will be constructed for the 102 electric buses at Siham on Peshawar Road. The provincial government has directed to start the construction work so the buses will be on roads as soon as the bus depot is completed," he said.

He said that the basic aim of the provincial government was to end pollution in the garrison city and cantonment areas, adding that the transport system would be linked with the metro bus service in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to facilitate citizens.

"We have decided to construct the depot on 28 kanal of land on Peshawar Road," he said, adding that the depot would be located near Pirwadhai Morr on Peshawar Road. It will have all modern facilities, like an administration block, drivers' rest area, washing area, maintenance area, electric charging stations, cafeteria, and a mosque, be added.

Besides the bus depot, DC Cheema said that the Punjab government also asked the local administration to construct bus stops on all 10 new routes. He said that the work on bus stations would also be started as soon as possible.

He said the Punjab government assigned Nespak to make the feasibility study and approved the project last month, adding that construction work of the bus stations would be started in the garrison city in a month or two.

"After completion of the construction work, the provincial government will send the buses. Though the provincial government fixed the deadline of completion of work by November 2025, we are trying to complete the work before the stipulated timeframe so people will get the facility," he said.

He said that there was a problem with parking the buses in a large number, so the government decided to construct the bus depot on which it will start the work by the end of this month.

Deputy Commissioner Cheema was of the view that after getting a better transport system with reasonable fares, people would stop using other modes of public transport, which would reduce air pollution in Rawalpindi. He said that women and the elderly would be provided with a special area at the bus stops, while special persons would also be able to use these buses.

On the other hand, Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Secretary Rashid Ali said that the RTA had already allocated 10 new routes for this project.

Route 1 is 8.2 kilometres from the Rawalpindi Railway Station to the Lahore High Court. Route 2 is 11.3 kilometres from Koral Chowk to Fawara Chowk. Route 3 is 8.8km from Umar Baig Chowk to Mandi Mor. Route 4 is 8.3km from Munawar Colony to Saddar.

Route 5 is 13.1km from Marir Chowk to Motorway Morr. Route 6 is 12.3km from Faizabad to Tramri Chowk. Route 7 is 5.8km from UP Metro Station to Kuri Road. Route 8 is 7.5km from Saddar to Lalarukh Colony. Route 9 is 6.5km from Umair Baig Road to Qadeemi Imambargah Mohallah, and Route 10 is 7km from Saddar to Qahariatan.

He said that the new routes had been formed after a survey of the area regarding the passengers and pollution.

He said it was the effort of the deputy commissioner to involve different departments of the district to complete the paperwork for the project.

NED UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
PROCUREMENT CELL
University Road, Karachi-75270
Tel: 9926 1261 - 68 (Ext: 2291) Fax: 9926 1255
Email: dp@neduet.edu.pk Website: http://www.neduet.edu.pk
No.DP/8021-1.75/486/8437/2157 Date: DECEMBER 12, 2024
SAY NO TO CORRUPTION

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(EPADS)

NEDUET invites **Sealed Bids** on Single Stage One Envelope procedure from Reputable and Well Experienced Firms/Companies to carry out the following work :

CONSTRUCTION WORK
Marble, MS Door, MS Railing, MS Structure, Fence, Distemper, Plumbing
at Civil Engineering Department of TIEST Mithi, Tharparkar.

Tender No. PC / NED / RGT / Construction / 8437 / 2024

Issuance of Documents from	Last Date of Issuance of Tender Documents	Tenders Submission Deadline	Tenders Opening Date / Time
17.12.2024	01.01.2025	02.01.2025 10:00 am	02.01.2025 10:30 am

Estimated Cost (Rs. in Millions)	Time of Completion	Tender Fee (Rs.)
0.611	One Month	Rs 5,000

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
1. Valid Registration with Tax Authorities (Federal Board of Revenue, Sindh Revenue Board) with Proof of Company in Active Tax Payers List, Professional Tax Paid & Copy of CNIC along with Company Registration Proof.
2. Valid Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Relevant Category (C-5 & above having Specialized Code, CE10.
3. Affidavit on (Non-Judicial Stamp Paper) of No Litigation History, Non-Blacklisting, never indulge in any Corrupt, Fraudulent and Collusive Practices, also undertaking that the Information and Documents provided with are Correct.
4. List of Similar Projects executed in Last 05 Years & at least 02 Projects completed with Cost of Work Over Rs 6 Million showing Documentary Proof.
5. Audit Report / Bank Statement of the Firm Last 03 Years showing the required Yearly Turnover above Rs 6 Million.
6. Details of Equipments, Machineries and Transport owned by Firm/Contractor with Documented proofs.
7. Income Tax Returns filed for the Last 03 Years; Documentary Proof attached.
8. Having an Experience for Execution and Completion of Projects of similar nature in Remote Areas particularly in Besam area or Far-Flung Destinations.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:
a. Under the following conditions, Bid shall be rejected:
1. Conditional and Telegraphic Bids.
2. Bids not accompanied by Bid Security of required Amount and Form.
3. Bids received after specified Date and Time.
4. Black Listed Firms.
b. BID VALIDITY PERIOD: (90) Days
c. BID SECURITY:
Tender Fee of Rs 5,000/- and 2% of Bid Cost in the form of Deposit at Call or Pay Order or Demand Draft or a Bank Guarantee issued by a scheduled bank in Pakistan or from a foreign Bank duly counter guaranteed by scheduled bank in Pakistan in favor of Director Finance, NEDUET, Karachi.

Procuring Agency reserves the right to reject all or any Bids subject to the relevant Provisions of Sindh Public Procurement Rules 2010 (Amended up to Date). Bidding Documents can be obtained and shall be submitted through EPADS as per above schedule. Bidders are requested to give their Best and Final Price as "No Negotiations" is permitted. Bidding Documents containing detailed Terms and Conditions are available at Websites https://www.neduet.edu.pk and https://www.portalsindh.eprocure.gov.pk. In case of Public Holiday or any Holiday or Non-Working Day due to Force Majeure, the Next Official Working Day shall be deemed to be Date for Issuance, Submission and Opening of Tenders. NEDUET shall not be responsible for any cost or Expenses incurred by Bidders.

Director, Procurement

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited

TENDER NOTICE
BORING AND INSTALLATION OF DEEP WELL GROUND BEDS IN RAWALPINDI REGION

Tender No.	CPR-Raw/Ren. FY 2024-25-01
Tender Title	Boring and Installation of Deep Well Ground Beds in Rawalpindi Region
Tender Note	As above
Tender Description	Scope of Work and Other Terms & Conditions are available in Tender Documents
Bid Receiving Date/Time	11:00 Hours on 10-01-2025 Office of Sr. Tech. Officer (Corr. Control) SNGPL, Rawalpindi Region.
Tender opening date/Time	11:30 hours on 10-01-2025 Office of Sr. Tech. Officer (Corr. Control) SNGPL, Rawalpindi Region.
Person to be Contacted	Mr. Zaheer ud Din Babar, Sr. Associate Engineer (Corr.) Contact No: 0333-3234334
Tender Biding Terms	Tender Documents can be obtained at the cost of Rs. 2500/- (Non-refundable) in form of pay order/demand draft in favor of SNGPL from the office of Sr. Tech. Officer (Corr. Control) SNGPL, Rawalpindi Region on submission of written request along with a copy of NTN & PEC Registration, during office hours on or before 09-01-2025. Tender Notice is also available on website www.sngpl.com.pk Note: Tender documents will only be issued to pre-qualified firms.

PRO/11663/24

JCP meets on 21st to finalise appointment of four IHC judges

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) will meet on Dec 21 to consider 10 nominations for four vacant positions of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges.

Interestingly, the representatives of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) apparently evolved consensus at least on one name of the proposed judges.

As per the agenda of the JCP meeting, name of Kashif Ali Malik has been proposed by the JCP member Farooq H Naek of the PPP and Barrister Gohar Ali Khan of PTI.

Advocate Malik is known for his integrity and professionalism and held important portfolios including senior legal adviser of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Bank of Punjab, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) and others.

Both his proposers are the seasoned lawyers, Barrister Gohar is the Chairman PTI, while Mr Naek is the incumbent Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council (PBC).

PBC representative Akhtar Hussain, however, recommended two names including Raja Inam Ameen Minhas, former President of Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA) and advocate Usman G Rashid Cheema.

Minhas is working as the Prosecutor General of the Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) for about a decade. He was elected as IHCBA President in 2020. In 2009 he was elected as Secretary IHCBA, when the Supreme Court declared the Islamabad High Court (IHC) illegal on July 31 that year. Minhas along with the then President IHCBA Sajjad Afzal Cheema actively lobbied for its re-establishment.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq proposed two names for the high court judges. One is District and Sessions Judge (DSJ) Azam Khan and the other Shahrukh Arjumand.

Though DSJ Azam Khan is senior in age, however, Judge Arjumand was promoted much earlier than him, since the former held the administrative positions whereas the latter served in the courts throughout his service and had the required number of cases when he was considered for promotion.

The Islamabad Bar Council (IBC) nominated Syed Qamar Hussain Shah Sabzwari.

Mr Sabzwari is a well reputed lawyer and is a member of the Islamabad Bar Council.

Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah proposed the name of advocate Sultan Mazhar Sher Khan.

Khan belonged to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Mr Naek also nominated Mr Sabzwari, Umer Aslam Khan and Daryal Ijaz.

The sanctioned strength of the Islamabad High Court is 12 whereas eight judges are currently serving in the court.

They included Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

Islamabad on top, Punjab 2nd in health coverage

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: The Service Coverage Index (SCI) report, released on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day, ranks Islamabad Capital Territory at the top with 63.9 points, leaving all provinces and territories behind.

Punjab follows with a score of 55.5, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at 51, Sindh at 50.7, and Balochistan at 38.4. Overall, 45 districts in the country have a UHC-SCI score below 40, while 39 districts fall within the 40-49 range, and 57 districts score between 50 and 59. Only 11 districts in the country have achieved a UHC SCI score of 60 or higher, so far. This highlights the significant gap in progress towards the country's commitment to achieve the SDG target of a UHC SCI score of 80 or above by 2030.

The result was announced by the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) on Thursday with the technical support provided by the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Evidence for Health (E4H) Programme.

The UHC SCI has improved at the national level from a score of 40 in 2015 to 53.9 in 2023. While this is a 35.8pc increase since 2015, the annual rise of just 2.2pc since 2022 highlights the need for accelerated efforts.

The Coordinator to Prime Minister on Health, Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmad, announced the latest UHC results for the country and reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring accessible, equitable, and quality healthcare for all citizens.

"Investing in UHC is not just about health; it is about building a fairer, more cohesive society where every citizen has access to quality healthcare services," said Dr Mukhtar.

"Today, as we mark Universal Health Coverage Day, we are reminded that everyone, everywhere, deserves access to health services they need. Health is the foundation of our well-being, and it is essential for economic growth, social stability, and sustainable development," he said.

The report also highlights district disparities in specific healthcare categories. Jhelum district in Punjab leads in reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health category with an aggregate score of 78.8, followed by Hunza and Lahore.

For infectious diseases category, Peshawar is leading at 56.4, followed by Gilgit and Chitral, while other districts trail behind. For non-communicable diseases category, a data gap persists, underscoring the need for disaggregated data to guide future analysis. Karachi South leads by a wide margin, followed by Islamabad and Lahore.

Officials hold out hope for Kurram accord

Continued from Page 1

casualties. One side had certain reservations over the de-weaponisation, but we told that it would be the state's responsibility to ensure that neither side had heavy weapons available to them," the official said.

"We are working on a roadmap that would lead to sustainable peace in the tribal district," the official said. He was confident that they would have a draft agreement ready for signatures by Friday evening.

"Once we have the agreement, opening of the roads vital for the movement of people and goods would follow," he said.

At least 130 people have been killed, scores wounded and many displaced in the weeks-long clashes, heavy exchange of fire and arson in the sectarian-sensitive Kurram tribal district, in the wake of an attack on a convoy that claimed around 40 lives.

The government had formed a land commission to settle the dispute over a piece of land, which both sides claimed as their own, but it has yet to make its findings public.

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi exchanges views with former KP chief minister Pervez Khattak during a meeting, on Thursday. — PPI

Naqvi calls on Khattak to discuss 'peace' in KP

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi called on former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Pervez Khattak on Thursday amid reports that the ex-PTI leader may become part of the government.

According to an official press release, both leaders deliberated on measures to ensure peace and security in the region and pledged to counter forces hindering Pakistan's progress.

"Pakistan belongs to all of us, and we must work together to move it forward," said the interior minister, as per the statement. He reassured that the future of the nation was bright and no external or internal forces could impede its progress.

They emphasised the need for national unity and collective efforts for the country's development. On the occasion, Pervez Khattak expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of police and Rangers personnel during recent PTI protests in the federal capital, condemning the attacks by miscreants.

When contacted by *Dawn*, a source close to the interior minister said the meeting did not discuss whether or not Mr Khattak would join the government. The ex-KP CM expressed concern over a surge in terrorism in KP province and lamented that the PTI-led provincial government failed to control the situation. Mr Khattak, who had stepped away from politics earlier this year due to 'ill health', vowed to give a tough time to the PTI-led regime in KP to pressurise it for the restoration of peace and provision of basic facilities to the people.

PSDP budget to be spent on public welfare projects: CM

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday reaffirmed his resolve to spend the development budget of Rs230 billion allocated in the current public sector development programme on the welfare of the people.

The chief minister was presiding over a meeting to review the progress of the Provincial Public Sector Development Programme 2024-25.

The Balochistan chief secretary and secretaries of different provincial government departments attended the meeting. The meeting was briefed on the progress of ongoing and new development schemes launched by several government departments.

The meeting was informed about the overall progress on development projects, authorisation of sector-wise development projects and releases of funds.

The chief minister expressed his anger over the performance of some departments that have used minimum development budget so far.

Mr Bugti directed that all departments should complete their development schemes within the stipulated time and no delay would be tolerated in this regard.

He stressed that projects should be initiated with proper planning because if the planning is weak, it will not be possible to achieve the set goal.

He said that physical progress should be made on all development projects before the end of the current financial year. He directed all secretaries to monitor the progress of different schemes on a daily basis.

Mr Bugti ordered secretary of communications and works that 25 under-construction sports complexes should be completed within six months and a project director should be appointed for this purpose.

He directed that the secretary should take the ownership of those schemes instead of blaming others for the delay of the projects, adding that the unapproved schemes should be approved by the forum concerned by next week.

The chief minister said that education and health are key priorities of the government and there should be no delay in projects related to these two sectors. — Correspondent

Homeland's divisions spill over to Pakistanis in US

Continued from Page 1

fifth most populous country, with the sixth-largest military and a critical location near India, China, Afghanistan, and Iran.

"Pakistan has made significant strides in democratic development," the group's statement read, "achieving peaceful transitions of power through elections."

However, Imran Khan's supporters dismissed these assertions, claiming that true democratic development requires accountability and an end to state violence.

"What we're seeing in Pakistan is not democracy; it's authoritarianism disguised as governance," said Dr Usman.

The conflicting narratives among Pakistani Americans reflect a broader struggle happening across Pakistan. While one side seeks to preserve the status quo, emphasising national sovereignty and gradual reform, the other demands immediate action to address human rights violations and restore democratic norms.

For both groups, the US remains a critical arena to influence global perceptions of Pakistan.

As Ambassador Sheikh continues his outreach to lawmakers, and as rallies and press conferences unfold, the diaspora's role in shaping Pakistan's international image grows increasingly significant.

ESIA for Reko Diq project submitted to Balochistan and Sindh govts

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC) has submitted a comprehensive document to the authorities in Balochistan and Sindh for review and approval after completing the Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Reko Diq gold-cum-copper project in Chagai district.

The ESIA is a critical step in ensuring that RDMC operations adhere to the highest global environmental and social standards. Over a period of two-and-a-half years, a team of independent experts conducted extensive social and environmental studies in consultation with local communities, environmental groups and government stakeholders.

The studies evaluated the potential environmental and social impacts of the project, including air quality, water resources, biodiversity and the well-being of local populations. The mitigation hierarchy was integrated into the project design, with mitigation measures to be implemented as part of ongoing management plans.

"We are fully committed to the sustainable development of our project, and the completion of this ESIA represents a major milestone in ensuring that our operations will be environmentally responsible and beneficial to the communities where we work," said Ashley Price, ESIA Manager for RDMC.

"The insights gained from these studies will guide us in managing risks and implementing solutions that enhance the positive impacts of the project, while minimising potential negative outcomes."

RDMC officials said ESIA has been prepared to meet the regulatory requirements of the Balochistan Environmental Protection Act, 2012, and the Sindh Environmental Protection Act, 2014.

The assessment was also conducted in compliance with the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability (2012), the World Bank Group's Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines, the Equator Principles, and the Global Industry Standard for Tailings Management.

Throughout the process, RDMC has maintained continuous engagement with local communities and key stakeholders to ensure that their concerns are factored into the impact assessment process.

SHO dies due to gas suffocation in Chaman

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: A senior police officer died of gas suffocation in the border town of Chaman on Thursday.

Officials said Station House Officer (SHO) Asad Khatri of Chaman Police Station went to sleep at his home without switching off the gas heater due to the severe cold. He was found unconscious in his bedroom the following morning, they said, adding that the SHO was immediately taken to the district hospital for treatment but did not survive.

Inspector Asad Khatri was a resident of Zhob district. His body was handed over to his family after the completion of medico-legal formalities.

Meanwhile, Quetta and most parts of Balochistan have been in the grip of icy Siberian winds for the past five days. These winds have left the provincial capital with a deserted appearance as temperatures dropped to subzero levels, suspending normal life in various towns and cities across northern and central Balochistan, including Quetta, Kalat, Mastung, Ziarat, Duki, Sanjavi, Wila Saifullah, Muslim Bagh, Khanozai, Pishin, Qila Abdullah, Chaman, Toba Kakari, Toba Achakzai, and Nushki.

Although there was no rain or snowfall in and around Quetta, Siberian winds caused the maximum temperature to remain 8°C despite sunny conditions. The minimum temperature recorded in the Quetta valley was -7°C, while Ziarat reported -8°C and Kalat -6°C on Thursday. The cold wave is expected to continue over the next 24 hours.

Apex court scrutinises

Continued from Page 1

(d)(ii) and Section 59(4) of the PAA were ultra vires of the Constitution and therefore of no legal effect.

Justice Mandokhail, however, observed that the entire case revolved around Article 8, wherein Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar wondered whether the five-judge bench had declared the provisions of the PAA to be in conflict with Article 8 and what was the justification given in the decision about the conflict between the provisions of the Army Act and Article 8.

Justice Mandokhail also questioned how a person who was not in the armed forces could come under its discipline. However, the counsel contended that if law permitted, military discipline would be applied to civilians. The counsel contended that the court did not have the authority to annul the provisions of the PAA.

During the hearing, Justice Hilali wondered whether lawyers were allowed in the military court trial and whether a complete record was also provided to the accused in the military court. The counsel said the accused in the military court were provided with a lawyer as well as all relevant materials. Justice Hilali also sought details of the rules under which the trial of civilians is being conducted in the military courts, as well as details of FIRs registered against those involved in the May 9 violence.

The constitutional bench will resume the hearing on Friday.

SC sets aside de-seating of MNA over 'floor crossing'

Continued from Page 1

speaker of the National Assembly had attached a declaration from the PML-N party head under Article 63A(1) in which it was held that Mr Bazai had joined the PML-N.

Mr Bazai, according to the speaker's reference, had contested Feb 8, 2024, elections from constituency NA-262, Quetta, as an independent candidate who later joined the PML-N by submitting an affidavit for joining the ruling party before the ECP.

The reference had accused Adil Bazai of joining the opposition parliamentary party of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) in the National Assembly and thus violating the clear party directions of PML-N issued on Oct 19, 2024, besides abstaining from voting on the 26th Amendment.

The reference had also alleged that the accused did not respond to the show cause notice issued by the PML-N parliamentary party.

In its order, the ECP had held that Mr Bazai had admitted during the hearing that he had not given vote during the Finance Bill 2024 (Money Bill) from PML-N side while his status in the Commission and in the record of National Assembly was clearly shown him to be affiliated with the PML-N, it said.

On Thursday, Justice Shah observed that though there was a photograph of taking oath in the National Assembly, it was not clear what document the petitioner had signed.

Justice Malik questioned whether the ECP had conducted any inquiry to ascertain complete facts before disenfranchising the petitioner.

Justice Abbasi also regretted that people were being de-seated when a letter from an elder came. This should not happen, Justice Abbasi observed, adding that this should not be taken lightly rather the procedure of de-franchising a member should be strict.

During the hearing Justice Shah inquired whether any Additional Attorney General (AAG) was present in the court-room. At this Additional Advocate General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa told the court that the AAG was present in the Constitution bench.

Justice Shah, however, said that someone should also be sent to the regular benches. At this Justice Malik observed that if there were any redundant law officers, they should be deputed in the regular bench.

Justice Malik also wondered about any document showing Adil Bazai had joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

Adil Bazai's lawyer Sardar Taimur Aslam explained that the ECP initiated the proceedings against the petitioner on the very next day when the matter reached the Commission, adding that documents suggest his client had joined SIC on Feb 20.

Justice Shah observed that the Constitution suggest that an independent member can join the party in three days. Justice Malik said no show cause notice was issued and then he was de-seated, adding that it seems as if the ECP was above every court in the country.

Justice Abbasi observed said that if you look with an open eye, there is a clear difference between the signatures in his affidavit.

Meanwhile, the ECP's director general of law said that under Article 63A of the Constitution, the ECP had confirmed the declaration.

But Justice Shah said the party head was not called, nor was the signature forensically conducted by the ECP before de-seating the member.

The DG of Law explained that the Constitution gives ECP the authority to confirm the declaration. Justice Shah however cautioned that if the affidavit was not correct, the consequences may flow to the party head.

Justice Shah also regretted as to why the ECP was not obeying the orders of courts, they were not even obeying the magistrate and the civil court, they were not obeying anyone, rather hollowing everything. At least some semblance of autonomy should be respected, Justice Shah said.

Provinces

Continued from Page 1

Electric Supply Company (Lesco) is the most affected company in Punjab with receivables worth Rs17.27bn as of September, followed by Rs9.908bn payable to Multan Electric Power Company (Mepco). Three other Discos — from Faisalabad, Islamabad and Gujranwala — have outstanding dues against the public sector worth Rs5.05bn, Rs2.93bn and Rs2.86bn, respectively.

Likewise, government departments of KPK have to pay Rs5.75bn to Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) and Rs2.30bn to Tribal Electric Supply Company (Tesco).

PARCO PAK-ARAB REFINERY LIMITED
A Pakistan Abu Dhabi Joint Venture
SALE OF SCRAP MATERIAL
PAR/TAD/PS 1/12/24
Pak-Arab Refinery Limited (PARCO) invites sealed bids for the Sale of Scrap Material on "as is where is" basis as per the list mentioned below:
Sr. no. | Description | Quantity
1 | Air Conditioners, Deep Freezers, Geysers and Refrigerators | 1 Lot
2 | Computers, Monitors, Laptops and Mobiles | 1 Lot
3 | Printers, Scanners, Projectors, Photocopier and Fax Machines | 1 Lot
4 | UPS, Stabilizers, Solar Panels and Generators | 1 Lot
5 | Used Batteries assorted sizes, Approx. Quantity 600 Nos. | 1 Lot
6 | Used Tyres (excited sizes) Approx. Quantity 120 Nos. | 1 Lot
7 | Miscellaneous, Mechanical, Wooden and Other Scrap | 1 Lot
Bid Bond: Five Percent 5%
Bid Submission / Opening Date: 21-12-2024
Bid Submission: 1000 hrs. Bid Opening: 1100 hrs.
Tender Doc. Issuance / Inspection Date & Time: Monday to Friday during 0900 hours to 1200 hours From 13-12-2024 till 20-12-2024.
Details are available at our website: http://www.parco.com.pk
Phone No.: (092-21-35080100-113, Ext. 2052 / 2043), Direct No.: (021-35093564
PARCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to cancel the entire bidding process and reject all bids without assigning any reason.
Manager Materials

COMMERCIAL OUTLET/ SHOPS & CINEMAS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT
EOBI SHOPPING MALL AT I-8 MARKAZ, ISLAMABAD
1. Commercial outlets/ shops of different sizes are available on Ground, First and Second floor
2. 2 cinemas available on 2nd floor
3. Food court/ shops available at 3rd floor
4. Rooftop is available for rent around 20,000 sq.ft
Facilities: Lifts, Escalators, HVAC, Separate car parking
Contact: AM (REAL) +92(51) 4112223 | 051-9108251 Ext: 217
Chief (REAL) +92(51) 4112224 | 051-9108251 Ext: 220

AITCHISON COLLEGE, LAHORE
JOB OPPORTUNITIES
Aitchison College seeks qualified professionals for the following roles:-
1. Assistant Software Developer and Data Analyst
Design and maintain data infrastructure and scalable software solutions. Bachelor's in Computer Science, 2+ years in data engineering/software development, proficiency in SQL and PHP.
2. Project Assistant for Document Management System (DMS)
Support project coordination, track timelines, and facilitate team communication. Bachelor's in IT/Project Management, strong organizational skills.
3. AD/Domain Assistant
Manage ADC configuration, security, virtualization, and backup for network reliability. Bachelor's in IT, 3+ years in domain controller management.
Interested candidates should send their resumes with supporting documents to hr@aitchison.edu.pk by Monday, 30th December 2024.
For more details, visit: www.aitchison.edu.pk/careers

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

DAWN

OPINION

A political resolution

HAVE political stakeholders finally accepted that their 'war' has reached a stalemate? Has the PTI understood it cannot gain any more ground through agitation and has the government realised it loses its grip the tighter it clings to power? There is renewed talk about talks, and a small ray of hope has appeared that both sides may now be willing to give them a chance. Key representatives of the PTI and PML-N certainly made a positive impression during the Wednesday sitting of the National Assembly as the possibility of talks was publicly discussed for the first time. It appears that the apprehension put forth by the PTI chairman, Gohar Ali Khan, of the possibility of a 'third force' occupying the House, resonated with the government. The new stance taken by the PTI marked a significant departure from its earlier insistence on 'talks only with the powerful', and government representatives, too, sounded like they welcomed the gesture.

It would be of considerable interest to those who follow the political goings-on to understand how and why the needle has moved at this juncture. Since all we have at this moment are speculation and gossip, perhaps that discussion is best left for a later time. However, it has been interesting to note that the most recent conditions put forth by the PTI's jailed founder header marked a big step back from his party's earlier demands, which had included an ultimatum to return its 'stolen mandate', repeal of the 26th Amendment, and fresh elections. This time, the PTI founder only sought two things: the release of all political prisoners and judicial commissions to probe the events of May 9, 2023, and Nov 26, 2024. The government, too, has lately seemed under pressure, especially after a self-styled 'establishment representative' started criticising it as a 'failed brand'.

Whatever the case may be, one hopes that the PTI and PML-N have also realised that the path they have been on is very likely to end in disaster, not only for themselves but for the country and its people as well. Amidst the protracted fight between the different stakeholders, the state has been gradually hollowed out to the point where none of its institutions can stand on their own. It seems that there has been some belated realisation that a power vacuum has been created at the expense of the civilian leadership and that this vacuum will be filled by, in Mr Gohar Ali Khan's words, a "third force" if timely decisions do not pull the country back from the brink. The country will gain immensely and immediately from a breakthrough that allows the cooling of political temperatures and the restoration of some sanity. It is hoped that a serious and conscientious effort will be made to achieve this.

High price increases

FISCAL stabilisation prescribed by the IMF can be expensive — for the common people — in more ways than one. That is what Finance Minister Mohammad Aurangzeb's written testimony before a National Assembly panel tries to convey. The government has increased the electricity and gas prices under the IMF stabilisation programme, he stated. The details show a whopping 860pc increase in the gas rates and an over 110pc rise in electricity tariffs, besides a 43pc depreciation in the exchange rate since the signing of the previous Extended Fund Facility programme with the IMF in 2019. This not only sent inflation soaring over the last couple of years, it also slowed down economic growth at the expense of middle-class households. The consistently rising cost of living due to elevated inflation in the last couple of years — the CPI inflation went up to 29.2pc in FY23 and stood at 23.4pc in FY24 compared to 8.9pc in FY21 — has robbed most citizens of their ability to purchase even the bare necessities, forcing them to cut down heavily on food, healthcare and education for their children.

That said, the IMF programme conditions are not the only reasons for the extremely high prices of the goods and services most citizens use or require in their daily life. The government's economic and fiscal policies aimed at enriching the country's wealthy elites through tax waivers and exemptions, or subsidising their expensive import-based lifestyles, have been major contributors to the pain being felt by ordinary citizens struggling to make ends meet. In the recent past, we have seen the central bank delaying increasing interest rates to curb or decelerate the rise in prices because our powerful business lobbies did not want to part with cheap credit. Also, we have repeatedly witnessed the government capping the exchange rate in the recent past in order to facilitate cheaper imports, leading the country into deep balance-of-payment crises again and again, regardless of the skyrocketing inflation. With inflation decelerating in recent months, we see the business elite returning with calls for energy, fiscal and interest rate subsidies. The government, which faces rising economic and political discontent that is threatening to wipe clean whatever political capital it is left with, also seems to be under pressure to return to rapid growth policies. Blaming the IMF is easy; but self-correction can be difficult.

Beyond HOTA

IN a welcome demonstration of HOTA's oversight role, kidney transplant services have been suspended at Islamabad's Max Health Hospital. The healthcare facility was found non-compliant with rules mandating the formation of an evaluation committee for transplant cases. Such regulatory interventions are essential given our troubling history with organ trafficking, where unscrupulous elements have exploited the desperate poor while catering to wealthy patients seeking quick transplants. Requiring the formation of an inquiry committee to investigate irregularities shows the authorities are taking their mandate seriously.

However, much more needs to be done. Despite legislation in 2010 criminalising organ trade, the practice has seen periodic resurgence, with criminal networks adapting their operations. Recent cases show how vulnerable populations, especially bonded labourers and the indebted poor, continue to be targeted by organ trafficking rings. The exploitation chain typically involves middlemen, compromised medical facilities, and even officials willing to look the other way — all profiting from human desperation. Action is needed on multiple fronts. To begin with, evaluation committees at hospitals must exercise stringent oversight of transplant cases to prevent commercial exploitation. Alongside, law enforcement needs to proactively investigate and prosecute organ trafficking networks rather than waiting for complaints. Moreover, the healthcare system must be strengthened to provide affordable dialysis and transplant services to reduce desperate measures by patients. Most critically, Pakistan needs to develop a robust organ donation culture. Religious scholars have already clarified that organ donation is permissible to save lives. Public awareness campaigns highlighting how a single deceased donor can save multiple lives could help overcome cultural barriers. The successful cornea donation programme with Sri Lanka shows such initiatives are possible. Ultimately, ending organ trafficking needs addressing the crushing poverty that forces people to sell body parts. Until then, constant vigilance and deterrent action remain crucial.

BY ABDUL MOIZ JAFERI

Judiciary farm

Consider the state of the judiciary after the amendments have been allowed to take root.

A MONTH has passed since the government altered the scheme and practice of the superior judiciary via the 26th Amendment to the Constitution. These amendments were first attempted in the dark of the night, without sharing even a draft of how our social contract was to be altered. How a parliamentary pick-and-drop service was run by the hybrids and changeover by their minions has already been commented on extensively.

We were told that this was in part to protect the democratic process from maverick judges. We were told these changes were necessary, and would allow for a streamlining of all judicial decision-making, reduce delays and pendencies in courts and help the judges focus on their jobs rather than the distractions of political activism. We were told that these amendments weren't the empire simply striking back when it found a willing individual in the chief justice's seat, but a necessary balancing of an oft-perverted situation of power that the judiciary had created through arbitrariness and excess.

Consider, then, the state of the judiciary after the amendments made in its structure have been allowed to take root.

The 'constitutional bench' of the Supreme Court has been assembled without any reasoning given as to why the members picked made the cut and why those ignored did not. The arbitrary power of the chief justice in making benches, the structuring of which this amendment was deemed necessary, has been replaced by the arbitrary power of the executive to constitute the benches. Introduced into the mix is the inherent conflict of interest that the government is choosing which senior judges get to decide cases in which by far the most frequent respondent is the government itself.

On the competence and efficiency front, these constitutional benches have worked for more than 30 days and are yet to author a judgement longer than 30 lines, or to list the most important constitutional questions, including those added of the amendments that gave rise to their existence. The appeals against the military trials of civilians wait, with people behind bars despite a Supreme Court judgement declaring their incarceration illegal, whilst the new constitutional judges are busy hearing suo motu cases where the litigants are dead, or regime policies, under challenge now, are reversed or rendered redundant.

On the judicial activism front, the constitutional judges have remarked that they continue to enjoy suo motu powers. We have to rely on the reporting of their remarks because, on the transparency front, livestreaming of these proceedings are currently not available, although it is an established position that access of the public via livestreaming in matters involving fundamental constitutional questions is mandatory.

When it comes to appointing more judges, things aren't looking better. Lawyers are nominated for elevation to the respective superior courts. The Judicial Commission is then made to realise by the country's senior-most judge that the very amendment to the Constitution by which it itself is born contains an express command to create a set of rules of procedure, including a structure for criteria for judges' appointment. So the appointments are put off until the rules can be framed to measure the candidates against.

How seriously this process of rule-making is being taken — as the one way to end arbitrary appointments — is best exemplified by the timelines given by the Judicial Commission. The deadline afforded to all members to submit names of possible candidates to the judiciary for consideration falls before the date on which the rules are to be finalised. In this first round, we seem to be replacing the arbitrary method of judicial nomination with a nomination by roulette. Pick people who you think will meet the standard which we will later set for them. Meanwhile, why doesn't everyone throw in a few names and let's spin the wheel a bit?

Meanwhile, the country's senior-most judge, who has worked for over a year on developing the rules and standards by which judges ought to be appointed, and who has headed a committee which finalised such a set of rules and submitted them to the last chief justice for approval, has been left out of the committee now nominated by the Judicial Commission to make rules, which will come after the nominations of the would-be judges measured against those rules.

The effects of the amendment to end judicial arbitrariness are best exemplified by the happenings in the Sindh High Court. Once the Sindh Assembly triggered provincial constitutional benches, the Judicial Commission met and voted to ignore the top eight judges of the court when constituting the benches. The vote passed only because two Supreme Court constitutional bench members in the commission voted in favour of the executive's recommendation, against the vote of the province's chief justice, who is best placed to make such a determination, and against their own chief justice (of Pakistan). No reasons were given by any on the commission as to why this decision was made and why those judges were ignored.

Meanwhile, the head of the constitutional bench in the Supreme Court needed an extra judge to hear the military trials case, and because the amendment requires provincial seniority to be respected, he was to pick the next senior-most judge in line. He did not, skipping the next two judges from Punjab to replace Justice Ayesha Malik. No reasons were given as to how this could be done, or why the need was felt in the first place.

Already slow-crawling cases have ground to a halt.

To scratch an itchy spot, we have cut off an arm. Half of us are making do with the other arm, pretending it was the only useful one anyway. The other half are waiting to see if it will grow back. Meanwhile, our neck has now begun to itch. ■

The writer is a lawyer.
X: @jaferii

BY AYESHA RAZZAQUE

Education's downhill journey

AS we approach the end of the year, it is worth looking back at major trends and developments in the education sector in 2024. I have prioritised developments with wide-ranging impact over small-scale and pilot initiatives.

We normalised days-long, citywide cellphone service suspension years ago. This year, the government decided to beta-test censorship tools on 250 million people without a well-planned rollout, effectively suspending internet access, both blanket and select services — X, VPNs, even WhatsApp. Disruptions were so bad that even social media accounts loyal to the government earlier in the year either went quiet or switched sides. Why are internet disruptions relevant to education? While Covid necessitated school closures, this year made them a tool of first resort, whether the reason was politics, the summer heat, or pollution. The flig leaf justification given in that classes have been switched 'online', but how effectively they are conducted — often announced at short notice and taking on the form of WhatsApp messages — is questionable.

This year, the encroachment of the administrative state into the affairs of universities, otherwise described as autonomous, continued and brought more dysfunction. Until much later this year, dozens of public universities across Punjab and KP were operating without permanently appointed vice chancellors. Soon after the 2024 election, we saw a public tug-of-war play out in KP and Punjab between the respective chief ministers and governors. Politics trickling into academia is not new, but the public wrangling over the bounty of VC appointments was jarring.

This month, the passage of the KP Universities (Amendment) Act, 2024, gave the power of appointing VCs to the chief minister. It allows greater bureaucratic control of universities and political interference, trickling down to appointments of registrars, deans, etc. VCs will effectively report to a provincial secretary. A proposal for a similar amendment, vehemently opposed by VCs, has been made in Balochistan. Meanwhile, 14 public universities in KP have been declared invisible and will either be shuttered or merged with other universities. Eager to lead this race to the bottom, Sindh's cabinet just approved draft amendments to the Sindh Universities and Institutes Laws Act, 2018, which, if approved by the Sindh Assembly, will allow a Grade-21 bureaucrat to be appointed VC. This could inspire Punjab to follow suit with a similar amendment.

The most consistent conversation in higher education was a constant mantra for public universities, still heavily subsidised, to become financially self-reliant because governments can no longer commit to supporting them. Governments are urging universities to generate their own resources, but not loosening the ropes that tie the VCs' arms behind their backs. What it decodes to, but no one is willing to spell it out for fear of political blowback, is hiking the fees and/or selling part of their land grant. On the latter, public universities have been prodded in that direction to various degrees, depending on how juicy their lands are in the eyes of private parties. Another term that has recently entered the vocabulary of higher education discourse is 'endowment fund', but with little understanding of what establishing, maintaining, and growing one entails.

> There has been no action on the ground that matches the scale of the challenge.

Instead, many expect to be handed a readymade pot of money.

For years, computer science has been taking engineering programmes' share of enrolment. Engineering programmes everywhere have been witnessing a declining interest, forcing some universities to shutter engineering departments. Private universities, hit especially hard, lobbied the Pakistan Engineering Council to change entry criteria allowing FSc pre-medical students to be admitted. The HEC has locked horns with the PEC on this issue. Diluted admission requirements will likely further reduce trust and confidence in Pakistani engineering qualifications.

This year, we witnessed the impact of disinformation in the education sector when an unsubstantiated rape allegation (absent an accuser) upended campus life in multiple institutions for days. In the end, investigations by the state and private media failed to establish that an assault had occurred. Protest organisers realised they jumped the gun and began backpedalling, changing goalposts, claiming their protests were about the lack of student representation in universities, but the damage was done.

Despite laws passed in Sindh and a court decision in Islamabad, universities are dragging their feet on the functioning of student unions.

This year, we heard the prime minister twice declare an education emergency, making for progressive-sounding headlines. Twenty-six million children remain out of school and the learning levels of children have plateaued. There has been no action on the ground that matches the scale of the challenge. We only have made-for-media moments by savvy bureaucrats, some of whom have cultivated coteries of useful followers in the media and feed them feel-good stories published without critical thought.

In Punjab, a large number of public schools will be handed to private entities in the name of public-private partnerships, which have been shown to work in certain situations. However, I cannot recall any country with a school education sector worth emulating that washed its hands off running public schools, which is why this feels like a surrender.

If the government is incapable of delivering school education, what else is it incapable of? Is it qualified to regulate school education or dictate curriculums to private schools? Is it capable of providing basic healthcare services? Should a government incapable of fulfilling constitutional obligations about the breeze about bidding for and running a complex and competitive business like an airline? If it cannot deliver school education, what are the odds it can do better with higher education? How much longer will it be until public universities are privatised?

Last year, the outgoing parliament scrambled to grant charters to dozens of private universities. I salute elected representatives' dedication to the cause of higher education, but I wonder why so few have been willing to put in comparable efforts for the cause of school education that the state is responsible for providing. Going out on a limb, it could have something to do with the fact that schools do not require charters, which makes supporting them a lot less lucrative, but what do I know? ■

The writer has a PhD in education.

E-Mail: Editorial: editor@dawn.com | Resident Editor (Islamabad): re.isb@dawn.com | Resident Editor (Lahore): re.lhr@dawn.com | Karachi: city@dawn.com | Tel: (021)35670001 | Fax (Edit) (021)35682187 | UAN 111-444-777
(Management) (021)35680188, (Advt): (021)35683801 | Marketing (Karachi): mktg@dawn.com (021)35610099 | Marketing (Islamabad): mktg.isb@dawn.com (051)2202701-5 | Marketing (Lahore): mktg.lhr@dawn.com (042)111-444-777

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

OPINION

BY ZUBEIDA MUSTAFA

All work, no play

ACCORDING to the UNDP, nearly 29 per cent of Pakistan's population is between 15 and 29 years of age. This constitutes the youth bulge. It is to be attributed to our very high population growth rate of 2.55pc. In demographic terms, ours is a young country. There was a time when the youth bulge was celebrated as an asset that would change our destiny. That never happened. Today, the youth bulge has emerged as a challenge.

Paradoxically, those who spoke so highly of the youth failed to realise that every child who is born has inherent rights and it is the absolute duty of their parents, the state and society to fulfil these rights. The six million new arrivals in Pakistan every year need love, security, nutrition, healthcare and quality education if they are to grow up to be the youth who will transform the nation. On the contrary, many of them suffer from child abuse and the consequences of the follies of the adults who control their lives.

Can a neglected child grow up to be a talented and resourceful youth?

The dilemma of the youth emerged clearly at the certificate distribution ceremony at the conclusion of the Community Architect Training Programme conducted by the Urban Resource Centre in Karachi last week. Salma Hasan, an elegant TV artist, spoke about the entertainment opportunities that existed in the city for young people. What emerged from the discourse that afternoon was that smartphones and television plays dominate the entertainment of the youth as parks and playgrounds are fast disappearing.

It is important to first be clear about what comprises healthy entertainment. Ask any doctor and he will shake his head in disapproval if you mention smartphones. With so much scepticism being expressed about these gadgets, wouldn't it be wiser to keep them out of the entertainment area? Wouldn't it be best to stick to conventional forms of entertainment that do no harm? In fact, sports and games exercise the body as much as the mind. They enable the youth to participate in an activity rather than be relegated to the status of onlookers. Indoor and mind games, debates, education contests, music and the performing arts were also popular and had their own benefits in days of yore. But physical exercise has to be prioritised.

In this context, schools and colleges had an important role to play. Youth not enrolled in educational institutions could play in public playgrounds and open plots or even on the roads without fear of being run over. Not anymore. Now the elite have their fancy clubs and gyms where they buy entertainment of their choice. As for the class which cannot afford a smartphone for every family member, the youth still look for open spaces for their makeshift cricket and football grounds. Only the lucky ones find one. Playgrounds should be the authorities' first priority for all.

Sports, games and physical exercise, especially if they are properly regulated, can work wonders for the youth, even academically. Two projects, undertaken separately by two brothers, could serve as models for others to improve the lives of the youth. One is the Coach Emad Football Academy, founded in 2018 by Azfar and Ali'a Naqvi in memory of their young son who ended his own life. Coach Emad, as he was called, had a dream. He would open a football academy once he was fully qualified.

He is no more, but his parents have translated his dream into reality. CEFA is what any football fan would aspire to. It has four coaches for 400 Lyari children, including 25 girls. They could well be of world class, given the inspiration they receive from Coach Emad's huge portrait keeping an eye on them in the stadium.

> Sports, games and physical exercise can work wonders.

The second project I would recommend is the one undertaken by Dr Asghar Naqvi at the Happy Dale School in Nazimabad. Dr Naqvi has adopted nine government schools in Karachi. Many of these *Para* schools of long-standing have expansive grounds, which are as neglected as the schools themselves.

Happy Dale is Naqvi's alma mater, and he says he is repaying the debt he owes the institution. He admits that he has, regrettably, failed to get the staff to mend its ways and enrolment has declined. But the grounds are promising. He is getting trees planted and plans to convert the open space into courts for games and athletics. There is a ground for girls as well. Once ready, he will hire coaches and others, and open the grounds to the youth of the area, including young sportsmen and sportswomen. That will be a good service he will be rendering to the youth. Above all, this will also save the grounds from the land grabbers.

It is now for Karachiites to save not just the city but also the youth from unhealthy entertainment. ■

www.zubeida-mustafa.com

BY SHAHZAD SHARJEEL

Cookie crumbles

ONE did not know how, but there was a feeling in the throes of the Berlin Wall's fall and the right's celebration of the Soviet Union's demise that the failure of the capitalism-democracy combine was also a matter of time.

The mother of democracies throws up leaders whose shenanigans range from throwing parties during Covid lockdowns to more carnal fraternity rituals involving a dead pig's head and parts of the human anatomy. Had the head been alive, the British could have been spared another embarrassing occupant of 10 Downing Street. The Americans elected Donald Trump twice. One is again not sure if, in doing so, they thumbed their noses at the rest of the world or cut their national olfactory to spite their face.

South Korea, that model neighbour of the 'insane' militaristic North, has just had an episode that is as tragic as it is comic. Who could have thought that the country, which has until recently been known more for its global takeover through the soft, cultural power of its telenovelas and whose business conglomerates are famous for making everything "From Ships to Ships", would have a botched martial law attempt? It can only be a relief that it did not succeed, but what has transpired in its wake makes one question whether it was the lack of "preparedness" by the military, as it told parliament, or more profound convictions about democracy.

Many generations of Pakistanis have been amused by the legend that South Korea learned from our Five-Year Plans in the 1960s to become an Asian Tiger within a generation or two. True or not, maybe it is time for some cross-pollination. The South Korean military refused to usurp people's right to govern themselves through their elected representatives. In fact, soldiers could be seen getting their heads shaved outside their GHQ in Seoul in protest against the president's move to impose martial law.

The French have deposed their prime minister through a vote of no-confidence, an entirely constitutional and democratic move. However, the fact that the far-right Marine Le Pen threw her party's weight behind the motion leaves no doubt about the fate of liberal, progressive, pro-immigration, and inclusive policies in the Fifth Republic. One wonders how Derrida and Foucault, French intellectuals with ties to North Africa, the region most represented among the immigrants, would read the situation.

Returning to the leader of the "free world," it has not only re-elected a self-professed misogynist, a draft and tax evader, but it seems to be almost celebrating the murder of one of the largest health insurance companies' CEO in broad daylight in New York. Not only did no witnesses come forward immediately, but, reportedly, the company's post announcing his murder provoked 50,000 happy-face reactions. The assassin, identified and charged, left behind bullet casings engraved with "deny" and "deny", referring to the private health service system's tactics of denying its "customers" the care and services they have already paid for through insurance premiums. Public health services, like the UK's NHS, are also notorious for being inefficient. Our own PIA found no takers when it was put up for divestment.

India, the largest democracy in the world, is experiencing the worst communal and religious fissures since independence. The outgoing chief justice of the supreme court cited divine guidance in the Babri Mosque verdict. The ruling party is embroiled in allegations of extraterritorial and extra-judicial means of silencing dissenters from Canada to the US. State elections revolve around claims and counterclaims that one religion's place of worship bears the palimpsest of another.

> Art imitates life and vice versa, but life also imitates life.

Many in my generation were hooked on the James Hadley Chase novels, as much for their risqué covers as for their cloak-and-dagger plots. I am sure *The Way the Cookie Crumbles* has stuck in the memory because it had to do with a heist in broad daylight, something practised in the name of governance by "progressive" and "regressive" regimes alike.

Art imitates life and vice versa, but life also imitates life, as tragedy and farce, not necessarily in that order. Who knows what the perpetrators of the May 9 mayhem in Pakistan were fed to believe? Maybe they expected a Syrian army-like acquiescence in the face of an onslaught on state institutions. The most heard refrain in drawing room chatter is that the 'forces have prevented Pakistan from becoming another Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon'. We don't know if it is just the martial laws and experimentation with hybrid regimes that have prevented the country from becoming an Asian Tiger; but these have prevented Pakistan from becoming what it could have been.

Dec 16 is upon us; the cookie continues to crumble. ■

The writer is a poet. His latest publication is a collection of satire essays titled Fandana.
shahzadsharjeel1@gmail.com

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Iran with Arabs

BEIRUT: Shahanshah Mohammad Reza Pahlevi of Iran today [Dec 12] declared that his country would show solidarity with the Arabs in the event of a new Middle East war. Asked in an interview with the Beirut political weekly "Al Hauwaiss" about Iran's attitude should Arab-Israel hostilities break out again, he said: "As usual, we shall stand on the side of the Arabs." The Shah said Israel had no other choice but to implement the United Nations resolution on Palestine or to "become involved in a new war ... and this war will also be ours". The Iranian ruler pointed out that he also advocated at the UN recognition of the [PLO] — as the only legitimate representation of the Palestinian Arabs. — News agencies

[Meanwhile, as reported by our staff reporter,] Al-Syed Abdel Mahood al-Gaylani left Karachi on Wednesday [Dec 11] by air to perform his 12th holy pilgrimage to Mecca. Born in Iraq in 1823, Syed al-Gaylani has been living in the northern parts of Pakistan for 130 years. ... Although he was unwilling to talk about himself, one of his local "murids" said he lived "somewhere in Swat". "You are questioning me like a policeman", he said when asked to tell something about events 130 years ago.

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

Mediator for Kashmir

LAKE SUCCESS: The United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan today [Dec 12] recommended that the Security Council appoint a mediator to bring India and Pakistan together on all unresolved issues over Kashmir. The Commission, in the third interim report to the Security Council, expressed its doubt whether the five-member Commission was the "most flexible and desirable instrument to continue in the task".

The Group suggested that the Security Council give one person "broad authority" ... to bring India and Pakistan together "on all unresolved issues". It suggested that the Council consult with representatives of India and Pakistan to agree on terms of reference for the Mediator — including consultation regarding the scope of his authority to settle ... by arbitration those issues involved in the demilitarisation of ... Jammu and Kashmir as may remain outstanding, which impede the creation of conditions for the plebiscite.

The Commission also recommended that the Security Council ask both India and Pakistan to "take any necessary precautions to secure that their agreements regarding the cease-fire be faithfully observed".

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.

Pre-privatisation reforms for PIA

THIS refers to the editorial 'PIA uncertainty' (Nov 20). It is worth mentioning that the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has become a veritable albatross around the neck of the national economy, draining approximately Rs112 billion annually, as per the August 2023 statement of the national carrier's chief executive officer (CEO).

The last bidding round for sale of 60 per cent stake of PIA to private bidders elicited an embarrassingly tepid response from international and national investors, with a real estate developer turning up with an amazingly parsimonious bid of Rs10 billion.

It later transpired, however, that the previous caretaker government had left a negative equity of Rs85 billion on PIA's balance sheet, which actually dissuaded potential investors from offering a multi-floor bid.

Things, however, are not so simple. It is not only negative equity, but a whole ecosystem of inefficiency and overstaffing that has laid PIA low. The investors looking for stakes in PIA obviously want a secure business environment along with a credible dispute resolution mechanism in place and a transparent regulatory environment.

The selling of unprofitable state-owned enterprises (SOEs) is an attractive proposition, but only if the SOEs fetch an attractive price and are offered to credible investors having the capacity to run these entities efficiently and profitably.

According to independent economists, the panacea for bleeding SOEs is not their pell-mell selling to the carpetbaggers, but to run them efficiently through competent professional management appointed on merit.

It is only after these SOEs become solvent that their privatisation would garner optimum dividends. We should pay heed to the advice of such experts whose words have a lot of merit. PIA needs to be privatised, but, before the next round, certain reforms are required, which only a professional management can accomplish.

PIA's pre-privatisation phase requires deft and professional handling where civilian professionals with aviation management experience, preferably from among the best available local talent, should be appointed to the top management positions after completion of the tenure of the incumbent CEO.

Moreover, the new management, with a transitional mandate, should then carry out a ruthless efficiency and performance audit to pare down the flab and streamline procedures in sync with best international practices.

It is only after thorough pre-transition preparation and due reforms that PIA should be put up for privatisation. The above measures are imperative in order to prevent the national humiliation faced in the wake of the last round of bidding.

Brig (retd) Dr Rashid Wali Janjua
Islamabad

Verdict violation

DESPITE the Supreme Court decision a few years ago to ban the installation of outdoor advertising billboards and signboards on public property, ugly and dangerous structures have started cropping up once again across Karachi.

This is despite the fact that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), cantonment boards and the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) were ordered to remove all such hazardous material from their respective jurisdictions.

However, despite the Supreme Court orders, billboards can be seen at some of the major roads and streets in the city.

The orders were executed at some places, but the authorities totally ignored the foundation platforms constructed on footpaths, walkways and bobs placed on such plinth foundations for heavy metal poles to mount heavy advertisement material along the roads.

Such structures are rather hazardous and cause injuries to pedestrians, especially the elderly and women, adding to their sufferings. It is time for the relevant authorities to take action in this regard.

Masood Wasir
Karachi

Education crisis

BALNIGWAR is a town in Balochistan's Kech district that has been facing a serious education crisis. The lone high school, now upgraded to a higher secondary school, lacks quality education because of non-availability of teachers and other facilities.

Due to the lack of educational facilities, the majority of the local students get involved in various anti-social activities once they are done with matriculation.

Balnigwar has 33 villages, having a population of over 30,000. There are hardly any essential facility, like hospitals, roads and educational institutions. Education is the only way a society can secure its future, but, due to lack of facilities, the majority of the students leave their studies after matriculation. The local population depends on agriculture and there are no proper economic activities.

This is also a major reason the people do not encourage their children to go to other cities for further studies. Only those who can afford it, send their children to other cities for further studies, like Turbat, Gwadar and Quetta.

In this scenario, the local higher secondary school is critically important, but it does not have proper teaching staff and infrastructure. There are 650 students enrolled in the current session. A total of 10 teachers are posted, but most of them remain absent from duty.

When I did my matriculation from the same institution, there were 75 students, and only 12 could continue their studies any further.

It is the responsibility of the provincial government to provide infrastructural, financial and administrative support to the local higher secondary school. People of such remote, underdeveloped areas deserve education, too, just like people living in the country's urban centres.

Shamraiz Khan
Balnigwar

Special schools

THIS is with reference to the letter 'Special schools' (Oct 24), which rightly pointed out that our society lacks adequate quality institutions catering to the needs of special children, and that there is insufficient guidance available to the parents concerned. This often results in time wasted as families search for the right resources, and their poor guidance exacerbates the challenges faced by the children and their families.

Having worked in the field for 15 years, I believe the issue deserves greater attention. Not only do we need more schools specialising in education of those with special needs, but there is also a pressing shortage of experts as well as trained professionals in this domain.

As such, institutions focusing on bridging critical gaps in quality services for this vulnerable population provide educational, therapeutic and vocational training support to children with special needs.

Devoted multidisciplinary teams collaborate to develop and deliver individualised education plans tailored to the specific needs of each child under their care.

These institutions play a vital role in society. However, they alone cannot meet the needs of the growing population in the region.

Collective efforts from both public and private organisations working within their unique spheres can help close this gap, easing the challenges faced by the children with special needs and their families.

Dr Nazia Hoodjo
Karachi

Beggars galore

SOCIAL media posts as well as some reports in the conventional media suggest a family of beggars from Gujranwala spent Rs2.5 million on a mourning ritual. This is far more than what most middle-class families earn annually. For comparison, a salaried individual earning this much in a year would pay a significant amount in income tax, whereas the beggars contribute nothing. Such a situation is not only a national embarrassment, but also a clear sign of the failure of the system to control professional beggary.

The business of professional beggary raises serious ethical and legal concerns. Laws to control beggary do exist, but they are rarely enforced. Sadly, corrupt officials often tend to misuse these laws, harassing the genuine needy while ignoring the professionals. The government must take firm measures to address the critical issue. This can include creating income thresholds, confiscating assets of professional beggars, and reforming taxation policies for those found exploiting charity funds.

Families involved in such activities, like the one in Gujranwala, must face investigations for tax evasion, and be punished with heavy fines or imprisonment. Additionally, police officers who allow this practice in exchange for bribes should lose their jobs and face punishment.

People also need to be more cautious. Our well-meaning donations are keeping the social evil alive. Instead of handing over money directly, we should take time to verify if the person truly needs help. Most professional beggars can be identified by asking a few simple questions. It is time to act as responsible citizens and demand stricter enforcement of laws. Together, we can discourage this scam and make our society more just and fair.

Prof M. Fayyaz
Charsadda

▶ **MORAL VALUES:** The flaw of democracy is that the majority rules, with no regard for the character of that majority. For example, in a democratic dispensation, 51 per cent crooks would easily and legally rule over 49pc intellectuals and people of character. There is enormous wealth in the hands of a few, who can do whatever they choose to do. The media powerhouses and their analysts, pollsters and self-proclaimed experts often feed the public vicious theories and make them shallow and arrogant. The only solution to this evil is to modify our education system that will teach our children the moral values and the purpose of life along with other subjects. No doubt, this might take a long time, but will certainly produce great people who will enhance the quality of life on our dear planet.
Naseem Khan
Leland, North Carolina, USA

▶ **UNHEALTHY AIR:** This is with reference to the letter 'Toxic air' (Nov 27). The smog has lifted and everything appears alright, but it is not. My colleague who is asthmatic feels quite ill and miserable due to the bad air quality. If we check the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Lahore, it is over 200, which is better, but it is still unhealthy. Those who have breathing issues are severely affected by this unhealthy air. For the rest of us, the gradual effects on health due to continuous and relentless exposure to toxic air are equally harmful.
Mariam Khan
Lahore

▶ **REAL CAUSE OF SMOG:** The real cause of smog in Pakistani and Indian Punjab is the act of burning crop residue. It is not climate change. Farmers burn crop residue to clear the fields for the wheat season in November. This causes smog. The politicians, however, will never accept this simple fact. They will keep blaming the climate change phenomenon because they themselves happen to be the ones who own most of the farms. Their own families enjoy clean, fresh air and a comfortable, modern lifestyle abroad. They just do not care if others suffer. They really do not.
Marjorie Siddiqui
London, UK

External Ombudsman

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

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

PHC extends stay against execution of umbrella ADP schemes

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court on Thursday extended a stay order of restraining Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government from utilising funds for execution of umbrella schemes in Annual Development Programme (ADP).

A bench consisting of Justice Sahibzada Asadullah and Justice Wiqar Ahmad again sought reply of the provincial government to a petition of opposition members of the provincial assembly against the umbrella schemes in ADP.

The leader of opposition in provincial assembly, Ibadullah Khan, MPA Arbab Waseem Khan and 17 other opposition lawmakers have filed a joint petition, requesting the high court to declare it illegal and also set aside the schemes included in ADP under umbrella or block allocation.

They also prayed the court to strike down all directives issued by the chief minister regarding umbrella schemes after the passage of 2024-25 annual budget.

The petitioners sought court's orders for the government to formulate, implement and distribute developmental schemes and release funds for them in line with the law, rules, guidelines and superior court's judgements.

They also requested the court to order authorities not to discriminate against them and sought interim relief in the form of suspension of 1 chief minister's orders for umbrella schemes until the petition was decided.

The petitioners belong to opposition parties including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl, Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Parliamentarians and Awami National Party.

The respondents in the petition are the KP government through its chief secretary, chief minister, his principal secretary, additional chief secretary and the secretaries of finance, communication and works, irrigation, planning and development and public health engineering departments.

Barrister Sultan Mohammad Khan and Babar Khan Yousafzai appeared for the petitioners whereas additional advocate general Rauf Atta represented the provincial government.

The AAG stated that he would file reply on behalf of the government.

He stated that the government and opposition members had been in contact over the issue.

Barrister Sultan also hoped that the issue would resolve amicably.

In the petition, the petitioners insisted that the 'illegal' actions of the respondents clearly violated the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Procedure and Conduct of Business Rules, 1988, and KP Government Rules of Business, 1985, as well as the policy guidelines issued by the government in consequence of a high court judgement.

They said that the chief minister under the name of 'CM Directives' was doling out public funds to his political favourites despite the fact that such practice of arbitrary one man discretionary power had been declared consistently illegal by superior courts including PHC.

They have also given a table in the petition wherein 15 of the umbrella schemes had been mentioned related to upgradation and rehabilitation of roads, small drinking water supply, construction of flood protection, irrigation channels and installation of solar tube-wells, district development plans for different districts.

A STUDENT attends a painting class at Khana-i-Farhang Iran, Peshawar, on Thursday. — APP

Maulana Fazl threatens street protests over madressah bill delay

Alleges govt trying to create division among clerics

By Muhammad Irfan Mughal

MAULANA Fazlur Rehman addresses a presser in Dera Ismail Khan on Thursday. — Dawn

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Thursday warned that his party would stage street protests across the country if the federal government didn't ensure early implementation of the madressah registration bill passed by parliament.

He told a presser at his residence in Sherkot area here that he rejected the federal government's decision on seminary registration with the education ministry.

Mr Fazl said that his party had raised its concerns about the madressah registration bill with the country's president.

He said that after the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill in parliament with consensus from the Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and other political parties, objections to the proposed seminary law should have ceased.

"There is no room for objections to the madressah bill," he said.

The JUI-F leader said that his party had accepted the official draft of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, but the federal government was attempting to create divisions among religious scholars over the seminary bill.

He said that his party would foil such bids.

Mr Fazl wondered why the president was delaying the signing of the madressah bill and raising objections about it after the approval of the constitutional amendment by parliament.

"We believe that the [madressah] bill has become an act of parliament because it's part of the recently-enacted Constitutional Amendment," he said.

The JUI-F leader urged the president to sign the proposed law without delay for its immediate notification.

He alleged that the federal government and certain state institutions were leading the country to crises on the issue.

Mr Fazl insisted that the government had promised that seminaries would have the option of affiliating themselves with the education ministry or under the Societies Act.

"The government has broken that promise," he said, advocating for the registration of madressahs with the education ministry only.

The JUI-F chief said that the bill was drafted by the government ahead of the last general elections.

He raised concern about the "creation of a new seminary organisation" and urged religious scholars not to be used to fuel disputes on the issue.

"If the rulers don't change their current attitude, we will launch protests across the country and engage with the people," he said.

Mr Fazl welcomed talks between the government and the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf as a good initiative and said that he had always believed in sorting out political and other issues through dialogue. He complained about the poor law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and insisted that the government lacked writ in the province.

The JUI-F leader said that the people of the province felt insecure as miscreants were present even in villages.

"Where there is no peace, there is no prosperity," he said.

Mr Fazl criticised Israel for "subjecting Palestinians to terrorism with the support of the US and UK."

He carried a question about the indictment of former chief of Inter-Services Intelligence retired Lt Gen Faiz Hameed by a military court for allegedly engaging in political activities, violating anti-espionage laws, and abusing his authority, and said that it was the army's internal matter, so he won't comment on it.

The JUI-F leader expressed condolences over the death of Khalilur Rehman Haqqani, Afghan refugee minister and brother of Haqqani Network's founder Jalaluddin Haqqani, in Kabul blast and said that the sacrifices of the Haqqani family for Afghanistan were no secret.

'Funding discrimination' against LBs challenged in high court

Petition complains govt has decided to fund 56 of 131 tehsil councils

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Heads of 22 tehsil councils in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province have moved the Peshawar High Court against the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's decision to release development funds to 56 of the total 131 tehsil councils in the province.

In the joint petition, Mardan city mayor Himayatullah Mayar, Dir tehsil council chairman Rafiullah and 20 other tehsil council mayors and chairmen requested the court to declare illegal the finance department's Dec 5 order for the release of development funds to 56 councils under the Provincial Finance Commission allocations.

The petitioners requested the court to direct the government to ensure that as per the PFC, an impartial release of funds should be held throughout the province including to the petitioners and other remaining tehsil councils.

They also sought interim relief, saying during pendency of the petition, the respondents including the KP government should be restrained from distribution of funds issued through the impugned order.

The government ordered release of funds mostly to tehsil councils, which have the ruling PTI's members as mayors and chairmen.

The petition, filed through advocate Babar Khan Yousafzai, named the provincial government through its chief secretary and local government and finance secretaries as respondents.

The petitioners said that they were elected as tehsil council mayors and chairmen in elections conducted for local governments, held on Dec 19, 2021, and March 31, 2022.

They added that Article 140-A of the Constitution provided that each province should establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representatives of the local government.

The petitioners said that Chapter VIII of the KP Local Government Act, 2013, related to local government finances and particularly, section 30 provided for establishment of local funds in public accounts, whereas section 31 described the operation of funds and public accounts.

They said that the Act further provided for PFC and fiscal transfers and it was an enactment similar to transfer of funds by the federal government to the provinces under the National Finance Commission.

The petitioners claimed that since the elections were held in 2021 and 2022 no funds in respect of PFC and fiscal transfers even had been released for development to tehsil local government.

They added that there were 131 tehsils which had remained deprived of PFC allocation since their elections, but on Dec 5, the impugned order was issued for releasing funds to 56 of the tehsils, whereas remaining 75 had been discriminated against and was not included in the order.

The petitioners contended that as per the PFC, the provincial government was obligated to allocate 20 percent of its share to the local government in any fiscal year.

They, however, complained that the government had been withholding those funds for the last three years, while recently, it, through the impugned order, selected 56 of the councils for funding.

The petitioners contended that the KP City and Tehsil Local Government Rules, 2022, empowered mayors and chairmen to manage affairs of their councils, which also included overseeing development within their respective tehsils.

They added that allocation of funds exclusively to selected tehsils of the provincial government's choice formed discrimination and violated Articles 4, 9 and 25 of the Constitution.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Subject: Provision of Hotel/ Guest House Booking Lodging, Food, and Event Management services
Tender Publication Date: 20 November 2024
Closing Date of the Tender: 16 December 2024 at 14:00 hrs hours
Reference No.: 2024/EAPAK/FAPAK/130168
The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in Pakistan, would like to invite interested vendors to participate in this invitation and submit their Technical and Financial offers, as per the technical specifications.
The registration with UNGM (https://www.ungm.org/Vendor/Registration) is a mandatory requirement in order to participate in this tender. Please visit www.ungm.org for more information on how to register your company in UNGM.

PAKISTAN ARAB PIPELINE COMPANY LIMITED

SALE OF SCRAP MATERIAL
PAP/TAD/PSI/1/12/24

Pak-Arab Pipeline Company Limited (PAPCO) invites sealed bids for the Sale of Scrap Material on "as is where is" basis as per the list mentioned below:

Lot No.	Description	Quantity
1	Air Conditioners and Refrigerators	1 Lot
2	Computers and Monitors	1 Lot
3	Printers, Photocopier and Fax Machines	1 Lot
4	UPS and Batteries	1 Lot
5	Used Batteries (Unserviced scrap) Approx. Quantity: 20 Nos.	1 Lot
6	Used Tyres (Unserviced scrap) Approx. Quantity: 100 Nos.	1 Lot
7	Miscellaneous Mechanical, Wooden and Other Scrap	1 Lot

Bid Bond	Tender Doc. Issuance / Submission Date & Time
Five Percent 5%	Monday to Friday during 0900 hours to 1200 hours. From 14-12-2024 till 26-12-2024
Bid Submission / Opening Date	
01-12-2024 Bid Submission: 1000 hrs. Bid Opening: 1030 hrs.	

Details are available at our website: http://www.papco.com.pk. Phone No.: (092-21-36680100-113, 834, 2032 / 2043, Direct No.: 021-36689864

PAPCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to cancel the entire bidding process and reject all bids without assigning any reason.

Manager Materials

HYDERABAD INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT SCIENCES (HITMS) HYDERABAD

CANCELLATION OF BIDS

This is for information to all concerned that the invitation of bids, which was previously announced in different newspapers in respect of following works, are hereby cancelled due to valid reasons.

S.no	Name of Work
1.	Construction of Academic Block for the project titled "Establishment of Hyderabad institute for technology & management science." Costing to Rs.715.225 Million.
2.	Construction of Boundary Wall and main gate for the project titled "Establishment of Hyderabad institute for technology & management science." Costing to Rs.247.700 Million.

Kafeel Ahmed Project Director
Hyderabad Institute for Technology and Management Sciences
Add: Youth Hostel Dmain-e-Kohsar Latifabad Hyderabad Sindh
Office# 022 3823752

SIUT
SIUT, a 1000-bedded tertiary care teaching hospital providing comprehensive care to patients with renal and related diseases.

TENDER No. 494
Supply of Heart Lung Machine for Division of Cardio Thoracic Sciences

Sealed Tenders are invited from well-established and reputed Suppliers/Authorized Distributors and Sole Agents, who are Sales Tax and Income Tax registered, active tax payers for the year 2024-25. All tenders/bids must be accompanied by the earnest money / bid security @1% of the total value of the items quoted by the bidder in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft in the name of Director SIUT, Karachi. Please bring along copies of NTN, Sales Tax Registration Certificates and Active Tax payer status for tender documents. Detailed information of this tender and its terms & conditions may be received from the Office of the Director SIUT, ground floor DFMC, Karachi on any working day between 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. from 14-12-2024 to 30-12-2024 on payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 3000/- in the form of Pay Order in the name of Director SIUT. The said tender will be collected on 5th floor, DFMC at Pre-function area at 02:00 pm on 31-12-2024 (Tuesday) and will be opened at 02:30 pm on the same date in the presence of all interested Bidders or their authorized representatives on the above mentioned place.

Note: All terms & Conditions of 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/join-us/tenders.

Office of the Director
Sindh Institute of Urology & Transplantation, Karachi.
Tel: (021) 99214977, 99215718/53, 111 000 313

SIUT
SIUT, a 1000-bedded tertiary care teaching hospital providing comprehensive care to patients with renal and related diseases.

TENDER No. 493
Architectural signage on international standard for SIUT-Mariyam Bashir Dawood Children & Cardiac Hospital, Karachi

Sealed Tenders are invited from well established and reputed Designer/Supplier and Installer, who are Sales Tax and Income Tax registered, active tax payers for the year 2024-25. All tenders/bids must be accompanied by the earnest money / bid security @1% of the total value of the items quoted by the bidder in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft in the name of Director SIUT, Karachi. Please bring along copies of NTN, Sales Tax Registration Certificates and Active Tax payer status for tender documents. Detailed information of this tender and its terms & conditions may be received from the Office of the Director SIUT, ground floor DFMC, Karachi on any working day between 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. from 13-12-2024 to 27-12-2024 on payment of non refundable fee of Rs. 3000/- in the form of Pay Order in the name of Director SIUT. The said tender will be collected on 5th floor, DFMC at Pre-function area at 11:00 am on 28-12-2024 (Saturday) and will be opened at 11:30 am on the same date in the presence of all interested Bidders or their authorized representatives on the above mentioned place.

Note: All terms & Conditions of 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/join-us/tenders.

Office of the Director
Sindh Institute of Urology & Transplantation, Karachi.
Tel: (021) 99214977, 99215718/53, 111 000 313

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

BUSINESS

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GROW
ADVERTISE IN
DAWN
INDUSTRY
SUPPLEMENTS

DAWN
COUNTRY
SUPPLEMENTS

'Economy on road to attaining stability'

Aurangzeb says key challenges have been addressed effectively

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the economic challenges have been effectively addressed, and the country is on the right path to achieving stability.

Virtually addressing the inaugural session of the Second International Islamic Capital Markets Conference & Expo on Thursday, the finance minister said Pakistan had faced significant economic challenges, which were effectively addressed, and the country was on the right trajectory towards macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth.

The minister said that Islamic finance and capital markets can be pivotal in helping Pakistan remain steadfast on the road to macroeconomic stability.

He said Islamic finance, specifically Islamic capital markets, could play a pivotal role in this road to market as instruments such as sukuk, equity funds, and Shariah-compliant investment vehicles not only attracted investment but also reduced reliance on interest-based borrowing.

He said the government committed to transforming the financial system in line with Shariah principles, and 56pc of PSX market capitalisation comprised Shariah-compliant securities as of June 30, 2024.

"In the collective investment segment, 48pc of assets under management of mutual funds, 66pc under management of voluntary pension funds, and 95pc under REITs are already Shariah-compliant. These statistics deflect the progress that we have made over the years," the minister noted.

He stressed the need for an economic system that aligns with Islamic values and supports inclusive, sustainable growth, stating, "Only then can we share the benefits with the citizens of Pakistan."

He said that Islamic finance and instruments such as sukuk, equity funds, and Shariah-compliant investment vehicles were vital for mobilising resources for critical sectors, including infrastructure development and poverty alleviation through Islamic social finance while maintaining adherence to ethical and transparent principles.

"With these mechanisms in place, Pakistan has the potential to emerge as a leading global hub for Islamic finance," he added.

He said the growing interest in Shariah-compliant investment products was a testament to the increasing global demand for ethical and sustainable financial solutions.

"The steady and healthy growth of Islamic finance, both in Pakistan and internationally, reflects the shifting preferences of investors towards value-based financial systems," he said, adding this demand has spurred interest from market participants across sectors, both within and outside of banking, which is contributing to the creation of a comprehensive Islamic finance ecosystem".

SBP reserves soar

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Foreign exchange reserves of the State Bank increased by $13 million to $12.05 billion during the week ended on Dec 6, announced the central bank on Thursday.

The SBP reserves position is so comfortable that the finance minister stated the external financing gap for the current year has been met, eliminating the urgency to access international financial markets until Pakistan's credit rating improves.

The country's overall foreign exchange holdings increased to $16.68bn, including $4.54bn held by the commercial banks.

3,370-point rally tosses PSX above 114k-barrier

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: The expected cut in the interest rate continued fuelling aggressive buying across the board as bulls staged the third largest point-wise rally on Thursday, catapulting the benchmark KSE-100 index above the 114,000 milestone by crossing four barriers in one go.

Topline Securities Ltd said the stock market recorded its historic rally as euphoria gripped investors following a significant decline in T-bill auction yields, driving the market to new highs. The KSE-100 index opened on a strong note, marking an intraday high of 3,598 points before closing at 114,190, gaining 3,370 points or 3.04pc day-on-day.

The remarkable performance highlights sustained optimism, with the market rallying an astounding 18pc over the past 18 months from 40,000 to 114,000. Today's broad-based buying saw blue-chip and growth stocks in key sectors like fertiliser, E&P, and technology leading the charge, reflecting robust investor confidence amid a shifting macroeconomic environment.

Ahsen Mohsani of Arif Habib Corporation said the equities rallied to new highs after the short-term government bonds yields were slashed by up to 1008ps to 11.99pc in the latest auction, strengthening the expectations of a significant cut in the State Bank of Pakistan's policy rate in its Monetary Policy review on Dec 16.

He added that increasing political noise and receding geopolitical tensions led to positive sentiments despite slippages in IMF targets. Surging global crude oil prices, upbeat data POL sales up by 15pc YoY, car sales up by 62pc year-on-year and cement despatches up by 5pc for November and ADB raising growth forecast to 1pc for FY25 were other positive developments that supported the bull run at PSX.

"Cooling off on the political landscape on the backdrop of government and opposition party agreed on unconditional dialogues to resolve issues and a further decline in the yields in yesterday's T-bills auction are the two significant catalysts of the aforesaid massive showdown at PSX," Ali Nasih, Head of Sales at Insight Securities.

He hoped the northbound journey would continue as the bourse received massive buying interests, especially from mutual funds where reallocation from fixed income to equity continued.

Top contributors to the index's rise included Fauji Fertilizer, Mari Petroleum, Pakistan Petroleum, PSO, Engro Corporation, and OGDC, collectively adding 2,028 points.

The trading volume surged 36.09pc to 1.46 billion shares while the traded value swelled 42.72pc to Rs47.13bn day-on-day.

Stocks contributing significantly to the traded volume included MustCall Telecom (232.92m shares), Cnergyico PK (80.19m shares), Pakistan International Bulk Terminal (70.68m shares), K-Electric (59.68m shares) and Fauji Foods(49.27m shares).

The shares registering the most significant increases in their share prices in absolute terms were Nestle Pakistan (Rs199.92), Ratban Maize (Rs189.12), Ismail Industries (Rs85.42), Pakistan Tobacco (Rs64.75) and Al-Abbas Sugar (Rs64.29).

The companies registering significant decreases in their share prices in absolute terms were Master International (Rs130.55), Hallmark Company (Rs24.24), Unilever Foods (Rs22.90), Bata Pakistan (Rs18.13) and Kohat Cement (Rs16.70).

ECB delivers fourth straight rate cut

FRANKFURT: The European Central Bank cut interest rates for the fourth time this year on Thursday and kept the door open to more easing as the euro zone economy is dragged down by political instability at home and the threat of a fresh U.S. trade war.

The ECB has been easing policy quickly for months as inflation worries have largely evaporated. The debate is now shifting to whether it is cutting rates fast enough to support an economy that is falling behind global peers and has been skirting recession for over a year.

Worried over this increasingly dark outlook, and what ECB President Christine Lagarde described as "uncertainty ... in abundance", a handful of policymakers even pushed for a bigger half-percentage-point rate cut to buffer the euro zone economy.

But they settled unanimously on 25 basis points, Lagarde said, taking the ECB's deposit rate, the benchmark for borrowing costs across the 20-nation currency bloc, to 3pc.

The central bank also removed an earlier reference in its guidance to keeping interest rates sufficiently restrictive, which economists took as a sign that further policy easing is coming — perhaps as soon as January, as inflation is now settling at the ECB's 2pc target in early 2025.

"The disinflation process is well on track," Lagarde told a press conference. "The element which has changed ... is the downside risk, particularly downside risk to growth, which is more elaborate." —AFP

PROTESTORS hold placards during a demonstration called by the CGT, joined by Solidaires and the FSU unions, in Paris on Thursday, ahead of the appointment of a new prime minister, to respond to the 'social emergency', in a context marked by an explosion in redundancy plans.—AFP

Textile units may need NOC for incentives

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Textile units holding back payment of cotton cess may need to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) to avail of subsidies, secure import and export permits, and take advantage of government incentives or packages.

Alternatively, the amount of cess should be recovered through the Federal Board of Revenue, while the federal government could provide funds for research and development and ERE.

These proposals were discussed during the PCCC's governing body meeting on Thursday. Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain deliberated on critical issues surrounding the cotton cess and restructuring of the PCCC to revitalise its operations.

The minister expressed serious concerns over the past eight years' delays in resolving the cess-related disputes, which have adversely impacted PCCC's efficiency and its contributions to cotton research and development (R&D).

A press release of the ministry says that immediate measures were proposed to resolve the cess issue, ensure recovery of outstanding dues, and restore PCCC's financial stability.

The minister reiterated the government's commitment to supporting growers and strengthening PCCC's role as a key institution for the cotton sector and thanked the governing body members for their valuable input for an amicable solution to the prevailing situation.

To address current challenges, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, in collaboration with the Commerce Ministry, plans to host a National Cotton Conference in Multan on Feb 4, 2025. The conference will serve as a platform for stakeholders to devise sustainable strategies for the recovery and growth of the cotton industry.

The ministry has already held several meetings with the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Aptma) and the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) to address the payment of cotton cess.

The ministry's secretary recently informed the National Assembly Standing Committee that there had been little to no increase in the cotton cess over the past decade or only a minimal rise.

Minister proposes 'DG security' position in TDAP

Jam Kamal expresses dissatisfaction with security measures at Texpo

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Jam Kamal has proposed the creation of a post of "director general for security" within the trade promotion organisation to oversee security protocols for high-profile events.

The minister made the proposal during the Trade Development Authority's board meeting on Thursday. The meeting, attended by TDAP Chairman Zubair Motiwalla and key board members, covered an extensive 14-point agenda targeted at increasing the authority's efficiency and effectiveness.

An official announcement said Jam Kamal expressed concern over the security arrangements at Texpo, highlighting gaps in the current system. He proposed creating a permanent director general for security position within TDAP to oversee protocols for high-profile events.

"We have ministers, ambassadors, and foreign dignitaries attending these events. We need a proper security professional in the structure," he said.

The board recommended initiating the process for the new position through the ministry of commerce and the finance division.

The commerce minister criticised the reliance on external security advisers, calling for a dedicated in-house role to manage airport, hotel, and city-level arrangements for trade events.

The government has established TDAP to promote exports and for facilitating exporters in the international market.

Previously, various attempts were made to transfer the TDAP headquarter to Islamabad and sector-specific directorates to the regions.

At the meeting, the commerce minister emphasised the need to restructure TDAP for improving its efficiency. New board members, including senators, were briefed on TDAP's organisational structure, functions, and mandate. "Let's start with better structuring of TDAP so we can see how to make it more efficient," the minister stated. The minister took note of the current event management practices, particularly Texpo's logistical and promotional challenges.

KCCI seeks 400bps cut in SBP policy rate

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) President Muhammad Jawed Bilwani has urged the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to reduce the policy rate by 400 basis points in the upcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting as inflation witnessed sharp deceleration to 4.86 per cent in November.

Drastic policy rate cuts would align real interest rates closer to sustainable levels and make borrowing affordable for businesses and consumers, he said in a statement.

He noted that the drop in inflation in November marked the fourth consecutive month of single-digit inflation after over two years of high inflationary pressures. The SBP has reduced the policy rate from 22pc to 12pc since June.

However, the current interest rate remains relatively high compared to regional peers such as India (6.5pc), Vietnam (4.5pc), and Bangladesh (10pc), he said, adding that high interest rate continues to suppress private sector credit growth and stifle economic activity, placing Pakistan at a competitive disadvantage.

Haleon Pakistan to manufacture Centrum

KARACHI: Haleon Pakistan plans to start manufacturing multivitamin brand Centrum for domestic sales and export, its CEO said, as it seeks to boost sales amid lower inflation.

The Pakistan unit of British consumer healthcare firm Haleon plans to expand its pain management offerings next year by adding the Panadol range for menstrual pain and migraines, CEO Farhan Muhammad Haroon told Reuters in an interview.

Pakistan has a Rs24 billion ($86.30 million) Vitamin Mineral Supplement market. This does not include the grey market. We already make up Rs2.5bn ($26.97m) of the market through our (vitamin) products CAC-1000 Plus and Qalsium-B, said Haroon.

"With the launch of Centrum, we plan to capture 7 to 8pc of the remaining market immediately, which is a sizeable portion of the category."

Haroon said the company plans to sell Centrum in smaller bottles so customers do not have to worry about high upfront costs, as purchasing power has diminished in the country after inflation hit a multidecade high of around 40pc last year. In November, Pakistan's consumer price index inflation slowed to 4.9pc.

Haroon said in the first stage of the Centrum launch, expected in the first quarter of 2025, the product will be imported, and in the second stage it will be made locally with market-specific variants to suit needs of Pakistanis and other export markets.

"We already export our calcium and vitamin D supplement CAC-1000 Plus and topical pain relief product Voltral Emulgel to Vietnam and Philippines, we will be ready to export to 19 countries in the next 1-1.5 years," he said.

Haleon Pakistan sees at least 10pc of its sales coming from exports in the next two years, up from 5-6pc during its peak in 2022, Haroon said.—Reuters

Govt yet to appoint financial advisers for five power firms

Senate panel expresses its displeasure over minister's absence

By Khalid Khan

ISLAMABAD: The government has yet to appoint any financial adviser for three power distribution companies (Discos) and two generation companies (Gencos) selected for the first round of privatisation.

The Power Division disclosed this before the Senate Standing Committee on Power which expressed displeasure over the absence of Power Minister Awais Leghari and Secretary Power Dr Fakhar Alam despite prior commitment and also showed concern over harassment of industrialists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who were applying for solar net-metering.

The meeting of the panel presided over by Senator Mohsin Aziz deferred agenda items pertaining to negotiations with independent power producers (IPPs) and matters relating to the disposal of assets (movable/immovable), liabilities, and employees of each Disco on privatisation agenda. Mr Aziz said the meeting had been set in consultation with the minister and secretary of power, who wanted a 20-day gap but did not turn up for the meeting after 35 days.

Additional Secretary of Power Arshad Majeed said both had to attend a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office. Senator Aziz said he had even spoken to them in the morning and they had promised to join the standing committee meeting.

Another power ministry official, however, reported that the appointment of financial advisers (FAs) for three Discos was under process of the Privatisation Commission, and the federal cabinet had given the Power Division a list of nine conditions precedent for completion by the time FAs were appointed.

He said the sector experts and the World Bank also believed that those actions should be done before FAs were appointed who would then make assessment about all sorts of assets, real estate and employees and their post-privatisation pension benefits etc.

He said the Power Division was required to complete these nine tasks by Jan 31, 2025 but did not explain those conditions. The meeting was told that three Discos from Gujranwala, Lahore and Islamabad had been selected for the first phase of privatisation.

The committee was told that FAs were required to conduct due diligence, based on which transaction structure has to be determined for approval by the federal cabinet. Also, the FAs propose the reserve or base price, terms and conditions of privatisation for the disposal of assets (movable/ immovable), liabilities and employees, and criteria for determining the value of assets proposed to be privatised.

Regarding Gencos, the committee was told that the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCoP) had decided in May this year that only operating and efficient plants of all Gencos be carved out and offered for privatisation.

It was noted that Nandipur Power Plant (NPP) (part of GENCO-III) and Guddu Power Plant (GPP) (part of GENCO-II) have been part of the Privatisation Program since 2019. A consortium was appointed as the FA for NPP in 2020, while efforts to hire an FA for GPP were initiated three times but have yet to materialise. The FA identified nine key issues for both NPP and GPP.

However, the privatisation commission has resumed a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire advisers for NPP, which is expected to be completed by mid-January 2025. For GPP, the process will begin following the rehabilitation of Steam Turbine ST-10, which is currently non-operational.

KP industrialists

The meeting took up grievances of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa industrialists concerning the harassment by Pesco on the solar system installation. Former President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry highlighted that Pesco officials created unwanted hindrances to derail the solarisation process. It took 8-9 months to acquire the necessary approval from Pesco.

Similar complaints were also aired by about five or six other businessmen who called for some standard operating procedures (SOP) to ensure that Pesco did not discriminate and work unilaterally and instead provided breathing space for local consumers. One affected industrialist apprised the committee that Pesco had cut the connection despite filing an extension applications, which had been pending for more than three months.

Senator Mohsin Aziz lamented that it is unfortunate to witness such a treatment being meted out to industrialists who have been paying their bills and taxes. Senator Hidayatullah Khan opined that the Pesco rules should be amended to lessen the burden of industrialists.

The committee unilaterally directed the Power Division to resolve the grievances of industrialists, as it would help revive the dying industry of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

While taking up the matter of excessive billing and loadshedding by K-Electric, raised by Senator Syed Manzoor Ahsan, K-Electric officials claimed that there had been zero loadshedding on industrial feeders. However, 10pc loadshedding has been occurring on feeders exceeding the basic transmission limit and distribution losses set by K-Electric.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

Shipwreck off Tunisia leaves 9 migrants dead

TUNIS: Tunisia's coastguard has recovered the bodies of nine migrants while six others are still missing after their boat sank off the Tunisian coast, a judicial official said on Thursday, in the latest migrant boat disaster in the Mediterranean.

The North African country as well as neighbouring Libya have become key departure points for migrants, often from other parts of the continent, who risk perilous sea journeys in the hopes of reaching better lives in Europe.

Farid Ben Jha, a public prosecution spokesman for the eastern governorates of Monastir and Mahdia, said that survivors of the latest shipwreck told authorities their boat had capsized after setting sail on Tuesday night.

They had left from the coastal city of Sfax further north, Tunisia's main departure point for migrants heading to Italy, Ben Jha said.

A fisherman who noticed the sinking boat had alerted the authorities, he added.

According to the judicial spokesman, all 42 passengers were from sub-Saharan African countries, and including eight women. Some of those rescued were from Cameroon, Senegal and Guinea, said Ben Jha.

Each year, tens of thousands of people attempt to make the Mediterranean Sea crossing. Italy, whose Lampedusa island is only 150 kilometres from Tunisia, is often their first port of call. Since the beginning of the year, Tunisian rights group FTDES has counted "between 600 and 700" dead and missing migrants due to shipwrecks off Tunisia, after more than 1,300 migrants died or disappeared in 2023.—AFP

Mexican judge shot dead in violence-plagued region

MEXICO CITY: A judge was shot dead on Wednesday in Mexico's once-thriving beach city of Acapulco, local media and the state prosecutor's office said.

Local press identified the slain judge as Edmundo Romeo Pinzon, president of the Superior Court of Justice in Guerrero state, saying he was shot at least four times in his car outside an Acapulco courthouse.

The southern state of Guerrero is one the states hardest hit in Mexico by violence linked to organised crime, and has seen a string of deadly attacks this year. In October, the mayor of the state capital Chilpancingo was killed and decapitated just days after taking office.

Weeks later, armed clashes between alleged gang members and security forces left 19 people dead in the state. Last month, several dismembered bodies were discovered in vehicles in Chilpancingo.

Acapulco, the state's most populous city, was once a playground for the rich and famous, but has lost its luster over the last decade as foreign tourists have been spooked by bloodshed that has made it one of the world's most violent cities.

On Wednesday, the Guerrero state prosecutor's office said in a statement that it was "investigating the crime of aggravated homicide against Edmundo S," in line with the usual practice of not giving full names.—AFP

MALIBU (California): Firefighters extinguish hotspots at a home destroyed by a wildfire. The wildfire has scorched 4,000 acres near Pepperdine University, destroying some homes and forcing thousands to evacuate along the US west coast amid high winds.—AFP

Trump criticises Ukraine's use of US missiles

Moscow says it will 'definitely' respond to Kyiv's ATACMS strike

WASHINGTON: US president-elect Donald Trump criticised Ukraine's use of US-supplied missiles for attacks deep into Russian territory in a *Time magazine* interview published on Thursday, comments that suggest he could alter US policy towards Ukraine.

"It's crazy what's taking place. It's crazy. I disagree very vehemently with sending missiles hundreds of miles into Russia. Why are we doing that? We're just escalating this war and making it worse. That should not have been allowed to be done," Trump said in an interview to mark his being named Time's Person of the Year.

President Joe Biden last month lifted the US ban on Ukraine using US-supplied longer-range missiles for strikes deep inside Russia, his latest attempt to boost Kyiv in its battle to repel a Russian invasion force from his country.

The decision came after pleas from Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. The White House cited Russia's deployment of 15,000 North Korean troops along the battlefront as the main reason why Biden changed his mind.

In a response to recent missile attack, Kremlin said on Thursday Russia will "definitely" respond to a Ukrainian attack on a southern airfield using US-supplied ATACMS missiles.

Trump has said he would like to bring a quick end to the nearly three-year-old war but has been cagey on the details. He told *Time* he had a "very good plan" to help but that if he revealit it now "it becomes almost a worthless plan." Pressed on whether he would abandon Ukraine, Trump said: "I want to reach an agreement, and the only way you're going to reach an agreement is not to abandon."

He said the entry of North Korean troops into the picture was a "very complicating factor."

Trump told *Time* that the number of people dying in the conflict, especially in the last month, was "staggering." "I'm talking on both sides. It's really an advantage to both sides to get this thing done," he said.

Asked whether he would cut US military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine if Kyiv did not agree to a peace deal, Trump said, "I think I have a very good plan to help, but when I start exposing that plan, it becomes almost a worthless plan."

Airfield attack

Russia's defence ministry on Wednesday accused Ukraine of firing the missiles in an overnight attack on an airfield in the port city of Taganrog in the southern Rostov region.

President Vladimir Putin has previously threatened to launch its new hypersonic ballistic missile, named Oreshnik, at the centre of Kyiv if Ukraine does not halt its attacks on Russian territory using US-supplied ATACMS missiles.—Agencies

China rejects S. Korean president's spying accusations

BEIJING: China on Thursday said it was "deeply surprised and dissatisfied" with comments made by South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol that appeared to accuse Chinese nationals of espionage.

Yoon made a defiant address earlier Thursday in which he defended his shock decision to declare martial law and send troops to the South Korean parliament last week, plunging the democratic nation into political uncertainty.

The embattled leader also lashed out at China during his speech, accusing Chinese nationals of photographing and filming military sites in South Korea in apparent attempts at espionage.

Beijing's foreign ministry hit back later Thursday, saying Yoon was "groundlessly hyping up so-called Chinese espionage".

"China... is deeply surprised and dissatisfied with these remarks made by the South Korean side," ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said at a regular press briefing, without referring to Yoon by name. "This is not conducive to the healthy and stable development of China-South Korea relations," she added.

During his address, Yoon accused the main opposition party of blocking his efforts to amend South Korea's anti-spying law.

He said current legislation left "no way to punish foreign nationals for espionage" and cited two cases of alleged spying by Chinese citizens.

They included three people caught flying a drone and filming a US aircraft carrier in the southern port city of Busan, whose devices also contained photos of military installations.—AFP

UK man held for knife attack on immigration law firm

LONDON: A British Nazi sympathiser who targeted a prominent immigration lawyer in a knife attack was on Thursday sentenced to indefinite detention in hospital.

Cavan Medlock, 32, took a knife, handcuffs, a Nazi flag and a Confederate flag to the London office of law firm Duncan Lewis in Sept 2020 and demanded to see Toufique Hossain, the firm's head of public law.

Hossain has represented claimants in a number of high-profile court cases, including legal challenges to Britain's controversial plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda.

Prosecutors said Medlock intended to restrain Hossain and display the two flags in the office's window as a "rallying cry" for others with extreme right-wing views.

Medlock was disarmed by a receptionist and held by staff until police arrived. He later told police that he had targeted Hossain after reading an online *Daily Mail* article. A spokesperson for DMG Media, which publishes the *Daily Mail* and *Mail Online*, said in a statement: "The Mail gives no support to terrorists, whatever their politics.

"The article referenced in this case was a legitimate piece of investigative journalism in the public interest and the law firm involved was quoted so their view would be represented."—Reuters

Somalia, Ethiopia reach deal to end dispute over breakaway region

NAIROBI: Somalia and Ethiopia have agreed on a joint declaration to resolve their dispute over the breakaway Somaliland region and land-locked Ethiopia's push for sea access, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has announced, according to *Al Jazeera*.

The two parties reached a deal to end a bitter, nearly year-long dispute, following talks in Turkiye.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan welcomed the "historic agreement", which he said would eventually ensure landlocked Ethiopia's access to the sea, reported by *BBC*.

At the press conference he held hands with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who both agreed to respect one another's "sovereignty".

The move has been welcomed by international observers, skittish at the thought of rising tensions in the volatile Horn of Africa. But how did we get here and what could it mean for the region?

What led to this point?

Addis Ababa and Mogadishu have been at loggerheads since landlocked Ethiopia struck a deal in January with Somalia's breakaway region Somaliland to lease a stretch of coastline for a port and military base in exchange for recognition.

Somaliland unilaterally declared independence in 1991 and said the deal would see it formally recognised by Ethiopia, although this has never been confirmed by Addis Ababa. Mogadishu reacted furiously, claiming the agreement was a violation of its sovereignty.

Tensions rose further in April when Somalia expelled Ethiopia's ambassador and said Ethiopian troops would be excluded from a new African Union peacekeeping force against Al Shabaab insurgents, due to be deployed on Jan 1.

Why are international observers concerned?

Security analysts worried that tension between the two might create opportunities for fighter group Al Shabaab.

Mogadishu had threatened to force Ethiopia to remove some 10,000 experienced troops from its shared border in the country's southwest, among the worst impacted areas by Al Shabaab.

A "fundamental breakdown" in the Ethiopia-Somalia relationship spelled trouble, International Crisis Group's Omar Mahmood said in September. "Al-Shabaab is the winner... they can take advantage of the gaps," he said.

What do we know about the details?

Very little. It was mediated by Turkiye following two unsuccessful rounds of talks.

In a text published by Ankara, the two neighbours agreed to work together on commercial arrangements and bilateral agreements that would ensure Ethiopia's "reliable, safe and sustainable access" to the sea "under the sovereign authority of the Federal Republic of Somalia".

It added that technical talks would start no later than the end of February and be completed within four months.

What about the Ethiopia-Somaliland agreement?

This is crucial and no-one knows how the agreement may affect the controversial memorandum of understanding from January.

Hargeisa has yet to make a formal statement on the news, with Ethiopian authorities also not responding to agencies requests for comment. Guleid Ahmed Jama, a Somaliland lawyer and political analyst, said that the agreement "indicates that Ethiopia is repudiating some of its commitments concerning the recognition of Somaliland".

"This will not deter Somaliland from continuing to pursue international recognition, but it is obviously a setback," he said.

But Jama said Somaliland remained a viable location for Ethiopia's ports, thanks to its proximity. "It is not yet clear how Ethiopia will navigate between the diplomatic pressure from Somalia and its interest in Somaliland."

What's the reaction from elsewhere?

The African Union and East African regional bloc IGAD (the Intergovernmental Authority on Development) welcomed the news, with the AU pushing the neighbours to implement the agreement "without delay".

Mahmood, of the International Crisis Group, said the agreement was a welcome "surprise" for the region. "It lowers the tension, which until then was dangerous," he said and told both sides were "winners" in the agreement.

"Abiy gets commitment for access to the sea, (though without the mention of the naval base), while for Somalia the agreement recognises its sovereignty," he explained.—Agencies

RIYADH: Viewers watch as a drone-created light show and fireworks illuminate the sky on Wednesday, celebrating Saudi Arabia's confirmation as host of the 2034 World Cup football tournament.—AFP

ANTIGUA: A woman poses with her party dress for a photo shoot in front of Catalina's Arch, on Thursday. The city in Guatemala is renowned for its Spanish colonial buildings, many of them restored following a 1773 earthquake that ended Antigua's 200-year reign as Guatemala's colonial capital.—AFP

NEWSMAKERS

DONALD Trump speaks at a reception at New York Stock Exchange after being named TIME's 'Person of the Year' for the second time.—AFP

Time names Trump 'person of the year' for second time

NEW YORK: *Time* magazine on Thursday named US president-elect Donald Trump its "person of the year," marking the second time he has won the accolade, in acknowledgement of the mogul's stunning political comeback.

Trump, who defeated Vice President Kamala Harris in the Nov 5 election, adorns the magazine's title cover sporting his distinctive red tie and striking a commanding pose.

"For marshaling a comeback of historic proportions, for driving a once-in-a-generation political realignment, for reshaping the American presidency and altering America's role in the world, Donald Trump is Time's 2024 — Person of the Year," the magazine said.

This year saw Trump convicted on charges of business fraud and nearly assassinated twice — and will end with him preparing to return to the White House with Republican majorities in both chambers of Congress.

"We are witnessing a resurgence of populism, a widening mistrust in the institutions that defined the last century, and an eroding faith that liberal values will lead to better lives for most people. Trump is both agent and beneficiary of it all," the magazine added.

Trump rang the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange to applause from traders on Thursday, flanked by his wife Melania Trump and Vice President-elect JD Vance, with his *Time Magazine* cover displayed prominently behind him.

In remarks before the markets opened, Trump sounded a note of caution about the promises he made on the campaign trail to bring down stubbornly high US grocery prices.—AFP

ROME: Journalists attend a preview of an exhibition dedicated to Italian photographer Franco Fontana at Ara Pacis Museum, on Thursday.—AFP

MEKONG RIVER (Cambodia): Scientists, officials and fishermen release a 300-pound giant freshwater catfish after it was tagged. The catching of six rare fish in the space of five days has raised hopes of a revival of a critically endangered species that is among the world's largest freshwater fish.—Reuters

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

Watchdog calls for probing use of C-weapons in Syria

US sees Assad's fall as chance to destroy chemical arsenal 'once and for all'

AMSTERDAM: The head of the chemical weapons watchdog said on Thursday he would ask Syria's new leaders to grant investigators access to the country to continue work identifying perpetrators of attacks that killed and injured thousands during the civil war.

Addressing a special session of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Fernando Arias said his office had seen positive signals from Syria about the need to rid the country of chemical weapons, but no formal request had been received.

The 43-member executive council of the OPCW was meeting in The Hague to discuss next steps after Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's sudden toppling.

Speaking ahead of the meeting, US ambassador to the OPCW, Nicole Shampaine, said Washington viewed Assad's fall as an extraordinary chance to rid Syria of chemical weapons. "We want to finish the job and it's really an opportunity for Syria's new leadership to work with the international community, work with the OPCW to get the job done once and for all," Shampaine said.

Washington will strongly back efforts by the global chemical weapons watchdog to eliminate Syria's chemical arsenal, Shampaine said.

The evolving political landscape in Syria offered an opportunity for the organisation to finally obtain clarifications on the full extent and scope of the Syrian chemical weapons programme after 11 years of inspections, Arias said.

Warning of proliferation risks, he said "victims deserve that perpetrators that we identified be brought to justice" after their multiple use during the 13-year civil war. He will seek access for the OPCW's Investigation and Identification Team. That unit and a joint UN-OPCW mechanism have already identified Syria's armed forces as having used chemical weapons nine times between 2015 and 2017.

Syria joined the OPCW in 2013 under a US-Russian deal and agreed to eliminate its chemical arsenal. But Syria still possesses banned munitions and investigators found such weapons were used repeatedly by President Assad's forces during the 13-year civil war.—Reuters

INDONESIAN migrant workers who were employed in Syria arrive at the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport near Jakarta, on Thursday.—AFP

New Syrian govt suspends constitution and parliament

• Blinken and Jordan king agree on need for a secure state• US 'working to bring home' citizen found in Syria • War monitor reports Israeli strikes near Damascus

DAMASCUS: Syria's interim government vowed on Thursday to institute the "rule of law" after years of abuses under president Bashar al-Assad, as the United States warned against any action that risked triggering further conflict.

Assad fled Syria after a lightning offensive spearheaded by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) group and its allies, which brought a sudden end to five decades of iron-fisted rule by his clan.

Syrians across the country and around the world erupted in celebration after enduring an era during which suspected dissidents were jailed or killed, and nearly 14 years of war that killed 500,000 people and displaced millions. "We were living in oppression, we were unable to speak," Ibtisam Kaab, a resident of Assad's hometown Qardaha, said.

"Whenever we wanted to speak, they threatened to harm us and our children." The new government's spokesman said on Thursday that the country's constitution and parliament would be suspended for the duration of a three-month transition.

"A judicial and human rights committee will be established to examine the constitution and then introduce amendments," Obaida Arnaout said.

Speaking at the state-television headquarters, seized by the new rebel authorities, Arnaout said they would institute the "rule of law". "All those who committed crimes against the Syrian people will be judged in accordance with the law," he added.

Asked about religious and personal freedoms, he said "we respect religious and cultural diversity in Syria".

Blinken, King Abdullah II meeting

Moreover, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Jordan's King Abdullah II called on Thursday for a secure Syria as the top US diplomat began a regional tour following the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad in Damascus.

Blinken also said that Washington was "working to bring home" US citizen Travis Timmerman, after Syria's new leadership said he had been "released". "We're working to bring him home", he said.

The Syrian leadership said it was ready to cooperate with Washington to look for US citizens disappeared under Assad, including on an "ongoing" search for US journalist Austin Tice, who was abducted in 2012.

Meeting King Abdullah in the Red Sea resort of Aqaba, Blinken, who leaves office in little more than a month, promised US support for "the stability of Syria's neighbours, including Jordan, during this period of transition", State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said.

'Additional conflicts'

Blinken said it was "really important at this time that we all try to make sure that we're not sparking any additional conflicts." He made the comments after mentioning recent Israeli and Turkish military activity on Syrian soil.

The US hopes to ensure that Syria is not "used as a base for terrorism" and does not pose "a threat to its neighbours", Blinken added. This has been a key concern both for Turkiye, which resents the US military alliance with Syrian Kurds, and Israel, which has been pounding sites across its historic adversary since Assad fell.

On Thursday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor reported Israeli strikes near Damascus, where eyewitness said they heard loud explosions. Blinken said the Israeli air strikes aim "to try to make sure that the military equipment that's been abandoned by the Syrian army doesn't fall into the wrong hands".

Calls for "inclusive" transition

Also on Thursday, leaders of the Group of Seven powers said they were ready to support the transition to an "inclusive and non-sectarian" government in Syria.

They called for the protection of human rights, including those of women and minorities, while emphasising "the importance of holding the Assad regime accountable for its crimes".

The new rulers have also pledged justice for the victims of Assad's rule, with HTS leader Abu Mohammed al-Jolani vowing that officials involved in torturing detainees will not be pardoned.

Jolani, now using his real name Ahmed al-Sharaa, also urged "countries to hand over any of those criminals who may have fled so they can be brought to justice".

UN investigators said they have compiled secret lists of 4,000 perpetrators of serious crimes in Syria since the early days of the country's civil war.—AFP

54 journalists killed in 2024, a third by Israel

PARIS: Fifty-four journalists were killed worldwide while carrying out their work or because of their profession in 2024, a third of them by the Israeli army, according to an annual report by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) published on Thursday.

According to the press freedom NGO, Israeli armed forces were responsible for the deaths of 18 journalists this year — 16 in Gaza and two in Lebanon. "Palestine is the most dangerous country for journalists, recording a higher death toll than any other country over the past five years," RSF said in its annual report, which covers data up to December 1.

The organisation has filed four complaints with the International Criminal Court (ICC) for "war crimes committed against journalists by the Israeli army." It said that in total "more than 145" journalists had been killed by the Israeli army in Gaza since the start of the conflict there in October 2023, with 35 of them working at the time of their deaths, RSF said.

It described the number of killings as "an unprecedented bloodbath." In a separate report published on Tuesday, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) reported that 104 journalists were killed worldwide in 2024, with more than half of them in Gaza.

The figures differ between the IFJ and RSF due to two different methodologies used in calculating the toll.

RSF only includes journalists whose deaths have been "proven to be directly related to their professional activity." Israel denies that it intentionally harms journalists but admits that some have been killed in air strikes on military targets.

"We don't accept these figures. We don't believe they are correct," Israeli government spokesman David Mencer told a press conference on Wednesday. After Gaza, the deadliest places for journalists in 2024 were Pakistan with seven deaths, followed by Bangladesh and Mexico with five each.

In 2023, the number of journalists killed worldwide stood at 45 in the same January-December period.—AFP

Pope meets Abbas

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the Vatican on Thursday, their first face-to-face encounter in three years, as the pontiff has become more vocal in his criticism of Israel's military campaign in Gaza.

The two men held private talks for a half-hour, the Vatican said, but offered few other details about the meeting.

A statement said Abbas also met afterwards with the Catholic Church's top diplomatic officials to discuss the "very serious humanitarian situation in Gaza, where it is hoped that there will be a ceasefire and the release of all hostages as soon as possible".

Abbas said in a statement that he thanked the pope "for his positions in support of achieving a just peace in Palestine based on the two-state solution".

Abbas is in Rome for a brief visit this week. He is also due to meet Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Friday. The pope, as leader of the 1.4-billion-member Roman Catholic Church, is usually careful about taking sides in conflicts, but has recently been more outspoken about Israel's campaign.

In November, Pope Francis suggested the global community should study whether Israel's campaign in Gaza constitutes a genocide of the Palestinian people. The comment, in a forthcoming book, drew a public rebuke from Israel's ambassador to the Holy See.

Abbas and Pope Francis last met in person in November 2021. During their visit together on Thursday, the pope gifted the president a bronze artwork inscribed with the words "Peace is a fragile flower," a gift the pope has also given other world leaders.

Abbas' trip to Rome comes as Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati is also due to make a visit to Italy. Mikati is scheduled to meet Pope Francis on Friday.—Reuters

Imran miffed by party's 'all is well' attitude

Continued from Page 1

Dec 18, summoning four prosecution witnesses for the next hearing. The prosecution submitted a list of 23 witnesses expected to testify in the case.

Mr Khan has been indicted in seven different cases since his first arrest in May 2023 which prompted attacks on state installations. On May 10, 2023, he was indicted in the case based on a complaint of the Election Commission of Pakistan that accused him of concealing details of the state gifts he purchased from Toshakhana.

In January he was charge-sheeted in the Toshakhana reference related to a graft jewellery set; in February in the £190 million corruption case; and recently in the FIR registered against him over a violent protest outside the G10J. He was also indicted on Dec 13, 2023, in the cipher case and in January in the Iddat case — in both of which the suspects were later acquitted.

PTI top brass indicted

An ATC in Lahore indicted former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and other PTI leaders in yet another case of the May 9 riots. ATC-I Judge Manzar Ali Gill conducted the hearing at the Kot Lakhpat jail and framed charges against the PTI leaders, including Mr Qureshi, former governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema, former provincial minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, Senator Ejaz Chaudhry, and former provincial minister Mian Mahmoodur Rasheed. All the accused persons pleaded not guilty and decided to contest the trial.

Following the denial, the judge directed the prosecution to present its witnesses on Dec 19 to establish the charges against the accused persons.

Separately, the judge recorded the statement of one prosecution witness in a case of attack and looting of police vehicles near Jinnah House (the residence of the Lahore corps commander). The judge adjourned the proceedings of a case related to the attack on Askari Tower till Dec 23 for the indictment of the suspects. Mr Qureshi and other PTI leaders have already been indicted in multiple cases of the May 9 riots.

The police in Lahore registered several cases against the PTI leaders and workers on charges of attacking public and private properties and army facilities, in particular on May 9, 2023, following the arrest of PTI founding chairman Imran Khan in a graft case by NAB.

Hijab Ahmad Shaikh in Lahore also contributed to this report

INVITATION TO E-BID
THROUGH SAP-ARIBA DISCOVERY

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

SR. #	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-PQ-PreP-273195018-2024	PRE-QUALIFICATION OF FIRMS FOR CAMP SERVICES	30.12.2024 AT 1030 Hrs
2.	OGDCL-SCM-FD(LOCAL)-CB-PMP-QP-272973672-2024	SPARES FOR INSTRUMENT AIR COMPRESSOR	30.12.2024 AT 1100 Hrs
3.	OGDCL-SCM-LH-PT-272366523-2024	PROCUREMENT OF AIR CONDITIONERS	31.12.2024 AT 1130 Hrs
4.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB-PreP-60-2211-272451146-2024	SERVICES FOR REPLACEMENT OF BAFFLE PLATES, TIE-RODS & SPACERS OF INLET GAS TRIM COOLER (E-4401) TUBE BUNDLE INSTALLED AT KPD-TAY PLANT HYDERABAD, SINDH PROVINCE	01.01.2025 AT 1030 Hrs
5.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB-ADMIN-273047170-2024	SERVICES OF TRANSPORTER FOR PICK AND DROP FACILITY TO THE OGDCL EMPLOYEE OF KARACHI REGION	01.01.2025 AT 1030 Hrs
6.	OGDCL-SCM-LH-PT-EXPLORATION-FD-273146674-2024	PROCUREMENT OF VIDEO CONFERENCE SYSTEM	01.01.2025 AT 1130 Hrs
7.	OGDCL-SCM-FD-CB-PQ-ECMP-275166286-2024-	ADDITION OF SUPPLIERS FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF OEMS FOR TELEMETRY RECEIVER LINE CABLES OF 428XL AND 03I SEISMIC DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM	14.01.2025 AT 1500 Hrs

2. All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bids closing date/ time.
3. Tender Notice/ detailed instructions are available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk.
4. Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through e-procurement portal at https://ogdcl.com/sap-ariba-tenders or discovery.ariba.com/profile/AN01562899621 for details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents.
5. OGDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule-33.

GENERAL MANAGER
(SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT)
OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
OGDCL HOUSE, JINNAH AVENUE, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN
PHONE NO. 92-51-9260235-60/3795
No. 2190/A2

Iran Guards say 'realities' in Syria must be accepted

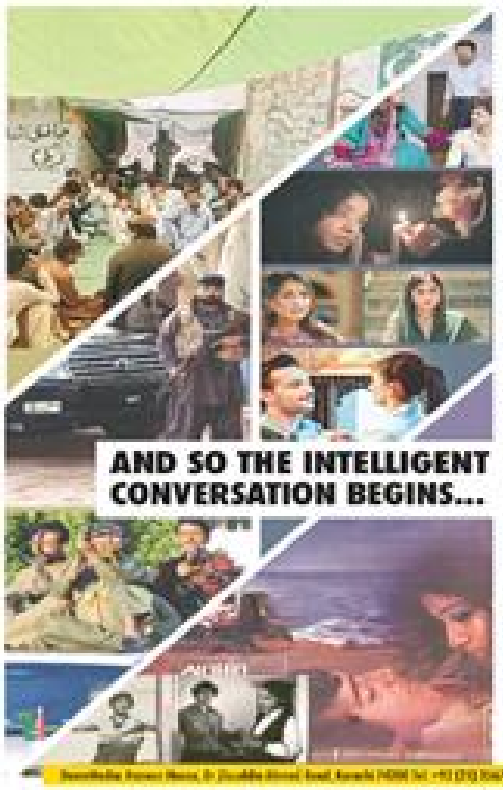
TEHRAN: The head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the country has to live with the new "realities" of Syria after the ouster of Tehran-backed president Bashar al-Assad, state media reported on Thursday.

Regarding Syria, Iran "was really trying day and night to help in whatever way it could; we have to live with the realities of Syria; we look at them and act based on them," Hossein Salami said, quoted by the official IRNA news agency.

"Strategies must change according to the circumstances; we cannot solve numerous global and regional issues with stagnation and employing the same tactics," he added.

Iran has been a strong ally of the Assad family.

Assad had long played a strategic role in Iran's anti-Israel "axis of resistance", particularly in facilitating the supply of weapons to Tehran's ally Hezbollah in neighbouring Lebanon.—AFP



THIS SUNDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS:

EOS
PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIETY, CULTURE, IDEAS.

COVER: TRADING MISERY ON THE PAK-IRAN BORDER
During the 'monsoon president's' visit to Pakistan in April, it was resolved to raise Pak-Iran trade to an ambitious $10 billion. In fact, trade had dropped to nearly zero in the first 10 months of the last fiscal year. The various complainers behind this lack of trade notwithstanding, the repercussions are felt most deeply in the small Pakistani towns that rely almost entirely on border trade...

SOCIETY: THE FEUDAL GUNS
While the challenges facing guards working for private security companies are well documented, little is known about the tribal men who protect their chieftains...

ESSAY: RUINS OF THE FUTURE
The ruins of an abandoned Hindu temple in Lahore's Model Town serve as a reminder of what has been lost as well as possible futures...

BOOKS&AUTHORS: Nirdar Khatri's Akbar in Wonderland, Kokab Abid's A New Explanation for the Decline of Hindustani Music in Pakistan, and Muhammad Ali Siddiqi Razi's Mera Tarruqqiyana. From His Bookshelf: Ali Sethi Khadijah on Samad Behbud's Dehlvi Nawal in English

PLUS: Nadeem F Paracha on The Illusion of Authenticity, Mani Mahvish's Diary of a Social Butterfly, Pakistan Hockey's Rising Star Faizan Janjua, Arsheen Noor's Former Prize Win, Dr Khawaja Ali Shahid's Swallowing, Aurelie Agni and Stella Cling

ICON
INSIGHT INTO ENTERTAINMENT, PERFORMING ARTS, STYLE, CELEBRITY.

PRIME TIME: ARE TV DRAMAS ON A SUICIDE STREAK?
With the internet delivering alarming details about the rising rate of suicide in society and news reporting deaths by suicide nearly every day, Pakistani TV drama makers need to show more responsibility when dealing with such sensitive issues.

FLASHBACK: TRANSCENDING GENERATIONS
The production milieu, direction and cinematography of Nasreen Munni Kabir's Abida Abida Rahi, released in 1982, elevates it to a cinema classic

PLUS: Reviews of Moana 2 and Ralph Fiennes-Starrer Conclave, The Grapevine, The Tube and Spotify's Top Pakistani Music

DAWN

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

DAWN COUNTRY SUPPLEMENTS

DAWN

BEST OF PAKISTAN
SINCE 50 YEARS
Plan Your Holidays
Cell: 0092 333 3397717
ZEB TRAVELS
www.zebtravels.com.pk

KURRAM'S ROAD TO SUFFERING

Sadda and Central Kurram get by somehow, with supplies coming in through the rough mountainous road that bypasses the main Thal-Parachinar road. Not Parachinar, though, which remains cut off

By Aurangzaib Khan

SITUATIONER

THE temptation is to interpret what is happening in Kurram in hindsight; a place burning in the fires of hatred first stoked by the state some 40 years ago, amidst the alloying of a bigotar world order through Afghan Jihad that ended the Cold War. And how the flames of that fire have turned now, decades later, into the inferno of War.... Terror (let the reader fill in the blank with as on or of, depending on their experience of that war in Pakistan).

For increasingly, internal politics and geopolitics seem aligned in tactics and objectives, even when we are given to believe otherwise.

The temptation is to see the burning of Kurram not so much an issue of land disputes and sectarian bloodletting, but one of geo-political stoking of those fault-lines, by national and international actors for wars ongoing and imminent.

And if you are someone who has observed or reported on Kurram and its politics over the last 20 years, the temptation is to give in to that terrible temptation.

Going without analgesics

Eclipsed by the noise and contradictions of a grand jirga appealing for peace, the desperate cries for reopening of the closed road into Kurram which the security establishment hinges to de-weaponisation, and the distrust of locals weary of their traumatic experiences – there is a woman who lives in Parachinar bazaar. Her name is Meena, a teacher and a mother of three daughters.

As gas and petrol supplies have dwindled over the 50 days of the road closure, the girls must walk a great distance in sub-zero temperatures to school — if and when it is open. Increasingly, students are missing school as means of conveyance become unavailable.

One of the daughters, Zarishta, went walking to school because she had exams and came back with a high fever. The standard medicines to treat fever – Panadol, Brufen – are no longer available anywhere.

"Last night, I saw on WhatsApp a share that said children are dying in large numbers of pneumonia," she said, over the phone, a faceless tribal woman who has agreed to talk to a man, a stranger at that, out of desperation.

"With no gas and wood, people are resorting to coal, which is becoming hard to secure due to the cold weather. When available, it is of low quality, causing chest infections. In my school, children come without breakfast or lunch for lack of flour and fuel – I have students in the class who say they subsist only on tea, staying in blankets to keep warm. Today, the nanbai in our street said they are closing down because there is no flour left. We ration what we can, spare some to help neighbours more desperate than us, but it is never enough."

There is no food for the babies on formula, she says, with children facing the freezing temperatures on an empty stomach and waning immunity to disease.

Babies of a barren land

There is a word in Pashto for the barren land – *Lalma*. For long, poets have spoken of the *Lalmay Gul*, the flower blooming in the desert. Little flowers growing in Lalma wither and die because it is their fate... *they are flowers of a barren land.*

There is a village, Lalma, in Kurram. Removed from the towns, it falls in a region where it seldom rains, close to the border with Afghanistan.

From a hospital in Parachinar, a doctor speaks of death, malnutrition, of hacking cough and fever plaguing children. Among them is Diva and she comes from Lalma.

A year and eight months of age, she is crying in pain. You can hear her on the phone as the doctor speaks to you distractedly, hurriedly. He says it is viral flu, readily complicated into pneumonia in the intense cold.

"In the absence of analgesics... people are resorting to heavy use of aspirin stored in their houses. In the case of children, it is causing liver failure. There are diseases whose diagnosis or causes cannot be ascertained because pathology labs have closed down in Kurram for want of medical supplies. Oral antibiotics to treat chest congestion are not available and where they are, they are fast running out.

"In serious cases, children need to be put on injectable antibiotics, but the medicine flown in by the government helicopter is for malaria and fungal infections, while we need ciprofloxacin, iron and vitamin supplements, Gravinate (for prevention of nausea and vertigo) etc for chest infections.

"We used to admit children in need of emergency treatment, but there is no gas to warm up the hospital wards and they are sent home to fend for themselves in minus-six or minus-four temperatures."

As life comes to a standstill in Kurram, people go jobless, especially those that are labourers and daily wage-workers, says the doctor. They cannot afford the cost of hospitalisation and medicine anymore. And that is the situation in cities like Sadda and Parachinar. "Patients from villages like Lalma rarely reach here, so we have no idea how desperate the situation is in the villages," says the doctor.

Both Meena and the doctor say babies are facing severe malnutrition because of a shortage of formula milk in the market. Brands like Lactogen are no longer locally available.

Subsisting on tomatoes

A random share from someone in Kurram reads: "No water, as no petrol or diesel to bring the water tanker home. No vegetables, no fruit, no medicines, no common food items anymore. No eggs, no meat, no biscuits etc. No salt even. No hope. Pakistani government and the establishment has abandoned us."

Some are lucky, though. They have tomatoes. Kurram has just come out of tomato-growing season and with little else left to eat –and the roads closed, with no way to send the produce to other districts as they usually do – they are on a diet confined to tomatoes, day in and out. "It is like the time when we were trapped for four years, living off the land," says a farmer from a village near Parachinar.

But those were different times. The border to neighbouring Afghanistan was open; people who could not travel through the Thal-Parachinar road, as now, could do so through that country. Unlike now, supplies were coming in through the border.

Now, the border is closed, as are the banks and bakeries. There are no supplies left and the grocery stores are shutting down, too.

"The roads to Kurram are all open," says a tribal elder in Sadda, Lower Kurram. "But one cannot traverse them out of fear because they run through rival territories."

Sadda and Central Kurram get by somehow, with supplies coming in through the rough mountainous road of Tora Wari that connects to Dadha near Thal, bypassing the main Thal-Parachinar road.

Not Parachinar, though, which remains cut off from the border, the main road and the mountain routes. After the Nov 21 incident and its aftermath, that left more than 130 dead, people have no confidence in government convoys to get people or provisions through locations like Bhagan, where emotions run high and patience is in short supply.

As the grand jirga in Kohat ended up undecided on how to open the road earlier this week, people asked if the authorities cannot open the road, who would?

A PALESTINIAN woman, with her face stained in blood, is comforted by others as she mourns outside Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, on Thursday. —AFP

General Assembly calls for 'unconditional' Gaza truce

- UN resolution welcomed by Hamas, rejected by Washington and Tel Aviv
- Israel kills 38 Palestinians in Gaza, West Bank, targets volatile aid route

UNITED NATIONS: The UN General Assembly has overwhelmingly adopted a resolution calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, a symbolic gesture rejected by the United States and Israel.

The resolution — adopted by a vote of 158-9, with 13 abstentions on Wednesday — urges "an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire," and "the immediate and unconditional release" of all prisoners — wording similar to a text vetoed by Washington in the Security Council last month.

At that time, Washington used its veto power on the Council — as it has before — to protect its ally Israel. It has insisted on the idea of making a ceasefire conditional on the release of all prisoners in Gaza, saying otherwise that Hamas has no incentive to free those in captivity.

Deputy US Ambassador Robert Wood repeated that position on Wednesday, saying it would be "shameful and wrong" to adopt the text.

Ahead of the vote, Israel's UN envoy Danny Danon said: "The resolutions before the assembly today are beyond logic. (...) The vote today is not a vote for compassion. It is a vote for complicity."

Hamas said on Thursday it welcomed the UN General Assembly vote for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza. Hamas said in a statement it "welcomes the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution, supported by 158 countries, demanding a ceasefire in Gaza, enabling civilians in the (Gaza) Strip to have immediate access to essential services and humanitarian aid".

The resolution, which is non-binding, demands "immediate access" to widespread humanitarian aid for the citizens of Gaza, especially in the besieged north of the territory.

Dozens of representatives of UN member states addressed the Assembly before the vote to offer their support to the Palestinians.

"Gaza doesn't exist anymore. It is destroyed," said Slovenia's UN envoy Samuel Zbogar. "History is the harshest critic of inaction."

That criticism was echoed by Algeria's deputy UN ambassador Nacim Gaouaoui, who said: "The price of silence and failure in the face of the Palestinian tragedy is a very heavy price, and it will be heavier tomorrow."

Palestinian UN Ambassador Riyad Mansour said: "We will keep knocking on the doors of the Security Council and the General Assembly until we see an immediate and unconditional ceasefire put in place."

The Gaza resolution calls on UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to present "proposals on how the United Nations could help to advance accountability" by using existing mechanisms or creating new ones based on past experience.

A second resolution calling on Israel to respect the mandate of the UN agency supporting Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) and allow it to continue its operations was passed on Wednesday by a vote of 159-9 with 11 abstentions.

38 Palestinians killed

Israel killed 13 Palestinians in two air strikes on Thursday that Gaza medics and Hamas said were part of a force protecting humanitarian aid trucks.

Many of those killed in the attacks on Rafah and Khan Younis in southern Gaza had links to Hamas, medics and Palestinian residents said. The 13 were among 36 Palestinians killed in separate Israeli attacks on Thursday, the medics said.

The Palestinian news agency WAFA initially reported those killed in the two airstrikes were guarding the aid trucks.

Hamas said Israeli military strikes have killed at least 700 police tasked with securing aid trucks in Gaza since the conflict began on Oct 7, 2023.

According to WAFA, children were among seven people killed when a residential building in Gaza City's al-Jalaa Street was bombed in a separate attack.

Another Israeli bombing killed 15 people in a house where displaced people were taking shelter, west of Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip, medics and WAFA said.

In the northern Gaza refugee camp of Jabalia, where the army has operated since October, health officials said an orthopedic doctor, Saeed Judeh, was shot dead by Israeli forces while on his way to Al-Awda Hospital where he usually treated patients. The health ministry said his death raised to 1,057 the number of healthcare workers killed since the war began in October last year.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where violence has surged since the Gaza conflict began, Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinians in separate raids in Nablus and Qalqilya, Palestinian and Israeli officials said.—Agencies

Number of trafficking victims rising globally, says UN report

ISLAMABAD: Trafficking of children, as well of adults for forced labour and forced criminality, are rising across the world as poverty, conflict and climate change leave more people vulnerable to exploitation, the Global Report on Trafficking in Person 2024 reveals.

Released by the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) on Wednesday, the report records a 25 per cent increase in the number of trafficking victims detected globally in 2022, compared to 2019 pre-pandemic figures.

Between 2019 and 2022, the number of victims detected for trafficking for forced labour surged by 47 per cent, says the report.

Trafficking flows from South Asia also appear to have a global dimension, as South Asian victims were found in 56 countries and in different regions, including Europe, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, the Americas, East Asia and the Pacific.

The global number of detected child victims rose 31pc in 2022 compared to 2019, with a 38pc rise recorded for girls. More boy victims have been detected in areas where increasing numbers of unaccompanied and separated children had been recorded.

Child trafficking is also on the rise in high-income countries, often involving girls trafficked for sexual exploitation.

The report finds that women and girls continue to account for the majority of victims detected worldwide (61pc in 2022). The majority of girl victims (60pc) detected continue to be trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

According to the report, African victims account for the highest number of destinations reached.

In total, at least 162 different nationalities were trafficked to 128 different countries in 2022. Of the cross-border flows detected, 31pc involve citizens of African countries.

Most African victims are trafficked within the continent, where displacement, insecurity and climate change are exacerbating vulnerabilities.

Children are more frequently detected than adults in most parts of the continent, particularly for forced labour, sexual exploitation and forced begging.— Amin Ahmed

Devastating impact of climate change highlighted

AGP urges ICJ to issue advisory opinion on crisis

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan on Thursday urged the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to deliver an advisory opinion that adequately addresses the challenges posed by climate change.

"For the human race, turning a Nelson's eye to the climate emergency is no longer an option," emphasised the AGP during his address at the ICJ's public hearing on climate change.

"If the lives and livelihoods are to be protected and if we want to avoid utter catastrophe, there is simply no time to lose. We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and undoubtedly the last generation that can do something about it," he explained, outlining the "apocalyptic" impacts of climate change on Pakistan's population and economy.

HAGUE: Attorney-General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan addresses a public hearing at ICJ.—AFP

The AGP highlighted the devastating 2022 floods, which submerged one-third of Pakistan's territory, impacted 33 million people, and resulted in reconstruction costs estimated to exceed $16 billion. He also cited remarks from the UN secretary general's 2022 address to the UN General Assembly, noting: "Pakistan contributed less than one per cent of global GHG emissions but its people are 15 times more likely to face death from climate-related impacts than other states."

Pakistan emphasised that the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC serves as the primary framework for addressing climate obligations, which must align with principles of equity and CBDR-RC. These obligations encompass climate finance, mitigation, cooperation, and mechanisms for resolving disputes related to treaty obligations established within these agreements.

Furthermore, Pakistan asserted that the obligation of prevention — rooted in due diligence — operates alongside treaty obligations and forms part of applicable international law.

The AGP explained that due diligence requires a case-specific assessment of potential harm and referred to several conventions as evidence of the obligation's application to diffuse harm, such as GHG emissions. These include the UNFCCC, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

Rejecting arguments that the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement constitute lex specialis, Pakistan contended that these treaties do not override stricter obligations under general international law.

In the context of GHG emissions, they underscored that claiming ignorance is no excuse.

Pakistan reaffirms commitment to dialogue with Afghanistan

FO condemns Israeli violations of Syria's sovereignty

By Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office said on Thursday that recent engagements with Afghanistan underscore Pakistan's desire for resolution of outstanding issues through dialogue.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, at a weekly media briefing, said recent meetings are "an expression of Pakistan's intent to dialogue to resolve any issues that arise from time to time and to find constructive approach and solutions to issues, including issues that are of serious concern to Pakistan".

Last week, Afghan chargé d'affaires Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. The meeting followed close on the heels of a meeting between Pakistan's chargé d'affaires in Kabul Obaid Nizamani and Taliban Defence Minister Mullah Yaqoob.

The back-to-back meetings gave the impression that the two sides were preparing for renewal of engagement after a period of tension caused by Pakistan allegations of the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) being allowed sanctuaries on Afghan soil.

Spokesperson Baloch had last week said that counterterrorism was on top of the bilateral agenda.

At this week's briefing, the spokesperson tried to reject any linkage between the two meetings, insisting that the Afghan diplomat's meeting with Ishaq Dar was a courtesy call for which the Afghan side had made a request some time back.

However, she emphasised that Islamabad has always advocated for engagement and constructive dialogue between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Repeating concerns about TTP sanctuaries on Afghan soil, the spokesperson said: "Pakistan's concerns with regards to the terror groups, which have found hideouts inside Afghanistan and are operating with impunity against Pakistan, remain on the agenda between Pakistan and Afghanistan. We have always emphasised dialogue to resolve these issues. We expect Afghanistan to ensure that these terror groups do not pose a threat to Pakistan's security."

Syria's sovereignty

The FO spokesperson said Pakistan was concerned about violations of Syria's sovereignty by Israel and called for an inclusive and comprehensive process for resolving the Syrian crisis.

"We express full support for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria," she said.

Israel invaded Syria moving deeper into Golan Heights after collapse of Bashar al-Assad's regime and has carried out nearly 500 attacks on military targets across Syria.

On December 8, armed rebels seized control of capital Damascus, marking a dramatic turning point in Syria's protracted civil war, which has raged for 13 years. The capture of Damascus forced President Assad, who had maintained a grip on power despite years of conflict, to flee the country.

"We are following the developments in Syria and are concerned about the escalation in violence," the FO spokesperson said, adding that Pakistan supports efforts for finding comprehensive solution to the crisis in Syria.

She further said that the solution should be in accordance with the aspirations of the Syrian people.

"It is the right of the people of Syria to determine their own future and make decisions about their destiny. We also support efforts for an inclusive political process, envisioned under resolution 2254, which was unanimously approved by the UN Security Council," the spokesperson maintained.

Printed at Pakistan Herald Publications (Pvt) Ltd by Khalil Mohsin and published for Pakistan Herald Publications (Pvt) Ltd by Khawaja Kaleem Ahmed at Haroon House, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road, Karachi. EDITOR: ZAFFAR ABBAS

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

SPORT

TURIN: Dusan Vlahovic (C) of Juventus scores past Manchester City goalkeeper Ederson during their Champions League match at the Allianz Stadium —Reuters

Juve deepen City crisis, Barca into Champions League knockouts

LONDON: Manchester City plunged deeper into trouble in the Champions League by losing 2-0 at Juventus on Wednesday, the latest setback in a scarcely believable run of poor results for the ailing English champions.

City dropped to 22nd place in the 36-team standings, with only the top 24 advancing. Progressing to the next round of the new-look format looked a certainty before the season for a team that were European champions in 2023 and won the last four Premier League titles. But not anymore as City manager Pep Guardiola battles injuries and an apparent loss of belief among his players.

City have won just one of its last 10 matches in all competitions, with goals by Dusan Vlahovic and Weston McKennie inflicting the latest defeat and ignoring Juventus' qualification hopes.

City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan described the team's problem as a "mental issue".

Opponents "are able to break our rhythm with the smallest of things," Gundogan said. "They don't even need to do much and it has such a big effect on us right now."

Barcelona jumped into second place in the league standings with 15 points, three points behind leaders Liverpool, and are guaranteed to advance after beating Borussia Dortmund 3-2 in a thriller in Germany, with Ferran Torres their hero.

Arsenal and Lille are among six teams all on 13 points, one above Dortmund, after each winning on Wednesday night.

Arsenal are ahead of Bayer Leverkusen, Aston Villa, Inter Milan, Brest and Lille on goal difference after Bukayo Saka's brace helped the Gunners to a comfortable 3-0 win over AS Monaco.

French side Lille recovered from throwing away a two-goal lead to beat Sturm Graz 3-2 thanks to Hakon Arnar Haraldsson's 93rd-minute winner.

Atletico Madrid extended their winning streak to 10 matches in all competitions by beating Slovan Bratislava 3-1 to sit level on points with Dortmund and Bayern Munich.

AC Milan joined the trio on 12 points, one above fellow Serie A side Juve, after Tammy Abraham's 87th-minute winner earned a 2-1 victory over Red Star Belgrade.

Elsewhere, Benfica were held to a 0-0 draw at home to Bologna, Feyenoord beat Sparta Prague 4-2 to move into a play-off place and VfB Stuttgart thrashed bottom club Young Boys 5-1.

The top eight qualify directly for the last 16 and the teams placed 9-24 go into a two-legged playoff.

With just eight points, City's next game will be crucial, as they travel to a Paris St Germain side who sit a point beneath Guardiola's men.

"We have to get points, we'll go to Paris to try and do that and the same goes for the final match at home [to Club Brugge]," Guardiola told Amazon Prime in Turin.

Vlahovic put Juve ahead in the 53rd when he powered a header from close range straight at City goalkeeper Ederson, who could only parry the ball over his own line.

Gundogan was denied an equaliser by a fine Michele Di Gregorio save, before Weston McKennie made it 2-0 with a fine acrobatic volley from Timothy Weah's cross in the 75th minute as Juve moved into 14th place.

Torres came off the bench to inspire Barca to a fifth win in six games and push Dortmund, last season's runners-up, out of the top eight.

Raphinha fired Barca ahead with his 17th goal of the season after Dani Olmo's throughball early in a remarkable second half, but Serhou Guirassy equalised for Dortmund from the spot in the 60th.

Torres came on in the 71st to replace Robert Lewandowski, who had a quiet game against his former club. Just four minutes later, Torres scored a goal on the rebound from Dani Olmo's shot.

Guirassy's second goal of the game levelled the score at 2-2 but Barca took advantage of a mistake by Pascal Gross and had the final word, with Torres completing his brace in the 85th off Lamine Yamal's pass.

"We really played a very good game. In the end, we were a bit too naive, we simply gifted them the goal," Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel said.

ARSENAL CRUISE

Arsenal secured a third straight home win without conceding in the league stage, with Saka putting the Gunners ahead in the first half and making it 2-0 on 78 minutes as the hosts pounced on disastrous Monaco defending.

Saka then turned provider for the late third, sending in a shot that was turned into the net by substitute Kai Havertz in the 88th.

Lille were 2-0 up through Osame Sahraoui and Mitchel Bakker, only for goals by Otar Kiteishvili and Mika Biereth to bring Austrian champions Sturm Graz back level.

However, Icelandic midfielder Haraldsson secured Lille's fourth win of the campaign.

Atletico eased to victory over Slovan Bratislava, with Antoine Griezmann scoring twice after Julian Alvarez had opened the scoring with a brilliant curling strike.

David Strelec pulled one back for the Slovaks, who are one of three teams already eliminated having lost six games out of six. The others are RB Leipzig and Young Boys.

Milan lost Alvaro Morata and Ruben Loftus-Cheek to muscle injuries in the first half but defeated Red Star at San Siro with Abraham's late winner.

Rafael Leao had put Milan ahead only for Nemanja Radonjic to equalise for the Serbian side, who have lost five of their six games and are surely heading out.

Benfica's five-match winning streak ended but they edged closer to a play-off spot with a home draw against Bologna of Italy, who have scored just one goal in six games and will go no further.

Feyenoord stayed on course to go through after beating Sparta in Rotterdam, with Gernot Trauner, Igor Paixao, Anis Hadj Moussa and Santiago Gimenez netting their goals.

Young Boys took the lead with just six minutes on the clock through Lukasz Lakomy, but Stuttgart found the equaliser still in the first half thanks to Angelo Stiller.

The Germans went on to score three goals in 13 minutes: Enzo Millot in the 53rd, Chris Führich in the 61st and Josha Vagnoman in the 66th. Yannik Keitel completed the win in the 79th.

Lakomy celebrated his goal by holding up the jersey of teammate Moutchaou Elia, while the rest of the team gathered next to him.

The gesture was a tribute after Elia's son died unexpectedly this week after a short illness. Elia wasn't playing as he was on his way to his native Congo, where his son died, to be with his family.

The next round of Champions League games is scheduled for January 21 and 22, with the league phase concluding the following week.—Agencies

MADRID: Atletico Madrid's Antoine Griezmann (top) heads to score against Slovan Bratislava at the Metropolitano Stadium.—AFP

LONDON: Arsenal players celebrate after scoring against AS Monaco at the Emirates Stadium.—AFP

DORTMUND: Barcelona's Ferran Torres (L) shoots to score against Borussia Dortmund at the Signal Iduna Park.—Reuters

Botafogo stunned in Intercontinental Cup by Pachuca

DOHA: Mexican side Pachuca stunned Copa Libertadores champions Botafogo 3-0 on Wednesday to advance to the Intercontinental Cup semi-finals thanks to second-half goals from Oussama Idrissi, Nelson Deossa and Salomon Rondon.

Pachuca will face Egypt's Al Ahly on Saturday for a chance to play against Champions League holders Real Madrid in next week's final.

Following a near 20-hour trip from Rio de Janeiro to Doha and playing less than three days after clinching the Brazilian league title, Botafogo manager Artur Jorge rested several key players from the start and his exhausted side were a shadow of the dominant force that took South American football by storm in 2024.

Playing their fifth game in a third different country in a little over two weeks, coach Jorge made five changes to the team that beat Atletico Mineiro 3-1 in the Copa Libertadores final in Buenos Aires 10 days ago. Pachuca had not played a competitive match for 31 days, following their elimination from Mexico's Apertura competition.

"It was really emotional, it was a party in the stadium with all the supporters from Pachuca and Botafogo that came here. It was a football party," said Pachuca coach Guillermo Almada, according to FIFA's website. "We're very happy. We're already thinking about the next game, which could be even more difficult than this one."

Botafogo controlled possession throughout the game but were wasteful, missing too many chances and they ended up being punished when Idrissi brilliantly dribbled past three players on his way into the box before firing home from close range in the 50th minute.

Coach Jorge made three changes in the 55th minute, bringing on captain Marlon Freitas, Argentinian forward Thiago Almada and Copa Libertadores top-scorer Junior Santos in an effort to give his side the spark they were clearly lacking, but a mistake by Botafogo's defence gifted Deossa the second goal in the 66th minute.

PACHUCA players celebrate with the trophy after defeating Botafogo in the Intercontinental Cup match at the Stadium 974.—AFP

With the Brazilian side trying desperately to get back in the game, Pachuca clinically made the most of a quick counter-attack, with Rondon finding the net in the 80th minute to wrap up victory for the CONCACAF champions.

"To step on the pitch a little over 24 hours after arriving in a new country following a long trip, the jet-lag, in addition to the relentless calendar is frustrating, but it's something we can't control as a team. We didn't play well and that's a hard pill to swallow," Jorge told a press conference.

"I'm not going to try to make excuses for what we didn't manage to do. Pachuca were better than us, they were more effective, they took advantage of the chances they had in the second half. But the facts are that because of the situation we were facing, we couldn't field the team we would like to today."—Agencies

Ali advances as Sultan, Hasnain bow out

KARACHI: Defending champion Ali Hamza survived a scare to advance to the pre-quarterfinals of the 32nd Sindh Cup Snooker Tournament, but former national champion Sultan Muhammad and Mohammad Hussain Akhtar were not as fortunate here at the One Ten Snooker Arena on Thursday.

Ali conjured up a thrilling comeback to win 3-2 against Umair Ansari, rallying from 2-1 down to take the match (56-32, 53-69, 19-89, 59-23, 61-23).

In another thrilling match, Hasnain, who won the U-21 title earlier this year, suffered a 3-1 loss to A. Sattar and was eliminated from the tournament. Sultan, a former Sindh champion, also bowed out after losing to Umer Nasem 3-1.

Other players who advanced to the last-16 stage include Khizar Aziz, Usman Khan, Ian Mark John, Rizwan Hashmi, Umair Khan, Waqas Tanoli, Ali Raza, Nadir Shah, Umair Alam, Mani Memon, Fahad Khan and Zulfiqar A. Qadir.—Sports Reporter

Williams fires Bilbao past Mourinho's Fenerbahce

ISTANBUL: Inaki Williams scored twice as Athletic Bilbao won 2-0 at Fenerbahce on Wednesday to climb top of the Europa League standings.

With five wins and a draw in six games Bilbao have 16 points, provisionally three ahead of Lazio and Eintracht Frankfurt.

This was a sixth win in a row in all competitions for Athletic, who left Istanbul with the three points thanks to two first-half strikes from Ghana international Williams, the older brother of Spain forward Nico. Jose Mourinho's Fenerbahce sit 15th in the 36-team table with eight points.—AFP

Indian teen prodigy Gukesh becomes youngest world chess champion

SINGAPORE: Indian teen prodigy Gukesh Dommaraju became the youngest undisputed world chess champion on Thursday after beating China's Ding Liren in the final match of their series in Singapore.

The 18-year-old became "the YOUNGEST WORLD CHAMPION in history", said the International Chess Federation in a post on social media platform X, after Ding resigned in a thrilling end-game that had been expected to end in a draw.

The 32-year-old slumped on the table after he realised he had made an endgame blunder that gave his opponent an opportunity to pounce, while Gukesh burst into tears, burying his face in both hands.

Cheers from jubilant fans, many of them Indians who had flown in to watch the match and Singaporeans of Indian descent, erupted at the viewing rooms near the playing arena.

Fans were chanting Gukesh's name as he walked in for the after-match press conference.

The game was going for a draw but with a one-pawn advantage — supported by a rook and a bishop — a tenacious Gukesh pressed on and was richly rewarded for it.

"My whole strategy for this match was to push as much as possible in every single game," Gukesh told reporters. "It just takes one game for the strategy to pay off."

His victory in game 14 gave him a score of 7.5 against Ding's 6.5, cementing his remarkable rise to stardom after becoming the youngest ever challenger for the world championship.

At his age, Gukesh surpassed the achievement of Russia's Garry Kasparov who won the title at age 22.

He also became the second Indian after five-time world chess champion Viswanathan Anand to hold the title.

Magnanimous in victory, Gukesh praised Ding, saying he "fought like a true champion".

He had won in the Candidates Tournament held in Toronto, Canada, in April this year, earning him the right to challenge Ding.

The Singapore match kicked off on Nov 25 at the Resorts World Sentosa, stretching on as the two players had more draws than decisive games.

The Chinese grandmaster won the opening game, but Gukesh levelled the score with a victory in game three.

Seven consecutive draws followed, broken only when Gukesh beat his opponent in game 11.

But Ding emphatically won an equaliser with white in game 12 and salvaged a draw with the black pieces in the 13th, bringing the game to the homestretch.

Born to a doctor father and microbiologist mother, Gukesh started playing chess when he was seven, and became India's youngest grandmaster aged 12 years, seven months and 17 days.

In 2022, Gukesh beat 18 number one Fabiano Caruana at the Chess Olympiad and later that year triumphed over Magnus Carlsen, a five-time world champion.—AFP

INDIA'S Gukesh Dommaraju (R) competes against Ding Liren of China during the World Chess Championship final match at the Resorts World Sentosa on Thursday.—AFP

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

Pakistan look to bounce back in must-win T20 against Proteas

CENTURION: Pakistan face a do-or-die situation when they meet South Africa in the second T20 International at Centurion on Friday.

Pakistan, who could not chase 184 in the first T20 at Kingsmead, will surely take some confidence from their last South Africa tour in 2021 when the Green-shirts won the T20 series 3-1. Two of those wins came in Centurion.

Match starts at 9:00pm (PST)

After losing the series opener by 11 runs in Durban, the Mohammad Rizwan-led tourists will be required to lift their game in all departments at the SuperSport Park if they are to keep the three-game series alive.

The overall head-to-head T20 record between the two teams is pretty even with 12 wins for Pakistan and 11 for South Africa.

Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf said the tourists were looking to get back to winning ways in the second T20.

"It's a crucial match for us in this series. This venue [SuperSport Park] produced high-scoring games when we last toured [in 2021]. We will try to win the match [to remain in the series]," Haris said while talking to reporters during a media conference in Centurion on Thursday.

The pacer said that the team would overcome the mistakes they made in the series opener.

"We made a number of mistakes in the last match. The team has discussed all those mistakes and we will try [not to repeat] and win tomorrow's game," he stated.

"As this venue [SuperSport Park] generally produces high-scoring affairs, we as a bowling unit will try to restrict the opposition to a lower total."

Answering a question regarding positives for the team after their loss in the first T20, the pacer said that it was encouraging for Pakistan that youngsters were part of the set-up.

"It [the first T20] was a good match which we tried our best to win but [could not do so]. The positive thing is that the young players of our team are being chances and they are performing which is very important for the team," he said adding that the team members were confident about giving their best to win Friday's game.

Responding to a query, Haris, who was declared the ICC player of the month for November, said the team were looking to improve their performance.

"We will try to fare well in this series as we did in 2021 [in T20 series]," he said.

The third T20 will be staged in Johannesburg on Saturday followed by a three-match ODI series and a two-Test rubber between the two nations.—Agencies

Nortje out as SA name squad for ODIs against Pakistan

JOHANNESBURG: South African fast bowler Anrich Nortje's injury woes continued as he was on Thursday ruled out of the remainder of the Twenty20 International series and three One-day Internationals against Pakistan as they named a strong squad for the fixtures in the 50-over format.

Nortje was sidelined from September 2023 for nine months after suffering a stress fracture, although he recovered to play in the T20 World Cup where South Africa reached the final in June.

He has now suffered a toe injury that will leave him sidelined for the second and third T20 matches and the entire ODI series, which is an important warm-up for next year's ICC Champions Trophy.

Scans on Wednesday revealed a fracture and Nortje will now consult doctors to determine what treatment is needed, a Cricket South Africa statement said.

Uncapped all-rounder Dayyaan Galiem has been named as replacement for the remaining two T20 fixtures in Pretoria on Friday and at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Saturday.

Having rested several of their regular players for the shortest format series against Pakistan, the big guns are back for the ODI games.

Batters Temba Bavuma, Tristan Stubbs and Aiden Markram make a return along with all-rounder Marco Jansen, seamer Kagiso Rabada and left-arm wrist-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi.

South Africa have also included 18-year-old five-brand fast bowler Kwena Maphaka, who gets a maiden 50-over call-up.

The series begins in Paarl on Tuesday.

(All squad: Temba Bavuma (captain), Dewald Brevis, Tony de Zorzi, Gerald Coetzee, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Kwena Maphaka, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Andile Phehlukwayo, Kagiso Rabada, Tristan Stubbs, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi and Rassie van der Dussen — Reserves)

PSL windows for foreign players' registration opened

LAHORE: The registration window for foreign players to register themselves for the next year's edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) along with the trade window has been opened, the country's cricket board announced on Thursday.

The category renewals of the players will be announced on Tuesday, said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in a press release.

It said the relegation process and retention of players will be carried out during the ongoing month.

The PSL Players' Draft is scheduled to take place on January 11.

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.—Sports Reporter

STALLIONS' batter Shoaib Malik is cleaned up by Markhors' pacer Mohammad Imran Junior during the Champions T20 Cup match at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday.—AFP

Aaqib named interim red-ball head coach after Gillespie resigns

By Mohammad Yaqoob

LAHORE: Aaqib Javed was named Pakistan's interim red-ball head coach following the resignation of Jason Gillespie, the country's cricket board said on Thursday night.

The development adds yet another post to Aaqib's portfolio, who is currently a member of the selection committee as well as the national side's white-ball interim head coach.

The former pacer's first assignment in his newest role will be Pakistan's upcoming two-match Test series against South Africa, which starts in Dec. 26.

According to sources, Gillespie's decision comes as a reaction to the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) move to not extend the contract of the team's high-performance coach Tim Nielsen, who was handpicked by Gillespie as part of his management staff after he took charge of the role in April.

Gillespie's departure is another story of the PCB's inability to retain well-regarded foreign coaches, with Gary Kirsten having stepped down as Pakistan's white-ball head coach in October after reportedly falling out with the board over the selection of the teams for Pakistan's recent tours of Australia and Zimbabwe.

Both Gillespie and Kirsten were brought in by PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi in April to restore stability within the Pakistan men's national team setup after 13 months of interim administrative setup in the board had seen a number of coaches come and go.

Mohsin, too, however, has clearly failed to do so, and his move to remove the coaches from the national selection committee and revamping it by appointing Aaqib, Azhar Ali and Aleem Dar in it showed his lack of trust in the Australian Gillespie and South African Kirsten.

The revamp came hours after Pakistan's defeat in the first of three Tests against England, with the side bouncing back to win the next two matches to take the series, consolidating Aaqib's hold on the cricketing affairs as the de facto chief selector.

With Kirsten removed days before the Australia series, Gillespie was handed the white-ball head coach role for the tour Down Under, but he was replaced by Aaqib for the following Zimbabwe series, with the former pacer handed the post until next year's ICC Champions Trophy, while he also continues to be a selector.

Gillespie was still expected to return for the South Africa Tests, but his resignation rules out any such chances.

While Kirsten's only assignment as Pakistan's white-ball head coach was last summer's T20 World Cup — which saw the side subjected to a shock loss against co-hosts United States before failing to make it to the Super Eight stage — Gillespie coached the team in three Test matches.

The former Australian pacer's tenure started with Pakistan's 2-0 whitewash at home at the hands of Bangladesh, before the national team went down to England on a flat track in Multan.

The resignations of Kirsten and Gillespie have added to the PCB's reputation for instability, particularly when it comes to foreign and local coaching staff. Previous coaches, including Geoff Lawson and Mickey Arthur, also faced difficulties in completing their contracts, often following shifts in PCB leadership.

In his relatively short tenure, which spans just 10 months, incumbent PCB chief Mohsin has overseen significant upheaval in both the selection committee and the coaching staff — changes that have raised concerns about the long-term stability of Pakistan's cricketing structure.

FAWALPINDI: Conquerors' captain Aliya Riaz eyes a shot during the National Women's One-day Cup match against Challengers at the Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium on Thursday.—courtesy PCB

Rameen, Tuba guide Stars to victory over Strikers

ISLAMABAD: Rameen Shamim and Tuba Hassan guided Stars to a comfortable nine-wicket win over Strikers in the National Women's One-Day Cup match here at the Marghazar Cricket Ground on Thursday.

Batting first, Strikers were bowled out for 106 in 30.5 overs, with Ayesha Bilal top-scoring 24 off 53 balls including three fours and a six. Off-spinner Rameen and leg-spinner Tuba bagged three wickets apiece, while right-arm fast bowler Waheeda Akhtar took two wickets.

In reply, it took 21.3 overs for Stars to achieve the target losing Sadaf Shamas (runs-a-ball 38, eight fours) in the process. Sidra Amin returned undefeated on 33, while Saba Fatima also returned unbeaten on 26, which included five fours.

At the Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi, Syeda Aroob Shah's four-wicket haul and Hafsa Khalid's unbeaten 73 led Conquerors to a three-wicket win over Challengers.

Batting first, Challengers were dismissed for 158 in 32 overs with captain Aliya Riaz scoring an unbeaten 71 off 87 balls hitting seven fours and four sixes.

In turn, Zaib un Nisa's three scalps and two wickets by Umm-e-Hani went in vain as right-handed batter Hafsa struck 12 boundaries in a 90-ball 73 to help her side achieve the target in 36.3 overs.

Scores in brief

Conquerors beat Challengers by nine wickets at the Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi

CHALLENGERS (50 ov maximum): Ayesha Bilal 24, Rameen Shamim 9-37-3, Tuba Hassan 8-1-36-3, Waheeda Akhtar 8-1-29, Fatima Sana 2-20-1, Umm-e-Hani 8-1-30-2, Sadaf Shamas 1-0-7-1, Hafsa Khalid 10-4-16-1, Aliya Riaz 7-1-17-1

STARS (30.3 ov target): Sadaf Shamas 38, Sidra Amin 33 not out, Saba Fatima 26 not out, Tuba Hassan 8, Rameen Shamim 4, Waheeda Akhtar 2, Aliya Riaz 1-0-4-0, Hafsa Khalid 1-0-4-0, Umm-e-Hani 3-0-16-2, Zaib un Nisa 3-0-16-2, Fatima Sana 3-0-16-0, Ayesha Bilal 3-0-16-0

Stars beat Strikers by nine wickets at the Marghazar Cricket Ground, Islamabad

STRIKERS (50 ov maximum): Ayesha Bilal 24, Rameen Shamim 9-37-3, Tuba Hassan 8-1-36-3, Waheeda Akhtar 8-1-29, Fatima Sana 2-20-1, Umm-e-Hani 8-1-30-2, Sadaf Shamas 1-0-7-1, Hafsa Khalid 10-4-16-1, Aliya Riaz 7-1-17-1

STARS (30.3 ov target): Sadaf Shamas 38, Sidra Amin 33 not out, Saba Fatima 26 not out, Tuba Hassan 8, Rameen Shamim 4, Waheeda Akhtar 2, Aliya Riaz 1-0-4-0, Hafsa Khalid 1-0-4-0, Umm-e-Hani 3-0-16-2, Zaib un Nisa 3-0-16-2, Fatima Sana 3-0-16-0, Ayesha Bilal 3-0-16-0

—Sports Reporter

NZ keen to give Southee winning farewell and deny England series sweep

HAMILTON: New Zealand hope pace veteran Tim Southee will sign off from Test cricket with a victory over England in the third and final match of the series but the hosts' bowling unit will have their hands full keeping the explosive Harry Brook quiet in Hamilton.

Southee is set to play his 107th Test against the same side he faced on his debut 16 years ago, with the tourists eyeing a 3-0 series sweep.

Match starts at 3:00am (PST) on Saturday

Southee's Test haul of 389 wickets is second only to Richard Hadlee's 431 among New Zealand bowlers but the former captain has struggled of late, failing to take more than two wickets in each of his last 12 Tests.

He has taken only four in the series so far but the 36-year-old is keen to sign off in style at Seddon Park, where the third Test begins on Saturday.

After heavy losses in the first two matches, New Zealand could be tempted to switch things up in Hamilton by playing left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner.

In the batting order, opener Devon Conway will miss the final Test as he awaits the birth of his first child with Will Young likely to return to the side.

"Most of the opportunities have come opening the batting, so I know what it's like at the top," Young, who replaced an injured Kane Williamson at number three in the Test series against India, said on Thursday.

"It can certainly be challenging, but if you do get through that hard phase at the top, you can get in and set up a good total.

"I'm looking forward to starting back in and showing what I can do."

England have savored their first Test series victory in New Zealand since 2008 with comprehensive wins in Christchurch and Wellington. Brook's fearless batting has epitomised England's dominance with the middle-order batter smashing 171, 123 and 55 in his three outings.

He has replaced compatriot Joe Root as the top-ranked Test batsman and his senior team-mate was full of praise for Brook.

"Brooky is by far and away the best player in the world at the minute," Root said after England's victory in Wellington.

"He can absorb pressure, he can apply it. He can whack you over your head for six. He can scoop you over his head for six. He can smack spin. He can smack seam."—Reuters

Markhors, Lions record wins in Champions T20 Cup

RAWALPINDI: Markhors and Lions recorded wins by three and 35 runs respectively, in contrasting styles in the Champions T20 Cup here at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday, perching Markhors on top of the five-team table.

Markhors scored 170-6 on the back of a rapid 32-ball 39 by opener Fakhar Zaman who shared a solid opening stand of 74 with Khawaja Nafay who hit a 50-ball 56.

While Fakhar smashed a six and five boundaries, Nafay was more aggressive with three sixes and a four.

Mohammad Shahzad struck 28 off 25 balls with the help of two sixes and experienced Mohammad Nawaz knocked an unbeaten 13-ball 28 with one four and two sixes to lift the total. Usman Tariq with 2-20 and Tahir Hussain, who returned figures of 2-36 were the pick of Stallions bowlers.

Stallions lost Yasir Khan (17 off 10, two fours and a six) early but Maaz Sadaqat (82 off 53, 10 fours and two sixes) and Mohammad Haris rescued the innings with a strong 59-run stand off 41 balls for the second wicket.

Haris fell after scoring a fiery 36-ball 22 with a six and a four as it was left to Maaz to help the team cross the target. Team mentor Shoaib Malik chipped in with a 21-ball 16 as Stallions slumped from 127-2 in 15 overs to lose four wickets for 15 runs, including the well set Maaz.

Stallions needed 19 in the last over but last bowler Mohammad Imran Jnr conceded 15 to steal the match.

This became the third consecutive win for Markhors while Stallions suffered their first defeat after two wins.

In the second match, Lions scored 194-5 in 20 overs against Dolphins. Their skipper Imamul Haq knocked a brilliant 48-ball 65 and Hasan Nawaz hit 34-ball 50 in a solid 109-run partnership in 11.3 overs. Hasan, smashed three sixes and four boundaries while Imam's knock had seven boundaries and a six.

Khushdil Shah slanted an unbeaten 22-ball 57 not out with six maximums and two boundaries as Lions added a big 64 in the last five overs. Dolphins' Qasim Akram picked up three wickets for 23 runs in his four overs.

In reply, Sahibzada Farhan and Mirza Tahir Baig gave Dolphins a robust start of 57 in six overs. Tahir fell for 29 off 16 balls laced with a six and three boundaries. Mohammad Akhlaq fell without scoring. Farhan then added 51 for the third wicket with Umar Amin who made a 19-ball 25 with two fours and a six.

But once Farhan fell for 58 off 42 balls including three sixes and as many boundaries the chase fell apart. Skipper Faheem Ashraf tried valiantly with a cameo of 12-ball 27 with two sixes and as many fours but the asking rate soared beyond 15 an over.

Fast bowler Musa Khan was the pick of bowlers with 4-23 while Khushdil and Shahid Aziz fetched two wickets apiece. Lions have nine team two of their four matches while Dolphins are winless in three outings.

Scores in brief

Markhors beat Stallions by three runs

MARKHORS (20 ov max): Fakhar Zaman 39, Khawaja Nafay 56, Mohammad Haris 22, Saad Ali 9, Shahzaib Khan 2-0-19-0, Usman Tariq 4-0-20-2, Tahir Hussain 2-0-36-2, Mir Hamza 4-0-42-0, Sohail Tanvir 4-0-37-0

STALLIONS (20 overs): Yasir Khan 17, Maaz Sadaqat 82, Mohammad Haris 59, Shoaib Malik 16, Usman Tariq 0, Mir Hamza 1 not out, Shahzaib Khan 0, Sohail Tanvir 0, Tahir Hussain 0, Musa Khan 0, Shahid Aziz 0

Lions beat Dolphins by 35 runs

LIONS (20 ov max): Imamul Haq 65, Hasan Nawaz 50, Khushdil Shah 57 not out, Haroon Rasheed 3-0-23-0, Qasim Akram 4-0-23-3, Usman Qadir 4-0-42-0, Sufiyan Muqeem 4-0-37-0, Faheem Ashraf 2-0-27-0, Umar Amin 1-0-9-0, Mirza Tahir Baig 1-0-9-0

DOLPHINS (20 overs): Sahibzada Farhan 94, Mirza Tahir Baig 29, Faheem Ashraf 27, Umar Amin 19, Musa Khan 4-0-23-4, Khushdil Shah 2-0-22-1, Shahid Aziz 3-0-31-1

—Sports Reporter

India head to Gabba Test troubled by Rohit's form

BRISBANE: A shattered India head to Brisbane beset by worries over the form of captain Rohit Sharma and the fitness of strike bowler Jasprit Bumrah, while resurgent Australia look to keep the momentum in the third Test starting on Saturday.

After missing India's big win in the first Test in Perth to be with his newborn son, opener Rohit dropped down the order at the Adelaide Oval where he managed just nine runs as the tourists crashed to a 10-wicket defeat inside three days.

The resumption of Rohit's run of low scores provided more ammunition for his critics, who contend that the 37-year-old is now dead weight in the team.

Match starts at 5:20am (PST) on Saturday

His former team-mates are also alarmed, saying his form is affecting his captaincy following criticism of India's tactics in Adelaide.

Where Rohit fits into the Indian batting order — or whether he fits in at all — will continue to make debate in the subcontinent if the skipper fails again at the Gabba.

Though Rohit was hardly alone in struggling against the pink ball in Adelaide, his failures shone a kinder light on Bumrah's captaincy in the series opener.

Bumrah took four wickets in Adelaide but a chill went through the India camp when he went down to the turf grabbing at his inner thigh when bowling his 20th over.

Bowling coach Morne Morkel said Bumrah had suffered cramp and was otherwise completely fine but the paceman did not bowl at training until a half-hour nets session on Thursday.

Ricky Ponting said India would need something special if Bumrah missed the Test.

"Bumrah's that big for India, I don't think they can win without him," the former Australian captain told local broadcaster Seven Network.

India made a raft of changes for Adelaide and may make another one following Harshit Rana's expensive, wicketless second Test.

Five-Test paceman Akash Deep may be in line for a recall, while selectors could also opt for Ravindra Jadeja in place of veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who took one wicket in Adelaide.

Australia have their own selection headache in whether to retain pacer Scott Boland after his successful return with the pink ball or bring back Josh Hazlewood after his recovery from a side injury.

Though barely needed, all-rounder Mitchell Marsh bowled four overs in Adelaide and said on Thursday he was ready to pull as big a shift as needed by captain Pat Cummins at the Gabba after overcoming a back injury.

"Right now it's feeling as good as it has felt," Marsh told reporters of his back.

Coming off a 295-run hammering in Perth, Australia rallied superbly in Adelaide but most of the players will have bitter memories of the last time they hosted India at the Gabba.

A rampaging Rishabh Pant smashed 89 to drive India to a nail-biting, three-wicket victory which sealed the series 2-1 and ended Australia's 32-year unbeaten run at their traditional fortress.

Though the five-Test series will still be alive after Brisbane, the stakes are high in the context of the World Test Championship.

Another defeat for India would mean their hopes of reaching the WTC final is out of their hands while putting world champions Australia within one win of next year's decider at Lord's.—Reuters

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Friday, December 13, 2024

KARACHI

Sunset	05:45 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:07 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	13°C
Maximum	28°C
Humidity	23%
Outlook	Sunny

Markhors, Lions record wins in Champions T20 Cup

Pg.18 SPORT

SINDH Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, along with others, inaugurates the book fair at the Expo Centre as visitors browse through piles of assorted titles, on Thursday. —Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

International book fair begins at Expo Centre

By Poonzada Salman

KARACHI: The 19th Karachi International Book Fair (KIBF) kicked off at Expo Centre on Thursday afternoon.

President of the Arts Council of Pakistan, Ahmed Shah, was the keynote speaker of the inaugural ceremony. He began by talking about the importance of dreams in life, quoting two Urdu couplets, one of which was:

Khwab mein jo dekh lekh raha hun so ka bikhana mushkil hai

Ae'tiaq mein ghoot Allahi hai, hath lagana mushkil hai

[What I'm dreaming about is hard to put in words.

A flower has blossomed in the mirror, can't touch it]

He said two decades back one could not think about having cultural activities in Karachi because of the city's volatile situation. There was hatred and ethnic violence in Karachi when the council started its International Urdu Conference. It brought together writers like Mushtaq Ahmed Yousufi, Sahar Ansari, Amar Jalil and Sobhi Gianchandani. "We included literature of Sindhi, Saraiki and Balochi languages because no federal or provincial body was working for such a cause. Efforts were being made to weaken Pakistan's

Continued on Page 14

Two DUHS officials arrested over MDCAT paper leak

Held suspects exploited exam process for 'monetary benefits': FIA

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency on Thursday arrested two senior officials of the Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) in the MDCAT paper leak case over allegations of exploiting the examination process for substantial monetary gains and undermining fairness and credibility of the medical entry test.

A senior official, who wished not to be named, told Dawn that DUHS controller examination Fuad Sheikh and deputy controller examination Mazhar Ali had been arrested by the Cyber Crime Reporting Centre (CCRC). They were booked in the case registered two days ago.

According to the contents of the FIR, the FIA's CCRC, Karachi, has registered an FIR against the controller of examinations of the DUHS and the deputy controller of DUHS and 13 other nominated suspects under relevant sections of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (Peca) and the Pakistan Penal Code on Dec 10.

The FIA initiated an inquiry on Oct 18, 2024, over the complaint regarding leaking of MDCAT-2024 entrance examination paper conducted on Sept 22, that "damaged the career of meritorious students of Sindh".

Upon inquiries, it transpired that the said two DUHS officials and several others were involved in leaking of paper of MDCAT-2024.

These individuals were engaged in buying and selling of exam materials using social media as a tool, and were responsible for breaching confidentiality during the preparation phase of the exam, as per official papers.

This included unauthorised access to exam content, leaking of confidential data and key questions and answers through illicit distribution by means of social media platforms, and the failure to maintain the sanctity and integrity of the exam process.

During the course of the inquiry, the statements of the accused were recorded and their mobile phones were seized.

"Upon reviewing the forensic report and technical report pertaining to the accused individuals, it was revealed that the aforementioned persons were actively involved in the leakage of the MDCAT examination paper", the official documents said.

The FIA said the leaked content was subsequently disseminated through various social media platforms, enabling widespread unauthorised access.

Furthermore, the investigation uncovered that the accused received "substantial financial gains" as a result of their actions, exploiting the examination process for monetary benefits.

"The malpractice not only undermined the fairness and credibility of the medical entry test but also caused significant damage to the trust in the examination system, affecting aspiring medical students and the reputation of the governing authorities responsible for conducting the test."

The FIA concluded in its report that the said facts, circumstances and evidence collected so far showed that the accused persons having criminal intention, committed the crime by leaking the MDCAT entry test questions and breached the trust of students and government entity.

They were also accused of inducement, electronic forgery and fraud for using forged documents.

The FIA said the said two DUHS officials and 13 other accused persons — Mohammad Farooq Khan, Sajid Mehmood Alvi, Vinod Kumar, Ram Lal, Asadullah Samejo, Kiltar Menghwar, Ayesh Harijan, Tariq Aziz Samo, Sharjeel Bilal, Shan Asfandyar, Rizwan,

Continued on Page 14

Child dies, six faint after fumigation at DHA home

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A child died while his six family members fainted after inhaling fumes of insecticide sprayed at their Defence Housing Authority home on Thursday, said police.

South-DIG Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that Dr Zia-ud-Din Sheikh had his house, located near Khayaban-i-Sahar, Phase-VI, sprayed with insecticide on Wednesday.

On Thursday at 11pm, all seven family members fell unconscious.

They were taken to South City Hospital in Clifton where one of them, identified as five-year-old Moin-ud-Din, was pronounced dead on arrival.

The South police chief said that Dr Zia-ud-Din Sheikh, his wife, their children — Shah Zain, 11; Zahra, 16; Zohair, 13 and Jannat, eight — had been admitted for treatment.

"Dr Zia-ud-Din Sheikh is the owner of Sir Syed Hospital in Qayyumabad," said the DIG.

Darakshan police SHO Shahid Khan said the affected family, subsequently, was taken to the Aga Khan University Hospital for further treatment. He said their condition was now stated to be 'stable'.

The officer added that the family told the police that they had got fumigation carried out at their home and it was an accident, and therefore, they did not want any legal proceedings.

PMA urges govt to prioritise universal healthcare

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Centre, in a statement released for World Universal Health Coverage Day on Thursday, urged the government to prioritise healthcare as a fundamental human right by addressing disparities in access and reducing healthcare costs for the common man.

This year's theme, 'Health: it's on the government,' emphasises the crucial role of governments in ensuring universal access to essential health services, regardless of socioeconomic status.

"While progress has been made, significant gaps remain in achieving universal health coverage in Pakistan. Millions still lack access to essential healthcare, particularly in rural areas. The PMA calls for increased government investment, improved healthcare infrastructure, and a strengthened primary healthcare system to bridge these gaps," said Dr Abdul Ghafoor Shoro, secretary general of PMA-Centre.

He further highlighted the need for expanded health insurance coverage and greater healthcare literacy.

"Expanding health insurance programmes can protect individuals and families from financial hardship due to medical expenses. Innovative financing mechanisms, such as social health insurance schemes, should be explored and implemented to make healthcare more affordable," he stated.

Dr. Shoro also emphasised the importance of public health campaigns and educational programmes to enhance health literacy and encourage preventive healthcare. "Empowering individuals with health information and encouraging preventive measures can significantly improve overall health outcomes," he added.

CJP Afridi forms body to evaluate state of Sindh jails

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: Presiding over a meeting on jail reforms in Sindh, Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi on Thursday stressed the need to prioritise the cases involving inmates awaiting decisions of their trial for over three years and proposed that mechanism was developed to expedite such cases.

He also underscored the importance of collective efforts to ensure that prisoners were dealt with humanely and in accordance with law.

The CJP also suggested that previous policies on criminal justice reforms were reviewed in order to assess their impact and design future strategies.

He said the objective of the meeting was to collaboratively identify and address systemic issues.

The meeting was held at the apex court's Karachi Registry and attended by Chief Justice of Sindh High Court Mohammad Shafi Siddiqui, former judge of SHC Justice Irshad Ali Shah, the secretaries of the home and law departments of Sindh, provincial police officer, IG prisons and others.

During the session, a sub-committee was formed to evaluate the current state of prisons in Sindh and propose a comprehensive reform package aimed at enhancing correctional facilities and practices.

The committee will be headed by retired Justice Irshad Ali Shah and chief executive officer of the Legal Aid Society Barrister Haya Emaan Zahid as its coordinator while Abdul Razzaq Raja and Sheikh Abdullah will serve as its members.

The committee has been tasked with developing actionable recommendations to address the challenges being faced by inmates, introducing rehabilitative programmes such as vocational training, mental health support, educational initiatives and to devise strategies for reintegration of prisoners into society after their release.

According to a statement issued after the meeting, the successful provincial models will also be highlighted to encourage replication across other provinces and these recommendations will form a key component of the National Jail Reform Policy ensuring a comprehensive, inclusive and province-wide perspective.

It was the CJP's maiden visit to the Supreme Court Karachi Registry after taking over as the top judge of the country and during his interaction with the staff, he emphasised the need for exemplary service to litigants visiting the court and directed that every issue of the litigants must be handled courteously and efficiently under the law.

He also desired to set up a front desk to treat litigants with utmost respect and dignity. Any complaint of rude behaviour would result in action against the delinquent staff/officers, he observed.

The CJP also assured the staff that their grievances including promotion and service related matters would be addressed provided they must uphold high standards of service and courtesy and registrar will visit Karachi Registry for timely resolution of staff's concerns.

City Council passes 21 resolutions amid opposition protests

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: The City Council's general session on Thursday was marred by a strong protest from opposition members belonging to the Jamaat-i-Islami and the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf-backed Sunni Ittehad Council. They accused Mayor Murtaza Wahab of ignoring their elected local body representatives in the release of development funds.

While the opposition members chanted slogans against the mayor, 21 resolutions were passed smoothly by a majority vote amid the ruckus, though the proceedings were barely audible due to the commotion.

The situation escalated when journalists boycotted the proceedings after several Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) activists stormed into the press gallery and occupied seats. The journalists walked out as the intruders refused to vacate the seats and misbehaved with media personnel. The protesting journalists demanded restricted access to the press gallery and the issuance of entry passes exclusively for journalists.

The media also boycotted the post-session press conference of Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad, who had presided over the session, as most of the chairs in the KMC Head Office press conference room were already occupied. Later, the deputy mayor came out of his office to apologise to the journalists for the "inconvenience."

Earlier in the day, the opposition members staged a protest outside the city's municipality head office on M.A. Jinnah Road, decrying the non-release of funds to them. The protesters, led by Opposition Leader Saif Uddin, alleged that development funds were being allocated solely to union council (UC) chairpersons affiliated with the PPP.

Resolutions passed

During the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation's (KMC) Council general session, 21 resolutions were passed by a majority vote.

The first resolution congratulated Karamullah Waqasi, Imam Bakhsh Bedi, Babar Magsi and Muhammad Waqar on their victories in by-elections in various union councils. It also congratulated Karamullah Waqasi for his nomination as the Leader of the House.

The second resolution approved the promotion/upgradation of all employees in grades 1 to 4 who had served in the KMC for over 15 years.

Another resolution lauded the mayor for successfully implementing various development projects in the city. These projects included the repair and resurfacing of roads and highways at a cost of Rs2 billion, renovation and beautification of bridges, flyovers and underpasses, restoration of streetlights, development and beautification of parks, establishment of Karachi Metropolitan University, reforms in the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation leading to a record increase in monthly revenue, replacement of dilapidated water and sewerage lines and the rehabilitation of a sewage treatment plant.

The council also passed a resolution congratulating PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his spokesperson Barrister

Continued on Page 14

OPPOSITION members stage a protest during the City Council session in the KMC building, on Thursday. —Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

PRAYER

Fajr	5.48
Zuhr	12.26
Asr	4.11
Maghreb	5.45
Isha	7.03

Starting time in Karachi

REFLECTIONS

"MISFORTUNE AND HELPLESSNESS ARE CALAMITIES."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

7/dawn427

Man sentenced to nine years in jail for sharing indecent images of ex-fiancée

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: A judicial magistrate on Thursday sentenced a man to a total of nine years in prison on three counts for sharing indecent images and videos of his former fiancée on Facebook and Instagram by using fake IDs.

Judicial Magistrate (East) Yusra Ashfaq found Muhammad Shoaib guilty of the offences under Sections 20 (dignity of natural person), 21 (modesty of natural person and minor), 24 (cyberstalking) of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 and awarded him three-year imprisonment on each count.

The court also imposed a fine of a total Rs90,000, and on default, the convict would undergo an additional imprisonment.

"The prosecution has demonstrated that the accused tarnished the dignity of the complainant and her family, violated the complainant's modesty, displayed obscene videos without her consent, and displayed them publicly," the court observed.

"Despite having been convicted in a similar case in 2017, he persisted in his harassment, reportedly utilising digital platforms to share obscene images and videos of the victim publicly through different modus operandi," the court stated in the detailed order.

The court also noted that the prosecution witnesses and material obtained through forensic investigation supported that the accused had damaged the victim's reputation and inflicted emotional distress with "deliberate intention".

Mentioning another FIR registered against the accused by his same ex-fiancée in 2017, the order stated that he was convicted in August 2020, for similar offences by using different social media platforms, including Gmail and Facebook. However, the conviction was later challenged in the Sindh High Court, and it is still pending.

"Therefore, the defence's argument that imposing a punishment would violate the principle of double jeopardy lacks merit as the prior social medium were Facebook and Gmail," the court ruled.

Assistant Director-Legal Sharaz Rajpar of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) said that the victim's father had lodged a complaint against the suspect.

The complainant informed the FIA Cyber Crime Cell that in September 2019, his daughter's images and videos were being shared through Instagram and Facebook which caused distress to his daughter and his family. He also stated that his daughter had been engaged with the accused, but this relationship had been ended prior to this incident.

According to the FIA, the forensic analysis report of the seized electronic devices from the accused revealed that the he had used different social media platforms to harass the victim and shared her inappropriate images.

On the other hand, the defence counsel contended that his client was falsely implicated in this crime and alleged that the case property had been fabricated against his client.

However, the court rejected the defence plea and noted that the evidence available before the court linked the accused to the alleged social media accounts.

City Council

Continued from Page 13

Murtaza Wahab for their instrumental role in the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment in the National Assembly and Senate with a two-third majority.

Another resolution commended the mayor for installing solar panels on the roof of the KMC's central building to harness solar energy, recognising it as a commendable initiative.

The council urged the provincial government and KMC's Medical and Health Services Department to launch a comprehensive crackdown on quacks and unlicensed doctors operating in the city.

Other resolutions passed included the approval of the KMC's annual budget for 2023-24, recommendations for land allotment and transfer for Karachi Metropolitan University, sending KMC advertisements for direct publication in newspapers via the KMC's Department of Information, Printing and Media Management, introducing a new appointment procedure and time scale for interim and regularisation posts in the KMC, introduction of charges for issuing house job and experience certificates to medical professionals at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital.

Additional resolutions pertained to the upgrade of the KMC accountant post from BPS-11 to BPS-16, granting Manghopir Hospital the status of a major hospital, approving the construction of a 100-bed hospital in Moro Mir Bahar (formerly NITE Town) for middle-class residents, and taking steps to restore traffic flow at Banaras Chowrangi. Finally, the council congratulated the mayor for restoring the Jamila Pumping Station in Karachi's Old City Area.

SHC seeks list of cases lodged against ex-president Alvi in Sindh

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A constitutional bench of the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday directed the Sindh authorities to file the complete list of cases lodged against former president Dr Arif Alvi in Sindh.

The two-judge bench headed by Justice Mohammad Karim Khan Agha said that the statements providing requisite details must be signed by the inspector general (IG) of Sindh police and director of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Sindh.

Citing the home department secretary, Sindh IG, interior ministry and FIA as respondents, the former president had petitioned the SHC, asserting that he belonged to the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf which had been subjected to a campaign of targeted persecution for an extended period.

On Dec 4, the SHC granted a 20-day protective bail to the petitioner to surrender before the trial courts in three cases lodged in Punjab.

The petitioner also pleaded to declare any move on the part of the provincial government to arrest or prosecute him as illegal and to restrain the provincial authorities from detaining the petitioner or filing FIRs against him. He also sought directives for the respondents to produce the record about the cases lodged against him.

On Thursday, the lawyer for the petitioner argued that a number of FIRs had been lodged against the former president in Sindh and he was unaware of them.

Therefore, the bench directed the authorities concerned to file the details till Dec 19.

International book fair begins at Expo Centre

Continued from Page 13

federation. There were faultlines. To overcome that, the soft power of culture was needed."

Mr Shah said one requires a certain kind of passion (jagaf pateh) to cross barriers. "What was our passion? The world used to think of us as uncivilised. [They're wrong.] Our country is standing on the following civilisations: Moenjo Daro, Mehrgarh, Harappa and Taxila." He added, all over the world, culture and trade go in hand in hand.

Provincial Minister for Education Syed Sardar Ali Shah was the guest of honour. He lauded the consistency with which the organisers of the book fair have been arranging it on an annual basis.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah was the chief guest on the occasion. He said those who want to cast an evil eye in Karachi's direction (using foggy words) should see that the city has hosted big events like the World Culture Festival, the Urdu conference and the book fair in one month. He told the attendees that he likes reading books. "I buy them and sometime steal them." He said he'd try and visit the fair later to get his hands on some books.

KIBF chairman Aziz Khalid welcomed the guests and later convener Waqar Memon delivered the vote of thanks.

The day, however, began with a big number of people, a majority of which constituted of school children and college boys and girls, pouring into halls 1, 2 and 3 of the venue.

Asif Iqbal and Mohammad Zubair of Sindh Government College, Liaquatabad (morning college) were there, who, talking to Dawn, said they were looking for books on anatomy. They said it was their first time at the fair and they like it so much that they will come back.

Two teachers of a local school were spotted with bagful of books. They had bought works of fiction (by authors such as J. K. Rowling, C. S. Lewis, Enid Blyton) for their school library.

Organised by the Pakistan Publishers and Booksellers Association, the event will conclude on Dec 16.

Two DUHS officials arrested

Continued from Page 13

Shahzaib Hamdani, Khalilur Rehman and others had committed the offences punishable under relevant sections of Peca and the PPC.

Sources told Dawn that Fuad Sheikh, the controller examination of the DUHS, had remained a faculty member of the DMC (Dow Medical College).

After retirement several years ago, he went to Punjab where he served in medical education.

Later on, he was hired as "professor of pharmacology" by the DUHS on the contract basis.

Subsequently, he was given an "additional" charge as controller of the examination.

The sources added that the controller examination was a 'regular post' and it was astonishing as to why this post remained "vacant for the last three years".

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI

Suit No. 1790 of 2020

Mr. Nadeem Magsong & Legalboy Pvt Limited and another ..... Plaintiff

Syed Ali Abbas Zaidi ..... Defendant

To the Defendant:

Syed Ali Abbas Zaidi s/o Syed Shamim Hyder Zaidi

Permanent Address:

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has instituted a suit against you for Declaration, Recovery of Amounts and Damages as well as Permanent Injunction.

You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court before Additional Registrar (OS) in person, or by a pleader (employed), and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions on 23rd day of January 2025 at 09:30 a.m. to answer the claim, and you are directed to produced on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely, or support all pleas / defence and file your Written Statement on or before that date.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Also take notice that in default of your filing any address for service on or before the date mentioned you are liable to have your defence struck off.

Given under my hand and seal of Court on this 11th December, 2024.

BY ORDER
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (O-II)

QUETTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

EXTENSION IN OPENING DATE

With reference to the advertisement published vide PID/2/211/24 on dated 19-11-2024, regarding QESCO Invitation For Bids / Tender. The same has already uploaded on PPRA & QESCO websites respectively. Now the following amendments have been made in the said tender, which may be read as under:

Tender No	Previous Date & Time For Bid Submission & Opening	New Date & Time For Bid Submission & Opening
RTG-497	11-12-2024 at 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	23-12-2024 at 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Manager (Procurement) PMU QESCO Quetta

PRO No:[illegible]-12-2024

QUETTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

CANCELLATION OF TENDER

With reference to the advertisement regarding QESCO Tender Notice published vide PID/52/2024 on Dated 28-11-2024, in different newspapers and also uploaded on PPRA & QESCO Websites respectively. In the said advertisement Tender at Sr. 03 i.e. T-1940 for procurement of 300 Nos HT TOU METERS mentioned in above advertisement is hereby CANCELLED.

Other terms and conditions of the advertisement will remain unchanged.

Manager (Material Management)
QESCO Quetta

ADVERTISER

TO ADVERTISE IN DAWN

For display advertisements please contact:
Landline: +92-21-3581-3047
Mobile: +92-333-3544591
E-mail: irfan.ahmed@dawn.com

For classified advertisements please contact:
Landline: +92-21-35683274 / 3127
E-mail: classified@dawn.com

KARACHI

AUTO RENTALS AVAILABLE

AIRPORT Drop by METROCAB. 24 hours open. To book a Cab Call Tel: (021) 111-222-787 WhatsApp: 0312-1005111 Email: customer.relations@metrocab.com.pk (10166824261)

RESIDENTIAL RENTAL AVAILABLE

KARACHI

DEFENCE

DEFENCE Emaar luxury Apartment Pearl Tower full Sea facing 1 Kanal Room / top of the line / Stand with all amenities Khawaja Kaleem 0300-2184800, 0321-2251935 (10056201378)

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

KARACHI

DEFENCE

DEFENCE Apartment Fresh Booking 20%, 400 yards Phase II Extension (Q40), 5 Bedrooms, car parking **BESTWAY** Property 0301-2263535 (11022785947)

GULSHAN-E-IQBAL

GULSHAN Iqbal Block-14, **FRESH BOOKING** Behind Civic Center 3, 4 bedrooms apartment reserve car parking indoor games gym & prayer area contact. Khalid 0321-2243701 0333-2243701 (10062148346)

OTHERS

EMAAR Coral Tower 2, 2 bedroom Apartment, partial Sea facing, middle floor, water Building above Sea Gull Restaurant, rental income 2.8 Lack / Month, demand 4.8 Cr. (chance deal / urgent sale) Owner Contact: 03343529550, (10072659076)

COMMERCIAL RENTAL AVAILABLE

CLIFTON

CLIFTON Opposite Dolmen Mall **8400 SQ: FT** Ground & Mezzanine Floor on rent next to **MCB BANK & BOP** Bank for Banks & Brands Rent 2 Lacs. **ESTATE CASTLE** 0321-3448789 (11022657702)

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL

PACKING SERVICES

FREELINE MOVERS we are a leading packing, shipping, custom clearance and freight forwarding company operating worldwide based in Pakistan providing quality moving and relocation services 24/7. Contact details: Direct Line: +92 21 34500081, Email: karachi@freelinemovers.com, website: www.freelinemovers.com (10022761681)

LOST & FOUND

I Mare Imtiaz S/o Khawaja Imtiaz Shah R/ CNIC No. 42201-2670267-9 ID No. 20181-26579 Program BS ASF have misplaced my original transcript/index of this document is requested to return it to the Institution of Business Management Korangi Creek Karachi Contact No. 111-002-004 Ext-303. (11052780108)

MACHINERY FOR SALE

GENERAL

CNG complete plant for sale in Karachi, including: 1. IMW-50/4 Sega-3600 Psi Compressor, 2. Natural Gas Drive Coolspider Engine 200 KW, 3. IMW-3000 series, dual hose 2 line dispensers, 2 pcs, 4. 60 Storage Cascades, EKC 2400 Water filter with parker fittings, 5. 2 Cooling Towers 1KW with motors, 6 centrifugal pumps, 8. Remote mount Electrical control panel. Contact: +92(0)3189911 & 021-36563720, 100% original condition / Allied Engineering maintained (10072606077)

CRANES / HOISTS Electric Rope / Chain Hoists, lifting capacity 500, 10500 Kgs, available from Stock, S.M. Jaffer & Co., Karachi, Phone: 32551782-85, Fax: 32551162 (10062014007)

GENERATOR

DIESEL GENERATORS from Stock 01-2500 KVA with installation and maintenance services, spares available, S.M. Jaffer & Co., Karachi, Phone: 32551782-85, Fax: 32551162 (10062014008)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

KARACHI

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 84 Sector 14-B measuring 300 yards DHA City Karachi from Muhammad Qayyum Alam S/o Muhammad Kaleem Alam (I) File No. J-RES-2359 CNIC 42201-0360333 R/o Karachi free from all charges dues etc. Any Person Bank Authority having any claim / objection should notify us and Administrator DHA Karachi within 7 days of this publication **ALJAMEEN REAL ESTATE** 0321-2041123, (10062260275)

ALHAMDULILLAH our client has contracted to purchase Plot No. U-RES 42473, Plot No. 578, Sector 3-C, DHA City Karachi measuring 200 yards from SM (R) Bashir Ahmed S/o Taja CNIC 35401-2546223 R/o Bangladesh Free from all claims, objections and encumbrances. Any Person, Bank, Authority having any objection whatsoever should notify to us Administrator DHA City Karachi with documentary evidence within Seven days from this publication, **ALBASIT ESTATE ENTERPRISES** Sahibzada 0321-8758863 Nayam 0300-2421981, (11022607363)

ALHAMDULILLAH our client has contracted to purchase Plot No. U-RES 43964, Plot No. 181, Sector 3-C, DHA City Karachi measuring 200 yards from SM (R) Sarfraz Ahmed Khan S/o Saadat Ali (Late) CNIC 35103-1306782 R/o Karachi 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, **ALBASIT ESTATE ENTERPRISES** Sahibzada 0321-8758863 Nayam 0300-2421981, (11022607364)

I Abdul Qayyum have sale my Car Toyota Aqua Model 2025, Registration No. BLQ-468, Engine No. 1NZ 1517225, on dated 28-10-2024 to Mr. Habib Ur Rahman S/o Abdul Ha CNIC No. 54400-1868002-7. Now I am not responsible about this Car (10062914353)

I, Irfan Ali Soomro, hereby declare that I have legally purchased the travel agency license under the name travel unlimited with license # 1510. This serves as an official Public Notice to inform all concerned Parties, Clients, and Stakeholders of this acquisition. For any inquiries or correspondence, Please Contact: Irfan Ali Soomro Phone 03010994831, (10062874042)

MY client has contracted to purchase Shop No. S-04, measuring 1027 square feet on ground floor together with basement Units No. 19, 20 & 21 measuring 1026 square feet total 3082 square feet, Yousuf Grand Square Plot No. G-4, Block-8, KDA Scheme No. 5, Kehkashan, Clifton, Karachi from Mrs. Shazia Yousuf Mandhe W/o Muhammad Yousuf Mandhe CNIC No. 42000-8069936-6, resident of Karachi with peaceful physical and vacant possession, free from all sorts of encumbrances whatsoever nature. Any Person / Authority having any objection / claim should notify the Sub-Registrar II Clifton Town Karachi and undersigned with documentary evidence under registered A/D within seven days from the date hereof failing which any claim / objection if any shall be deemed to have been waived and transfer of the said properties shall be completed in favour of my client **SHAMRUKH A. SATTAR CHOW-TABALA** Advocate High Court Office No. 13, Ground Floor, Hamilton Courts Complex, Plot No. G-1, Block-7, near Teen Talwar, Clifton, Karachi, 0301-8118709, (10062760780)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 1631, Beach Avenue, Phase VIII-E-II, measuring 300 square yards, DHA Karachi from (1) Mr. Badaque Sultan, CNIC # 42301-0972186-3, and (2) Mrs. Shaheen Athar, CNIC # 42201-0972186-8 residents of Karachi, free from all claims, liens, burdens, disputes, dues, charges, liabilities etc. Any Person / Bank / Authority having any claim / objection(s) should notify DHA 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-6, Phase-VI, DHA, Karachi. 021-111-278-111, **AFZAAL SHABBIR KHAN** 0300-8284661 (10062914360)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Apartment No. 4 Plot FC Bella Commercial Street 12 Phase V Ext DHA Karachi from Parhlad Rai NIC 42201-1042484-3 Any Person / Bank / Authority having any claim / objection should notify us and Sub Registrar I Clifton Town Karachi within 7 days of this publication Prime Property 0304-2151108, (10052080180)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Commercial Plot No. 10-C, Sahil Commercial Street-5, Phase VIII E-II DHA Karachi measuring 100 yards from Mr. Mohammad Jawed S/o Mohammad Ewaid holding CNIC No. 42201-5177063-9 R/o Karachi free from all claims, objection 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. **TAKAFUL ESTATE KAMAN PEERANI** 0321-9244846, (10062600802)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 102, 1st Floor Building on Plot 34-C Rahat Comm Lane 2 Phase VI DHA Karachi measuring 600 square feet from Mrs Aisha Ahsan W/o Ahsan Raheem CNIC 42201-7558003-8 resident of Karachi free from all claims whatsoever. Any Person / Authority having any claim, objection should notify Sub Registrar I Clifton Town Karachi within 7 days of this publication otherwise transaction will be completed **KHARRALIS ASSOCIATES** 0300-3226740, (10062874039)

OUR client has contracted to purchase leased Plot No. 10-B, Khayaban-e-Bahria, Phase-VII, measuring 1000 yards, DHA Karachi from Mr. Tahir Mangnani S/o Muhammad Iqbal Mangnani CNIC No. 42000-0064859-3 resident of Karachi free from all dues, charges, liabilities etc. Any Person, Bank, Authority having any claim / objection should notify us / Sub Registrar I Clifton Town Karachi within 07 days of this publication otherwise transaction shall be completed in favour of our client. **KOLACHI PROPERTIES MUZAMMIL TELI** 0322-2557200, (10062830932)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 1910, Block-2, Clifton Commercial Lane 9 Phase 8 DHA Karachi measuring 100 yard from Mrs. Rafeeda Parveen Memon W/o Abdul Aziz Memon CNIC 45504-0827704 R/o Karachi through Venus Associates free from all dues claim whatsoever any Person having any claim should notify to Administrator DHA Karachi and us with documentary evidence within seven days. The Professional Estate, (Zulfiqar Commercial Phase VIII) 03002454361 (11002733628)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 259-C, Khayaban-e-Shujaat Phase VIII-E, DHA Karachi measuring 600.00 square yards from Mrs. Farah Yameen W/o Rahail Ahmed Sethi CNIC No. 42101-1552384-8 R/o Karachi through **BIZ ENTERPRISES** 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, **PROPERTY CHANNEL** Huzaifa 0300-2604867 **TANYA SON** Bilal Tahya 0321-2417004, (10062967566)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 378, 30th Street, Phase-VIII-D, measuring 2000 square yards, DHA Karachi from (1) Mr. Shahid Nasir CNIC No. 42000-0475068-9 S/o Nasir Ahmed (L) (Son) (2) Mrs. Shahida Shakeel CNIC No. 42201-1850914-0 W/o Mr. Shakeel Rashid (Daughter) (3) Mr. Hamid Nasir CNIC No. 42000-0470322-1 S/o Nasir Ahmed (L) (Son) (4) Mrs. Samina Gohar CNIC No. 42201-4782330-0 W/o Mr. Gohar Rashid (Daughter) (5) Mrs. Aliya Zahid CNIC No. 42000-0429078-8 W/o Mr. Zahid Nasir (L) (Daughter-in-Law) (6) Mr. Roomen Zahid CNIC No. 42000-0469892-9 S/o Zahid Nasir (L) (Grand Son) (7) Mrs. Sana Aman CNIC No. 42301-1230517-8 D/o Zahid Nasir (L) (Grand Daughter) (8) Mrs. Aisha Yousuf CNIC No. 42000-2536571-6 D/o Zahid Nasir (L) (Grand Daughter) (9) Mrs. Maryam Mubeen CNIC No. 42000-7480778-4 D/o Zahid Nasir (L) (Grand Daughter) resident of Karachi free from all dues, charges, liabilities etc. Any Person, Bank, or Authority having any claim / objection should notify us / Administrator DHA Karachi within 07 days of this publication otherwise transaction will be completed in favour of our client. **ESTATE CONSULTANTS** 0333-2006401, (10062830932)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 5-E, Beach Avenue, Phase VIII-E-II measuring 300 square yards, DHA Karachi, from Mr. Hafeezur Saeed S/o. Saeed Ahmed (L) (NIC # 42201-8787168-5, resident of Karachi, free from all claims, liens, burdens, disputes, dues, charges, liabilities etc. Any Person / Bank / Authority having any claim / objection(s) should notify DHA 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-6, Phase VI, DHA, Karachi. 021-111-278-111, **AFZAAL SHABBIR KHAN** 0300-8284661, (10062874361)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Shop No. 1, Ground floor, 283 square feet, Plot No. 12-C, Commercial Street No. 4, Phase VII DHA, Karachi, from Mr. Imran Mushtaq S/o Mr. Abdul Aziz Mushtaq, CNIC No. 42201-0904509-9, resident of Karachi, free from all claims, dues, taxes, liabilities etc. Any Person / Bank / Authority / Court having any objection whatsoever should notify us / Administrator DHA Karachi within 07 days of this publication. After that no objection will be entertained and transaction should be completed in favour of our client. Aggarr Property, Shahid Khan, 0300-7502444, (10052938202)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Shop No. 2, Ground Floor, 283 square feet, Plot No. 7-C, Bukhari Commercial Street No. 2, Phase-V Ext. DHA, Karachi, from Mr. Imran Mushtaq S/o Mr. Abdul Aziz Mushtaq, CNIC No. 42201-0904509-9, resident of Karachi, free from all claims, dues, taxes, liabilities etc. Any Person / Bank / Authority / Court having any objection whatsoever should notify us / Administrator DHA Karachi 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 ZAHID BROTHERS**, Cell # 0321-2444077, (11022785971)

OUR client Mr. Ambreen D/o. Mohammad Sadiq, NIC No. 42101-0429147-4, has contracted to purchase a Plot No. R-308, measuring 160 sq.yds., Block "D", Sector-1, Gulshan-e-Mehran, Sindh Government Employees Cooperative Housing Society Ltd., KDA Scheme 33, Karachi from Hassan Sardar S/o. Sardar Ali, NIC No. 42201-6766906-9, completely free from all claims, liens, charges, burdens, demands, interests, objections, or encumbrances whatsoever in nature, and with peaceful vacant physical possession. Any Person(s), Body(s), Bank, Organization, Agency or Authority having any rights, claim, lien or objection whatsoever over the above mentioned property, should notify the same in writing together with documentary evidence under Registered A/D cover to the undersigned as well as to the Sub Registrar-I (Gulap Town, Karachi), within 07 days from the date hereof, failing which, all claims, liens, objections whatsoever nature shall be deemed to have been waived, and sale transaction of the said property shall be completed in favour of our client. **MEMON N MEMON ESTATE** 0300-2267191 (Amjad Memon), (10152748950)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 200-C, 17th Street, Phase-VIII-B measuring 500 yards, DHA Karachi from Mr. Faiz Ahmed Allawala S/o Faruq Ahmed Allawala (Late) CNIC No. 42201-1560081-7 resident of Karachi free from all dues, charges, liabilities etc. Any Person, Bank, Authority having any claim / objection should notify us / Administrator DHA Karachi within 07 days of this publication otherwise transaction shall be completed in favour of our client. **KOLACHI PROPERTIES MUZAMMIL TELI** 0322-2557200, (10062830932)

COURT NOTICE

UK

IN The Court of Honourable Malik Javed Iqbal Senior Civil Judge At Isra SUBJECT: Irfan Bahadur s/o Va Muhammad Ejaz ass Suit for Partition Through Ejectment in The subject case is inform the following through normal means as difficult Late, Bibi D/o Ali Zaman (Late) , Begum Nisa , Maskeen Jaan D/o Yusaf (Late) Resident 665 B10 , Moseley , Swinford Road (9) England , Sahib Jan (Widow) , Muhammad Nisar Son , Yasmeen Akhtar , Noreen (Akhter) , Daughters (Her Attar (Late) S/o Nayab Khan Resident Mohalla Mocha Banda Dhoungkushti Tehsil Hazro District Attock. You are inform to attend the Court personal through counsel or attorney on 14-10-2024 at 9 am to avoid ex-parte proceeding. (3761275671)

DAWN

DISCLAIMER

Readers are requested to make inquiries before making any expenses or commitment both in writing, advertisements for publication and in relying on published advertisements. Dawn, (Pakistan Herald Publications Pvt. Ltd.) does not vouch for the content of any advertisement nor does PHPL guarantee that advertisements placed shall not be delayed, excluded or edited for want of space. Advertisers are requested to note that acceptance and placement of advertisements in Dawn shall remain strictly at the discretion of PHPL. PHPL shall not be liable for any loss suffered as a result of reliance placed on any advertisement or for the omission, inclusion or editing of any advertisement.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

44 MQM-L activists get interim bail

HYDERABAD: Anti-Terrorism Court-I on Thursday granted interim pre-arrest bail to 44 activists of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-London in a section case in a sum of Rs10,000 each.

The case was lodged at Fort police station under Sections 123-3, 124-A, 34 PPC and 6/7 of Anti-Terrorism Act on Dec 9 when the party activists tried to march towards Shuhada Colonelan in Pucca Qilla. Six activists were arrested by police and remanded in judicial custody the following day by an ATC judge.

Shakeel Zai, counsel for the MQM-L activists, said the court granted interim pre-arrest bail without touching merits of the case, which was fixed for hearing on Dec 18 and the accused were required to join investigation with police.

He said that ingredients of 123-A, 124-A were not mentioned in FIR although the sections had been applied. Similarly, no firing took place where the activists had gathered, no specific words of slogans attributed to them had been mentioned, he said.

He stressed that the activists did not raise any anti-state slogan and the case had been lodged against them only to force them to change their political loyalties. —Staff Correspondent

Man shot dead over 'old enmity'

NAWABSHAH: A 50-year-old man was shot dead and his brother and a cousin were wounded in two separate attacks carried out by a group of armed men in the Bandhi area of this district on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Raza Mohammad Jamali, said to be a senior journalist. The assailants opened fire on him outside his home, where his cousin, Junaid Jamali, a policeman, was also present and suffered bullet wounds.

The assailants then drove to a shop located along Bandhi-Moro link road and shot at Raza's brother, Shakil Jamali.

A shutterdown strike was observed in Bandhi town over the bloodshed and a large number of Jamalis took to the street and held a protest demonstration at the nearby section of the Mehran Highway, blocking the road for a few hours.

According to the Bandhi police, the fresh attack might have been carried out by some members of the Korai community who were Raza's rivals in an old blood feud. They said Raza's another brother and a son were shot dead allegedly by the Korai rivals about five months ago. The Korai's allege that Raza's nephew, Lal Khan Jamali, had killed their close relative, Nisar Korai, some three years ago. —Correspondent

International forum set up to draft tough law on protecting water bodies, ensuring quality

The law will integrate irrigation, livestock, fisheries, KWSC and other water-related authorities in Sindh; strictly check disposal of harmful wastewater in river, canals

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Experts and irrigation officers at a stakeholders' consultation workshop held in a local hotel here on Thursday discussed proposed legislation for an integrated system covering all water-related authorities in Sindh.

The workshop was organised jointly by the Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (Sida) and the provincial planning & development board.

The law is to be enacted under World Bank's multibillion dollar Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation (SWAT) Project and would become a unified law having components of two existing laws dealing with irrigation sector and Sida, according to Sida announcement.

Sida Managing Director Pritam Das told the participants that desired legislation was missing in Sindh and after its enactment, the law would integrate existing laws to overcome all weaknesses in the water sector.

He said that the draft concept of the law was shared by international law consultants with the irrigation department.

There are two laws that already exist – the Sindh Irrigation Act, 1879 and the Sindh Water Management Ordinance, 2022. He pointed out that half of Sindh's irrigation channels were with the irrigation department and a few others with Sida. He said penalties in the existing laws were insufficient which were creating problems for officers.

Approval of direct outlets (DOs) should be checked under the new law, besides matters relating to climate change, he said.

Pritam Das observed that usually irrigation officers remained busy in courts with the result that management of water was affected.

Chief Engineer Mansoor Memon called for legislation that was in line with ground realities. He said that consultation with stakeholders should be given preference. Government should then ensure its implementation, he added.

Dr Altaf Sijal, a water analyst, said that new water law was being discussed but representation in the proposed directorate was not given to farmers under Sindh's water policy and also on the basis of gender. He stressed that they should be given representation. He said the official figures put the number of watercourses in Sindh at around 44,000 but the actual number was higher.

An international water law consultant, Dr Stephen Hodson, underscored the need for upgrading water-related laws in Pakistan. He said that for the proposed legislation, an international forum was formed in Sindh which had started its consultation with stakeholders today. It's aimed at ensuring efficient and sustainable legislation. He further said that under the new law, every water user would be member of the "water user association" contrary to the membership of landowner alone as envisaged in the existing law.

He said a committee comprising technical officers would be formed for running every canal's management and addressing its issues of technical nature.

He said that a 'Sindh integrated water resource management department' would be established. Under this law, all departments relating to water would be integrated, besides irrigation department, like agriculture, fisheries, livestock and Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation.

He said that under the law, quality would be assessed, be it groundwater or surface water.

"No one would be allowed to dispose of wastewater into main canals or Indus river," he said, adding that permission for wastewater disposal would be given provided that such disposal would not undermine aquatic life, environment or quality of water body.

Superintending Engineer Mohammad Ali Zardari, social development specialist of an irrigation / agriculture project Ghulam Mustafa Ujjan and others also spoke.

Canals project a conspiracy to render Sindh barren: Khuhro

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA: Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, president of Pakistan Peoples Party Sindh chapter, has termed construction of six canals, including Cholistan Canal, on Indus River as a 'robbery' of Sindh's share in water and a 'conspiracy' to render the province's lands barren.

Khuhro told journalists after chairing a meeting on preparations for the 17th death anniversary of former premier Benazir Bhutto at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto on Thursday that the canals project would drive a wedge between provinces.

He said the party would fight Sindh's case resolutely against the controversial project at all constitutional forums including ECNEC, NEC, CCI and others. Sindh would not accept the canals project at any cost and reject it, he said.

He said that no decision could be made regarding the canals project without Sindh's consent. People of Sindh would take to the streets if the 'controversial' project was bulldozed, he warned.

"We make it clear to the federal government that Sindh will not allow anyone to rob its water. The Council of Common Interests (CCI) is the appropriate constitutional forum to find a solution to 'water controversy' but the CCI is yet to meet and no permission has been obtained so far [for the canals project] from any constitutional forum," he said.

Khuhro demanded the federal government convene CCI's meeting in the light of Article 154(3) to listen to Sindh's stance on the project and advised the Punjab government to tap subsoil water and drip irrigation system to irrigate its land. The province would not be permitted to irrigate its lands at the cost of others, he said.

He said the party had serious reservation over the six canals. "We fear Sindh's share in water will be taken through the flood canals (Chashma-Jhelum and Taunsa-Panjnad link canals) for onward release into Cholistan Canal that would, according to him, lead to rendering thousands of acres barren in Sindh.

He said that Sindh was already not getting water in accordance with the 1991 water accord and accused Irsa and the centre of rendering around three million acres of land barren in coastal belt of Thatta and Badin district.

He said that CDWP was not authorised to take a unilateral decision about the Cholistan Canal. Neither any ordinance was issued to make amendments to the Irsa Act nor any law was promulgated for constructing new canals. "It is inappropriate to blame PPP for it," he said.

He said that Sindh would oppose the canals project tooth and nail like it had done with regard to the construction of Kalabagh Dam.

He said that talks were under way with Maulana Fazlur Rehman regarding registration of Madaris and he expected a solution soon would be found out soon.

Earlier, Khuhro said at the meeting that decision had been made to hold a big public gathering to mark the 17th death anniversary of Benazir Bhutto on Dec 27th. Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, President Asif Ali Zardari and PPP leaders from all provinces would address the gathering on the day, he said.

He said that thousands of people were expected to turn up at the event to pay homage to their slain leader.

The meeting was attended by MNA Aijaz Jakhrani, divisional president PPP Larkana; MNA Khursheed Junejo, president PPP Larkana district; Agha Siraj Durrani, Aijaz Leghari, chairman of district council and general secretary PPP Larkana district; Khair Mohammad Shaikh, president PPP Larkana city district; presidents, general secretaries and leaders of PPP's sister organisations.

Chief secy pledges continued support for police operations in riverine area

KARACHI: A high profile meeting chaired by Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah on Thursday resolved to utilise all available resources to establish and maintain peace in riverine of the province and assured police force of full support in its ongoing operations against dacoits.

The meeting, which was attended by Sindh IGP Ghulam Nabi Memon, commissioner and DIG of Sukkur, commissioner and DIG of Larkana, was informed by the IGP that significant successes had been achieved in the riverine area since Jan 1, 2024.

He said that 76 dacoits had been killed, 115 injured and 363 arrested during operations against criminals. Several areas had been cleared of outlaws, leading to remarkable progress in the restoration of peace and security, he said.

The chief secretary commended police's performance in restoring law and order in the riverine area and directed police and other law enforcement agencies to adopt a coordinated strategy for sustainable achievements.

He emphasised the importance of implementing effective measures to ensure lasting peace in the region and creating a safe and secure environment for the area's residents.

The meeting stressed the need for close liaison between police and district administration and the chief secretary urged all institutions to work together to ensure law and order in the region and provide protection to general public.

The meeting discussed future challenges and their solutions and the chief secretary directed law enforcement agencies to proceed with a comprehensive plan.

The chief secretary pledged to equip police force with all modern tools and resources to improve effectiveness of its operations and reiterated that restoration of peace and security remained on top of government's priorities' list. Law enforcement agencies would continue to receive all necessary support, he vowed. —Dawn Report

Police officials suspended over harassment charges by female colleague

LARKANA: An inspector of police and a head clerk posted in Qambar-Shahdadkot SSP office were suspended on Thursday in the wake of allegations of harassment levelled against them by former in-charge of women protection cell, who named them as her harassers in a video that went viral on social media a couple of days before.

Larkana SSP Dr Mir Rohal Khan Khoso, who holds the additional charge of SSP of Qambar-Shahdadkot, took the action against Inspector Riaz Ahmed Soomro and head clerk Sikandar Ali Lashari after he visited Qambar a day ago on IGP's directives to probe woman police constable Sanam Parveen Brohi's allegations, said police sources on Thursday.

The inspector was directed to immediately report to police lines Qambar-Shahdadkot and not leave the headquarters without prior permission of his superior officer, while the head clerk was asked to report to the Establishment Branch, said the order.

Ms Brohi transferred

Larkana SSP has transferred Ms Brohi, who had earlier refused to accept her transfer orders and hand over the charge of women protection cell to constable Zeenat Waggan, as well as Ms Waggan to Police Lines.

Through the same order, Assistant Sub-Inspector Ms Saba Mughori, currently posted at Pakho police post was made new in-charge of women protection cell. All the officials were asked to immediately report at their new places of posting, said the order, a copy of which was available with Dawn.

SP to probe charges

Meanwhile, Larkana Range DIG Nasir Aftab Pathan appointed SP (investigations) Haseeb Javed Soomro as inquiry officer to probe Ms Brohi's allegations.

He said in a letter: "On Dec 11, a video clip of woman police constable Sanam Parveen Brohi, in-charge of women, child protection cell at SSP office Qambar went viral in which she leveled allegations of harassment on head clerk and office in-charge of the SSP office."

The SP was asked to submit a report and recommendations to the DIG Larkana office within two days, said the letter. —Correspondent

QUETTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY
RE-TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited by QESCO for repair of various capacities of Distribution Transformers100 KVA (33/415) KV.

Name of Works	Repair / Refurbishing of damaged transformers (50 KVA (OERMS) KV
Tender No.	Tender No. / Description / Qty Nos. / Date of Submission / Date of Opening
Eligibility of Contractors	Only Registered firms by with QESCO is QESCO.
Earnest Money	Tenders must be accompanied by the earnest money equal to 2% of the bid cost in shape of Bank Guarantee or Call Deposit obtained from a scheduled Bank of Pakistan. The bid without earnest money will be rejected. No pay order / Banker's Cheque will be accepted.
Tenders Documents can be purchased from	Office of the Manager (Material Management), QESCO, Engineer Road Quetta.
Tenders will be Opened	In the office of Manager (MM) on time and date mentioned against each.
Tender Fee	Rs. 1000/- (Rupee Three Thousand only) for each tender/ non-refundable.

Terms & Conditions: (a) The firm must have its own workshop (Ownership should be enclosed) (b) Tender forms will be issued after verification / checking of Workshops nominated by the contractor. (c) The firm must have WTA/T Coils Manufacturing Machines with three phase motors as per WAPDA Standard & Specification. (d) The firm must have experience for repair of Distribution Transformers with any DISCOs / QESCO.

The Bidding Authority reserves the right for rejection and cancellation of all bids/proposals with assigning reasons as per PPRA Rules. This tender is also available on PPRA Website.

Manager Material Management
QESCO, Quetta

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE UNIVERSITY HYDERABAD
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited from the candidates on the prescribed form including attested Photocopies of all relevant documents including Research Publications and Demand Draft/ Pay Order of Rs. 5000/-(non-refundable) as processing fee in favour of the Director Finance, Government College University Hyderabad and should reach undersigned on or before **27-01-2025** for Assistant Professor (BPS-19) Business Administration, Botany, Zoology, Analytical Chemistry for lecturer (BPS-18) Computer Science, Botany, Chemistry, Physics, Sindhi, Urdu, education, Business Administration in (Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Public Administration) For detail criteria, nature of appointment and further information & application form(s) please visit www.gcuh.edu.pk/career

Najamuddin Sobo
Director HR
Government College University, Hyderabad

KARACHI SHIPYARD & ENGG. WORKS LTD.

TENDER INQUIRY

Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works Limited, West Wharf, Karachi, invites quotations for the Supply of Local Purchase Items (on Free Delivery at KSE/W basis):

Tender No.	Description	Tender Due Date
LPR-3519 (Single-Stage Two-Envelope Bidding)	MS Steel Plates & Angle Bar (As per KSE/W Tender Specification)	06-01-2025
LPR-3999 (Single-Stage Two-Envelope Bidding)	Welding Electrode (As per KSE/W Tender Specification)	
LPR-4003 (Single-Stage Two-Envelope Bidding)	Welding Cable (As per KSE/W Tender Specification)	

The suppliers / bidders are informed that Single-Stage (Two-Envelope Bidding) Process is opted for all cases. Therefore, suppliers are required to submit (i) Technical Offer and (ii) Commercial Offer separately at the tender due date.

Tender Documents can be downloaded from KS&EW website www.karachishipyard.com.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk. However, the suppliers / contractors are required to purchase the bidding documents on payment of **Rs. 2,000/-** (each) from Procurement Department at least a day before tender due date from 0900 to 1630 Hrs. The bidders stationed out of Karachi may obtain tender documents through courier service.

Tenders will be opened at 11.00 am on tender due date in presence of bidders / representatives who may wish to be present. The KS&EW reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders in part or whole without assigning any reason as per PPRA Rule 33.

General Manager (Proc/Stores)
Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works Ltd
Phone Nos: +92-21-99214045-64 Ext: 380

QUETTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY
RE-TENDER NOTICE

Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) invites sealed bids from PPMC former PEPCO / DISCOs / NTDC Registered firms having rejoining workshops under the category M-1 (Item-iv) registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Department, for the execution of a **Rate Contract** for repair of detailed below quantities of damaged Distribution Transformers given as under :-

Tender No.	Capacity / Rating of Distribution Transformer	Date & Time: Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
E-1944	25 KVA	30.12.2024 at 11.00 AM	30.12.2024 at 11.30 AM
	50 KVA		
	100 KVA		
	200 KVA		

Terms &Conditions:- (a) The vendors shall be registered with DISCo /QESCO under category M-1 (iv). (b) Documentary evidence regarding the manufacturing of coils and accreditation certificates of previously utilized raw material (equipment from PCSIR or Rawal Lab. (c) satisfactory performance during last 02 years. (iv) Free lifting of damaged Distribution Transformer from Regional Store QESCO Quetta OR Sibi & their delivery after repair at consigner's stores. (v) The repair of the damaged Distribution Transformers will be carried out on a F/O Basis. (vi) The FOR Unit (s) Price shall be inclusive of all taxes/ duties, without credits (Copper & other replaceable material, etc, and such credits will be noted in the presence of DM TRW (Circle Manager) M&T/DM Regional Store and will be deducted from the invoice & exclusive of GST for Repair of Damaged Distribution Transformers as per PEPCO / WPPMC/ WAPDA Specification No. (SDS-84 2009 (without amendment (b). (vii) The rate Contract will be carried out for one year on need basis. (viii) The above damaged transformers shall conform to WAPDA / PEPCO's applicable approved specifications and Bidding documents, containing detailed terms and conditions, method of procurement, procedure for submission of bids, bid security, bid validity, opening of bid, evaluation criteria, clarification / rejection of bids, performance guarantee etc., are available for the interested bidders at the office of the Manager (Material Management) QESCO, Chief Office Zarghoon Road Quetta Price of bidding documents, is **Rs.5,000/-** for each tender (non-refundable). The bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, must reach to the office of Manager (Material Management) QESCO, Chief Office Zarghoon Road Quetta on or before above mentioned closing time & date. Bids will be opened on the same day at aforesaid date & time. This advertisement is also available on PPRA www.ppra.org.pk and QESCO's websites.

Manager Material Management
QESCO, Quetta

90th Death Anniversary

In Memoriam to:
Shah Bakhsh Khan Abbasi
Most generous and philanthropic

He departed from this ephemeral world on 13th December, 1934 and reposed to eternal abode in Kot Diji.

"And for those who believe, and who do good, these are the best of men" al-Quran

Please recite Surah-e-Fatiha for the salvation and heavenly ascension of the departed soul.

From:
All members of the Abbasi family.
Kot Diji, Khair Pur (Mir's) 0333-2150888

TENDER NOTICE

TSE # 3425(3883)211 Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat invites sealed bids as per Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) Rules, 2014 from well-reputed, established and experienced firms for **PROCUREMENT OF HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES** having registration and active status of NTN and GST with Federal Board of Revenue on the basis of following terms & conditions:

1. The bidder shall not be blacklisted by any of Provincial or Federal Government Department, Agency, Organization or Autonomous Body or Private Sector Organization anywhere in Pakistan. 2. Detailed bidding document can be downloaded from B-PPRA website www.bppra.gob.pk. 3. Single stage two-envelope bidding method shall be used as per Rule 47-(2) of the BPPRA Rules, 2014. 4. Contract will be awarded as per the evaluation criteria mentioned in bidding document. 5. Bid can be submitted on or before **MONDAY, 30th DECEMBER 2024 (11:00 am)** in the Tender Box at Admin Block, Balochistan Assembly Secretariat. Technical bids will be opened on the same day at **(12:00 pm)** at the Procurement Cell Room # 76 of Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat, Zarghoon Road Quetta. Financial bids of technically qualified bidders will be opened on the same day at **(12:30 pm)**. 6. Bidding document fee of Rs.1000/- shall be submitted through Green Deposit Challan in National Bank of Pakistan (Head of Account CO-3670). 7. The bids must accompany Bid Security of 3% of offered cost in the shape of Call Deposit issued from a scheduled bank in favor of Secretary Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat. 8. Bidders shall quote their rates inclusive of all applicable taxes and duties for each and every item enlisted in bidding document/Datasheet. 9. The Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat reserves the right to reject any or all bids as per provisions of B-PPPRA Rules, 2014.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Telephone Number: 081-9202578 Ext – 375, 376
Fax Number: 081-9202575
Email Address: bpaprocurement@yahoo.com

Procurement Cell
Balochistan Assembly Secretariat
Zarghoon Road Quetta

PRO No.2317-52-12-2024

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A4910**

	4	6	9				2	
8			1					
9							4	
		8	5		4	7		
						8	1	
4	7		3	2				
	5	2					7	6
7	8							9
	6		4		5			3

TRICKY **B4910**

		4				2	9	
		1				3	4	
		2	9		5			
					9	4		
				8		1	3	
	6			1				
	3		4	9	7	6		8
				6				
2						5		

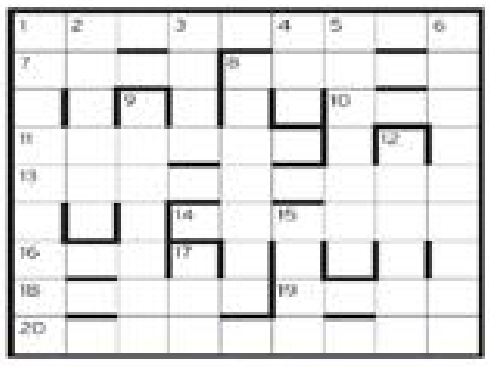
To solve this puzzle each 3x9 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

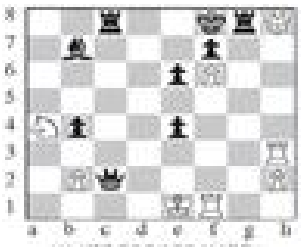
1 Slaughtered (9)
7 Metal (4)
8 Soft leather (5)
10 Mountain pass (3)
11 Riddle, mystery (6)
13 Imaginative or fanciful (8)
14 Substance with pH of 7 or more (6)
16 Chew and swallow (3)
18 _ Ashley, fashion designer (5)
19 Ballet garment (4)
20 Less disco (anag.) (9)



DOWN

1 Hazardous area (9)
2 Sporting venues (6)
3 Cosy (4)
4 Young bear (3)
5 Musical performance (7)
6 Tasty (9)
8 African country (7)
9 Syrup-like medicine (7)
12 Widen (6)
15 Japanese stringed instrument (6)
17 Mythical monster (3)

CHESS

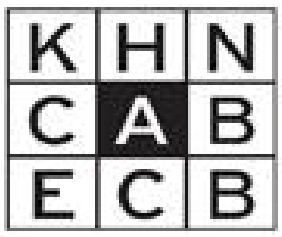


WHITE FORCES MATE

HINT: SACRIFICE AND MATE.

Solution: 1. Qxg6ch! Kxg6 2. Rg1ch# Kf6 3. Rf1# mate! [Qu Shang Jun-O'Donnell 1999]

TARGET



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 12;
Very good 18;
Excellent 22 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

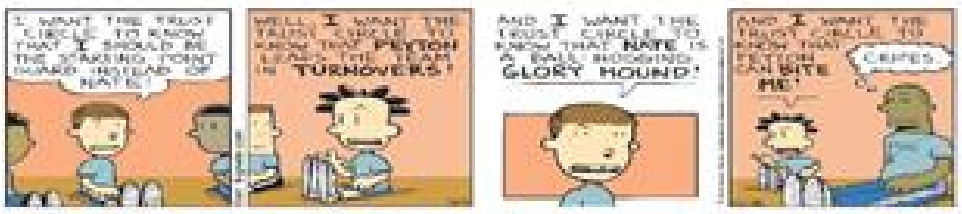
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

HYPERLINK

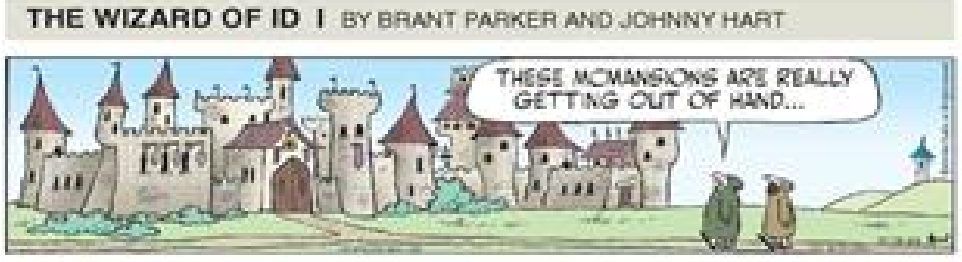
help hurl HYPERLINK kelp kelpy Kiley kiln kyle kylie lien like liken line linen link lyre peril perkily phenyl pike pilé piler poly reply rail rile ripely yelp

THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE



THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



BABY BLUES

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Karachi	Islamabad	Lahore	Quetta	Peshawar	Gilgit
Sunset	06:38pm	05:02pm	05:45pm	05:02pm	05:07pm	05:06pm
Sunrise	07:02am	07:00am	07:07am	06:51am	07:04am	07:15am

Three Day Forecast

	Today Min	Today Max	Today Outlook	Today Humidity %	Tomorrow Min	Tomorrow Max	Tomorrow Outlook	Day After Min	Day After Max	Day After Outlook
Faisalabad	8	22	Partly Cloudy	56	8	23	Partly Cloudy	9	22	Cloudy
Hyderabad	8	24	Sunny	31	8	24	Sunny	9	25	Sunny
Islamabad	6	20	Mostly Sunny	47	7	21	Cloudy	7	21	Partly Cloudy
Lahore	8	21	Partly Cloudy	57	8	21	Sunny	8	21	Mostly Cloudy
Multan	8	22	Mostly Cloudy	56	8	22	Mostly Sunny	8	22	Partly Cloudy
Peshawar	6	20	Mostly Sunny	40	6	21	Cloudy	6	20	Partly Cloudy
Quetta	2	15	Cloudy	40	3	17	Mostly Sunny	1	16	Partly Cloudy

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 8921252-53, 8921254
CPLC	1102, 35862222
Fire Brigade	16, 99211077, 99211078
Bomb Disposal	9921370
1Z Complaints	115
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213456-60
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99175264, 99175256
	99975265, 194

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99250400-09
Civil Hospital	99215761, 99215860
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201551
NICVD	99201271-5
Aga Khan Hospital	34830051
Khairabbi Dan Hospital	32101113-19
Indus Hospital	35112700
Tabba	34801546, 111444444
Ziauddin Hospital	35862222-5, 35864021-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99201001-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34818811
Memon Medical	34821147 — 54
A.G. Clinic	35881564, 35882232-34
Baqai Hospital	35215555, 35215556
Holy Family Hospital	36736666, 36736667
Patel Hospital	111-38-78
South City Hospital	35217672
Kidney Centre Institute	35861000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	(021) 111-524-811
Usmer Memorial	(021) 35310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32910066, 32912071
Chhipa	1020
1020's Reserve	1122
St.John	32730002, 32732001
Red Crescent	35364227, 35364228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32122240, 32126656
Rizwan	32136405-09
PRA (Civil)	99215761, 99215838

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxa

▼ TODAY'S WORD

REFUTED

(REFUTED: rih-FYOOT-ed: Proved wrong by argument or evidence.)

Average mark: 16 words
Time limit: 35 minutes

Can you find 22 or more words in REFUTED?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — QUERYING

query, quire, unrig, urge, urine, enquiry, eyring, reign, rein, ring, ruin, ruing, rung, inure, grey, grin, gurney, gyre

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 "idea," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "hate" is used, "hated" or "hates" are not allowed, but "hater" and "hating" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

1 Velodrome
7 Violin
9 Bronzen
10 Rasp
12 Ibis
13 Harrier
14 Tic
15 Euro
17 Fritter
19 Scenic
20 Vegetable.

DOWN

1 Vibrates
2 Ezra
3 Lea
4 Discredit
5 Rookie
6 Major
8 Sea horse
11 Greene
13 Ware
16 Real
18 Rob.

METRO EVENTS

PLAY

Coffee Bar, a play by Usama Khan, is staged at T2F, DHA, at 8pm.

BIRTHDAY

Celebration of 88th birthday of Prince Karim Aga Khan is held by the International Lawyers Forum at the City Courts, Nasir Bar Room, at 10am.

SESSIONS

A session on Rosa Parks, the brave woman whose defiance ignited the Civil Rights Movement, is held at Lincoln Corner, PNCC, 11-Fatima Jinnah Road, Civil Lines, at 3pm.

An exclusive Meet & Greet Session with the titans of Shark Tank Pakistan is organised at Iqra University, mini auditorium, EDC Campus, at 3:30pm.

FAIR

An International Consumer Product Fair organised by Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology at Hall No. 6, Karachi Expo Center, at 10am.

CONCERT

A live concert by Hasan Raheem is staged at the Open Air Theatre, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 7pm.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

**** After the Moon Alert today, you'll have lots of mental energy to get things done. Furthermore, in negotiations with others you'll be proactive, confident and courageous. Your decision-making instincts will be excellent. It's a good day to learn something new. Tonight: Happy conversations.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

*** Wait until after the Moon Alert is over to make financial decisions today. These decisions might concern purchasing something or figuring out a way to boost your earnings. Either way, you will be energetic, but you might be impulsive. Make sure you don't do something you regret later. Tonight: Check your belongings.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

**** After that Moon Alert is over today, the Moon moves into your sign, which will make you more emotional than usual. However, it will also slightly boost your good luck! That means today is a good day to ask the universe for a favor. It's also a great day for a short trip. Tonight: You win!

CANCER | June 21-July 22

*** You're happy you're working alone today, especially after the Moon Alert is over. Nevertheless, you will still be active pulling strings behind the scenes. Be patient with delays, mistakes and mixed-up communications at work, because Mercury is in retrograde. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

**** Conversations with friends and members of groups will be dynamic today, especially after the Moon Alert. Relations with partners and spouses are smooth and supportive. Nevertheless, minor disputes with old flames and situations about sports, kids and social outings might occur (Ouch.) Tonight: Friendships.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** After the Moon Alert today, you're high-viz! People will notice you more than usual. In fact, some will know personal details about your private life. (Does this require some damage control?) Fortunately, relations with co-workers are positive. In fact, a work-related romance could begin. (Be patient with family.) Tonight: You're admired.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** Avoid important decisions this morning during the Moon Alert today. Afterward, you want to get outta Dodge. You need a change of scenery. In discussions with others, you will be persuasive in stating your views. Pay attention to everything you do to avoid accidents. Easy does it. Tonight: Explore!

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

*** Postpone financial decisions today until after the Moon Alert is over. Discussions about shared property, taxes and insurance issues will be energetic. However, they also might benefit home and family. Meanwhile, avoid disputes that might arise. (It was ever thus.) Tonight: Check your finances.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

*** Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with others today, because after the Moon Alert today, the Moon will be opposite your sign. (That's just how things work.) Discussions with partners and friends will be lively and friendly, as long as you are cooperative. Tonight: Listen.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

*** You have strong opinions today when it comes to your health and wellness. You might even share these ideas with others. Because you have a lot of energy, use today to resolve minor issues with co-workers. Take a look at your routine to see how you might improve it. Nurture yourself. Tonight: Work.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

**** This is a playful and creative day! Anyone involved in creative projects can be productive today. In fact, after the Moon Alert is over, you'll be gung-ho talking to family members, especially parents. You're excited about something, but it might be a secret. Tonight: Socialize.

PISCES | Feb. 19-March 20

**** Today holds mixed messages for you. In one way, you're out there flying your colors. No question. And yet, after the Moon Alert is over today, you might want to hide at home (with good food and drink). Do whatever makes you feel happy. Tonight: Cocoon.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts. North leads the A-K-Q of diamonds, South following suit, and shifts to the ten of clubs. You cover with the queen and win South's king with the ace. How would you continue?

West	East
♠ K 3	♠ A Q 10 7 4
♥ Q J 10 4 2	♥ A K 9
♦ J 9 3	♦ 7 5 4
♣ A 7 6	♣ Q 3

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Five Diamonds, and North leads a trump. South takes the ace and returns a trump. North following suit. How would you continue?

West	East
♠ A J 10	♠ 9 5 2
♥ K 4	♥ A J 6 5 3
♦ K J 10 9 7 6	♦ Q 8 2
♣ A K	♣ J 10

1. If you were to draw trumps now, the outcome would depend entirely upon winning four spade tricks instead of the three that are in plain view. The probability of finding the spades divided 3-3, or either opponent with the singleton or doubleton jack, is only slightly better than 50%.

You can add significantly to your chances by first cashing the A-Q of hearts. If both opponents follow suit, you next play the K-A of spades, then ruff a low spade with a high trump. Now a heart to the king allows you to discard two clubs on the Q-10 of spades, making the contract whether the opposing spades are divided 3-3 or 4-2.

Of course, if the trumps turn out to be divided 4-1 or 5-0, you should finish drawing them at once and stake the outcome on a favorable spade division.

2. This is one of those cases where making the contract is certain regardless of how the opponents' cards are divided. All you need to do is to prepare for the possibility that North might have the king and queen of spades, and that one opponent might have four or more hearts headed by the queen.

You start by cashing the A-K of clubs and K-A of hearts. Next you lead a spade from dummy, planning to play the jack if South follows low. (If South produces the queen or king of spades instead, your worries are over, since you can win the ace and concede a spade trick).

Let's assume the jack of spades loses to the king or queen. In that case, North would hand you the contract if he returned either a spade or a club. If he leads a heart instead, he cannot do so without establishing at least one heart trick in dummy, on which you can dispose of your other spade loser.

Tomorrow: The methodical approach.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A4909

6	5	7	4	3	8	1	2	9
1	2	8	5	6	9	4	7	3
3	4	9	7	2	1	6	8	5
2	7	3	9	1	4	5	6	8
9	1	5	6	8	7	2	3	4
4	8	6	3	5	2	7	9	1
8	9	2	1	4	6	3	5	7
5	6	1	8	7	3	9	4	2
7	3	4	2	9	5	8	1	6

Tricky — B4909

2	6	7	8	5	3	9	4	1
9	4	8	6	7	1	5	3	2
5	3	1	9	4	2	8	6	7
3	1	4	7	6	8	2	9	5
6	7	5	1	9	5	4	7	8
7	9	6	4	2	5	3	1	6
8	2	3	5	8	6	1	2	4
4	5	9	2	1	7	6	8	3
1	8	2	3	6	4	7	5	9

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

DAWN

ISLAMABAD Friday, December 13, 2024

METRO North

ISLAMABAD
Sunset 05:03pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 07:00am

NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 08°C
Maximum 21°C
Outlook Cloudy

Markhors, Lions record wins in Champions T20 Cup

Pg.18 SPORT

A FISHERMAN lays net to catch fishes at Rawal Lake in Islamabad on Thursday. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

Rawalpindi e-transport project kicks start by month-end

Bus depot to be constructed followed by bus stops along 10 routes; buses to arrive before November

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab government will start the work on a Rs7 billion project to introduce an e-transport system in the garrison city by the end of this month, with 102 e-buses expected to ply on 10 new routes before the end of 2025.

These routes, spanning 86 kilometres, will connect the city areas with the airport, the railway station, metro bus stations, the general bus stand, Islamabad, and other parts of the town. "The project will be started by the end of this month, and in the first phase, a bus depot will be constructed for the 102 electric buses at Sihala on Peshawar Road. The provincial government has directed to start the construction work so the buses will be on roads as soon as the bus depot is completed," he said.

He said that the basic aim of the provincial government was to end pollution in the garrison city and cantonment areas, adding that the transport system would be linked with the metro bus service in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to facilitate citizens.

"We have decided to construct the depot on 28 kanal of land on Peshawar Road," he said, adding that the depot would be located near Pirwadhai Morr on Peshawar Road. It will have all modern facilities, like an administration block, drivers' rest area, washing area, maintenance area, electric charging stations, cafeteria, and a mosque, he added.

Besides the bus depot, DC Cheema said that the Punjab government also asked the local administration to construct bus stops on all 10 new routes. He said that the work on bus stations would also be started as soon as possible.

He said the Punjab government assigned Neopak to make the feasibility study and approved the project last month, adding that construction work of the bus stations would be started in the garrison city in a month or two.

"After completion of the construction work, the provincial government will hand the buses. Though the provincial government fixed the deadline of completion of work by November 2025, we are trying to complete the work before the stipulated timeframe so people will get the facility," he said.

He said that the basic aim of the provincial government was to end pollution in the garrison city and cantonment areas, adding that the transport system would be linked with the metro bus service in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to facilitate citizens.

Cheema was of the view that after getting a better transport system with reasonable fares, people would stop using other modes of public transport, which would reduce air pollution in Rawalpindi. He said that women and the elderly would be provided with a special area at the bus stops, while special persons would also be able to use these buses.

On the other hand, Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Secretary Rashid Ali said that the RTA had already allocated 10 new routes for this project.

Route 1 is 8.2 kilometres from the Rawalpindi Railway Station to the Lahore High Court. Route 2 is 11.3 kilometres from Koral Chowk to Fawara Chowk. Route 3 is 8.8km from Umar Baig Chowk to Mandi Mor. Route 4 is 8.3km from Munawar Colony to Sadiqa.

Route 5 is 13.5km from Marrir Chowk to Motorway Morr. Route 6 is 12.7km from Faizabad to Tramri Chowk. Route 7 is 5.8km from IJP Metro Station to Kuri Road. Route 8 is 7.5km from Sadiqa to Lalarukh Colony. Route 9 is 6.5km from Umair Baig Road to Qadeemi Imambargah Mohallah, and Route 10 is 7km from Sadiqa to Qabaristan.

He said that the new routes had been formed after a survey of the area regarding the passengers and pollution. He said it was the effort of the deputy commissioner to involve different departments of the district to complete the paperwork for the project.

CDA set to instal vehicle charging units at petrol pumps

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has agreed to establish vehicle charging units at the petrol pumps as the number of electric vehicles in the city is increasing.

A meeting on the Electric Vehicle policy was held in the Ministry of Industries and Production, which chaired by the industries minister Rana Tanvir Hussain and was attended by stakeholders including the Capital Development Authority.

The meeting noted that the number of electric vehicles on the roads of Islamabad are expected to increase significantly by the end of 2025 in the wake of new government policies.

The officials of the CDA acknowledged that the federal capital receives a large number of vehicles from other parts of the country on regular basis — some people arrive in connection with their official or business engagements, whereas Islamabad was also a key transit city for those moving to Gallat.

The minister Rana Tanveer Hussain stressed the need for for promoting eco-friendly transport in the country especially in Islamabad. The meeting was informed that there were around 137 petrol pumps in federal capital, and the CDA has assured that directives will be issued to the pumps in the Islamabad city to install EV charging units.

The minister appreciated the efforts of CDA and added that in line with the prime minister's vision, Islamabad will become a model city with widespread use of electric vehicles.

He also announced that the top 120 Federal Board students across the country would receive free electric bikes, while 20,000 electric bikes and 1,900 electric rickshaws would be provided on subsidised loans across Pakistan.

The meeting reviewed the progress on the construction of 40 charging stations along motorways and highways.

The meeting noted that Electric Vehicles Policy 2025 will be launched soon, that will further strengthen the country's eco-friendly transport system.

Currently a limited number of EVs were plying on the country's roads, but the number is set to jump significantly with the focus of new entrants on the EVs.

Though the Japanese automakers have been dominating the auto sector of Pakistan for decades, they have yet to fully enter the market.

A number of Chinese auto makers including the global giant – the BYD has entered the Pakistani market in collaboration with Master Motor Company (MMC)—a subsidiary of the Hub Power Company Limited (Hubco). The BYD plans to set up a manufacturing plant near Karachi with an annual capacity of 50,000 units with an investment of around $150 million.

Besides, Regal Automobiles Industries Limited has introduced Pakistan's first locally assembled electric sport utility vehicle (SUV), at its Lahore facility.

Meanwhile, Dewan Farooque Motors Limited recently informed the Pakistan Stock Exchange about the assembly of over 100 EVs that have been handed over to the customers. There are promising prospects of EV manufacturing in Pakistan as high import tariffs imposed by the US and other countries have prompted Chinese EV manufacturers to explore new markets, including Pakistan.

However, sudden policy shifts and unmet government commitments could make the potential investors hesitant.

IIUI BoT to meet in Riyadh to recommend name for president

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) will be held in Saudi Arabia on December 23.

According to a document seen by *Dawn*, the BoT meeting will be held at Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University Riyadh under the chairmanship of Prof Dr Ahmad Ibn Salem Al-Amari, the rector of the university.

He will chair the meeting as the pro-rector of IIUI.

According to the ordinance of IIUI, the president of Pakistan being chancellor of the university is supposed to chair the meeting.

However, sources said President Asif Ali Zardari had authorised the pro-rector to chair the meeting; therefore, it is being held in Saudi Arabia.

The sources said there were certain chances that the BoT will recommend the name of Saudi educationist Dr Ahmad bin Saad Al Ahmad, assistant professor of physiology at Al Imam University Riyadh, for the post of the IIUI president.

In 2020, the BoT had decided that in future the president of the IIUI will be appointed through a competitive process like other Pakistani universities.

The BoT had directed the university's board of governors (BoG) to make rules and regulations for this purpose. Surprisingly, the IIUI BoG did not make the new rules during the last four years and in July this year the tenure of the IIUI president, Saudi educationist Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, expired.

Since then, the university is being run by the interim president.

Sources said that a few days ago BOG of university had made regulations for appointment of President IIUI on pattern of other public sector universities and these regulations would be presented before the BoT for consideration.

The sources said in the upcoming meeting of BoT, there are certain chances that the Saudi educationist will be recommended for the post and the IIUI will be directed to go for the appointment through a competitive process in future.

The Supreme Court recently removed IIUI Rector Dr Samina Malik and last month HEC Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed took the additional charge of the rector.

Currently, both the president and rector offices are being run through ad hoc arrangements.

IIUI is one of the leading public sector universities of the country.

The Supreme Court was recently told that the university receives Rs2.1 billion funding from the federal government besides collecting fees from students in addition to Rs600 million from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

IIUI officials said if the BoT was interested in hiring a foreign educationist as the president IIUI, it should also take steps for a bailout package for the university as its aggregate liability has increased to over Rs34 billion.

JCP meets on 21st to finalise appointment of four IHC judges

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) will meet on Dec 21 to consider 10 nominations for four vacant positions of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges.

Interestingly, the representatives of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) apparently evolved consensus at least on one name of the proposed judges.

As per the agenda of the JCP meeting, name of Rashid Ali Malik has been proposed by the JCP member Farooq H Naek of the PPP and Barrister Gohar Ali Khan of PTI.

Advocate Malik is known for his integrity and professionalism and held important portfolios including senior legal adviser of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Bank of Punjab, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) and others.

Both his proposers are the seasoned lawyers, Barrister Gohar is the Chairman PTI, while Mr Naek is the incumbent Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council (PBC).

PBC representative Akhtar Hussain, however, recommended two names including Raja Inam Ameen Minhas, former President of Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA) and advocate Usman G Rashid Cheema.

Minhas is working as the Prosecutor General of the Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) for about a decade. He was elected as IHCBA President in 2020. In 2009 he was elected as Secretary IHCBA, when the Supreme Court declared the Islamabad High Court (IHC) illegal on July 31 that year. Minhas along with the then President IHCBA Sajjad Afzal Cheema actively lobbied for its re-establishment.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq proposed two names for the high court judges. One is District and Sessions Judge (DSJ) Azam Khan and the other Shahrukh Arjamand.

Though DSJ Azam Khan is senior in age, however, Judge Arjamand was promoted much earlier than him, since the former held the administrative positions whereas the latter served in the courts throughout his service and had the required number of cases when he was considered for promotion.

The Islamabad Bar Council (IBC) nominated Syed Qamar Hussain Shah Sabzwari.

Mr Sabzwari is a well reputed lawyer and is a member of the Islamabad Bar Council.

Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah proposed the name of advocate Sultan Mazhar Sher Khan.

Khan belonged to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Mr Naek also nominated Mr Sabzwari, Umer Aslam Khan and Danyal Ijaz.

The sanctioned strength of the Islamabad High Court is 12 whereas eight judges are currently serving in the court.

They included Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb, Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz.

A MAN carries a tree branch on a railway track at Marrir Hassan in Rawalpindi on Thursday. — White Star

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

PRAYER

Fajr	05:37
Zuhar	12:06
Asr	03:26
Maghreb	05:03
Isha	06:32

Starting time in Islamabad

REFLECTIONS

"MISFORTUNE AND HELPLESSNESS ARE CALAMITIES."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

7SAN1427

US delegation visits IPRI

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A US delegation led by Ms Karen Decker, chargé d'affaires for Afghanistan at Doha, and Acting Special US Representative for Afghanistan along with the current US chargé d'affaires at Islamabad, Ms Natalie Baker, visited Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) to discuss issues related to Pakistan-United States cooperation on regional security, including Afghanistan.

According to a statement issued on Thursday, the issues of resettlement of Afghan refugees, and the current security and humanitarian scenario in Afghanistan came under discussion.

Pakistan's concerns regarding presence of violent non-state actors in Afghanistan and the concomitant threats to region as well as the international community were discussed with the delegation.

There was a consensus on the need for peace and stability in Afghanistan and the prevention of humanitarian crisis.

The need for trade facilitation and counter narcotics role of Afghan Interim Government (AIG) also came under discussion, where the willingness of the AIG to contribute towards counter narcotics was deemed as a positive engagement plans.

The US humanitarian aid of $2.2 billion after the US withdrawal in 2021 to Afghanistan through the UN channels was also highlighted as a positive contribution to keep humanitarian efforts afloat.

IPRI was represented by former foreign minister Ambassador Inamul Haque, Pakistan's former permanent representative to Afghanistan Ambassador Asif Ali Durrani, and Acting President IPRI, Dr Brig (retd) Rashid Wali Janjua.

A WOMAN vendor sells warm clothes and shoes at a road side in Muzaffarabad on Thursday.— Online

Over 13,000 tickets issued to Pindi public transporters for violations

By Mohammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police on Thursday continued to issue tickets to public transports for different violations, besides impounding them.

On the special orders of the City Police Officer Rawalpindi, 13,346 public service vehicles have been issued tickets since Aug 25— 6,534 for violation of route permit, 5748 for violation of fitness certificate, 1,064 for driving without license.

The documents for suspension of registration of 28 vehicles were sent to the departments concerned and cases were also registered against the drivers of 52 public transport vehicles for different violations.2,254 vehicles were impounded in different police stations besides collecting fines of more than Rs10.44 million.

The city traffic police have also started a crackdown on smoke-emitting vehicles from September 16, as these vehicles cause smog, and issued 12,118 tickets to the drivers of such vehicles so far during this special campaign.

A fine of Rs20.44 million was also imposed. While in the ongoing campaign regarding the safety of school vans by the City Traffic Police, 8,309 vehicles have been checked so far. The drivers of 3,216 vehicles were issued tickets with a fine of Rs1.8 million, and impounded 169 vehicles.

Despite launching a crackdown on public service vehicles, traffic rules' violation has been increasing day by day in the garrison city.

Earlier on Wednesday, "the second open day" was held at the City Traffic Police Headquarters Rawalpindi aimed to help bridge the gap between the public and the police.

A spokesman for the city traffic police said that more than 125 students and teachers of Concordia College and Roots College attended the open day at traffic headquarters Race Course.

The purpose of the visit was to make the students aware of the day-to-day affairs of the traffic police and the services of the traffic police to help bridge the gap between the public and the police.

On reaching the traffic headquarters Race Course, they were welcomed by the DSP traffic headquarters and other staff.

Addressing the ceremony, he said the purpose of organising this open day is to raise awareness about traffic rules among the young generation.

The young generation has to take the reins of this country, so awareness and implementation of traffic laws like other laws is very important for their bright future.

They also took the responsibility of conveying this message to their homes, friends and circle of friends, after that the students were given a visit to various branches of the traffic headquarters and they were informed about the daily affairs of the traffic police. Briefing was given regarding the performance of the police, and they were inspected various items, during which the students took a lot of interest in the daily use items of the traffic police.

Students also participated in the broadcast and appreciated the road ready project of the Education Wing.

They expressed their interest in the new scooties purchased by the CTO Rawalpindi for the Women on Wheels programme. They also took interest in the information about their training.

Finally, the teachers appreciated the efforts of the City Traffic Police Rawalpindi and thanked the CTO Rawalpindi.

Pakistan to offer 300 scholarships to Bangladeshi students

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan has decided to offer 300 scholarships in various disciplines in leading universities to students from Bangladesh.

A meeting was held at the education ministry on Thursday to discuss the initiative to offer the fully-funded scholarships to the students of Bangladesh through a consortium of leading Pakistani universities under the umbrella of Pakistan-Bangladesh Friendship Scholarship Programme.

Pakistan is already offering scholarships to students from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

Chaired by Secretary Education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, the meeting was attended by Executive Director Higher Education Commission (HEC) Prof Dr Ziaul Qayyum, representatives from the high commission of Pakistan to Bangladesh and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the consortium of the universities.

According to the education ministry, the main objective of the scholarship programme is to foster strong ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The scholarships will be offered in the disciplines of engineering, basic and natural sciences, medicine and allied health, social sciences, arts and humanities, including subjects such as architecture, fine arts, business education, computer sciences, information technology, agriculture sciences, media and communication studies, languages, etc.

The secretary education appreciated the proposal and advised the partner universities to conduct educational expos, seminars and road shows for maximum propagation of the initiative in Bangladesh in coordination with the local universities. He added that an online portal may be launched exclusively for these scholarships.

Highlighting the importance of educational diplomacy in harnessing the regional harmony and a gesture of goodwill, the HEC executive director urged the Pakistani universities to seek approvals of their statutory bodies and relevant forums at the earliest for allocation of the scholarship slots, endorsement of fee waiver and to explore possible sponsorship options.

The consortium included International Islamic University Islamabad, National University of Sciences and Technology, Comsats University, National University of Modern Languages, National University of Computer and Emerging Science Islamabad, Lahore University of Management Sciences, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, Lahore; University of Lahore, Superior University, Lahore; National Textile University, Faisalabad; Aga Khan University, Karachi, and Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology.

Committee being set up to monitor uplift schemes in Rawalpindi

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Engineer Aamir Khattak on Thursday directed Deputy Commissioners of Rawalpindi division to notify the inspection committee for monitoring the ongoing development work.

Deputy Director Development, Assistant Director Local Government should be made members of this committee headed by the Assistant Commissioner General and given the task to go and monitor the ongoing work on development schemes, especially roads.

The committee will have to ensure speed and quality of work.

Speaking in a meeting to review the uplift schemes, the commissioner said that deputy commissioners should assess the identified schemes and ensure that the government money is spent where it is needed and beneficial.

"Our primary objective in starting every scheme is to provide relief to the people through it," he said. Highway department Superintendent Engineer Rao Tahir and other officials concerned attended the meeting while DCs of Jhelum, Chakwal, Attock and Murree participated through video link in the review meeting of development schemes held at Commissioner Office Rawalpindi.

While giving a briefing on this occasion, it was informed that there are nine ongoing schemes worth Rs6,152 million in Attock district with a progress of 52pc.

Similarly, there are six schemes in the rehabilitation programme and two are completed and work on four are in progress.

Ten schemes are in the road restoration programme and three are in the Chief Minister's sustainable development goal programme, which are in progress.

While assessing the schemes, he said that deputy commissioner should also keep in mind that no schemes are being duplicated. Also the schemes should be taken up according to their utility.

Such schemes which are very necessary and their completion will bring relief to the people should be taken forward on priority basis.

PIC fines director excise & taxation

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has imposed a fine equivalent to 10 days' salary on the director excise and taxation Islamabad for failing to disclose information requested under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017.

In August 2024, a citizen, Sadika Mazhar, submitted a request to the excise department, seeking details about alcohol permits and sales in Islamabad. The requested information included the total number of alcohol permit holders, beer purchases by these licence holders since January 2023, a list of establishments licensed to sell alcohol, excise duties collected from these establishments and the total supply made to these licence holders. However, the department failed to respond.

Following the non-compliance, the applicant filed an appeal with PIC. The commission issued multiple notices to the director excise, but no representative appeared, nor was the requested information provided.

On November 14, a final show-cause notice was issued under Section 20(1)(f) of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017. A copy of the notice was also sent to the secretary Ministry of Interior, but no action was taken.

In its order issued on November 26, the commission expressed concern over the deliberate obstruction of the Act's implementation. It noted that the officer had been given sufficient opportunities to respond, including notices sent through registered post, but failed to comply or appear. The commission said such a conduct undermines the law's purpose of ensuring transparency and accountability in public offices.

Consequently, the commission imposed a fine equivalent to the salary of 10 days on the director excise and taxation for wilfully delaying or obstructing the disclosure of information.

PIC directed the chief commissioner, the secretary interior and the Accountant General Pakistan Revenues to ensure compliance with the order. Notices have also been issued to these authorities to report compliance at the next hearing.

University of Buner

Swari, District Buner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Tender No: 01/UoB/2024

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited under "Single Stage- Single Envelope Procedure" from well-established and reputed firms/companies/suppliers, registered with income tax and sales tax department and appears the Active Tax Payer List of the FBR for the supply of the following items.

S.	Item	Quantity	Specifications
1	Answer Sheets/Books	As per tender documents	As per tender documents
2	A-4 Size Paper (Double A)	As per tender documents	As per tender documents
3	Legal Size Paper (Double A)	As per tender documents	As per tender documents
4	A-4 Size Paper (Copy mate)	As per tender documents	As per tender documents
5	Legal Size Paper (Copy mate)	As per tender documents	As per tender documents

1. Quotations must be accompanied by 2% call Deposit in F.O the University of Buner.
2. The envelope should be clearly marked.
3. Tender Forms/ documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on working days on the production of receipt of Rs. 1000/- on account of "Tender Fee" or deposited online in Account No. 7901139701 Maintained at HBL Sawari (Buner) Branch Code No.0932.
4. Tender Forms/ documents can also be downloaded from the University Website www.uburner.edu.com.pk, However, no tender documents will be accepted without tender fee.
5. The university reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders by assigning cogent reason, thereof and no claim in this respect shall be entertained in any court of law.
6. The bids must be delivered to the office of the undersigned till 11:30 AM on 24/12/2024.
7. Any bid received after the intimated time shall be rejected.
8. Submission of any false statement/documents shall disqualify the bidder.
9. The awarding firm/company will be entirely responsible for quality and quantity of the items.
10. Errors and omissions, if any, shall subject to rectification by the University.

Tender will be opened at 12:00 PM on 24/12/2024 in the presence of the Purchase Committee and representatives/owners of the participating firms/bidders.

Procurement Officer

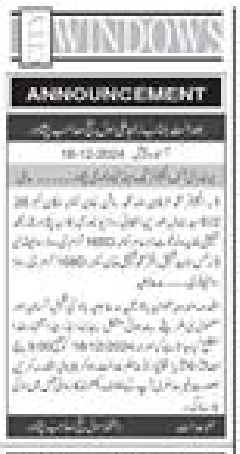
University of Buner At Sawari, District Buner

Email: PO@uburner.edu.pk Phone No. (0939)-555211 & 555251

ADVERTISER

WINDOWS

ANNOUNCEMENT



TO ADVERTISE IN DAWN

For display advertisements please contact

Landline: +92-51-2032761-5 Ext: 326

Mobile: +92-333-5483064

E-mail: mohammad.wasif@dawn.com

For classified advertisements please contact

Landline: +92-51-2032761-5 Ext: 310

E-mail: shahid.ayub@dawn.com

COURT NOTICE

ATTOCK

IN the Court of Ahmad Zia Chaudhary Civil Judge Attock. Mst. Noreen Akhter versus Muhammad Zubair Suit for Dissolution of Marriage on the Basis of Khula. To, Muhammad Zubair son of Bahadur Sher, caste Pathan, resident of Village Yasin Khurd, Tehsil Hazro, District Attock. You are directed to appear before the Court in person or through legal representative or through counsel on 13-12-2024 failing which an ex-parte will be ordered against you. (27972779572)

RAWALPINDI

IN the Court of Raja Amjad Iqbal Judge Banking Court Rawalpindi. Askari Bank Ltd versus Muhammad Naeem. To, Muhammad Naeem son of Fazal Dad R/o Near Shakrial CNG Shakrial, Rawalpindi. Whereas Askari Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of 265,025.20/- due against you Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance (2001).You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 20-12-2024. (27702778920)

IN the Court of Raja Amjad Iqbal Judge Banking Court Rawalpindi. Silk Bank Ltd versus Nouman Nawaz. To, Nouman Nawaz S/o Nawaz Masih, resident of House No. 15, Razzi Apartment Park View, Rawalpindi. Whereas Silk Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of 4,03,229.66/- due against you Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001.You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 19-12-2024. (27702779572)

IN the Court of Raja Amjad Iqbal Judge Banking Court Rawalpindi. United Bank Ltd versus Naeem Akhter. To, NaeemAkhter son of Jahan Dad Khan resident of House No. 11, Street No. 20, MOH Wah Model Town Phase 2 Wah Cantt Taxila District Rawalpindi. Whereas United Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of 997,058.17/- due against you Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001.You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 19-12-2024. (27702779571)

MIRPUR

IN The High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 1905/24. Institution 25-09-2024. Title: Muhammad Shafique vs. Shafia Bibi. Civil Appeal. Proclamation for (1) Muhammad Mujtaba Ahmed son, (2) Shahida Bashir daughter of Muhammad Bashir resident of Jada, Tehsil &District Mirpur AJK. 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 09:00 am on 20-02-2025 the proceedings will be taken ex parte. (33501779573)

IN The High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 1977/23. Institution 27-09-2023. Title: Chaudhary Muhammad Hanif vs. Muhammad Yousaf etc.

Proclamation for (2) Qaiser Masood S/o Muhammad Yousaf, caste Sulehria, resident of Chibariyan, Tehsil & District Mirpur AJK. 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 09:30 am on 23-01-2025 the proceedings will be taken ex parte. (33501779579)

PESHAWAR

IN the Court of Mst Arbineh Nasir Banking Court-I Peshawar Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar. Case No. 156-T of 2024 Date of hearing 22-01-2025. Suit for the Recovery of Rs.2760252/ IN HBL through Manager Peshawar Branch Nasheman (2654) Vs Muhammad Faheem, Notice Versus (1) Muhammad Faheem son of Umar Farooq R/o Tehsil and Post Office Tangi, Tangi Nuaria Zar District Charsadda. Whereas the plaintiff bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 2760252/ IN against you under section 9(3)(i) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the Court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt / publication of the notice in the newspaper. Failing which an ex-parte decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issue today on 20-12-2024 under my signature and seal of Court. Registrar (Banking Court-I), Peshawar. (33504779598)

PUBLIC at large is informed that Mrs. Memoona Rehman D/o Mr. Ikhsanullah Rehman R/o House # 33 Sector H-1, Street 2 Phase 2 Hayatabad is owner of Plot No. 77 Sector C-III Zone 1 Regi Model Town measuring 1 kanal. She has given its attorney to Mr. Mehboob ur Rehman S/o Saif ur Rehman through Deed No. 1013 Bahi No. 2 Volume No. 249 Date 11-12-2024 now Mehboob ur Rehman wants to transfer the said property through given attorney. Therefore, if any individual, Bank, Department, etc have any objection on this transfer he / it should contact the undersigned within 15 days of publication of this advertisement, otherwise, the said property shall be transferred and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Officer (Transfer) Regi Model Town Peshawar. (33504779599)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

SWABI

PUBLIC at large is informed that Mr. Shah Rehman S/o Gulistan CNIC No. 16202-1616337-9 is the owner of Plot No. 227 Sector F Measuring 10 Marla in Shahmansoor Township Swabi he has lost original documents of the plot. If someone finds the shall inform on this Cell # 0314-9078381 or inform the undersigned. Moreover if any person, attorney holder or any Financial institution have any objection on it he should contact the undersigned on given phone number after publication of this advertisement within 15 days otherwise Duplicate Paper will be issued and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Shahmansoor Town Swabi (UADA, SWABI) Phone # 0939-320010. (33504779597)

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

138 farmers of Pindi district get green tractors

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: As many as 138 farmers of Rawalpindi district got tractors from Punjab government with a subsidy of Rs1 million per tractor.

A ceremony was held in Rawalpindi to distribute tractors to successful farmers through balloting under the Punjab's Green Tractors Programme. The event was attended by MNA Tahira Aurangzeb, as the special guest.

On this occasion, Tahira Aurangzeb said that the Punjab government is utilising all resources for the development of agriculture. This programme will benefit not only the farmers but also the tractor industry.

She said that the Green Tractors Programme is an important step by the Punjab Chief Minister for the development of agriculture. The policies of the Punjab government for the development of agriculture have far-reaching results, she said.

"It was very difficult for the farming community to buy tractors, which has become very easy through the Green Tractors Programme.

She said that the development of the country is possible only by strengthening agriculture.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Raman Waqar Cheema said that the steps taken by the Punjab government will prove to be an important stepping stone towards the goal of agricultural development and prosperity. Steps are being taken on a priority basis to benefit the farmers from the schemes and programmes of the Punjab government, he said.

He said that the timelines of the Chief Minister Punjab Kisan Package are being implemented on a regular basis.

"Meetings of the Agriculture Advisory Committee are also being held on a monthly basis to review the performance of the Agriculture Department Rawalpindi," he said.

Syed Shahid Iftikhar Bukhari, Director Agriculture (Extension), Rawalpindi Division, said that under the Green Tractors Programme, 9,500 green tractors were placed across Punjab and the quota of Rawalpindi Division was 526, out of which 138 green tractors were placed for Rawalpindi District.

Under this programme, farmers had the right to choose tractors ranging from 50 horsepower to 85 horsepower.

"These tractors have been given through digital lottery in a very transparent manner. 2,569 farmers in Rawalpindi submitted online applications and today tractors are being delivered to 138 farmers in Rawalpindi district," he said. The ceremony of the Green Tractors Program was also attended by MPA of Rawalpindi District Raja Abdul Hanif, Mohsin Ayub Khan, Ziaullah Shah, Malik Iftikhar Ahmed and Raja Sagheer Ahmed.

Cross-border data vital for tackling climate change: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said cross-border data sharing was critical for tackling issues like climate change and pandemics.

He was speaking at the Data for Development (D4D) symposium organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) which have partnered to implement the country's first "Data for Development (D4D)" initiative.

The initiative aims to strengthen capacities of government departments — particularly those of planning and development — by promoting evidence-based development planning across the country, with a special focus on provincial-level implementation.

The minister said achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 required accurate, reliable and timely data, as 69pc of the goals depend on it. However, he said, Pakistan faced significant challenges in this area.

"For instance, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) had recently highlighted a 22pc gender gap in female school enrollment in the urban areas," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal said data had also enabled positive outcomes in Pakistan, such as reducing electricity theft, ensuring targeted aid distribution through Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), and predicting monsoons with 90pc accuracy.

He said that AI ethics frameworks and inclusive data systems were being prioritised to ensure fairness in decision-making, adding that the decisions we make today about data governance and ethics will shape Pakistan's future.

Chairman Board of Governors, SDPI, Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel said there were many entities that contributed to successful and effective data systems.

He said one of the major objectives of this symposium was to help stakeholders understand in greater detail what had been achieved through data.

"This includes improving governance frameworks, health facility support, and fostering a culture of collaboration. There's a strong emphasis on capacity building for academics and designing structured agendas for development," Mr Kakakhel said.

He further said the symposium aimed to bring together government representatives, academia and partnering countries to establish a unified, sustainable and scalable approach to policymaking.

Initiative Lead D4D, DED SDPI, Dr Sajid Amin Javed said this programme emphasised data planning based on accurate, effective, and true data, unlike the unreliable data we had seen in the past.

"Everyone involved in this project is integral to its success. I was glad to see such a positive response and support from those invited to participate," he added.

Dr Sajid Amin said while UNFPA and SDPI would always support this project, the provinces need to take ownership and carry it forward.

UNFPA representative Dr Luay Shabaneh said without transforming data into actionable knowledge, it is of limited value.

A VISITOR views paintings at solo a exhibition by artist Nazia Ejaz at Tanzara Gallery on Thursday. — INP

PM's aide blames mass travel on Eids for rising polio cases

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: With 59 cases of polio reported in the country in the current year compared to just six last year, Prime Minister's Health Coordinator on Health Dr Malik Mukhtar on Thursday blamed mass travel on Eidul Fitr and Eidul Azha for the spread of the virus.

Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Health, he said because of mass travel before and after the Eids, the virus travelled from one area to another along with the people.

"People went from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to Karachi along with children and became carrier of the virus. We were polio free for 58 months, but then suddenly the virus started spreading because of Eids. As many as seven cases have been reported from one union council of Dera Ismail Khan," he said.

He claimed that a better strategy had been formulated to control and eradicate the virus.

While sharing the challenges, he said Pakistan was the only country in the world in which 88 polio workers sacrificed their lives while administering polio vaccine to children.

Dr Malik, who seemed attending the meeting of the parliamentary committee without getting a briefing on the issue, said polio cases had been emerging in the current season and expressed the hope that it would be controlled in February.

It may be noted that poliovirus spreads in warm season and becomes less active in the cold season. The period from May to September is called high transmission season for the virus.

Polio Head retired Capt Anwarul Haq claimed that the poliovirus will be controlled in coming months. He said the polio programme was focusing on weak children. He said out of the 59 cases, 19 were of minor paralysis and 10 of major paralysis.

Chairman of the committee Amir Waliuddin Chishti appreciated the efforts of the government for the eradication of the virus.

However, PML-N legislator Irfan Siddiqui said the committee will again take a briefing after three months.

PTI Senator Dr Humayun Mohmand said the southern parts of KP had become no-go areas after unrest. He said polio had become a matter of embarrassment for the country.

"Whenever we apply for the visa of any country, embassies demand vaccination cards. On the other hand, some countries administer polio vaccine by themselves. The whole world has become polio-free apart from Pakistan and Afghanistan," he said.

The PM's coordinator said the government was going to start a polio dialogue with Afghanistan in which door-to-door campaign will be held in border areas.

For the last many years, the polio programme has been conducting campaigns along with Afghanistan in the border areas.

Bachelor of dental surgery

Additionally, the committee took notice of extending the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme from four to five years. The chairman remarked that the decision was taken without consulting stakeholders. The committee decided to deliberate on the matter in the next meeting.

Initiative to promote Kashmir cause in AJK universities launched

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: In a significant step to enhance research and advocacy on the Kashmir issue, the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, Prof Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, has announced the establishment of Kashmir Resource and Communication Centres in all public sector universities of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

This initiative, launched under the directives of AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood, who also serves as the chancellor of all public sector universities in the state, aims to advance empirical research, preserve cultural heritage, and draw international attention to the Kashmir cause, according to a press release issued here on Thursday.

The announcement was made by the HEC chairman during a consultative meeting with the vice chancellors of all public sector universities in AJK. The participants included Prof Dr. Kahoom Abbasi, Vice Chancellor of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK); Prof Dr. Abdul Hameed Paracha, VC of Women University Bagh; Prof Dr Rehmat Ali, VC of the University of Kotli; Dr Muhammad Younus Javed, VC of Mirpur University of Science and Technology and University of Rhimber; Prof Dr Ayesha Sohail; and Sardar Zafar Iqbal from UAJK.

While virtually addressing the meeting, The HEC chairman stressed the need for collaborative efforts with universities in Pakistan, international organisations, and research institutes to strengthen the initiative's impact.

"These centres will evolve into think tanks, preserving the history of Kashmir and showcasing human rights violations through data-driven research," he said.

He expressed optimism about establishing global linkages to amplify the Kashmir cause on international platforms.

UAJK Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kahoom Abbasi, who hosted the consultative meeting, thanked the HEC chairman for his guidance and support in shaping this initiative. He also underscored the role of the proposed centres in utilising digital tools and communication channels to promote a compelling narrative for the Kashmir cause.

Earlier, Dr Ayesha Sohail presented a comprehensive draft outlining the centres' name, vision, mission, objectives, administrative structure, and research mechanisms. Her efforts, developed in consultation with an established committee, were lauded by all participants.

The vice chancellors unanimously pledged to advance this initiative as a vital platform for research, advocacy, and global engagement, reflecting the collective vision of the AJK President and the HEC Chairman, the press release concluded.

A STREET vendor is arranges dried figs for customers on his pushcart alongside a road in Rawalpindi. — Online

FIA arrests two education ministry employees

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Anti-Corruption Circle Islamabad detained two former employees of the Ministry of Education involved in misappropriation of funds.

A spokesman for the FIA said that the Anti-Corruption Circle Islamabad rounded up two suspects involved in corruption.

The arrested accused were former employees of the Ministry of Education, said the spokesman.

One was teh Chief Finance Officer while the other was appointed as Chief Internal Auditor, he said.

The accused misappropriated funds worth more than Rs20 million which were released to more than 318 ghost employees, said the spokesman.

The accused also obtained the membership of the Islamabad Club illegally, said the spokesman.

A case has been registered against the accused and investigation has been started.

Two-day olive gala opens at F-9 Park today

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: A grand 'National Olive Gala' opening at F-9 Park in Islamabad on Friday will mark the 'World Olive Day', which spotlights the cultural, environmental, and economic significance of the olive tree.

This year's celebration is particularly special as it marks the 30th anniversary of the Mediterranean Diet Pyramid, emphasising the vital role of olive products in promoting health, sustainability and cultural heritage.

Unesco says the olive tree, specifically the olive branch, holds an important place in the minds of men and women. Since ancient times, it has symbolised peace, wisdom and harmony and as such is important not just to the countries where these noble trees grow, but to people and communities around the world.

The two-day olive gala is an opportunity to promote the olive sector in Pakistan by olive cultivation on commercial scale. During the gala, 20 progressive farmers will be given awards in recognition of their efforts to promote olive cultivation in Pakistan.

Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, the ambassador of Italy and the president of National Bank of Pakistan will be the main speakers at the annual observance of the olive day.

Pakistan is net importer of a number of items out of which palm oil (edible oil) is on the top of the list, resulting in increased import bill of the country. Due to high consumption – 24kg per person per annum – and very low edible oil production, Pakistan is importing oilseeds and oil worth $4.5 billion every year. At present, import of edible oil ranked as the second largest after petroleum products.

The country has more than four million hectares of culture-able waste land most of which is suitable for olive being a crop which is less hydrophilic, can be grown on marginal undulated land and can mitigate climate change phenomenon.

Pakistan has also the vast reserves of millions of wild olive trees which are a potential source for future interventions. Pakistan olive sector is now inching closer to the membership of the international olive council and sector regularisation, public private interventions, and other related aspects.

Total olive plantation in the country is spreading in about 51,079 acres (Punjab 16,516 acres; Balochistan 17,000; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 13,998; Islamabad Capital Territory 904; Azad Jammu and Kashmir 1241 acres; Sindh 767 acres, and Gilgit-Baltistan 557 acres) under different public sector development programme and annual development plan foreign-funded projects. It is estimated that about 10 per cent plants are at fruiting stage up till now.

Around 110 tonnes olive oil and 80 tonnes fruit was value-added, generating an economic activity of about Rs300 million during the year 2022-23, which has resulted in creation of jobs in resource poor rural areas, development of various startups, entrepreneurs enabling health benefit and mitigation and adaptation of changing climate.

In the recent past, Pakistan has been importing olive nursery plants from different countries involving foreign exchange and higher per plant cost. Pakistan has now become self-sufficient in producing certified local olive nursery plants with the establishment and strengthening of eight registered public and private sector nurseries.

Fourteen double shaded nursery tunnels have been installed in Punjab, KP and Balochistan, while more than 55 olive nursery management training sessions have been arranged for nursery-men in the country. In addition, modern techniques of nursery raising are also being demonstrated under the 'Olive P$DP' project.

As olive is the new crop in Pakistan, 13 mother blocks comprising promising olive varieties and 68 adaptability trails were set up at different agro-ecological locations to ascertain the olive suitability in target areas and to get true type and disease free nursery material for further olive propagation.

Moreover, five weather stations were installed at various locations to monitor and evaluate the climatic data for the performance of various table and oil variation.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

DAWN

METRO
Central

LAHORE Friday, December 13, 2024

LAHORE

Sunset	05:02 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	08:51 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	6.0°C
Maximum	21.0°C
Outlook	Partly Cloudy

AQI

Maximum (Yesterday)	348

Markhors, Lions record wins in Champions T20 Cup

Pg.18 SPORT

FAISALABAD: Students portray traditional village life during the Khan Mela at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad — APP

Maryam says a joint working group with China to combat Punjab smog

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has said China's approach to combating smog is inspiring, announcing that a proposed joint working group, comprising members from both countries, will help combat environmental pollution in Punjab.

She was addressing a session on climate change and environment in Shanghai on Thursday.

"Through the Beijing-Lahore working group, collaborative efforts will focus on knowledge sharing, policy making, capacity building, data exchange, and technology transfer. It will also facilitate initiatives for carbon emissions reduction, including green urban planning, green energy, and e-transport systems," she said.

She added that China had undergone a complete transformation, turning its development a beacon of hope for Pakistan and other developing countries.

"China is a living example of an economic miracle with astonishing progress in every sector. China's advancements in infrastructure, skilled human resources, and industrial growth are extraordinary achievements. China's successful control over environmental and air pollution is remarkable and serves as an inspiration for the world," she said.

The chief minister noted that China's effective and sustainable actions reflected its strong commitment to environmental betterment. China is extending support to countries vulnerable to environmental pollution. In Pakistan, the smog issue had become increasingly critical in recent years, she said.

"President Xi introduced the vision of a shared destiny. He not only shares the fruits of his hard work, but also includes others in the journey of success," she said.

"We are determined to strengthen Punjab environmentally and make it more resilient. We are implementing a comprehensive agenda for climate change and environmental improvement," she said and added smog could not be eliminated overnight as Punjab was working on short, medium, and long-term plans to check the menace.

Ms Nawaz highlighted her visit to the Blue Tech Clean Air Alliance, where she gained valuable insights into China's anti-smog initiatives. "We are trying to identify the causes behind the sudden disappearance of smog within a few days," she said and talked about the steps her government had taken so far to address smog issue in the province.

"Eco-friendly reforms are being introduced in the agriculture, transport, and industrial sectors. We are modernizing agriculture through e-mechanisation. Traditional farming practices are being replaced with innovative approaches," she said and hoped following China's model, industries were being relocated outside urban areas in Punjab.

ATC indicts 12 in playwright honey-trap case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Thursday indicted 12 accused persons, including a woman, in alleged honey-trapping and kidnapping of playwright Khalilur Rehman Qamar.

ATC-III Judge Arshad Javed presided over the hearing, during which all the accused persons were brought to court from jail.

The judge formally indicted the accused, however, they pleaded not guilty and denied the allegations against them.

The judge summoned prosecution witnesses on Dec 20.

The indicted accused include Amna Arooj, Hussain Shah, Tanvir Ahmad, Qaiser Abbas, Rasheed Ahmad, Faisal Sher, Mian Khan, Yasir Ali, Javed Iqbal, Zeeshan Qayum and Mamoon Haider.

Denying the prosecution story, main accused Arooj alleged that Shah and Qamar blackmailed her in fact. She said Shah, who was like a brother to her, knew about Qamar's blackmailing.

Arooj claimed that both men were powerful, and she got trapped between them. She also alleged that Shah leaked a video wherein Qamar was insisting on a relationship with her.

Bail granted to Parvez aide in PA appointment case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A special court for anti-corruption on Thursday granted post-arrest bail to former principal secretary to chief minister Muhammad Khan Bhatti in a new case of illegal appointments made in the Punjab Assembly.

Advocate Munir Hussain Bhatti, representing Bhatti, argued that the recruitments from BS 1 to BS 17 were made simultaneously. He said the trial for BS-17 appointments was already underway, and the defense maintained that the appointment process was unified, so there should have been only one FIR instead of multiple cases being registered for political purposes.

Opposing the bail, a prosecutor alleged that Bhatti and others appointed over 200 individuals in the Punjab Assembly against merit, favouring unqualified candidates from BS 1 to 16.

He said positions such as IT technicians and drivers were also allegedly filled unlawfully.

Judge Muhammad Faisal allowed bail to Bhatti and directed him to submit two surety bonds of Rs500,000 each.

Former chief minister Pervaiz Elahi has also been nominated as an accused and granted bail too in the FIR.

The Lahore High Court had on June 11 granted bail to Bhatti in the other case of illegal appointments made in the assembly on positions of BS-17.

A STREET vendor sprinkles water on radishes to keep them fresh in Samanabad. — White Star

PKLI fires 11 employees for corruption

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute and Research Centre (PKLI) has terminated 11 employees of the institute following their involvement in financial corruption.

The action follows complaints from patients and their attendants against coordinators in various departments, accusing them of misusing their institutional authority for personal gain.

A spokesperson for the PKLI said here on Thursday that in response to these complaints, the PKLI formed an inquiry committee to investigate the allegations.

Based on the inquiry findings and substantial evidence, he said, 11 employees were found guilty of financial corruption whose services were terminated.

Furthermore, in the case of seven employees, evidence from the institutional inquiry has been submitted to the Anti-Corruption Establishment for legal proceedings.

The PKLI reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining the highest ethical standards and ensuring the trust of its patients and the public.

The administration remains steadfast in its zero-tolerance policy against unethical behavior and is dedicated to delivering high-quality healthcare services, he said.

Former senator remanded in NAB custody

LAHORE: An accountability court on Thursday granted one-day physical remand of former senator Waqar Ahmad Khan to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a billions of rupees scam of Pak Arab Housing Society.

A NAB team presented Waqar before the court following his arrest the other day.

A prosecutor requested the court for physical remand of the former senator, stating that investigation was required from the suspect. He said the suspect previously sought time to hand over his property to the NAB.

Waqar also affirmed in court that he was willing to transfer his property to the NAB.

The prosecutor alleged that Waqar along with his brother, Ammar Ahmed Khan, committed fraud worth billions of rupees with people by denying them plots despite receiving money.

He said the society defrauded the public at large by selling files more than the available plots. He stated that Pak Arab Society Phase-II was also not an approved project by the Lahore Development Authority. He revealed that there are hundreds of victims associated with the Pak Arab Housing Society scam.

Judge Nadeem Gulzar allowed the NAB one-day physical remand of the suspect and directed it to produce him again on Friday (today). — **Staff Reporter**

Principal, son booked as student found dead in school washroom

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: A private school's principal, his son and three others were booked after a class-IX student was found dead in a washroom of the institute in the People's Colony area of Gujranwala city on Thursday.

The father of the deceased alleged in the complaint that his son was poisoned to death by a fellow student, seeking a murder case against the suspect.

Rescue 1122 and police sources say that the student, Awais Ahmed, had left his home for school in the morning, but was found dead in a washroom of the school later in the day.

On being informed of the incident, Rescue 1122 and police teams reached the scene and shifted the body to the district headquarters hospital. At the DHQ hospital, doctors conducted an autopsy and handed over the body to the student's family.

The family said that Ahmed was fine when he left for school.

However, People's Colony station house officer said the police have started investigation and the cause of death could only be ascertained in the autopsy report that's being awaited.

Gujranwala City Police Officer (CPO) Rana Ayaz Saleem has directed the Civil Lines SP to hold an inquiry and submit a detailed report on the incident. The police have booked the principal of the private school, Zubair, his son Abdul Hadi and three other students under section 302 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) on the report of Mohsin Yousaf, the elder brother of the deceased boy.

The complainant alleged that his brother was a sportsman and he had been murdered over jealousy by the suspects.

WORKERS FAINT: At least six workers of a paper mills at Kamoke fell unconscious while working in the unit, allegedly due to the suffocation caused by the emissions from a coal kiln.

Rescue 1122 sources say the workers passed out while doing their duty at a kiln in the mills at Ghania locality of Kamoke city.

They were shifted to the Kamoke Tehsil Headquarters Hospital by the rescue ambulances.

WOMAN DIES: A 90-year-old woman died allegedly when a fire erupted in a house in the Model Town.

The rescuers say the fire was allegedly caused due to a gas heater left burning in a room of the house, where the old lady was asleep.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

PRAYER

Fajr	5.25
Zuhr	1.00
Asr	3.25
Maghrib	5.02
Isha	6.27

Starting time in Lahore

REFLECTIONS

"MISFORTUNE AND HELPLESSNESS ARE CALAMITIES."
— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)
(NAHJ-427)

Schoolgirl raped by rickshaw driver

LAHORE: The police arrested a rickshaw driver for allegedly raping a 15-year-old schoolgirl in front of her younger sister here on Thursday.

A police official said the rickshaw driver picked the girls before the closure of the school, giving an excuse that their father had been injured in a road accident. He said as the rickshaw driver used to pick and drop the girls, the school administration allowed him to take them on a short leave.

The suspect took them to a quarter where he allegedly raped 'M' in front of her youngest sister who later brought the matter into the notice of her parents who alerted the police.

The police shifted the girl to a hospital for medical examination, and took the suspect into custody after registering a rape case against him. The suspect was the next door neighbour of the girls.

SHOT DEAD: A young man was killed while his brother was injured allegedly by a property dealer over a dispute of rent amount at Bhati Gate on Thursday.

A police official said Jahanzeb was living in a rented house along with his family. He said the property dealer had a monetary dispute with the family. On the day of the incident, he had an argument with Jehanzeb and his brother, Shahzeb, over the same matter.

Later, the dealer returned with a pistol, opened fire and injured both of them. The two brothers were rushed to a hospital where Jehanzeb succumbed to his injuries while the condition of Shahzeb was stated to be serious. — Staff Reporter

LABOURERS sorting corn cobs after unloading the same from a truck in the vegetable market. — APP

Acting workshop by Iftikhar Thakur begins at Alhamra

By Shoaib Ahmed

LAHORE: An acting workshop aimed at revival of socially meaningful Punjabi theatre kicked off at the Alhamra Art Center, The Mall, on Thursday.

The month-long workshop, that will be conducted by noted film and stage comedian Iftikhar Thakur, is an initiative taken by Minister for Culture and Information Amna Bukhari for the revival of healthy and decent Punjabi theatre at Alhamra.

Lahore Arts Council (LAC) Board of Governors (BoG) Chairman Razi Ahmed and comedian Iftikhar Thakur jointly inaugurated the acting workshop.

Razi Ahmed, in his introductory remarks, welcomed Mr Thakur to the workshop which has been planned by Alhamra Academy of Performing Arts.

Mr Ahmed hoped that the workshop would open doors to quality theatre. He held Mr Thakur in high esteem for his services in the field of theatre and film.

He said such workshops would remain part and parcel of Alhamra, hoping that the youth would learn a lot from such activities.

Ahmed said internationally acclaimed plays would also be staged at Alhamra in Punjabi language.He hoped that Mr Thakur and his students would be able to produce a new play every week for the Lahore's theatre audience.

Mr Thakur thanked the LAC for the initiative, saying that after the culmination of the workshop a play, prepared by his students, would be staged at Alhamra.

During the workshop, he said, the students would be taught acting skills and their confidence would be boosted so they could perform in front of a large audience.

He praised Qaiser Javed, the acting class teacher At Alhamra, saying he had a tremendous career. He added that Javed was also his teacher in the field of acting.

Alhamra Academy of Performing Arts Deputy Director Muhammad Arif told Dawn that the workshop would be a milestone in honing the acting skills of the youth interested in this art form.

PDWP approves six schemes worth Rs15bn

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) has approved six development schemes with an estimated cost of Rs15,378 billion.

The PDWP's 50thmeeting of the current fiscal at the Planning and Development Board, Punjab, held under the chairmanship of board chairman Nabeel Awan, approved construction of the arterial main secondary and distribution network in the eastern part of the city (Linked with the AFD Funded Extension of Water Resources in Faisalabad City Phase-II Project) at a cost of Rs8,454 billion.The P&D Board approved GIS-based protection regime and establishment of a digital communication cell in the Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Department at a cost of Rs1.2 billion.

The board approved establishment of an eco-tourism facility at Lal Suhanra National Park, as per international best practices (conservation of the desert ecosystem) at a cost of Rs2 billion.

Construction of a green building for EMC, EPD, and allied new services established under PCDP (DL1.2, PCDP), Lahore, at a cost of Rs1,724 billion.

The PDWP cleared Punjab arterial roads improvement programme (Revised) at a cost of Rs202,458 billion and forwarded to CDWP.

The working party also cleared construction of Ghaibi Dam, Chakwal, Punjab, at a cost of Rs23,182 billion and forwarded to CDWP.

The meeting was attended by P&D Board Secretary Dr Asif Tufail, chief economist Masood Anwar, board members and other senior officials.

TOBA TEK SINGH: An additional district and sessions judge, Shakil Ahmad, handed down life imprisonment and a fine of Rs65,000 to a rapist on Thursday. Convict Jaffar Hussain had raped a minor girl a year ago. — Correspondent

Multan Road vegetable market to be remodelled

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) decided on Thursday to remodel the Multan Road (Iqbal Town) vegetable and fruit market (Sabzi Mandi) near Mansoora and sought a viable plan to resolve various civic issues, especially related to cleanliness, hygiene, traffic congestion, drainage etc.

The remodelling plan was sought after LDA DG Tahir Farooq paid a surprise visit to the market, observed serious civic issues and reprimanded the officials of the market committee and others for making inadequate arrangements.

The DG immediately called the officers concerned to the LDA office to submit a viable remodelling plan in a bid to get rid of various civic issues. He also visited Mustafa Town and Sabzazar housing schemes and sought removal of encroachments within next 24 hours.

POWER THIEVES: Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) teams on Thursday detected another 527 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara).

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited

TENDER NOTICE
BORING AND INSTALLATION OF DEEP WELL GROUND BEDS IN RAWALPINDI REGION

Tender No.	CPR-Rwm/Bore. FY 2024-25-01
Tender Title	Boring and Installation of Deep Well Ground Beds in Rawalpindi Region
Tender Note	As above
Tender Description	Scope of Work and Other Terms & Conditions are available in Tender Documents
Bid Receiving Date/Time	11:00 Hours on 16-01-2025 Office of Sr. Tech. Officer (Corr. Control) SNGPL Rawalpindi Region.
Tender opening date/Time	11:30 hours on 16-01-2025 Office of Sr. Tech. Officer (Corr. Control) SNGPL Rawalpindi Region.
Persons to be Contacted	Mr. Zaheer ud Din Babar, Sr. Associate Engineer (Corr.) Contact No: 0333-5254214
Tender Notice Terms	Tender Documents can be obtained on the spot at the cost of Rs. 2000/- (Non-refundable) on submission of pay order/demand draft in favor of SNGPL from the office of Sr. Tech. Officer (Corr. Control) SNGPL Rawalpindi Region on submission of written request along with a copy of NTN & PRA Registration. Sealed offers must be delivered before 09-01-2025. Tender Notice is also available on website www.sngpl.com.pk Note: Tender documents will only be issued to pre-qualified firms.

PIBC/166.5/24

ADVERTISER

TO ADVERTISE IN DAWN
For display advertisements please contact:
Landline:
+92-42-35758120-5 Ext. 3015
Mobile: +92-300-4390714
E-mail: ads.hr@dawn.com
For classified advertisements please contact:
Landline:
+92-42-35758120-5 Ext. 3163
E-mail: classified.hr@dawn.com

COURT NOTICE

LAHORE

IN the Court of Muhammad Rizwan, Chairman Arbitration and Reconciliation Council, Ward-08 Walton Cantt Lahore. Suit No. 629/ Fatima Bint e Azhar D/o Muhammad Jameel Azhar R/o H# 282-C Punjab Cooperative Housing Society, Ghazi Rd Lahore Versus Muhammad Ibrahim Ahmed S/o Tariq Raza Ahmed R/o H#48-D Model Town Lahore (2) 293 Claridge Circle Ewing Brook, 60460 Illinois USA. Title: Dissolution of Nikkah under Section (8) Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961. Fatima Bint e Azhar has got dissolution of Nikkah degree against her Husband Muhammad Ibrahim Ahmed from court of Muhammad Amjad Judge Family Court Lahore on 03-10-2024 and has submitted to this union council for execution on which initiating proceedings. The Party 2 Muhammad Ibrahim is deliberately avoiding service of notice. So, service of respondent is being effected through proclamation in newspaper. You, respondents are directed to appear in the Court in person or through counsel on 19-12-2024 at 10:00 am else initiating ex-parte proceeding divorce shall be declared effective on basis of dissolution of nikkah decree and certificate issued and no excuse shall be acceptable afterwards. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. (25753253569)

BARGODHA

IN the Court of Muhammad Ishaq Khan Jasra, Civil Judge 1st Class Bargodha. Suit For Declaration. Muhammad Hamza Abbas etc Vs Province of Punjab etc. Notice against: Mehr Taseer Abbas S/o Mehr Ghulam Abbas cast Jiwaan Tehsil Shah Pur District Sargodha, Mst Shaq Bhan (deceased) real Mother (deceased) Ghulam Abbas through legal heirs Atish Yar Khan son, Imran Ahmed, Rizwan Ahmed sons of Shahzad begum deceased R/o Ghanjanal Tehsil Shah Pur District Sargodha, Mst Shamim Akhtar (deceased) through legal heirs Fazukh Jazi son Shahmim Akhtar (deceased) Nawaria R/o Pakka Nawaria Post office Kandowal Tehsil Lalya District Chiniot. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved that the above mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will not appear in Court at 09:30 am on 10-12-2024, the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. No arguments or any nature shall be entertained thereafter. Civil Judge 1st Class Bargodha. (25753253567)

MANDI BAHAUDDIN

IN the Court of Mr. Tariq Mahmood Kahut, Civil Judge 1st Class Mandi Bahauddin. Suit for Completion of Agreement. Titled: Faiz Ahmad Vs Jamaat Ahmad S/o Ibrahim R/o Mohllah Manzoor Abad Tehsil and District Mandi Bahauddin. Presently Abroad. 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. (25830304470)

IN the Court of Mr. Salman Asif, Civil Judge 1st Class Gujrat. Suit for Declaration with Consequential Relief. Title: Muhammad Arif Various Muhammad Ali etc. Notice To: (1) Ali Hassan S/o Muhammad Arif Caste Jut Warraich R/o Ghai Bala Tehsil & District Gujrat Present Address out of Country 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 Court in person or through counsel on 16-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753253583)

IN the Court of Mr. Salman Asif, Civil Judge 1st Class Gujrat. Suit for Declaration with Consequential Relief. Title: Muhammad Arif Various Muhammad Ali etc. Notice To: (1) Ali Hassan S/o Muhammad Arif Caste Jut Warraich R/o Ghai Bala Tehsil & District Gujrat Present Address out of Country 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 Court in person or through counsel on 16-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753253583)

GUJRAT

IN the Court of Mr. Salman Asif, Civil Judge 1st Class Gujrat. Suit for Declaration with Consequential Relief. Title: Inayat Bibi Versus Province of Punjab etc. Notice To: (1) Zubaida Bibi Deceased Through Legal Heirs Muhammad Azam Husband, Rubina, Seema, Sania Daughters, Sohail, Mazhar, Azhar, Amjad Sons of Zubaida Bibi (2) Ammal Shahi Tehsil Phalia District Mandi Bahauddin. 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 16-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753253583)

IN the Court of Mr. Salman Asif, Civil Judge 1st Class Gujrat. Suit for Declaration with Consequential Relief. Title: Muhammad Ali Versus Muhammad Ali etc. Notice To: (2) Ali Hassan S/o Muhammad Arif Caste Jut Warraich R/o Ghai Bala Tehsil & District Gujrat Present Address out of Country 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 Court in person or through counsel on 16-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753253583)

IN the Court of Mr. Salman Asif, Civil Judge 1st Class Gujrat. Suit for Declaration with Consequential Relief. Title: Muhammad Ali etc Versus Muhammad Ali etc. Notice To: (3) Ali Hassan S/o Muhammad Arif Caste Jut Warraich R/o Ghai Bala Tehsil & District Gujrat Present Address out of Country 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 Court in person or through counsel on 16-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753253583)

VEHARI

IN the Court of Javin Faiz Muhammad, Senior Civil Judge (Family Division) Vehari. Suit No. 56/24. Shabeela Bibi Versus Ghulam Mustafa. Suit for recovery of Maintenance Allowance. Notice to: Ghulam Mustafa S/o Muhammad Mushtaq, caste Jutt R/o Chak No. 166/SB Tehsil & District Vehari, Present Address: Shop Zinj Hasteolaiyat City Farash Abu Aseesh, Saudi Arabia. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the above mentioned defendants cannot be served in the ordinary way. It is therefore, proclaimed under order 5, Rule (3) CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agents or pleader in Court at 09:00 am on 14-12-2024, the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. No arguments of any nature shall be entertained thereafter. Senior Civil Judge (Family Division) Vehari. (25843265707)

IN the Court of Mr. Arif Hameed Sheikh, Judge Banking Court Vehari. Suit No. 280/24. Suit u/s 9 of the Financial Institutions, 2001. suit for Recovery of Rs. 3,70,579 /5/-. Title of case. Bank Alfalah Ltd Versus Sajad Hussain. Notice to: Sajad Hussain S/o Khadim Hussain R/o Appa Baharwal Wah P/O Tibba Sultanpur Tehsil Mailsi District Vehari. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So the same is effected through Proclamation u/s 8(6) Ordinance 49 of 2001 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. No claim will be accepted thereafter. Judge Banking Court Vehari. (25843265709)

IN the Court of Mr. Arif Hameed Sheikh, Judge Banking Court Vehari. Suit No. 284/24. Suit U/S 9 of the Financial Institutions, 2001. Suit for Recovery of Rs. 2,72,502.54/-. Title of case. Bank Alfalah Ltd Versus Abid Ali. Notice to: Abid Ali S/o Muhammad Ali R/o Chak No. 3/WB Adda Pakki Mor Tehsil and District Vehari. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, the same is effected through Proclamation u/s 8(6) Ordinance 49 of 2001 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. No claim will be accepted thereafter. Judge Banking Court Vehari. (25843265709)

SAHIWAL

IN the Court of Mushtaq Hussain Jaspal, Civil Judge 1st Class Sahiwal. Suit for Specific Performance etc. Title of case: Mehboob Ahmed etc Versus Mst. Parveen Asif Ali W/o Asif Ali presently residing House No.10 10323-Sage,Chi. Huston 77099, Texas, USA, permanent address 9 Sahil street Punch road Gaye Park Lahore Cantt. 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 13-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Civil Judge 1st Class Sahiwal. (25823224382)

KAMALIA

IN the Court of Mrs. Ujala Ambar, Judge Family Court Kamalia. Suit for Maintenance Allowance etc. Title: Faiza Bashir Vs Bilal Ahmad. Notice to: Bilal Ahmad Pervaiz S/o Parvez Ahmed caste Syed R/o Mahzabad, at present in Germany. 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 19-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. With my signature and seal of the Court. Judge Family Court Kamalia. (25843265711)

WAZIRABAD

IN the Court of Mr. Anwar Hamza, Sub Tehsildar Hafiz Waqar Chattha, Wazirabad. Application Tasleem Anjum, Title: Imran Munir Vs Waheed Ahmad etc. Notice To: Shahid Mehmood Cheema S/o of Nazir Ahmad Caste Jutt Cheema R/o Garhi Jala Tehsil &t Pur Chattha 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 17-12-24 at 08:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753253553)

UK

IN The Court of Honourable Malik Javed Iqbal Senior Civil Judge Attock 50/8/2021. Sher Bahadur etc Vs Muhammad Ejaz etc Suit for Partition Through Ejectment In The subject case to inform the following through normal means its although Laila Bibi D/o Ali Zaman (Late) , Begum Riaz , Maddasn Jaan D/o Yusaf (Late) Resident 650-B-13 , Moseley , Sandford Road bt England , Sahib Jan (Widow) , Muhammad Nasir Son , Yasmeen Akhtar , Noreen Akhtar , Daughters Sher Afzal (Late) S/o Nasib Khan Resident Mohalla Mothi Banda Ghoungluthi Tehsil Hazro District Attock . You are inform to attend the Court personal through counsel or attorney on 16-12-2024 at 9 am to avoid ex-parte proceeding. (3161277671)

JHELUM

IN the Court of Rana Tanveer Ahmed Civil Judge Jhelum. Suit for Dissolution of Marriage Basra of Khalish Case title Rinda Rafaqat vs Rafaqat Rashid Aljamia: Rafaqat Rashid Son of Muhammad Rashid Residence Behang Mishra Tehsil and District Mirpur presently residing abroad As there is no possible to call the defendants through Summons in the instant suit so through proclamation in Newspaper, you are directed to appear in the Court on 23.12.2024 at 9:00 am, otherwise ex-parte proceeding will be initiated. (3143237682)

IN the Court of Senior Civil Judge Jhelum. Suit for Recovery amount Case title: Muhammad Lugman Shakhawat Vs Amina Tariq ETC Against: (1) Amina Tariq daughter of Tariq Masood Ali (2) Tariq Masood Ali son of Niaz Ali Khan Residence Tatu Sueden Tehsil Sohawa District Jhelum presently residing abroad As there is no possible to call the defendants through Summons in the instant suit so through proclamation in Newspaper, you are directed to appear in the Court on 14.12.2024 at 9:00 am, otherwise ex-parte proceeding will be initiated. (3146237656)

FAISALABAD

IN the Court of Mrs Uzma Aslam, Civil Judge 1st Class Faisalabad. Suit for Permanent Injuction. Title of case: Syed Akhter Hussain Bukhari son of Syed Dasar Hussain Bukhari R/o House No. 472, Peoples Colony No. 7, Faisalabad Versus Brig. Fayaz Bukhari etc. Notice to: (1) Brig. Fayaz Bukhari widow of Yasar Hussain Bukhari (deceased) resident of Hasmanang Veran 49, Lilahamman 2616, Norway (2) Laila Bukhari D/o Yasar Hussain Bukhari (deceased) resident of Reela Jueraja 43 Oslo,0257 Norway. (3) Amir Abbas son of Yasar Hussain Bukhari (deceased) resident of Chak No. 217-R/B, Nankana Road Tehsil and District Faisalabad. 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 16-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. With my signature and seal of the Court. Senior Civil Judge Family Division Faisalabad. (25823264865)

MAILSI

IN the Court of Mr. Abdul Ghaffar, Additional District and Session Judge, Mailsi. Civil Suit No. 34/24 Suit for recovery. Title of case: Muhammad Tahir Vs Muhammad Zahid. Notice to: Muhammad Zahid S/o Muhammad Yasin caste Bhatti R/o Chah Yaqoob Wala, Tehsil Mailsi, presently residing at Street No. 14, Kunda Lumpur, Malaysia. Whereas defendants to be effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants are directed to appear in the Court in person or through counsel on 17-12-2024 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25843265706)

DAWN
DISCLAIMER
Readers are requested to make inquiries before making any payments or commitment both in sending advertisements for publication and in relying on published advertisements. PNPL (Pakistan Herald Publications (Pvt. Ltd.) does not vouch for the content of any advertisement nor does PNPL guarantee that advertisements placed shall not be distinct, excluded or edited for want of space. Advertisers are requested to note that acceptance and placement of advertisements in DAWN shall remain strictly at the discretion of PNPL. PNPL shall not be liable for any loss suffered as a result of omission, delay in any advertisement or for the deletion, exclusion or editing of any advertisement.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

Survey to launch EV buses in Gujranwala

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: The Punjab government has decided to conduct a survey to launch intra-city public transport service in Gujranwala as the Transport Department and Urban Unit have been assigned the task of formulating recommendations in this regard.

The people of Gujrat and Sialkot may also be provided this public transport system. A transport card scheme will soon be launched in the province.

This was stated Punjab Transport Department Dr Ahmed Javed Qazi while talking to the participants of a meeting at the Commissioner Office on Thursday.

Gujranwala Commissioner Nawaid Haider Sheerazi, DCs of Gujrat and Sialkot and other senior officials were also among participants of meeting.

Mr Qazi said that the Punjab government had already made a comprehensive plan to convert the transport services into an eco-friendly system for which at least 1,000 electric buses would be plying in different cities of the province.

For instance, he said, the Punjab government would purchase a fleet of at least 500 electric buses whereas 500 such buses would also be purchased with the help of World Bank.

Gujranwala city would be given the buses from the WB fleet.

The commissioner said that due to the establishment of new housing schemes around the Gujranwala city in the last one decade, the city needed a comprehensive public transport system for which a survey was required before launching the new transport system.

Moreover,he said that the work on making the city's 14 kilometres long GT Road stretch from Pindi Bypass to Chan Da Qila Chowk a signal free corridor, had also been initiated whereas a flyover at Chan Da Qila would also be built to ease traffic flow.

Kamalia varsity to finally launch BS classes: VC

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: After a two-year delay, the University of Kamalia (UoK) will finally commence BS (Honours) classes in different subjects from the next academic session, while applications have also been invited from interested candidates for different faculty and administrative posts at the varsity.

The Punjab Assembly had passed the University of Kamalia Bill on Aug 19, 2022, on the initiative of the PTI MPA from Kamalia Begum Ashfa Fatyana and her husband, MNA Riaz Fatyana.

During the last two years, acting VCs were appointed at the UoK, but now regular Vice Chancellor Dr Yasir Nawab has recently assumed charge.

He said that classes of chemistry, computer science, mathematics, commerce, business administration and some other subjects are being introduced at the varsity within next few months in the building of former government teachers training school on Toba Road.

He said the building had more than 20 classrooms that will be sufficient for accommodating more than 2,500 students. He said that at least 1,000 admissions were expected in the first UoK session in different BS classes.

Nawab said the Punjab government had allotted 45 acre land located on Mall Faiyana Road (the road that connects Kamalia and Sahiwal through newly constructed Kamalia-Harappa river Ravi bridge).

He said applications had been invited till January 6, 2025 for the appointment of staff and faculty, including the posts of registrar, controller of examinations, treasurer, two assistant registrars, two assistant treasurers, two assistant controllers of examination, four assistant directors, one assistant librarian, one network administrator, one each assistant professor for subjects of physics, chemistry, mathematics and computer science and information technology.

He said one lecturer's post each for Pakistan Studies and Islamic Studies and two lecturers each for physics, chemistry, computer science and information technology, management sciences, mathematics, commerce and English, will also be recruited at the varsity.

MELA: University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, staged Zarai Mela, featuring the latest agricultural technology and folk culture that attracted farmers, locals, researchers, students and industry professionals.

The event was aimed at showcasing the latest agricultural technologies and practices to boost productivity, and promote our rich culture.

Calligrapher Rashid Seyal passes away

MULTAN: Celebrated calligrapher Rashid Seyal who worked in more than 4,000 national and international mosques passed away on Thursday evening at the Parvez Elahi Institute of Cardiology. He was 52.

Family sources said he was suffering from heart and lung diseases.

Born in 1972 in Faridabad, Multan, Seyal did masters in calligraphy arts from Dabistan Farogh-e-Khatati, Multan.

He served Imroz, Nawa-i-Waqt, Aftab and Qaumi Awaz as a calligrapher from 1986 to 1998. He also taught calligraphy at the College of Fine Arts (BZU).

Rashid Seyal published six books on calligraphy and participated in several national and international exhibitions.

His funeral prayers will be held at the GPO Ground, Dera Adda, at 3pm on Friday (today). — APP

Chakar Rind varsity convocation

By Our Correspondent

DERA GHAZI KHAN: The first convocation of the Mir Chakar Khan Rind University of Technology, Dera Ghazi Khan, was held on Thursday.

88 degrees and medals were given to 150 students graduating from five departments civil, electrical, petroleum, information technology and chemical engineering.

FAISALABAD: A man sells sugarcane juice on a motorcycle rickshaw. — Online

Rape survivor seeks CM's help against influential suspects

Alleges local police are colluding with her 'rapists'

By Our Correspondent

NAROWAL: A female student, who was allegedly gang-raped over a month back, has appealed to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Usman Anwar to help her in getting justice, alleging that the local police are colluding with the influential suspects, who are pressurising her family for reconciliation.

Usman, a resident of Bhattian Gujran village in Shakargarh tehsil said in his complaint to police that on November 6, 2024, two suspects of the same village lured his niece to a building, where they gang-raped her at gunpoint.

He said the suspects also recorded obscene video clips of his niece and threatened to post the material on social media if he pursued legal action against them, besides hurling life threats.

Acting on the complaint, Shakargarh Saddar police have registered an FIR against the suspects under section 376/375A of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), but did not arrest the suspects, who went in hiding.

The gang rape survivor 'Z' said in a video statement on social media that the influential suspects are putting pressure on her family for 'reconciliation' to avoid legal action.

She said that she is a student and felt helpless against the influential suspects.

She appealed to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to help her in getting justice.

Usman also alleged that influential suspects have been harassing him for a month and resorting to aerial firing to force him to reconcile with them.

Usman Hanif, the spokesperson for Narowal district police, said that the suspects have secured pre-arrest bail from a court till December 14.

He said the police are trying to get their bail cancelled and take them in custody for DNA test to ascertain the charge.

He refuted the allegation of police's collusion with the suspects.

BOOKED: Zafarwal police have registered an FIR against seven suspects for allegedly killing four members of a family, including the ex-wife of the prime suspect.

On Thursday, hundreds of people attended the funeral prayers held for the the four persons, who were killed on Wednesday in Khushalgarh village of Zafarwal tehsil. They were buried in their ancestral graveyard in the village.

The FIR has been registered against Ikram Aslam, Imran, Junaid, Aftab Hameed and three unknown suspects on the request of Abid Kaleem, the husband of the deceased woman Asma Ghani, under sections 302, 324, 452, 506, 109, 148 and 149 of the PPC.

The suspects fled the village along with their families after the incident. Zafarwal police are conducting raids for their arrest.

On Wednesday, Ikram had allegedly shot his ex-wife Alia Bibi, mother-in-law Hajran Bibi, sister-in-law Asma Bibi and 10-year-old Abdullah dead.

Later, Ikram, the main suspect, also died allegedly by suicide.

Notices in IUB VC's posting case

By Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: The Lahore High Court (LHC) while admitting for regular hearing the writ petition of Prof Dr Muhammad Nasem Khan (who was not appointed as Islamia University Bahawalpur vice chancellor) has issued notices to all the four respondents for Jan 13.

In his writ petition (a copy of which is available with *Dawn*), Prof Dr Muhammad Nasem Khan contended that after his interview for the VC slot on Aug 17, 2024, by the search committee headed by the former federal secretary, he was placed at the top of merit in the panel of three candidates out of more than 200 applicants for IUB.

He said having secured the highest score on the merit list sent by the search committee to the chancellor/Punjab governor, the petitioner was selected for an interview by the chief minister on Sept 2.

The petitioner said it was utter surprise for him that after interview by the CM, the final notification of the IUB faced a considerable delay for unknown reasons and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Engineering and Technology Multan Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Kamran was given the additional charge of IUB VC for a period of four months.

He claimed that his rejection and Prof Dr Muhammad Kamran's notification were illegal, without jurisdiction and without lawful authority and the same was liable to be set aside.

The petitioner prayed that he may be notified as IUB VC and the impugned notification dated Oct 16 of Prof Dr Muhammad Kamran may be set aside.

The petitioner in his petition has named the Punjab province through BE&D secretary, chancellor/governor, Punjab Higher Education Commission and IUB as four respondents and LHC judge Justice Shahid Karim has issued them notices for Jan 13.

Meanwhile, *Dawn* learnt that the Punjab Higher Education Department has invited new applications till Dec 26 to fill the post of IUB VC.

JEEP RALLY: Elaborate arrangements will be made for the 20th Cholistan desert rally in February next amid foolproof security measures and with a substantial increase in prize money for the winners.

This was stated by Bahawalpur Divisional Commissioner Nadir Chattha at a conference here on Thursday.

The conference was participated in by a large number of stakeholders, MPA Khalid Mahmood Jajja, Cholistan Development Authority (CDA) Managing Director Syed Tariq Mahmood Bukhari, Punjab Tourism Development Corporation General Manager Nauman Khan, Bahawalpur Deputy Commissioner Dr Farhan Farooqui, Hoobara International Foundation Project Director retired Maj Muhammad Tahir and the regional and divisional heads of the related government departments.

In his address, the divisional commissioner stressed the need for the repair and restoration of jeep rally track, a comprehensive traffic management and security plan, setting up of a temporary tent village for the convenience of the visitors and tourists from home and abroad and a food street for them.

On the occasion, Nadir Chattha said a number of sports events like camel and horse dances and cultural functions would also be organised for the enjoyment of the spectators.

The Derawar Fort near the jeep rally venue would be tastefully decorated with illumination during rally days starting on Feb 4.

He directed the officials to finalise all arrangements before time with particular facilities to the participating drivers and vehicle owners in Cholistan.

Citizen booked for 'anti-state' Facebook post

By Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARGARH: A case has registered by Karor (Layyah) police against a citizen for urging boycott of products of army welfare institutions through his Facebook account.

The police registered the case against Sheikh Mohammad Zaker under 16 MPO and other sections 124-A.

According to the FIR, Sheikh Zaker tried to incite people to revolt against state.

The accused has obtained bail from additional sessions court on Thursday.

Eight injured in road accidents

By Our Correspondent

NAROWAL: Eight people, including women, were seriously injured in two road accidents in Shekhupura on Thursday.

In the first incident, a speedy motorcycle hit the people standing along the road near Qila Sattar Shah. 25-year-old Afzal, 35-year-old Ismat Bibi, 23-year-old Ekram and 29-year-old Sania Bibi were seriously injured in the accident.

The second accident took place near the Chaudhry Mill stop where a motorcycle-rickshaw went out of control and overturned. Junaid, 23, Arsalan, 20, Waqar Ali, 23, and Ali Kadi, 27, were seriously injured in the accident.

Rescue 1122 teams provided first aid to the injured and shifted them to hospital.

Delivery of tractors to farmers continues under govt scheme

GUJRAT: Farmers after getting green tractors. — Dawn

Dawn Report

GUJRAT: The Punjab government launched on Thursday the delivery of 1,125 green tractors to farmers of Gujranwala and Gujrat divisions on Thursday.

The provincial government will give a Rs one million subsidy on every green tractor to the farmers.

Gujranwala Commissioner Nawaid Haider Sheerazi, PML-N MPAs Umar Farooq Dar, Nawaz Chohan and others distributed the keys among the farmers.

Speaking to the farmers at the occasion, the commissioner said that around 523 tractors were being given to the farmers of Gujranwala, Sialkot and Narowal districts whereas some 613 green tractors were being given to the farmers of Gujrat, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin and Wazirabad districts of Gujrat division.

Adding, he said that the Punjab government had allocated a huge package of Rs 300 billion for the farmers across the province as Kissan cards and solar panels for tube wells were the part of that package.

SAHIWAL: The local agriculture department has commenced the distribution of Green Tractors to 228 farmers who were selected through an online registration and lucky draw under the provincial government's scheme.

Ch Shahbaz Akhter, Director of Agriculture, informed Dawn that the department has begun awarding keys to the winning farmers.

OKARA: Keys of 339 subsidised tractors were given to farmers at the Jinnah hall where MPA Mian Muhammad Munir and deputy commissioner (DC) Muhammad Usman Javid were the chief guests.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

DAWN

PESHAWAR Friday, December 13, 2024

METRO North

PESHAWAR
Sunset 05:07pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 07:08am

NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 08°C
Maximum 21°C
Outlook Cloudy

Markhors, Lions record wins in Champions T20 Cup

Pg.18 SPORT

A STUDENT attends a painting class at Khana-i-Farhang Iran, Peshawar, on Thursday. — APP

Maulana Fazl threatens street protests over madressah bill delay

Alleges govt trying to create division among clerics

By Muhammad Irfan Mughal

MAULANA Fazlur Rehman addresses a presser in Dera Ismail Khan on Thursday. — Dawn

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Thursday warned that his party would stage street protests across the country if the federal government didn't ensure early implementation of the madressah registration bill passed by parliament.

He told a presser at his residence in Sheikhoo area here that he rejected the federal government's decision on seminary registration with the education ministry.

Mr Fazl said that his party had raised its concerns about the madressah registration bill with the country's president.

He said that after the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill in parliament with consensus from the Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and other political parties, objections to the proposed seminary law should have ceased.

"There is no room for objections to the madressah bill," he said.

The JUI-F leader said that his party had accepted the official draft of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, but the federal government was attempting to create divisions among religious scholars over the seminary bill.

He said that his party would foil such bids.

Mr Fazl wondered why the president was delaying the signing of the madressah bill and raising objections about it after the approval of the constitutional amendment by parliament.

"We believe that the [madressah] bill has become an act of parliament because it's part of the recently-enacted Constitutional Amendment," he said.

The JUI-F leader urged the president to sign the proposed law without delay for its immediate notification.

He alleged that the federal government and certain state institutions were leading the country to crises on the issue.

Mr Fazl insisted that the government had promised that seminaries would have the option of affiliating themselves with the education ministry or under the Societies Act.

"The government has broken that promise," he said, advocating for the registration of madressahs with the education ministry only.

The JUI-F chief said that the bill was drafted by the government ahead of the last general elections.

He raised concern about the "creation of a new seminary organisation" and urged religious scholars not to be used to fuel disputes on the issue.

"If the rulers don't change their current attitude, we will launch protests across the country and engage with the people," he said.

Mr Fazl welcomed talks between the government and the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf as a good initiative and said that he had always believed in sorting out political and other issues through dialogue.

He complained about the poor law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and insisted that the government lacked writ in the province.

The JUI-F leader said that the people of the province felt insecure as miscreants were present even in villages.

"Where there is no peace, there is no prosperity," he said.

Mr Fazl criticised Israel for "subjecting Palestinians to terrorism with the support of the US and UK."

He parried a question about the induction of former chief of Inter-Services Intelligence retired Lt Gen Faiz Hameed by a military court for allegedly engaging in political activities, violating anti-espionage laws, and abusing his authority, and said that it was the army's internal matter, so he won't comment on it.

The JUI-F leader expressed condolences over the death of Khalidur Rehman Haqqani, Afghan refugee minister and brother of Haqqani Network's founder Jalaluddin Haqqani, in Kabul blast and said that the sacrifices of the Haqqani family for Afghanistan were to secret.

PHC extends stay against execution of umbrella ADP schemes

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court on Thursday extended a stay order of restraining Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government from utilising funds for execution of umbrella schemes in Annual Development Programme (ADP).

A bench consisting of Justice Sahibzada Asadullah and Justice Wiqar Ahmad again sought reply of the provincial government to a petition of opposition members of the provincial assembly against the umbrella schemes in ADP.

The leader of opposition in provincial assembly, Ibadullah Khan, MPA Arbab Waseem Khan and 17 other opposition lawmakers have filed a joint petition, requesting the high court to declare it illegal and also set aside the schemes included in ADP under umbrella or block allocation.

They also prayed the court to strike down all directives issued by the chief minister regarding umbrella schemes after the passage of 2024-25 annual budget.

The petitioners sought court's orders for the government to formulate, implement and distribute developmental schemes and release funds for them in line with the law, rules, guidelines and superior court's judgements.

They also requested the court to order authorities not to discriminate against them and sought interim relief in the form of suspension of chief minister's orders for umbrella schemes until the petition was decided.

The petitioners belong to opposition parties including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl, Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Parliamentarians and Awami National Party.

The respondents in the petition are the KP government through its chief secretary, chief minister, his principal secretary, additional chief secretary and the secretaries of finance, communication and works, irrigation, planning and development and public health engineering departments.

Barrister Sultan Mohammad Khan and Babar Khan Yousafzai appeared for the petitioners whereas additional advocate general Rauf Afridi represented the provincial government.

The AAG stated that he would file reply on behalf of the government.

He stated that the government and opposition members had been in consultation over the issue.

Barrister Sultan also hoped that the issue would resolve amicably.

In the petition, the petitioners insisted that the 'illegal' actions of the respondents clearly violated the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Procedure and Conduct of Business Rules, 1988, and KP Government Rules of Business, 1985, as well as the policy guidelines issued by the government in consequence of a high court judgement.

They said that the chief minister under the name of 'CM Directives' was doling out public funds to his political favourites despite the fact that such practice of arbitrary one-man discretionary power had been declared consistently illegal by superior courts including PHC.

They have also given a table in the petition wherein 15 of the umbrella schemes had been mentioned related to upgradation and rehabilitation of roads, small drinking water supply, construction of flood protection, irrigation channels and installation of solar tube-wells, district development plans for different districts.

Wapda employees to launch protests from 16th

PESHAWAR: All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter) has announced a series of province-wide protests from December 16 for solution to their issues.

According to a statement issued here on Thursday, the employee's demands include delay in recruitment and against proposed privatisation of Wapda. The union's spokesperson Gohar Ali Gohar outlined key grievances, including the misinterpretation of the Supreme Court's decision regarding Discos, the failure to regularise assistant linemen, and the suspension of marriage grants and scholarships.

Workers are also concerned about delay in the formation of the promotion and upgradation board, the removal of Saturdays and Sundays as government holidays, and forced labour practices.

Additional issues raised by the union include job insecurity, stagnant wages for part-time employees, and non-transfer of important benefits such as the GP Fund, Group Life Insurance, and Workers Welfare Fund to company levels.

The union also highlighted concerns about outdated vehicles, fuel supply suspensions, and the delayed promotion of diploma-holder meter readers. Furthermore, the lack of a pension fund for the newly recruited staff on fixed salaries has been a point of contention.

Provincial secretary Nasrul Amin Rasheezai, in coordination with the union leadership, has finalised the schedule for the first phase of protests. These will take place at various locations, including Bannu Circle (Dec 16, 2024), Dera Ismail Khan (Dec 17), Khyber Circle (Dec 19), Hazara-1 Circle (Dec 23), Hazara-2 Circle (Dec 24), Peshawar (Dec 26), Mardan (Dec 30), Swabi (Dec 31), Swat Circle (Jan 2, 2025), GSC, PD Construction, and GSO Circle in Peco Peshawar (Jan 6, 2025), and Fata Circle (Jan 8, 2025).

The protests will culminate in a sit-in at the Peco Headquarters on Shami Road, Peshawar, on Jan 14, 2025. The sit-in will continue until the union's demands are met, with thousands of workers expected to participate.

The union has formally notified the relevant authorities about the planned protests and made it clear that they will continue their actions until their issues are addressed. — Bureau Report

'Funding discrimination' against LBs challenged in high court

Petition complains govt has decided to fund 56 of 131 tehsil councils

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Heads of 22 tehsil councils in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province have moved the Peshawar High Court against the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's decision to release development funds to 56 of the total 131 tehsil councils in the province.

In the joint petition, Mardan city mayor Himayatullah Mayar, Dir tehsil council chairman Rafiullah and 20 other tehsil council mayors and chairmen requested the court to declare illegal the finance department's Dec 5 order for the release of development funds to 56 councils under the Provincial Finance Commission allocation.

The petitioners requested the court to direct the government to ensure that as per the PFC, an impartial release of funds should be held throughout the province including to the petitioners and other remaining tehsil councils.

They also sought interim relief, saying during pendency of the petition, the respondents including the KP government should be restrained from distribution of funds issued through the impugned order.

The government ordered release of funds mostly to tehsil councils, which have the ruling PTI's members as mayors and chairmen.

The petition, filed through advocate Babar Khan Yousafzai, named the provincial government through its chief secretary and local government and finance secretaries as respondents.

The petitioners said that they were elected as tehsil council mayors and chairmen in elections conducted for local governments, held on Dec 19, 2021, and March 31, 2022.

They added that Article 140-A of the Constitution provided that each province should establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representatives of the local government.

The petitioners said that Chapter-VIII of the KP Local Government Act, 2013, related to local government finances and particularly, section 30 provided for establishment of local funds in public accounts, whereas section 31 described the operation of funds and public accounts.

They said that the Act further provided for PFC and fiscal transfers and it was an enactment similar to transfer of funds by the federal government to the provinces under the National Finance Commission.

The petitioners claimed that since the elections were held in 2021 and 2022 no funds in respect of PFC and fiscal transfers even had been released for development to tehsil local government.

They added that there were 131 tehsils which had remained deprived of PFC allocation since their elections, but on Dec 5, the impugned order was issued for releasing funds to 56 of the tehsils, whereas remaining 75 had been discriminated against and was not included in the order.

The petitioners contended that as per the PFC, the provincial government was obligated to allocate 20 percent of its share to the local government in any fiscal year.

They, however, complained that the government had been withholding those funds for the last three years, while recently, it, through the impugned order, selected 56 of the councils for funding.

The petitioners contended that the KP City and Tehsil Local Government Rules, 2022, empowered mayors and chairmen to manage affairs of their councils, which also included overseeing development within their respective tehsils.

They added that allocation of funds exclusively to selected tehsils of the provincial government's choice formed discrimination and violated Articles 4, 9 and 25 of the Constitution.

COMMENTS SOUGHT: The Peshawar High Court on Thursday again sought comments from the provincial government about a set of petitions against amendments to the local government law, especially the provisions related to their powers.

A bench comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Syed Arshad Ali issued the order while hearing five almost identical petitions filed by heads of several tehsil councils, including Himayatullah Mayar, Peshawar mayor Haji Zubair, Pabbi tehsil council chairman Ghayur Khattak, and other local body heads.

The petitioners requested the court to declare unconstitutional the KP Local Government (Amendment) Act, which was enacted by the provincial government in 2022.

The bench wondered if the local government's representatives didn't have powers, what tasks they would perform.

Babar Khan Yousafzai, Qazi Jawad Ehsanullah and other lawyers for the petitioners, said the KP Local Government Act, 2013, clearly spelled out the powers and functions of mayors of city councils and chairmen of tehsil council as well as village and neighbourhood councils in the province, but the impugned amendments to the law removed those provisions and declared that the local body heads would exercise and perform such powers and functions as prescribed by the rules.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

PRAYER

Fajr	05:42
Zuhar	12:11
Asr	03:31
Magherb	05:08
Isha	06:37

Starting time in Peshawar

REFLECTIONS

"MISFORTUNE AND HELPLESSNESS ARE CALAMITIES."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

7AM-1427

Alternative road opens to traffic

By Our Correspondent

BAJAUR: Construction work on the much-needed alternative route for the damaged key bridge on the Jar River was opened to traffic here on Thursday.

A statement issued by the deputy commissioner's office said that with the completion of the project, people will have easy access to the main Bajaur-Mardan artery. "We are pleased to inform local transporters, commuters, and the general public that the alternative route along the damaged Jar Bridge, which had been closed to all sorts of traffic since October 21, is now completed and open for both vehicular and pedestrian movement," the statement said.

Meanwhile, transporters and commuters, while talking to Dawn on Thursday, confirmed the opening of the alternative route for vehicular traffic.

They also thanked the relevant authorities for their efforts in constructing the alternative route adjacent to the damaged river bridge. However, they demanded that the authorities concerned should begin repair work on the affected bridge at the earliest.

WORK under way on a roadside drain in Lakki Marwat on Thursday. — Dawn

KP to launch polio drive on Dec 16 amid challenges

Officials complain about vaccination refusal, missed targets, lack of admin support in districts

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is set to launches anti-polio campaign amid challenges of vaccination refusal, missed targets, fake finger marking, and lack of support by the district administrations and district health officers.

The province is home to around 7.3 million children of the countrywide 44 million population aged below five, and is facing chronic challenges posed by non-vaccination of less than one per cent of the total target population, according to health officials.

They told Dawn that the province had reported no polio cases for a long time a few times, but the dream of eliminating the virus couldn't be fulfilled due to its presence in sewage, which was causing the infection to those unvaccinated.

The officials said Pakistan had so far recorded 59 cases this year, including 26 from Balochistan, 16 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 15 from Sindh and one each from Punjab and Islamabad.

According to officials, Dera Ismail Khan, the native district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, is leading the list with eight polio cases, while two cases have been reported in Lakki Marwat, Kohat and Tank each and one in Mohmand and Nowshera each.

They said that the last polio campaign of the current year was going to begin from December 16 but there was no indication that it would be any different from the previous ones that saw parental refusal for children's vaccination, while other children were bracketed as "missed" ones for being unavailable when health workers visited their homes.

"More than 110 persons, including vaccinators and policemen guarding them during door-to-door campaigns have lost their lives to the bullets fired by unidentified people since 2012 due to which fear gripped the health workers and agreed to fake finger marking," an official said.

He said as per protocol, the health workers were required to mark the fingers of vaccine recipients with indelible ink as a proof that they had been inoculated but the hesitant parents put pressure and forced workers to mark fingers of their children without giving them polio drops.

The official noted that in every campaign, the same children remained unvaccinated and even authorities knew about them, but corrective steps weren't taken.

Chief secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, who, in his capacity as chairman of provincial task force on polio, has repeatedly asked district administrators, police and DHOs to ensure that all targeted children are immunised in their respective areas, but all his directives have fallen on deaf ears, according to officials.

They added that the Emergency Operation Centre, which led anti-polio efforts in the province, was confronting a vicious cycle of refusals, missed children and fake finger marking.

The officials insisted that polio eradication required vaccination of all targeted children, with the responsibility to woo the reluctant parents and do away with fake finger marking lying with the district administrations and police.

They added that vaccinators couldn't face the wrath of the people, given the series of killings of their team members and policemen in the past.

The officials said in the last meeting, the chief secretary declared the situation a "blessing" to eliminate poliomyelitis from the province as international donors continued funding and warned if cash flow stopped, the province won't be able to allocate more resources for the cause.

They said effective coordination among administrations, police and health authorities could make a difference otherwise the vaccine preventable childhood disease would continue to haunt children and add to the peril of disabilities.

Swat women design innovative solutions to gender-based issues

SWAT: A group of 40 young women from various disciplines and sectors of Swat designed different innovative solutions using STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) to the issues facing their gender in the district.

The initiative is part of a 15-day fellowship programme launched by Girls United for Human Rights to explore human rights and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through STEM.

The fellowship trained participants in STEM education while aligning their projects with human rights issues and SDGs.

The programme focused on topics such as health and well-being, gender equality, climate action and women rights.

"This fellowship was a transformative journey for me," said Gul Naz, a participant, who developed a project addressing harassment faced by women at workplaces, markets and educational institutions. "Using STEM tools, I was able to propose a technology-based safety application that alerts trusted contacts in real-time. It was empowering to address a critical issue that many women silently endure."

The fellowship also provided a platform to address psychological issues among women, a topic often overlooked in Swat. "I created a STEM project on mental health awareness, particularly focusing on post-traumatic stress and depression among women," said Sabra Ahmad. "Through interactive technology, I carried out a survey and gathered data about women's psychological issues and proposed a design that connects women with mental health professionals and resources. It feels amazing to use science for such a noble cause."

The cultural barriers faced by women in sports also took centre stage. Marwa Waqar shared her experience of tackling this sensitive topic through STEM. "My project used data analytics to map sports participation rates among women and the barriers they face, and found that except lack of women sports facilities majority of girls do not have permission from their families," she said. "I proposed affordable infrastructure solutions and advocacy campaigns to break stereotypes. It's time we recognise the importance of sports for women's empowerment."

Human rights activist Hadeqa Bashir, who spearheaded the initiative, highlighted its significance. "This fellowship was not only about learning STEM but about empowering these young women to use science and technology as a tool for advocacy and solutions," she said.

Participants described the fellowship as a "multi-learning activity" that introduced them to the intersection of STEM, human rights, and SDGs for the first time.

By the end of the programme, they carried out innovative projects addressing diverse issues such as justice for gender-based violence victims, environmental justice, and women's decision-making roles in society.

The fellows unanimously agreed that the programme had a lasting impact on their perspectives and capacities. "We've learnt that STEM isn't just about equations and experiments," said Aisha Khan, another fellow. "It's a powerful means to advocate for justice and change." — Correspondent

Therapeutic chart helps to rehabilitate polio-affected children

Developer says it is being used successfully throughout the world

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The rehabilitation of polio-affected children has become possible through use of a therapeutic chart, says Dr Mehboobur Rahman, the former head of physiotherapy department at Hayatabad Medical Complex.

Addressing a ceremony at Habib Physiotherapy Complex (HPC) here on Thursday, he said that the chart was helping rehabilitation of polio-affected people in Pakistan as well as in other endemic countries including Afghanistan.

The chart, developed by him, is called "Mehboobur power evaluation and therapeutic chart for polio management". He said that it was developed in 1989 and was being used successfully throughout the world for management and rehabilitation of polio patients.

Dr Mehboob said that the chart was put into practice and research study was conducted on 30 polio hit children that showed 62 per cent success rate. "Since then, we have been providing services to affected patients. It has led to their rehabilitation and most of them have become normal now," he added.

He said that many of the rehabilitated patients were working to earn their livelihood. He urged parents to ensure rehabilitation of their affected children so that they could become safe from disabilities. He said that before development of his chart, 'Oxford muscles testing chart' was in use worldwide but that was only for diagnostic purpose. He said that the chart developed by him covered both diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of polio patients.

Dr Mehboob said that the plan contained complete treatment regime including specific exercises to put brakes on wastage of muscles and strengthen them to walk and work. Given its effectiveness, several organisations including polio health international have adopted the chart.

He said that he had presented the chart at international physiotherapy conferences in Malaysia, Holland and other countries to help polio patients. He said that it was the most effective tool in management of polio-hit people.

He said that the province was home to scores of polio-infected children. He said that patients also required follow-ups to stay safe from lifelong disabilities. He said that significance of pathophysiology in management of poliomyelitis was very effective and essential for rehabilitation of affected people.

On the occasion, HPC launched

MoU signed to enhance trade with Afghanistan

PESHAWAR: The traders of Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to strengthen collaboration and jointly work for enhancing bilateral trade between the two neighbouring countries.

In this connection, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) here on Thursday.

The MoU was signed by SCCI president Faisal Mogeem Khan and PAJCCI president Junaid Ismail Makda. PAJCCI vice president M. Parvez Lala and other Afghan traders were also present on the occasion, according to a statement.

The representatives of both the trade bodies agreed to build a dependable, pragmatic and advantageous relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Both the chambers will work for cordial relations through an increased cooperation among industrialists, businessmen and entrepreneurs of the region.

The trade bodies would also work to foster a spirit of better cooperation and coordination between business communities of both the countries in general and their respective members in particular for development of trade and commerce.

As per agreement, both the trade bodies will play their facilitating role for encouraging bilateral trade activities, exchange of trade delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions. "We will make joint efforts for establishing effective consultation, cooperation and exchange of information on bilateral trade and relationship. Both the chambers will also appoint permanent staff to serve as focal point for execution of this MoU," said the agreement.

Faisal Mogeem Khan in his welcome address said that trade volume between Pakistan and Afghanistan had the potential of more than $3 billion, but unfortunately it was reduced to less than $1 billion. He said that after imposition of two percent cess, the number of daily clearance of trucks at Torkham drastically dropped from 400 to 500 on daily basis to mere five to 10 vehicles.

He said that the Balochistan government also imposed the same cess but withdrew it within a couple of days after realising its negative impact on trade activities. — Bureau Report

University of Buner

Swari, District Buner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Tender No: 01/Estt/2024

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited under "Single Stage- Single Envelope Procedure" from well-established and reputed firms/companies/suppliers, registered with income tax and sales tax department and appears the Active Tax Payer List of the FBR for the supply of the following items.

S.	Item	Quantity	Specifications
1	Answer Sheets/Books	As per tender documents	As per tender documents
2	A-4 Size Paper (Double A)	As per tender documents	As per tender documents
3	Legal Size Paper (Double A)	As per tender documents	As per tender documents
4	A-4 Size Paper (Copymate)	As per tender documents	As per tender documents
5	Legal Size Paper (Copymate)	As per tender documents	As per tender documents

1. Quotations must be accompanied by 2% call Deposit in F-9 the University of Buner.
2. The envelope should be clearly marked.
3. Tender Forms/ documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on working days on the production of receipt of Rs. 1000/- on account of "Tender Fee" or deposited online in Account No. 79011797O1 Maintained at HBL Sawari (Buner) Branch Code No 0932.
4. Tender Form/ documents can also be downloaded from the University Website www.uburer.edu.com.pk. However, no tender documents will be accepted without tender fee.
5. The university reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders by assigning cogent reason, thereof and no claim in this respect shall be entertained in any court of law.
6. The bids must be duly send to the office of the undersigned till 11:30 AM on 24/12/2024.
7. Any bid received after the intimated time shall be rejected.
8. Submission of any false statement/documents shall disqualify the bidder.
9. The awarding firm /company will be entirely responsible for quality and quantity of the items.
10. Errors and omissions, if any, shall subject to rectification by the University.

Tender will be opened at 12:00 PM on 24/12/2024 in the presence of the Purchase Committee and representatives/owners of the participating firms/bidders.

Procurement Officer

University of Buner At Sawari, District Buner

Email: PO@uburer.edu.pk Phone No. (0939)-555211 & 555251

ADVERTISER

AWAMI DOWNS

ANNOUNCEMENT

TO ADVERTISE IN DAWN

For display advertisements please contact

Landline: +92-51-2202701-5 Ext: 326

Mobile: +92-333-5483064

E-mail: mohammad.wasif@dawn.com

For classified advertisements please contact

Landline: +92-51-2202701-5 Ext: 310

E-mail: shahid.ayub@dawn.com

COURT NOTICE

ATTOCK

IN the Court of Ahmad Zia Chaudhary Civil Judge Attock. Mst. Nowain Akhter versus Muhammad Zubair Suit for Dissolution of Marriage on the Basis of Khula. To, Muhammad Zubair son of Bahadur Sher, caste Pathan, resident of Village Thain Khurd, Tehsil Hazro, District Attock. You are directed to appear before the Court in person or through legal representative or through counsel on 13-12-2024 failing which an ex-parte will be initiated against you. (25972795172)

RAWALPINDI

IN the Court of Raja Amjad Iqbal Judge Banking Court Rawalpindi. Askari Bank Ltd versus Muhammad Naeem. To, Muhammad Naeem son of Fazal Dad R/o Near Shahid CNG Shalimar, Rawalpindi. Whereas Askari Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of 285,025.00/- due against you Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001 You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 20-12-2024. (27702778812)

IN the Court of Raja Amjad Iqbal Judge Banking Court Rawalpindi. Habib Bank Ltd versus Nayman Nawaz. To, Nayman Nawaz S/o Nawaz Wazir, resident of House No. 15, Razzi Apartment Park View, Rawalpindi. Whereas Habib Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of 4,83,226.66/- due against you Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001 You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 19-12-2024. (27702778819)

IN the Court of Raja Amjad Iqbal Judge Banking Court Rawalpindi. United Bank Ltd versus Naeem Akhter. To, NaeemAkhter son of Jahan Dad Khan resident of House No. 11, Street No. 20, MCH Wah Model Town Phase 2 Wah Cantt TaxilaDistrict Rawalpindi. Whereas United Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of 997,058.17/- due against you Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001 You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 19-12-2024. (27702778821)

IN the Court of Raja Amjad Iqbal Judge Banking Court Rawalpindi. Askari Bank Ltd versus Muhammad Naeem. To, Muhammad Naeem son of Fazal Dad R/o Near Shahid CNG Shalimar, Rawalpindi. Whereas Askari Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of 285,025.00/- due against you Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001 You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 20-12-2024. (27702778820)

UK

IN The Court of Honourable Malik Javed Iqbal Senior Civil Judge Attock SUBJECT: Ghar Bahadur etc Vs Muhammad Ejaz etc Suit for Partition Through Specimen In The subject case to inform the following through normal means by difficult Late Bibi D/o Ali Zaman (Late) , Begum Nisa , Maideen Jaan D/o Yusaf (Late) Resident 855 S-13 , Mowsley , Sandford Road 00 England , Sahib Jan (Widow) , Muhammad Noor Son , Yasmeen Akhter , Noreen Akhter , Daughters Ghar Ahsar (Late) S/o Najab Khan Resident Mohalla Mochi Banda Ghourghushti Tehsil Hazro District Attock . You are inform to attend the Court personal through counsel or attorney on 19-12-2024 at 9 am to avoid ex-parte proceeding. (25972795171).

MANIPUR

IN The High Court of Ajkad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 165/24. Institution 25-09-2024. Title: Muhammad Shafique vs Shafia Bibi. Civil Appeal. Proclamation for (2) Muhammad Munir Ahmed son, (3) Shahida Bashir daughter of Muhammad Bashir resident of Jada, Tehsil &District Mirpur AJK 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 09:30 am on 20-02-2025 the proceedings will be taken ex parte. (25972795173)

IN The High Court of Ajkad Jammu and Kashmir, Circuit Mirpur (AJK). Case No. 197/23. Institution 27-09-2023. Title: Chaudhary Muhammad Hanif vs. Muhammad Yousaf etc. Proclamation for (2) Qaiser Masood S/o Muhammad Yousaf, caste Sulehria, resident of Chitarpary, Tehsil & District Mirpur AJK. 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 09:30 am on 20-01-2025 the proceedings will be taken ex parte. (25972795174)

PESHAWAR

IN the Court of Miss Arbreen Nasir Banking Court-I Peshawar Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar. Case No. 156/1 of 2024 Date of Institution 22-01-2024. Suit for the Recovery of Rs.2785252.76 HBL through Manager Peshawar Branch Nowshera (2554) Vs Muhammad Faheem, Sobia Versus (1) Muhammad Faheem son of Umar Farooq R/o Tehsil and Post Office Tangi, Tangi Nusrat Zai District Charsadda. Whereas the plaintiff bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 2785252.76 against you under section 9(3)(i) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the Court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt / publication of the notice in the newspaper. Failing which an ex-parte decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issue today on 22-12-2024 under my signature and seal of Court. Registrar Banking Court-I, Peshawar. (25972775595)

PUBLIC at large is informed that Mrs. Memoona Rahman D/o Mr. Ikhsanul Rahman R/o House # 32 Sector H-11, Street 2 Phase 2 Hayatabad is owner of Plot No. 77 Sector C-III Zone 1 Regi Model Town measuring 1 kanal. She has given its attorney to Mr. Mehboob-ur-Rehman S/o Saif-ur-Rehman through Deed No. 1513 Bahi No. 2 Volume No. 249 Date 11-12-2024 now Mehboob-ur-Rehman wants to transfer the said property through given attorney. Therefore, if any individual, Bank Department, etc have any objection on this transfer he / it should contact the undersigned within 15 days of publication of this advertisement, otherwise, the said property shall be transferred and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Officer (Transfer) Regi Model Town Peshawar. (25972775595)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

SWABI

PUBLIC at large is informed that Mr. Shah Rahman S/o Gulistan CNIC No. 15202-1145237-5 is the owner of Plot No. 227 Sector F Measuring 10 Marla in Shahnamoor Township Swabi he has lost original documents of the plot. If someone finds he shall inform on this Cell # 0314-9578381 or inform the undersigned. Moreover if any person, attorney holder or any Financial institution have any objection on it he should contact the undersigned on given phone number after publication of the advertisement within 15 days otherwise Duplicate Paper will be issued and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Shahnamoor Town Swabi (JAZA, 25SABI) Phone # 0939-220015. (25972775597)

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

No headway in talks on transmission lines issue

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: A jirga failed to make any headway in talks over the hurdles to the laying of transmission lines to the national grid station here on Thursday.

Members of the national and provincial assemblies, commissioner of the Hazara division, and the project director of the Dasu hydropower project attended the gathering called by the Muttahida Kohistan Jirga.

"We are firm in our stance that it will not allow the laying of electricity transmission lines from the Dasu hydropower project to the national grid station until Wapda honours the agreement signed with it in 2022," MKJ member Bakht Buland Khan told reporters.

He said the jirga had set modalities before initiating discussions with Wapda, commissioner Zaheerul Islam, and Dasu project director Amir Shahzeqar Kehwan.

"We presented our demands, agreed upon by the Wapda chairman in 2022, to the commissioner and project director who sought time to discuss them with Wapda high-ups," he said.

Mr Khan said the next round of the jirga was scheduled for Dec 27 with the Wapda chairman expected to participate it.

"We would then decide whether the transmission lines from the Dasu dam to the national grid station would be allowed," Mr Khan said.

He stressed under the agreement signed in 2013, when Kohistan was not yet divided into three districts, and later renewed in 2022, WAPDA was obligated to provide 9 megawatts of electricity.

"Now that Kohistan is divided, Wapda is legally bound to supply three megawatts of electricity to each district in addition to fulfilling other conditions," he said.

He noted that the agreement also included the provision of subsidised (low-cost) electricity to around 20,000 households or consumers.

Meanwhile, an official from the Dasu Hydropower Project said that Wapda would ensure an early meeting between the jirga and the Wapda chairman to resolve the outstanding issues.

The MKJ cleared the five-day blockade of the Karakoram Highway last week following the release of one of its leaders, Kareemullah, who was arrested under 3MPO for creating hurdles in laying transmission lines.

CRACKDOWN: Lower Kohistan police on Thursday launched a crackdown against outlaws wanted by it for heinous crimes across the district.

"I want all proclaimed offenders wanted to police behind bars and no negligence in this regard will be tolerated," District Police Officer Taimer Khan told a meeting on crime at his office in Pattan, district headquarters.

The meeting attended by SP, DSP, investigation officers and SHOs, reviewed the law and order situation across the district.

Call for legislative reforms to empower women-led businesses

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Speakers at a dialogue on Thursday underscored the importance of concrete legislative reforms to empower women-led businesses in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The dialogue, arranged by the Centre for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA) in collaboration with the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCI) Dir, was attended by industry experts, government officials, women entrepreneurs, business community representatives, TEVTA officials, elected local government members, civil society organisations and others.

According to a statement, the event focused on strategies and initiatives designed to support women entrepreneurs and their businesses across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

It was stated that the CGPA's project manager, Khalfan Khattak, underscored the unwavering commitment to empowering women's chambers of commerce by fostering an enabling environment that promoted participatory democracy and opened reliable opportunities for women-led businesses at the provincial level.

The chief guest, Special Assistant to CM on Population Welfare Liaqat Ali Khan highlighted the importance of creating a more inclusive and supportive legislative environment for women entrepreneurs.

He advocated for enhanced collaboration between key government departments, including Population, Commerce and Industries, and Technical Education, to amend existing trade-related acts and policies for more progressive economic growth.

Ms Shaheen, senior vice president of WCCI, spoke about the vital role of women's chambers in revenue generation at the district level.

She outlined the barriers faced by women-led businesses and emphasised the importance of targeted support mechanisms to help overcome these challenges, enabling more women to participate in economic activities.

She also demanded a permanent building from the government to ensure stability and effective operations.

Syed Noor Alam Badshah, the group leader of the Dir Chamber of Commerce and Industry, assured the members of WCCI that they would receive full support in the upcoming expo.

He said the general chamber would provide complete cooperation and free support for business marketing.

PHARMACISTS stage a protest outside Peshawar Press Club on Thursday. — INP

CM promises jobs to youth

Launches youth training, livelihood projects

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Thursday declared youth the nation's most valuable asset and said creating employment opportunities for them was imperative for national progress and self-reliance.

"The Ehsaas Hunar Programme is a crucial part of our efforts to empower youth of the province," Mr Gandapur told the launch event for four youth training and livelihood initiatives here at the Chief Minister's House.

The projects included the Rs4 billion Ehsaas Hunar Programme, Rs11.4 billion Rural Economic Transformation Project, upgradation of technical educational institutes, and an on-job training programme for Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (Tevta) graduates.

The participants included the provincial cabinet members, deputy speaker of the provincial assembly, members of the provincial assembly, government officials, and selected beneficiaries.

The chief minister said technical education was largely neglected in the past, leaving many graduates with degrees that lacked international recognition, according to an official statement.

He said that the provincial government was focusing on the provision of internationally accredited certifications to youth, who should benefit from them.

Mr Gandapur said that the government couldn't offer everyone jobs, so it was committed to creating employment opportunities for them in the private sector.

"Due to our government's efforts, the province's revenue has increased by 44 per cent. This additional income will be reinvested in our youth's development," he said.

The chief minister said the government won't pass on the deprivation the current generation endured to the next one.

He said hard work was the key to success, with no substitute for it.

Mr Gandapur urged youth to create employment opportunities for themselves to contribute to national development.

Special assistant to the chief minister on technical education Tahil Anjum said the government was committed to youth skill development and empowerment in the province.

According to the official statement, the Ehsaas Hunar Programme to be implemented through Akhuwat Microfinance aims to provide interest-free loans up to Rs500,000 to skilled youth for start-ups and entrepreneurs. The KP government has allocated Rs2 billion for this initiative in the current fiscal year with more than 35,000 skilled youth expected to benefit from it.

The Rs11.4 billion Rural Economic Transformation Project, launched in collaboration with the support of IFAD and European Union, will offer free technical and vocational training to 60,000 youth males and females from rural areas, according to the statement.

It added that financial assistance averaging $300 per person would be provided to 42,000 skilled individuals to promote self-employment. It will also facilitate internships and employment for 25,000 Tevta graduates.

According to the statement, technical and vocational educational institutions will be funded by GIZ-European Union.

"Under the initiative, two Government Colleges of Technology in Nowshera and Abbottabad will be upgraded to the status of Centers of Excellence. Also, 22 technical institutions across the province would be upgraded into model institutes, and nine other institutes were selected to offer DAE Level-5 certifications."

According to the statement, an on-job training programme for Tevta graduates has been launched with investment of Rs177 million.

Under this programme over 3,000 graduates will be placed in the selected industries for internships in a phased manner. In the first phase, 168 students will be offered three-month internships, each receiving a monthly stipend of Rs15,000. The cost of the first phase is estimated to be Rs7.56 million.

Transporters boycott bus stand fee, taxes in Bisham

By Our Correspondent

SHANGLA: Public transport companies operating from Bisham general bus stand, serving various parts of Kohistan district and other areas in Hazara division, have launched a boycott of the bus stand fee and other taxes by the TMA authorities.

The public transport service operators, including buses, pickups, coasters and others announced their boycott of operations from the general bus stand.

Sadam Hussain, a public transporter, said that they had unanimously decided to operate the bus service from the town centre instead of the general bus stand and would not pay the bus stand fee or any other taxes imposed by the TMA. He claimed that the staff of the tehsil municipal administration (TMA) had forced them to pay the unauthorised taxes and adda fee while operating from the general bus stand.

According to TMA officials, most transporters had illegally begun operating their vehicles from the town centre instead of the designated general bus stand. They further stated that pickups were now circulating in Bisham bazaar, causing inconvenience to shoppers, pedestrians, and leading to traffic jams.

The TMA staff collects Rs 30 to Rs 50 from various types of vehicles as a bus stand fee, but the transporters were reluctant to pay it. Several rounds of jirga were held in this regard to address the issue, but they proved to be in vain.

A meeting comprising local elders, TMA officials, and transporters was held with the assistant commissioner (AC) to resolve the issue.

The AC told the meeting that he would take legal action in collaboration with TMA and police officials against the transporters violating the rules.

Chitral villagers appeal for road upgradation

By Our Correspondent

CHITRAL: Residents of Yakhdesz village in the Khot valley of Torkhow tehsil have urged the government to reconstruct and widen the road leading to their village, which remains cut off for five months during the extended winter season.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, elders of the village including Nasiruddin, Mohammad Murad, Saqib Ali Khan, Saifuddin and others stated that the residents of the village, comprising more than 300 households, faced numerous challenges during the closure period.

They mentioned that a jeepable bridge was constructed by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme two years ago. This bridge connected the village to the valley road via a narrow mountainous track, with an average width of barely six feet. They explained that the region on both sides of the bridge was steep and hilly, making the high cost of road widening beyond the financial capacity of the villagers.

The villagers noted that although the construction of the bridge and the narrow track on both sides had been carried out by a non-governmental organisation, they had requested the government to take responsibility for its widening.

They said that all government facilities, including schools, primary healthcare centres, the grain godown, as well as the market and playground, were situated in the main valley, making it extremely difficult for them to access these facilities during the closure period.

The village elders added that children were unable to travel to school, patients and injured individuals could not be transported to the hospital, and food shortages became a major issue during the extended winter season.

Young pharmacists demand service policy

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Members of the Young Pharmacists Community (YPC) held a protest demonstration, demanding the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to approve the pharmacy service policy.

The protesters, gathered outside the Peshawar Press Club and led by their president Junaid Iqbal, said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the only province where the pharmacy service policy was still not in place. Due to the absence of this policy, the pharmacists were not receiving job opportunities.

Other office bearers, including vice president Sohrab Jabeen, Rasen, and Ehsan, also shared their views on the occasion. They demanded the immediate approval and implementation of the pharmacy service policy to address the unrest among young pharmacists.

They suggested that the effective implementation of Drug Rules, including Schedule G, should be ensured to halt the manufacture and sale of substandard medicines and protect public health.

They said that the number of substandard Pharm-D colleges in the province was increasing, which was harming the quality of pharmacy education. They urged the provincial government to regulate these colleges and ensure the quality of education.

The pharmacists also pointed out that the shortage of pharmacy faculties and teaching staff in government universities of the province was negatively impacting the education of students.

They said, "The government needs to pay immediate attention to this issue. Teaching staff in private universities are being paid low salaries and there is no job security. Industrial pharmacists, who play a key role in pharmaceutical manufacturing, are suffering from insecure jobs and low salaries."

The protesters warned that if their demands were not addressed within a month, they would launch a province-wide protest and stage a sit-in in front of the provincial assembly building to voice their concerns and seek a solution to their problems.

Govt taking measures to address climate change issue: official

By Our Correspondent

SWAT: Malakand Commissioner Amjad Ali Khan has said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is taking emergency measures to address the challenge of climate change and mitigate its devastating effects.

He was addressing the concluding session of three-day 'Eco Media Workshop'. The workshop was organised for journalists from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to enhance their understanding and reporting on environmental issues.

Speaking at the event, the commissioner said that Pakistan, like the rest of the world, was bearing the brunt of climate change. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is taking emergency measures to address this challenge and mitigate its devastating effects," he added.

He talked about the environmental-friendly steps being taken by the government such as successful implementation of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in Peshawar. He said that the project benefitted millions of commuters.

The commissioner said that the government was planning to introduce electric public transport vehicles in Swat, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan and other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "Electric vehicles will not only reduce carbon emissions but will also provide a cost-effective travel option to people," he added.

He drew the attention of the participants of the workshop towards the damage caused by recent floods in Swat, Dir and Chitral. He said that the floods were a result of climate change. He warned of graver risks if immediate action was not taken to protect the environment.

"The loss of life and property during the last two floods was a wake-up call. If we do not act now to clean and preserve our environment, the future consequences could be catastrophic," he cautioned.

Earlier, Shams Momand, the organiser of the workshop, welcomed the commissioner and other participants, acknowledging the importance of such initiatives. "Journalists play a crucial role in shaping public opinion and policy. Their understanding of climate issues can create awareness and trigger action at all levels," he added.

During the workshop, renowned journalists delivered insightful lectures on reporting of climate change and its impacts. The event concluded with Commissioner Amjad Ali Khan distributing certificates among the participants, emphasising the role of media in combating environmental challenges.

Vendors sell soap in Hashtnagri Bazaar, Peshawar. — White Star

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com