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PML-N govt's 'unilateralism putting strain on federation'

- In address to joint sitting of parliament, Zardari points to policies like Cholistan canal project; urges consensus-based decision-making
- Says resurgence of terrorism cannot be allowed, urges parliament to play vital role in tackling militancy
- Appreciates economic indicators; asks govt to reform tax net, address climate change, focus on development of Balochistan, GB

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday cautioned the year-old coalition government on its "unilateral policies" that are putting a "grave strain" on the federation, and proposed decision-making via consensus, instead.

The eighth address by President Zardari to the joint session of parliament was punctuated by a noisy protest by opposition lawmakers, who disrupted the speech by thumping desks, shouting, and chanting slogans in support of their party founder, Imran Khan.

In his address, the president touched upon a whole host of issues, including foreign policy, climate change, economy, national politics, transparency, women empowerment, Kashmir, and good governance.

He also alluded to the government plan to carve out canals from the Indus River, saying the decision was taken unilaterally, despite opposition from federating units, describing it as a proposal that he, as president, could not support.

"I urge this government to abandon this current proposal and work together with all stakeholders to come up with viable, sustainable solutions based on unanimous consensus among the federating units," he added.

The alliance between the PPP and the ruling PML-N has suffered from a major trust deficit, mainly due to the federal and Punjab governments' propensity to take decisions without consulting their coalition partners.

A PPP leader recently accused the PM's Office of not implementing directives issued by the Presidency.

President's address splits lawmakers along party lines: Page 3

Straining to hear Zardari speak, govt members 'ignore' PTI din: Page 3

President's speech: Editorial on Page 6

A meeting between PM Shehbaz Sharif and President Zardari, and a committee formed under Deputy PM Ishaq Dar to address the PPP's concerns here also failed to put an end to the differences.

Positive indicators

Speaking on the occasion, President Zardari said it was his singular privilege as civilian president to address for the eighth time the august house. "It is an opportunity to review our progress and reaffirm our commitment to building a better future for Pakistan," he added.

Appreciating positive economic indicators, the president asked the government to reform and

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PM Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting between PML-N and PPP delegations, who met over Iftar on Monday.—White Star

Talk of canals, terror in KP dominates coalition *Iftar*

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to appease their "annoyed" coalition partner, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday hosted an iftar dinner for the PPP, following President Asif Ali Zardari's address to a joint sitting of parliament.

The PPP delegation, led by Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, reportedly expressed their reservations over the controversial project to carve more canals out of the Indus River.

The delegation also conveyed to the PM its concerns regarding the deteriorating law and order in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly Kurram district.

They also complained about the lack of relief efforts for flood victims in Balochistan.

According to a handout from the Prime Minister's Office, PM Shehbaz appreciated the PPP leadership for playing an active and dynamic role in meeting public expectations across all four provinces.

He urged political parties to work together to ensure a better future for the federation and the provinces.

PM Shehbaz also assured the PPP that their concerns regarding controversial canals, maintaining peace in Kurram district and assisting flood victims in Balochistan, would be addressed soon.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam

Continued on Page 5

SBP surprises market by holding policy rate at 12pc

- Sees rising imports, weak financial inflows threatening economic gains
- Says despite inflation drop, core prices persistently remain at elevated levels

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday decided to keep the key interest rate unchanged at 12 per cent, defying market expectations of a rate cut. The decision was influenced by weak financial inflows, rising imports and concerns over a widening current account deficit.

The central bank had slashed rates by 1,000 bps from an all-time high of 22pc in June 2024 to try and revive economic growth while navigating reforms under a $7 billion facility from the International Monetary Fund agreed in September.

However, despite a positive real interest rate of 10.5pc, the central bank chose to maintain its cautious stance, leaving businesses and investors disappointed.

The main inflation rate in February stood at 1.5pc, which many believed created ample room for the policy rate to be reduced to single digits, as demanded by trade and industry leaders.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), in its policy statement, cited concerns that core inflation remains persistent at an elevated level. Rising food and energy prices could also lead to renewed inflationary pressures in the coming months.

The decision surprised many analysts, as surveys and market trends had widely anticipated a rate cut.

According to *Reuters*, 10 of the 14 analysts it surveyed had expected the central bank to cut its key rate, while four expected it to hold the rate. The analysts expected inflation to rise in May as the base year effect wears off.

"SBP's decision to pause the easing cycle reflects its cautious stance amid persistent core inflation and renewed pressures from rising food and energy prices," said Sana Tawfik, head of research at Arif Habib Ltd.

Interest rate status quo displeases businesses: Page 9

"While economic activity is gaining momentum, external account vulnerabilities, driven by increasing imports and weak financial inflows, warrant a prudent approach," she added.

The MPC stated that economic activity "continues to gain traction, as reflected in the latest high-frequency economic indicators".

The committee maintains its earlier real GDP growth projection of 2.5-3.5pc for the current fiscal year (FY25) and expects economic activity to gain further momentum going forward. It noted that the impact of the sizable earlier reduction in policy rate is now materialising.

However, the MPC viewed that some pressures on the external account have emerged due to rising imports, weak financial inflows and increased debt repayments.

The current account turned into a deficit of $400 million in January 2025, significantly impacting foreign exchange reserves.

The SBP noted that despite a 19.3pc month-on-month growth in Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) in December 2024, overall LSM performance remained weak in the first half of FY25.

The central bank also pointed out shortfalls in tax revenues during January and February, despite improving consumer and business sentiment.

"On the global front, uncertainty has increased significantly amidst the ongoing tariff escalation, which may have implications for global economic growth, trade and commodity prices. In response to these developments, central banks in advanced and emerging economies have recently slowed the pace of their monetary easing," the SBP said.

The MPC reiterated the importance of maintaining a cautious monetary policy stance to stabilise inflation within the target range of 5-7pc. This, along with structural reforms, is essential to achieve sustainable economic growth, it added.

Real sector

High-frequency indicators — including sales of automobiles, petroleum products and cement, as well as import volumes, credit to the private sector, and purchasing managers' index — show

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Govt to stop use of methyl bromide for rice fumigation

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The government is immediately halting the use of methyl bromide for the fumigation of rice consignments in Pakistan, enabling the importing countries to carry out the procedure themselves in line with international standards.

The decision came at a meeting held by the ministry of national food security and research on Monday to address the issue of interceptions in the export of Pakistani rice to Europe.

The meeting, chaired by Secretary Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry, was attended by all stakeholders including the representatives of provinces, private companies and multinational corporations.

The policy decision is expected to directly benefit Pakistani rice exporters as fumigation costs will be eliminated, which will lower the export price of the grain, making the product more competitive in global markets, said a ministry press release.

The Rice Exporters Association's longstanding demands were also reviewed at the meeting, said the ministry, adding that measures were being taken to ensure a transparent and fair trade system.

The ministry took strong action to dismantle the spray mafia and eliminate corruption in the agricultural commodity trade. These reforms will improve Pakistan's international standing as a reliable rice exporter.

The meeting also decided that strict scientific

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Remittances jump 40pc in February, total $3.12bn

Inflows near $24bn in eight months, up 32.5pc

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Remittances from overseas Pakistani workers soared by nearly 40 per cent year-on-year in February 2025, reaching $3.12 billion, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data released on Monday.

Compared to January 2025, remittance inflows increased by 3.8pc, providing much-needed financial support to the economy, government reserves and liquidity for importers.

For the first eight months of FY25 (July-February), total remittances reached $23.97bn, marking a substantial 32.5pc rise compared to the same period a year ago.

The government had projected total remittances of $35bn for FY25, around $5bn more than last year. However, remittances have already exceeded expectations, with additional inflows of $5.9bn in just eight months.

For economists and financial analysts, the rise in remittances is both a positive and negative indicator — while the surge in inflows has helped stabilise the rupee and support the economy, it reflects the government's increasing dependence on remittances, rather than boosting exports, to sustain foreign exchange reserves.

Despite an ambitious export target of $60bn, actual exports remain sluggish and are projected

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Fresh Constitutional Bench to hear super tax case from today

Hamid Khan says constitutional amendment required to try civilians in military courts

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court was reconstituted on Monday to commence hearing on a set of challenges to the imposition of super tax on high earning individuals through Section 4C of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001.

The composition was changed after Justice Aminuddin Khan, who was heading the bench, noted that one of the bench members, Justice Aamer Farooq, had already given a decision on the matter when he was chief justice of the Islamabad High Court.

The reconstituted bench will comprise Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan besides Justice Aminuddin.

While counsel representing different industrial entities requested the bench to hear the matter after Eid, the court rejected the plea and declared that the case would be heard daily from Tuesday.

A number of taxpayers had challenged the constitutional vires of the amended Section 4C for the tax year 2023.

Last year, a division bench of IHC comprising Justice Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri while hearing intra-court appeals had ordered one of the respondents to continue paying the tax liability under the amended Section 4C.

The super tax was introduced by the PML-N government in 2015 and applied to wealthy individuals, associations of persons, and companies earning above Rs500 million. It levies a tax rate of 4pc on the income of banking companies and 3pc on other sectors, aimed at funding the rehabilitation of temporarily displaced persons.

Military trial case

Separately, senior counsel Hamid Khan — representing the Lahore Bar Association — argued before the Constitutional Bench that military courts cannot be established without a constitutional amendment.

Even a constitutional

Continued on Page 5

PCB accuses ICC of sidelining it from Champions Trophy

Board formally complains to cricketing body over slew of 'blunders, double standards' and incidents of 'selective governance'

By Mohammad Yaqoob

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has lodged a formal protest against the International Cricket Council's (ICC) failure to include its representative in the post-match ceremony of the Champions Trophy final.

ALTHOUGH Tournament Director Sumair Ahmed Syed was present in Dubai, he was not included in the post-match ceremony, which was an all-Indian affair.—ICC file photo

Despite the presence of PCB's Chief Operating Officer Sumair Ahmed Syed — who was also the director of the tournament — at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium during the decider between eventual winners India and New Zealand on Sunday, the official didn't feature among the dignitaries featured in the ceremony.

Indian takeover: Editorial on Page 6

The PCB has called out what it believes to be "blatant disregard for Pakistan's role as the host nation" by the ICC.

"A formal complaint has been lodged with the ICC, demanding an explanation and a public apology," the board's spokesperson told *Dawn* on Monday. "We are appalled by this blatant disregard for Pakistan's role as the host nation.

"The ICC's decision to exclude Mr Syed — who was both the Tournament Director and the PCB Chair's designated representative — violates its own standard operating procedures," the board said.

"This is a matter of principle, fairness, and respect for the game's global stakeholders."

Mr Syed had attended the final in place of PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who was initially invited by the ICC, but was unwell and couldn't travel.

While the ICC, in its responses to media queries argued that its "protocol is for the board's president, vice president, chairman or CEO to be on the stage", it seemed to have ignored the fact that the PCB didn't have a CEO, and the COO is considered to have the same stature as second in command to the chairman.

The ICC's argument also seems weak, given that the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Devajit Saikia was also on the stage along with his predecessor and incumbent ICC president Jay Shah and BCCI president Roger Binny.

The PCB views the incident as one of ICC's "repeated blunders", one of which was the absence of Pakistan's name in the Champions Trophy's official logo on the live feed of the group stage match between India and Bangladesh, as well as the Indian national anthem

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ON OTHER PAGES

'Digital' ID app launched by Nadra

The National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) on Monday launched Pakistan's first dematerialised ID card as it commemorated 25 years of excellence in legal identity management and national database integration. The national identity document will now be integrated as a feature into the Pak ID mobile application, which means that citizens will no longer need to carry physical ID cards. **Page 4**

Users report issues in accessing X

Users across Pakistan reported issues in accessing social media platform X on Monday, according to an outage-tracking website as platform owner Elon Musk claimed a 'massive cyberattack' was under way against the service. Downdetector.com, the outage-tracking website, showed that 65 reports were received about X from users in Pakistan at 3:00pm, indicating 'possible problems' with the service. **Page 12**

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Another patient dies of drug reaction at Mayo

LAHORE: Drug reaction claimed the life of another patient at the Chest Surgery Unit of the Mayo Hospital on Monday, creating panic among 14 other patients as the condition of most of them was stated to be serious.

The incident took place late on Sunday when the staff administered injection to more than 16 patients and they collapsed soon after taking it.

According to preliminary reports, a girl who had also got the shot breathed her last within two hours after the injection was administered to her and other patients at 7pm on Sunday. On Monday, another patient, Doulat Khan (28) who was brought from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also died of the severe complications due to the same allegedly faulty injectable drug.

Chief Executive Officer Prof Haroon Hamid confirmed the drug reaction had claimed lives of two patients so far while the condition of some others was serious. He said the ward's female staff had injected the drug to 16 patients in the ward on Sunday. It seems the fault was not in the drug rather a solution that was added to it before injecting it to the patients.

However, a three-member committee is investigating the drug reaction case.

A senior pharmacist, Noor Meher, said the staff of the ward concerned ignored the warning and the precautions before administering drugs to patients. As per the health advisory issued particularly for the said drug, he said, it was suggested that the solutions containing calcium gluconate and ceftriaxone should not be mixed with the drug-in-question because they could cause precipitation that could prove fatal.

Mr Meher declared it a blatant error that led to the unfortunate drug reaction and added that the Punjab government had already issued the alert following an advisory by the Food and Drug Administration of America.

He alleged the antibiotic injection which caused a severe reaction to 16 patients and death of two of them had also been administered to many patients of other wards of the same hospital the same day. However, no such reaction was reported in any other ward, he said and added this showed the standard guidelines issued for this particular medicine were blatantly ignored in the Chest Surgical Ward only. — Asif Chaudhry

ACE arrests P&D Board official

LAHORE: The Punjab Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) on Monday arrested Assistant Chief (Industries) Planning and Development Board Ahmad Muftehur Rehman, after he was held guilty of taking bribe in an initial inquiry conducted by P&D Board Secretary Dr Asif Tufail.

The P&D Board got its own assistant chief arrested on the basis of "solid and undeniable evidence of corruption", a board spokesman said.

It is learnt that Muftehur Rehman was blamed for taking bribe to get some development schemes included in the ADP. It is alleged that the assistant chief took Rs1.5m bribe from a citizen assuring that the specific development schemes would be included in the ADP. However, he remained unsuccessful owing to the strong and transparent scrutiny system of the Punjab P&D Board.

As the specific schemes did not reflect in the ADP projects, it is learnt, the person, who allegedly gave the bribe, reached the board offices and lodged a complaint along with evidence.

Getting information about this act, P&D Board Secretary Dr Asif Tufail conducted an initial inquiry and found the allegations of bribery true. Eventually, the secretary asked the ACE to arrest the assistant chief (industries). The ACE took the assistant chief in custody from office in the late afternoon, registered a case and launched further investigations. — Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: People buy clothes at a cloth market for Eidul Fitr. — APP

DCs get dominance over elected representatives under new LG law

Legal experts say law breaches Article 140-A for ignoring empowerment of elected heads; Lahore doesn't have provincial capital status

By Arrjad Mahmood

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly on Monday passed the Local Government Bill 2025, giving the local government effectively under bureaucratic control by making deputy commissioners heads of district authorities of devolved departments and district coordination forum.

According to legal experts like Mubeen Qazi, the new law is a breach of the Article 140-A of the Constitution, which specifically requires that each province shall devolve administrative, financial and political powers and authority to the elected representatives of the local governments, as empowerment of the elected heads of the local government has been ignored in it.

The elected heads and/or chairpersons have rather been given under the control of deputy commissioners as there is no district level local government, whose head could be appointed as the chairperson of the district authorities. The elected chairpersons will be members of the district authorities to be led by the DCs.

Unlike the earlier laws, it denies special status to Lahore as the provincial capital as well as other big cities may also be demarcated as more than one town corporation in the district.

There will be no more directly elected chairman/vice-chairman even in the union council.

There will be municipal corporation for an integrated urban area in a district, having population above 200,000; municipal committee for an integrated urban area in a district having population above 25,000; and tehsil council comprising rural area of a tehsil and urban area not classified above.

A local government shall consist of head, deputy mayor or vice chairperson, as the case may be; members of town corporation and municipal corporation will be chairpersons of all UCs in its local area.

A union council shall consist of nine general members and four members on reserved seats – one woman member, one peasant in a rural UC or one worker in urban UC, one youth, and one non-Muslim member.

Chairperson and vice-chairperson of a union council shall be from amongst the members of UC.

A tehsil council shall consist of a chairperson and two vice-chairpersons, chairpersons of all UCs in its local area as ex-officio members; and reserved members.

A town corporation shall consist of a mayor and two deputy mayors, chairpersons of all UCs in its local area as its ex-officio members; and reserved members.

The municipal corporation shall consist of mayor and two deputy mayors, chairpersons of all UCs in its local area as its ex-officio members; and reserved members.

The reserved seats of the above categories shall comprise 14 per cent women, 3pc non-Muslim, 5pc peasant or worker, 2pc technocrat, 1pc youth and disabled each.

A municipal committee shall consist of chairperson and vice-chairperson; and ex-officio members and members on reserved seats, which will vary from five to 11 in respect of the number of union councils in it.

The government may, through a notification, devolve following 10 district level office of the government departments to the local governments in a district: health (primary and preventive care); education (school education to the extent of primary education and school enrolment); social welfare; population control; sports; transport (local transport & traffic planning); civil defence; public health engineering; arts & culture; and tourism.

The devolved offices shall be administered, operated and managed at the district level, through the respective district authority established under the Act.

Two Ahmadis, seven others booked for murder

By Ejaz Mahmood

BAHAWALNAGAR: Dabranwala police booked nine people, including seven men who were stated to be members of the Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat and two members of the Ahmadiyya community, on charge of torturing a Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) activist to death during a scuffle at Chak 166 Murad.

The FIR registered with the Dabranwala police on Sunday said the Ahmadiyya community had turned their place of worship into a mosque and discussion on the matter had been going on for the last two years between the TLP district leadership and the community members.

There was a Khatma Nabuwwat conference at the village around two months earlier which also caused tension between the two communities and the conference organisers had registered a complaint with the police station.

During Ramazan, a confrontation took place between the TLP and the Ahmadiyya community members over offering Tarawih prayers at their place of worship. In this context, Zulqarnain, a TLP activist, attempted to mediate between the two sides by inviting them to the house of one Amjad Nasser, another member of the party, on March 8.

Meanwhile, the FIA alleged that seven persons who were workers at the farm of Ahmadiyya community members entered the house of Amjad and gave him a severe beating and he died on the way to hospital. Police booked nine people, including two Ahmadis on whose farms the seven people were employed and launched investigations.

On the other hand, while requesting anonymity, a member of the Ahmadiyya community told Dawn that the FIR registered against them was fabricated and a conspiracy to suppress them. They claimed that no member of the community or the people working at their farmhouses whose names were in the FIR had either quarrelled with anyone or beat anybody.

Describing the TLP activist's death as natural, he stated that due to threats received by community members from the TLP activists over the last three days (before the death of the TLP activist) for offering prayers at their place of worship, police were deployed in the area and the people of the Ahmadiyya community were confined to their homes. However, despite knowing every detail, police registered a fake case against them at the behest of the TLP.

He alleged that the TLP activists were harassing them for several years but despite complaints, the administration seemed to be reluctant to take action. He stated that the community was performing their religious rites inside closed premises, which was not a crime. He said that booking them in a fake murder case for performing their rituals "was a violation of human rights and the country's Constitution, which allowed them to freely practice their faith".

He said that following the murder case, all members of the community were forced to leave the town and go into hiding for fear of being attacked by TLP activists and their lives were in danger.

Dawn received information from intelligence and police sources that the TLP activist's death was not a result of a fight between Ahmadiyya community and TLP members. They said the seven people who faced the charge of killing Amjad were members of the Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ) and there had been a confrontation between them and the TLP members a couple of days back.

Police spokesperson Zahid Rasool said the matter would be investigated on merit and that no innocent would be hurt.

No. F. SO (U)/VC-Apptt/GCU/2025 GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
UNIVERSITIES & BOARDS DEPARTMENT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHANCELLOR

The Government of Sindh invites applications from the renowned academician, accomplished and motivated academic leaders, dynamic professionals having managerial and financial leadership skills for the position of vice chancellor, Government College University, Hyderabad.

Eligibility Criteria

(i) The Vice Chancellor of the University shall be appointed by the Chief Minister on the recommendations of the Sindh Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Search Committee Act, 2022 (Sindh Act No. II of 2022), for a period of four years, which may be extended for one more additional term of four years, on such terms and conditions as the Chief Minister may determine, and shall possesses the professional or academic qualification, experience and age as follows:

i. an eminent academician and is qualified to be a full Professor, having Ph.D. from recognized HEC University / Institute in relevant field, minimum having 20 years' experience including 10 years administrative, financial, academic experience on the position(s) of Vice Chancellor / Rector / President / Pro Vice Chancellor / Dean / Chairman / Rector / Registrar / Principal in any University / Degree Awarding Institute / College OR BPS-17 & above or equivalent in Public Sector or reputable National / International Private Organization; or

ii. a cadre officer of BPS-21 or above, having Master's Degree from HEC recognized University or Institute; or

iii. the candidates having Masters degree preferably Ph.D. in the relevant field and having 15 years' experience in academia / intelligentsia or civil society, research or management leadership position and possess distinguished research and publication record (At least 10 publications in HEC recognized Journals).

- the candidate shall not be more than sixty-two (62) of age on the last date of applying for the post of Vice Chancellor."
- the cadre officer applying on the basis of his experience in civil service upon selection as Vice Chancellor will have to resign or seek retirement from his respective cadre service, as the case may be.

Responsibilities of Vice Chancellor:
- To promote quality education.
- To promote research and development projects.
- To establish National / International linkages within industrial and renowned institutions.
- To plan sustainable business model.
- Data gathering and analyses of various industrial sectors for research to be applied in policy making.

Job Skills: The incumbent shall have analytical and critical thinking skills, exceptional written, spoken and presentation skills. Strong ability to collect, differentiate and analyze quantitative and qualitative data as well as understanding on financial matters and budget mechanism.

General Conditions:
- No TA / DA will be admissible for interview.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews.
- Government reserves the right to cancel the process of recruitment for Positions at any stage.
- Interested candidates who meet the above criteria are encouraged to apply in confidence by clearly mention the position applied for on the envelope and send their detailed CVs along with one recent photograph, attested copies of testimonials within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement at the address given below.

Download the application (Form) from Universities & Boards Website https://universitiesandboards.sindh.gov.pk/jobs and submit it with supporting documents to the Secretary Universities & Boards Department at 7th Floor,(Pakistan Re-insurance Company Ltd. PRC Tower) Near PNSC Building, Karachi, Mohi Tamizuddin Khan Road, Karachi.

(MUHAMMAD ABBAS BALOCH) SECRETARY
UNIVERSITIES AND BOARDS DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
UNIVERSITIES & BOARDS DEPARTMENT
No. F. SO(U)/VC-Apptt/SAU-Shikarpur/2025

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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The Government of Sindh invites applications from the renowned academician, accomplished and motivated academic leaders, dynamic professionals having managerial and financial leadership skills for the position Vice chancellor, Shaikh Ayaz University, Shikarpur.

Eligibility Criteria

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DAWN

President's address splits lawmakers along party lines

PTI's Gohar says Zardari did not even interact with them before address; treasury members term opposition's attitude 'unfortunate'

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: Lawmakers were split along party lines after the address by President Asif Ali Zardari to a joint session of parliament, with opposition leaders claiming that the speech did not reflect his stature as the head of the state, while treasury members described the opposition party's sloganeering during the speech as 'unfortunate'.

National Assembly Opposition Leader Omar Ayub alleged that the president did not say a 'single positive thing' in his speech and claimed that President Zardari was selling the water of Sindh. The PTI leader was referring to a government plan to build canals in Cholistan despite PPP's reluctance.

"The fact is that the prices have increased compared to the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government. Exports have been reduced and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has failed to deliver," he claimed.

PTI interim chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that the speech "did not look like a speech of a person who was the head of the state". He said the president did not bother interacting with the opposition lawmakers before his address and it did not behove him as the state head.

"Senator Ejaz Chaudhry and MNA Mian Ghaus were not produced even in joint session," the PTI leader said. Senator Shibli Faraz, meanwhile, said that the house was incomplete and its legislation did not carry 'legal sanctity'.

The government lawmakers, however, appreciated the address and called out the PTI for its unruly behaviour.

PML-N leader Pervaiz Rashid said that it looked like the PTI was protesting against parliament.

"Parliament has not punished Imran Khan. Even if parliament passes a resolution in favour of Imran Khan, only the judiciary can provide him relief," he said about the incarceration of the PTI founder in the Adiala jail.

PML-N minister Tallal Chaudhry suggested that the PTI should focus on peace rather than protests. "It is the responsibility of the provinces to maintain peace and ensure law and order situation in the provinces. Punjab has maintained peace, but Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has badly failed. Even the Counter Terrorism Department of KP is in a rented building," he claimed.

PML-N leader Dr Zulfiqar Bhatti said that the opposition should not have protested against the president of Pakistan. "President Zardari talked about the property of Pakistan and it should be appreciated," he said.

PPP leader Aalia Raffullah said the PTI protest during the address was unfortunate. "They should have listened to the speech of the president and then given the response," he said.

PTI legislator Shandana Gulzar said that during the session, the PTI asked in the house why bullets were fired on its supporters at D-Chowk. "The country has been suffering because of the policies of the incumbent government," she said.

Senator Humayun Mohmand said that those who took the 'wrong route' to come to power, even their good policies, will be considered wrong.

Meanwhile, MNA Zartaj Gul mentioned the absence of the army chief from the joint address, saying President Zardari should be asked why Gen Asim Munir did not attend the gathering. She said that the PTI was ready to launch a movement against the government and hoped that it would kick off after Eid.

(CLOCKWISE from top) President Asif Ali Zardari addresses a joint session of parliament; PTI leaders Omar Ayub, Shibli Faraz and Barrister Gohar Ali Khan address a presser; and, PM Shehbaz Sharif greets PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari in parliament.—White Star

Straining to hear Zardari speak, govt members 'ignore' PTI din

Although present in the house, Achakzai and JUI-F members did not join PTI's noisy protest

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: The opposition on Monday — in keeping with tradition — did its best to drown out President Asif Ali Zardari's address to a joint sitting of parliament on Monday.

While television broadcasts of the speech kept the cameras pointed at the dignitaries on the dais or the treasury benches, the noisy protests and slogans could be heard during the president's speech.

In the National Assembly chamber, members of the PTI kept booing, shouting, desk-thumping and chanting slogans throughout the address. Many were holding posters of PTI's jailed founder Imran Khan.

The PTI members' din was so loud that it compelled government members — including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose seat is right next to the opposition front bench — to use headphones to hear President Zardari speak.

Leader of the Opposition Omar Ayub, who was sitting across the aisle from the prime minister, kept on banging his desk with a book throughout the speech.

With the treasury members straining to concentrate on his words, no one really reacted to the noisy protest by the opposition.

The occasion also offered a chance for leading state functionaries to interact. More than half of the members of both houses of parliament were present in the session, which was jointly presided by President Zardari, National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq and Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gilani.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwaarul Haq were also in attendance, alongside a whole host of foreign diplomats.

CM Maryam, seated in the visitors gallery that faces the opposition benches, seemed to become a target for their verbal attacks. Indeed, opposition lawmakers spared no chance to provoke her through their sloganeering.

But this didn't seem to faze the Punjab CM, who was busy greeting the men and women who came to her seat to pay their regards.

Despite the shouting by opposition members, President Zardari remained steadfast and continued to deliver his speech till the end.

Although Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai and members of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) were also seated on the opposition benches, they did not join the PTI's protest.

PTI dissident and former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) chief minister Pervaiz Khattak, who recently became an adviser to the prime minister, seemed unwelcome among ruling party members, as he was seen sitting on quite far away from the frontline PML-N leadership.

Before the start of the presidential address, PM Shehbaz Sharif went over to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari to shake hands, and also paid his regards to Bilawal's younger sister, Aseefa, who was seated nearby.

Security arrangements for the address were quite strict, and a large number of sergeants-at-arms manned the entrances to the NA hall, ready to tackle any untoward situation.

Court stays arrest warrants for PTI secretary general

- Nine PTI workers granted bail in Nov 26 protest case
- ATC extends MPA's physical remand for another day

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) suspended the arrest warrant for PTI Secretary General Barrister Salman Akram Raja on Monday and sought a response on his petition from relevant parties within two weeks.

The petition, submitted with certain objections from registrar's office, was taken up for hearing by the IHC division bench comprising acting chief justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Mohammad Asif.

When the PTI leader appeared before the bench to plead his case, Justice Dogar inquired about the allegations against him. Barrister Raja responded that he was accused of being involved in an attack on a police station. With a smile on his face, the acting chief justice remarked, "So you should not do such a thing. Then, you know, it is said about you that you talk a lot."

Mr Raja expressed surprise over the issuance of arrest warrant for him despite his regular court appearances. He cited SC's ruling in Sughra Bibi case as a precedent, arguing that issuance of non-bailable arrest warrant was "unwarranted".

The court noted the seriousness of the matter and assured that the objection from the registrar's office would be removed, scheduling the next hearing for Wednesday upon the petitioner's request.

Highlighting irregularities in the case, Barrister Raja argued that an FIR had been registered against 100 individuals, whose whereabouts remained unknown. Despite this, the authorities were actively investigating and issuing warrants.

Following the initial arguments, the court suspended the arrest warrant and issued notices to the relevant parties.

Earlier during the hearing, the court inquired about the deputy attorney general's presence before the bench. Later, when Assistant Attorney General Usman Ghuman appeared before the bench, Justice Dogar emphasised that the court order must be implemented.

The hearing was subsequently adjourned for two weeks, with directions for all parties to submit their responses within the given time frame.

Bail granted

Separately, the court of judicial magistrate Ahmed Shehzad Gondal granted bail to nine PTI workers, who were arrested in connection with the Nov 26 protest, on a set of bail applications.

At the hearing, the counsel for the petitioners argued that the high court had already granted bail to other accused individuals in the same case. Citing Article 201 of the Constitution, he asserted that the court was legally bound to grant bail under similar circumstances. None of the accused were arrested at the scene, he claimed, adding that they should be released forthwith as the police no longer required their custody for investigation.

Police get MPA's custody

On the other hand, an ATC extended physical remand of a PTI member of the provincial assembly, elected from Swat, for another day in the Sangjani jalsa case.

MPA Ali Shah was produced before judge Ahsal Hasanat Muhammad Zulqernain, after the expiry of his two-day physical remand. The judge granted the request of the prosecution that sought an extension in custody for further investigation.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly lawmaker faces terrorism charges in a case registered at the Sangjani police station. The ATC directed the police to produce the MPA on Tuesday. In a separate case, registered at Islamabad's Kohsar police station, the court granted him bail against a surety bond of Rs5,000 after reviewing arguments from both sides.

Pildat suggests reactivating NSC role as premier civil-military forum

Think tank points out the committee has not met for a year

By Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (Pildat) has called for reactivating and enhancing the role of National Security Committee (NSC) as a premier civil-military forum on security policy deliberations. The annual performance evaluation of the National Security Committee (NSC) conducted by Pildat for the time frame from March 5, 2024, to March 4, 2025, highlights a disturbing trend in Pakistan's governance structure.

The NSC, which was established in 2013 as the primary forum for national security decision making, did not convene a single meeting during the entire year. The 2024-25, therefore, became the first year since the formation of the NSC when the committee did not meet even once.

While the federal cabinet regularly meets, there is no indication either that the Cabinet Committee on Defence which provided such a forum before the creation of NSC, has been re-operationalised.

Historically, the NSC served as the country's principal platform for civil-military consultations on security affairs. The committee's effectiveness has varied under different administrations, with some governments convening regular meetings and others ignoring its role.

Former PM Nawaz Sharif, during his tenure from 2013-17, convened eight NSC meetings, while Shahid Khaqan Abbasi (during his tenure of August 2017-May 2018) significantly increased the frequency, averaging nearly 19 meetings per year.

Imran Khan, former prime minister (2018-22), averaged approximately three NSC meetings annually, whereas Shehbaz Sharif, in his previous tenure from 2022 to 2023, convened an average of five meetings per year.

However, in the past year (2024) of the current PML-N-led coalition government, which took office in March 2024, the NSC has not met a single time. The absence of NSC meetings is also reflected in the government's responses to security incidents.

Instead of convening the NSC, the government seems to have relied on military-led forums such as the Corps Commanders Conference and the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan. This has further sidelined the NSC's role in structured policymaking.

Pildat observed that Pakistan's lack of an institutionalised national security approach weakens democratic oversight and limits the country's ability to respond effectively to security threats through structured consultations.

It noted that neglect of the NSC and the rise of non-traditional forums may lead to a lack of coordination and coherence in national security policymaking and this, in turn, can exacerbate existing security challenges and create new ones.

Sania Nishtar's Senate seat finally declared vacant

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Senate seat of former special assistant to the prime minister on poverty alleviation and social safety, Dr Sania Nishtar, was finally declared vacant after an inordinate delay of over five months.

Senator Dr Sania Nishtar has resigned from her seat by writing under her hand addressed to the Chairman of Senate. Consequently, her seat has become vacant in terms of Clause 1 of Article 64 of the Constitution with effect from March 10, a notification issued by the Senate Secretariat says.

The notification was issued two days after Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Syed Shibli Faraz, raised the issue of the delay in accepting Dr Nishtar's resignation during the House proceedings.

As he congratulated Asad Qaiser on becoming Senator on a seat vacated by his father Qasim Roonjha, Mr Faraz said that Roonjha's resignation had instantly been accepted and schedule to fill the vacancy was immediately announced.

"Perhaps, we are the children of a lesser God," he remarked, recalling that the resignation of PTI Senator Dr Sania Nishtar submitted on Sept 18 last year is yet to be accepted.

A copy of the notification besides others has also been sent to Chief Election Commissioner for taking steps to fill the vacancy. Dr Nishtar had submitted her resignation after joining a Geneva-based international organisation.

She served as a special assistant to PM from May 2019 to April 2022, enjoying the status of a federal minister. During the time, she also retained the chairperson of Ehsaas programme, the flagship social safety net and poverty alleviation programme of the PTI government.

She was elected to Senate from KP in the 2021 Senate elections. Dr Nishtar is the chief executive officer (CEO) of Gavi, a vaccine alliance. She is an internationally acclaimed public health and development expert having a degree in medicine.

PM seeks greater outreach for Rs20bn Ramazan package

Only 22pc beneficiaries withdraw relief funds

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the relevant ministries, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and private sector partners to resume the ongoing awareness campaign for the Rs20 billion Ramazan Relief Package, aiming to increase outreach and bridge the gap between disbursement and withdrawals.

The prime minister, during his visit to the National Telecommunication Corporation headquarters to monitor the execution of the programme, was told that the around 2.8 million entitled accounts had been credited with Rs5,000 each and 683,000 of those had withdrawn the amount.

"As 94pc of accounts had been established, the withdrawal ratio is just 22pc. There is a big gap between disbursement and withdrawal, which shows a lack of awareness among the people," the prime minister remarked and asked the SBP governor to join the campaign to benefit as many people as possible from the programme.

He appreciated the relevant ministries and partners for the construction and execution of this "comprehensive and wonderful" programme and for accepting the challenge of supporting the entitled deserving people during the holy month of Ramazan.

"This was a new concept to say goodbye to the Utility Stores forever due to the massive complaints of 'worst' corruption of public money, which was also an injustice to the common man. The issues of poor quality and corruption have been dealt with through a new modern digital wallet," he said.

The prime minister said that four million families comprising over 20m people from across the country would benefit from the programme which was the first ever such initiative by the government to disburse the cash amount through a transparent mechanism without any issues of quality or transparency.

The provision of Rs5,000 to each family would enable the beneficiary family to purchase the commodities of their own choice, he added.

He said a validation system was a central component of the programme, immediately correcting any mistake.

PM Shehbaz also urged the people to call the programme helpline 9999 to get their financial support without delay.

The prime minister also called the helpline and asked the call agent about the functioning of the programme and any issues being faced during the process.

He said that as the ongoing Ramazan Package was the first such facility, the private partners should suggest ways to expand the cash disbursal mechanism to a maximum level.

During the briefing, the prime minister was given an overview of the live monitoring system. It was told that over 60 people were serving at the call centre.

IT Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that since the launch of the programme, 680,000 calls had been received, of which 522,000 were addressed through an automated system of IVR and the rest 90,000 by call agents.

It was told that 94pc accounts had been established while Rs1.6bn had already been credited to beneficiaries' accounts and 683,000 beneficiaries have withdrawn the amount. Besides, a track-and-trace system was in place to undo any wrong transaction without any delay.—APP

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

Scuffle breaks out at IGP office

ISLAMABAD: A senior police officer and an official engaged in physical confrontation on the premises of the Centre Police Office, which houses the offices of the Islamabad police chief and the DIG Headquarters.

Police officials told Dawn the quarrel started after an assistant inspector general (AIG) slapped his subordinate, an assistant sub-inspector, in his office. Officials claimed that the AIG had summoned the ASI to his office and allegedly verbally abused him despite the latter's request not to use expletives.

However, the ASI lost his cool and responded to his superior officer in the same tone, prompting the AIG to slap the junior official. The ASI hit back, leading to a scuffle inside the office. During the altercation, the AIG also lost his glasses. After hearing the commotion, the staff present inside the building rushed to the AIG office to break up the fight.

After the scuffle came to the notice of the police chief, the IGP ordered an inquiry to investigate the incident. IGP Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said he ordered a high-powered inquiry into the incident. The committee will include DIG Headquarters, the Islamabad Safe City's director general, and the AIG Legal. The inquiry will establish who started the physical confrontation and what was the reason that led to it.

Police insiders claimed that many senior and supervisory officers are used to humiliating their subordinates, and such incidents are hardly surprising.

In December 2022, a physical confrontation also occurred between a senior superintendent of police working as an AIG with the capital police and personnel of Eagle Squad when the on-duty personnel intercepted and stopped a vehicle on suspicion. After the vehicle was pulled over, a man disembarked, reportedly under the influence of alcohol at that time, and started misbehaving with the police officials. He introduced himself as a senior police officer, but when the Eagle Squad officials asked him to show his identification, the officer got into a physical altercation. The two personnel, however, beat him up.

Eventually, he was rescued by the DIG and SSP operations who arrived at the scene after a phone call. The Eagle officials were subsequently booked in a misconduct case at the Shalimar police station and imprisoned. However, they were discharged by Judicial Magistrate Fiflat Mahmood Khan due to lack of evidence. — Munawar Azeem

SC recognises women's role in rule of law, access to justice

Chief justice says increasing presence of women in judiciary shows gender equity and progressive, liberal democracy in Pakistan

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi on Monday said his institution recognises and rejoices the invaluable contributions made by women in law in general and women judges in particular in upholding the rule of law and ensuring access to justice.

In a statement in connection with the International Women's Day, he said the increasing presence of women in the judicial profession marks not only gender equity but also exhibits that Pakistan was a progressive and liberal democracy acknowledging the potential of its citizens and endeavouring to harness the potential.

It strengthens public confidence in the legal system and fosters meaningful inclusivity, fairness and a broader perspective in decision making.

Their resilience, integrity, and dedication to justice have not only enriched our jurisprudence but have also set inspiring precedents for future generations, the statement said.

"As we mark this occasion, we proudly acknowledge the progress made in promoting gender equality within the justice sector while energising us to do still more.

The judiciary remains steadfast in its resolve to create an enabling environment where women legal professionals can thrive, contribute, and lead without barriers.

"Let us continue to work towards a justice system that reflects diversity and strength of our society, ensuring that access to justice is not just a promise but a stark reality for all," the CJP said.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Monday signed MoUs with the Lahore University of Management Sciences (Luma) and Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI) to enhance judicial efficiency, transparency and technological advancement.

The MoUs were signed by SC Registrar Mohammad Salim Khan, Professor Dr Tariq Jadoon on behalf of Luma and Professor Dr Mohammad Hanif from GIKI in the presence the CJP at the Supreme Court.

This collaboration aims to develop a litigant-feedback scorecard to assess public satisfaction with court services and improve transparency. It also focuses on enhancing citizen engagement by adopting modern communication tools, ensuring greater accessibility for litigants and the general public.

The MoUs will also strengthen IT capacity within SC through specialised training programmes in collaboration with the Federal Judicial Academy, covering key areas such as Agile methodology, cybersecurity, data analytics and emerging technologies.

A comprehensive assessment will identify existing skill gaps and targeted training programmes will equip SCP's IT team to handle new technologies and infrastructure effectively.

Additionally, the partnership will establish a central repository of IT best practices, troubleshooting guides and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to streamline digital operations within the SCP.

Annual perception surveys will be conducted to evaluate public and stakeholder views on judicial efficiency and transparency with the findings serving as a foundation for judicial reforms.

The MoUs also include provisions for SCP to receive expert support in strategic hiring, including job announcements, shortlisting, and candidate evaluation to ensure the appointment of top-tier professionals.

Speaking on the occasion, the CJP emphasised the significance of the collaboration in modernising the judicial system and stated, "This partnership with Luma and GIKI marks a pivotal step toward integrating technology-driven solutions for an efficient, transparent and people-centric judiciary."

Professor Jadoon and Professor Hanif reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the apex court in the transformative journey, highlighting the importance of academic collaboration in advancing judicial processes and governance.

The MoUs will remain in effect until 2027 with the possibility of extension based on mutual agreement.

Meanwhile, a delegation comprising representatives from the High Court Bar Associations of Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur, along with the District Bar Association Sargodha met the CJP who emphasised the indispensable role of the bar in the judicial system.

He reiterated that the dispensation of justice was a collaborative effort, requiring the cooperation of the legal fraternity. He assured the delegation that legal practitioners had been actively engaged in decision-making processes, including representation on a provincial basis in the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan. Additionally, a dedicated slot has been allocated for bar councils to contribute their insights and expertise.

Nadra launches Pakistan's first dematerialised ID card

By Ittikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: The National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) on Monday launched Pakistan's first dematerialised ID card as it commemorated 25 years of excellence in legal identity management and national database integration.

The national identity document will now be integrated as a feature into the Pak ID mobile application, which means that citizens will no longer need to carry physical ID cards.

Moreover, digital verification systems will soon be implemented to facilitate authentication for various services under the World Bank-funded Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP).

A pilot project for this fully digital identity will be launched on August 14, 2025.

A ceremony was held at the Nadra headquarters to mark the silver jubilee of the authority.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent congratulatory messages, appreciating Nadra's remarkable achievements.

A commemorative coin issued by the State Bank of Pakistan and a special postage stamp by Pakistan Post were unveiled to mark the historic milestone.

President Zardari lauded the authority's role in providing a legal and unique identity to citizens, reinforcing the social contract between the state and its people while transforming public service delivery.

He urged Nadra to accelerate its efforts to utilise emerging technologies to improve efficiency and uphold the highest standards of integrity, accessibility and citizen satisfaction.

Prime Minister Sharif recognised Nadra's pivotal role in empowering citizens.

He highlighted its global standing in serving the third-largest demographic segment in the world.

Acknowledging its achievements in data integration and AI modelling, the prime minister underscored the significance of digital solutions in driving economic growth and promoting inclusivity.

Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi commended the launch of the dematerialised ID as a step towards digital identity.

In his message, he highlighted Nadra's extensive network, ensuring identity services are available even in the remotest areas of Pakistan as well as for overseas Pakistanis.

He also acknowledged Nadra's crucial contributions to governance and law enforcement, reinforcing national security and public administration.

Nadra's founding chairman retired Maj Gen Zahid Ehsan was the chief guest at the silver jubilee ceremony.

In his address, he shared a brief reflection on the organisation's early days, highlighting its rapid progress in achieving the vision it was founded upon.

He said the institution continues to set new milestones in its development, demonstrating its commitment to innovation and excellence.

Previous chairmen, board members, special secretary interior, chief statistician (PBS), DG immigration and passport and Nadra officials also attended the ceremony.

The event also featured the screening of a documentary film and a book launch chronicling Nadra's 25-year journey.

IBA 75

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

Tender Title (Ref. No.)	Procedure	Tender Fee	Bid Security
a. [illegible]	Single Stage One Envelope	Rs. [illegible]	2%
b. [illegible]		Rs. [illegible]	

REGISTRAR

TENDER NOTICE-CORRIGENDUM

with reference to advertisement published in daily newspapers vide **AB No. 855/21-03-2025 some changes have been made.** The Pak Oman Hospital Invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. **TSE-24250265691 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Prpurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of SPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Not required**

S.No.	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Medicine & related items (Total Items Count: 419)	2%

Changed Area

S.No	Step-Name	Remarks
1	Data Sheet	Specification
2.	Special Condition Of Contract	Special Conditions
3	Case Schedule	By Default

Note: The Remaining Terms & Conditions shall Remain Same.

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bpprs.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bpprs.gob.pk. **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 12 March, 2025 till 12:30 PM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:30 PM on EPPS System. The bidders who have downloaded Bidding Document(s) before 05 March, 2025 are required to download the amended Bidding Document(s). The Other terms and conditions shall remain same. Address: Pak Oman Hospital Airport Road Pasni Phone no: 3317303672 Email: hospitalpakoman@gmail.com

Chief Executive Officer
Pak Oman Hospital

AB No.851/10-3-2025

THE ANTI TERRORISM COURT I, SUKKUR
SPECIAL CASE NO. 05/2025

The State
VERSUS
Zahid & others

U/S: 365-A, 506/2, 452-PPC&17/AEA, 1 997
FIR. No. 154 /2024, PS . Site Area, Sukkur.

WHEREAS, accused namely
01. Abdul Hameed S/o Ali Sher Shaikh,
02. Habibullah S/o Ali Dost Shaikh,
03. Arsalan Ahmed S/o Muhammad Yasseen Shaikh,

All R/o Bakhai Shah Marri, Sukkur are committed the above mentioned offence Non-bailable warrants has been issued by this Court for the arrest of above named accused, which has returned un-served with the report of police that the accused have absconded or concealed themselves to avoid their arrest.

Now therefore proclamation U/S. 87 Cr.P.C R/W section 19(10) of AEA, is issued requiring the appearance of above named accused to appear before this Court on 26.03.2025, Anti Terrorism Court Sukkur located near Government Girls College Minara Road Sukkur, failing which the case will be proceeded in their absence according to law.

Given under my hand and seal this Court.

this the 05th day of March, 2025.

JUDGE
ANTI TERRORISM COURT-I,
SUKKUR

INF-KPIV-921/25

MILITARY LANDS & CANTONMENTS DEPTT
HYDERABAD CANTONMENT BOARD
Tele: 022-9200905 Fax No.022-9200904
Salahuddin Road Saddar, Hyderabad Cantt.

Dated the 7 March, 2025

HIRING OF CONSULTANT/ARCHITECT SERVICES

Cantonment Board Hyderabad a body corporate having perpetual succession and common seal intends to invite company profiles alongwith technical and financial proposals from qualified and reputed Consultant/Architect Firm with minimum 10 years experience and duly registered with PCATP/PEC for hiring as consultant for the following specified job category under PPRA Rule 36 (b) (Single Stage Two Envelope) so as to reach the undersigned on or before 27th March 2025 at 11:00 am alongwith a non-refundable free of Rs. 10,000/- in form of DD/PO in the name of the undersigned. Profiles alongwith technical proposal will be opened on 27 March 2025 at 11:30 am in the presence of Consultant/Architects or their authorized Reps.

Job Category:

Hiring or consultancy services for preparation of proposal(s) regarding development of Modern Shopping Center alongwith drawings/designs and layout plan keeping in view optimum utilization of land and based on market research in respect of the land measuring 3.94 Acres comprising existing office building, Cantt House, CB Staff Colony and CB Workshop located in Svy No.63/A and Svy No.63-B-1 Salahuddin Road Hyderabad Cantt.

The following documents must be attached with the application.

a) Preliminary design/proposal for the "Optimum utilization of land comprising existing office building, Cantt House, CB Staff Colony and CB Workshop located in Svy No.63/A and Svy No.63-B-1 Salahuddin Road Hyderabad Cantt"
b) Company's Profile including CNICS.
c) Valid Registration Certificate of PCATP and PEC.
d) List of Permanent Staff.
e) List of equipment, Tools and IT gadgetries.
f) List of projects completed during the last ten years (TP, Architecture, Infrastructure).
g) List of projects presently in-hand.
h) To sumi financial stability certificate issued by concerned Bank.
i) Tax Registrations with relevant authorities.
j) Affidavit that the firm is not black listed by any public or private firm ever.
k) To submit copy of Bank Certificate issued by relevant Bank.

Job description, TORs and Financial Proposal Forms are obtainable form Office of Cantonment Board Hyderabad on or before 26th March 2025.

Note:-2% of Bid security of the financial bid should be attached with financial proposal.

The Cantonment Board Hyderabad reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all applications (as per PPRA Rules). This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk & CBH website at hyderabad.cantonment.gov.pk, for queries and details please contact the office of Cantonment Board Hyderabad.

PID(DH) 528/2024

--SD--
Executive Officer
Hyderabad Cantt

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR
LIVESTOCK / ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD

TENDER NOTICE
(EPADS)

The Deputy Director Livestock / Animal Husbandry Shaheed Benazirabad under District ADP 2024-25 of Shaheed Benazirabad invites sealed bids, under District Development Schemes of Budgetary provisions during the current financial year 2024-2025 for supply of Furniture & Fixture and Equipment's for Veterinary Center at Village Mehedzoor, Taluka Sakrand, District Shaheed Benazirabad, Veterinary Center at Village Raja Khan Mari Taluka Kazi Ahmad District Shaheed Benazirabad, Veterinary Center at Village Ghulam Rasool Mari UC Mirza Bagh Taluka Kazi Ahmad District Shaheed Benazirabad, Veterinary Center at Village Zawar Babu Khan Zardari, UC Murad Khan Zardari, Taluka Nawabshah, District Shaheed Benazirabad and Veterinary Center at Village Shahid Khan Jamali, UC Kunri Jamali Taluka Sakrand District Shaheed Benazirabad.

2. The quantities and specifications are more specially described in section II of bidding documents.
3. The bidders may obtain the bidding documents, detailed specification & any further information from Online EPADS website https://portalsindh.eprocure.gov.pk at office of the Deputy Director Livestock / Animal Husbandry Shaheed Benazirabad, on payment of amount mentioned below (Non-refundable) in the shape of **pay order/ bank draft in favor of Deputy Director Livestock / Animal Husbandry Shaheed Benazirabad** from the date of publication up to 07-04-2025 up to 5.00 pm.

Note:
1. Tender bids must be submitted electronically through EPADS, any clause in the tender document asking for manual submission must be replaced and read as "through EPADS".
2. Please attach a copy of Bid Security in proposal through EPADS and original Bid Security must be handover to the office before the opening.
3. Only the Bid Security 2.0% Pay Order in favor of Deputy Director Livestock / Animal Husbandry Shaheed Benazirabad is to be sent in original on/before the bid date & time for electronic bid submission through EPADS.
4. Copy of **Pay order/ bank draft** will be uploaded in the above mentioned website and original will be submitted at mentioned office address.
5. In accordance with the established protocols, if a bid is not reflected in the bid opening list in EPADS, it shall be deemed and treated as a "bid not submitted". Therefore, all participants are advised to verify the inclusion of their submissions in the bid opening list to avoid any misinterpretations regarding their bid status.

S.#	DESCRIPTION	TENDER No.	Bid Security Rs	Tender Fee (Non-refundable)
1	Purchase of Furniture & Fixture and Equipment	No IDOL/SAH/AC/ Tender-2024-25/1	2 %	Rs. 500/-

Method of Procurement (Single Stage, One Envelope procedure)
Submission & opening

	Date	Time	Venue
Submission	04-04-2025	12:00 Noon	of the Deputy Director Livestock / Animal Husbandry Shaheed Benazirabad
Opening	04-04-2025	12:30 PM	

Eligibility:
- Bidders must have registration with the all tax authorities.
- Bids should be attached with Bank Draft/ Pay Order of 2.0% as a bid security.
- In accordance with the established protocols, if a bid is not reflected in the bid opening list in EPADS, it shall be deemed and treated as a "bid not submitted".
- Priority will be given to firms having relevant experience.
- Bid must be quoted in Pak Rupees.
- Bid must be supported with relevant literature.
- Complete all mandatory documents mentioned in tender document.

Terms & Conditions
(a) Under following conditions bid will be rejected:-
(b) Bids not accompanied by bid security of required amount and form.
(c) Bids received after specified date and time.
(d) Black listed firms.
(e) **Bid validity Period:** - (90 days Extendable as per SPPRA rules 2010(amended)
The procurement agency will not be responsible for any cost or expenses in connection with the delivery & transportation to the destination.
The purchase will be made as per provision of the SPPRA Rule (as amended) the procurement agency reserves the right to reject all or any bid subject to the relevant provisions of SPPRA rules 2010 (as amended).
For further queries, detailed information can be obtained from Deputy Director Livestock / Animal Husbandry Shaheed Benazirabad and also submit application in Clarification section of the EPADS website.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Livestock / Animal Husbandry
Shaheed Benazirabad.

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Two Balochistan highways open for traffic after a week

Kalat, Mastung administrations hold successful negotiations with BNP-M, other protesters

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Traffic on two key highways connecting Balochistan's capital with Sindh and Iran was finally restored on Monday after successful talks between the authorities and protesters, leading to end of weeklong road blockades.

Traffic on Quetta-Karachi RCD Highway, Quetta-Taftan Highway (in Mastung), Karachi-Panjgur Highway, and Quetta-Sibi Highway had been blocked by protesters or authorities for past several days, primarily for security reasons.

On the RCD Highway, workers and supporters of Balochistan National Party (Mengal) had been holding protests over the issue of enforced disappearances and the registration of a case against over 1,100 party leaders and members, including the son of party president Sardar Akhtar Mengal, at the Wadh police station.

Kalat Commissioner Naseem Bazi led the negotiations from government side with BNP-M president and other leaders in Wadh, the native town of Sardar Mengal. Officials of the Khuzdar administration, including Deputy Commissioner Yasir Iqbal Dashti, and other BNP leaders were also present during the talks that continued till late hours of Sunday night.

After successful negotiations, Sardar Akhtar Mengal agreed to end the blocking of Quetta-Karachi highway in the Wadh area and removed barricades and other hurdles to facilitate commuters and transporters to resume their suspended journeys.

Officials said that the Kalat commissioner played an important role in convincing the BNP leadership to end Quetta-Karachi highway blockade and assured him that the issue of FIR registration would be resolved amicably.

The RCD highway had been blocked at three points in the Wadh area — Wheer, Wadh city, and Darakhala — by BNP leaders and traders against the registration of cases.

While the party decided to call off the sit-in and remove barricades from roads, BNP leadership said their protest would continue at the Wadh police station. Subsequently, the BNP-M president, along with his son and hundreds of party workers and supporters, kept sitting at the police station to court arrest.

Meanwhile, traffic between Quetta and Karachi was fully restored as hundreds of trucks, buses and private vehicles that remained stuck for many days resumed their journey.

While relatives of some missing persons also had blocked the highway near Kalat, the district administration, before negotiating with Sardar Akhtar Mengal, successfully managed to get the highway reopened after weeklong closure.

Also, the Mastung administration held talks with the protesters who had placed barricades on the Quetta-Taftan highway at Kirdgab to press the authorities for safe recovery of missing persons, causing suspension of trade with Iran for past nine days.

Similarly, relatives of one, Agil Baloch, who went missing, have been holding a sit-in on the Panjgur-Karachi Highway for the past two days to press the authorities for his safe recovery.

On the other hand, the Quetta-Sibi Highway was closed in the Bolan area owing to security concerns. However, the administration did not provide any update on its reopening.

The prolonged blockade of highways mainly in the Bolan area led to the shortage of essential food supplies, besides causing difficulties to travellers, thus creating a crisis-like situation in some areas during the holy month of Ramazan.

Public frustration has been growing over the past two months due to frequent road blockades.

Many citizens complained they had failed to get justice or solutions from the government to their grievances after which they resorted to protests by blocking roads and highways. In response, the government repeatedly imposed Section 144 to prevent such demonstrations, but enforcement has been ineffective.

Despite the worsening situation, the government officials issued statements but remained unable to ensure durable peace.

Even after multiple transfers of administrative officers by the Balochistan chief minister, the situation has largely remained unchanged.

Two commodores promoted to rear admiral rank

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Commodores Kamran Ahmed and Kashif Munir were promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral on Monday.

Kamran Ahmed was commissioned in the Construction Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1993. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore, and National Defence University, Islamabad. He has also done Masters in Naval Architecture from the United Kingdom.

Mr Ahmed has an illustrious career covering a vast experience of various command and staff appointments, including Commandant Pakistan Navy Engineering College, Chief Naval Overseer (Pakistan) Hangor project, Deputy General Manager (Ship Design) at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works, Manager Hull Engineering at PN Dockyard, Director Naval Construction and Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Projects) at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.

Kashif Munir was commissioned in Marine Engineering Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1993. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore, and National Defence University, Islamabad.

Mr Munir has an illustrious career covering a vast experience of various command and staff appointments, including Commandant PNS Karsaz, Marine Engineering Officer Ex-PNS Shahjahan, Manager (Marine Engineering) at PN Dockyard, Director Ships Maintenance and Repair at Naval Headquarters, Chief Inspector of Naval Stores, Chief Staff Officer to Commander Logistics and Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Maintenance) at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.

In recognition of their meritorious services, both the flag officers have been awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military).

PCB accuses ICC of sidelining it from Champions Trophy

Continued from Page 1

being played in the Gaddafi Stadium ahead of the Australia-England game.

"The ICC's repeated blunders, double standards, and selective governance have cast serious doubts over its credibility," the PCB spokesperson said. "By sidelining the host nation at its own tournament, the governing body has once again shown a troubling lack of neutrality and fairness.

"We have demanded a full public clarification and an assurance that such biased and unjust treatment will not happen again.

"The PCB expects professionalism, transparency, and equal representation from cricket's governing body.

"The PCB has made its stance clear: This is not just about a presentation ceremony — it is about respect, integrity, and the fundamental principles of fair governance in international cricket.

"The world is watching. Will the ICC finally uphold professionalism, or will it continue to cater to selective interests at the cost of cricket's global integrity?"

India played all their matches in Dubai — with hosts Pakistan forced to compromise a semi-final and the final — following the Indian government's refusal to let its team travel across the border citing security concerns.

The decision led to scheduling problems while also allowing India to have one base while other teams had to adjust their travel itineraries accordingly.

SBP surprises market by holding policy rate at 12pc

Continued from Page 1

that economic activity is gaining further traction, the SBP said.

"The drag in LSM growth is mainly coming from a few low-weight sub-sectors, which have more than offset the positive momentum in key sub-sectors like textiles, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and POL," it added.

"At the same time, in the agriculture sector, the latest information, including satellite imagery, indicates subsiding of downside risks to Rabi crops after the recent rainfalls. The MPC expects economic growth to recover in 1Q-2FY25 (the second half of the ongoing fiscal year) on the back of easing financial conditions," it said.

Led by a broad-based acceleration in imports, the current account turned into a deficit in January 2025, shrinking the cumulative surplus to $700m during July-January FY25. The MPC assessed that these developments are broadly in line with its expectations and reaffirmed the FY25 current account balance projection of a surplus and a deficit of 0.5pc of GDP.

At the same time, the MPC noted that the majority of debt repayments for the year have already been made. With lower debt repayments and the expected realisation of planned official inflows in the remaining months of FY25, the SBP's foreign exchange reserves are likely to reach above $13bn by June 2025.

Fiscal sector

The fiscal accounts for the first half of FY25 indicate an improvement in both the overall and primary balance relative to last year. "This was on the back of a sizable rise in revenues, particularly non-tax revenues, as well as contained expenditures, mainly subsidies," the SBP said. However, it said that meeting the target for primary balance would be challenging.

Money and credit

The MPC said that private sector credit growth, at 9.4pc, is still significant, reflecting the impact of the ease in financial conditions and ongoing economic recovery.

Inflation

The steep fall in prices of perishable food items reinforced the impact of sufficient stocks of major non-perishable items on overall food prices. Similarly, energy prices continued to benefit from the moderation in global oil prices, stable exchange rate and favourable base effect.

"However, core inflation is still at an elevated level and is proving stickier than anticipated," it said.

The committee assessed inflation to come down further before gradually inching up and stabilising within the target range of 5-7pc

Balochistan govt fast losing its writ, JUI-F lawmaker tells assembly

QUETTA: Former Balochistan home minister and JUI-F lawmaker Mir Zafar Ullah Zehri has said the provincial government is fast losing its writ in the province, while followers of Dr Allah Nazar and Basher Zeb are freely moving in different areas of the province.

Mr Zehri attended the Balochistan Assembly session on Monday for the first time since taking oath as an MPA. Speaker Abdul Khaliq Achakzai presided over the assembly session.

Mr Zehri stood up on a point of order soon after the assembly session began and strongly criticised Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, who was not present in the house, for his failure to combat militants, insisting that the government could not win this war against them.

Mr Zehri said that he had in the past warned high-ranking officials and the provincial government of the grave situation in the province, and he believed that the chief minister and his government would eventually realise their mistakes.

He demanded formation of a joint investigation team (JIT) to probe allegations against him regarding his support for the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). He warned that public trust in parliament has been eroded and it needed urgent restoration.

The Leader of the Opposition Mir Younis Aziz Zehri, speaking on a point of order, condemned the recent incidents of violence in the province. He said that a week ago, JUI-F leader Wadera Ghulam Sarwar Mosiani and Maulana Amanullah were killed in Khuzdar, while two days ago, Mufti Shah Mir Barozo was assassinated in Turbat. Additionally, JUI-F leader Raheej Mengal was injured in Khuzdar.

He said that those in power are responsible for all these killings, adding that at first an attempt was made to remove JUI-F through Form 47, and when that attempt failed, the party leaders were targeted.

"We are followers of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, and even though our senior leaders have been martyred, we have never abandoned our struggle, nor will we do so in future," he declared.

Minister for Planning and Development Mir Zabooz Bulodi said Balochistan has been a victim of terrorism, and no political party has remained unaffected from it. He said the government would confront terrorists on all fronts.

He assured the opposition that the government is fully aware of its responsibilities and it is not negligent in addressing this issue. He also called for their cooperation in the fight against terrorism. —Saleem Shahid

Constitutional Bench

Continued from Page 1

amendment for military courts must be time-bound and include the right to appeal against their decisions, the counsel contended.

However, he highlighted that the current circumstances did not justify the trial of civilians in military courts on such a large scale.

Mr Khan said Article 175(3) of the Constitution asked for the separation of the judiciary from the executive. He argued that the military, being part of the executive, could not exercise judicial powers. He was of the opinion that the Pakistan Army Act (PAA) was intended "solely for military personnel and not for civilians". Therefore, he added, any provisions extending its jurisdiction to civilians were unconstitutional.

He argued that the F.B. Ali case was misinterpreted to justify the trial of civilians in military courts.

The counsel argued that parliament had not reviewed the issue of military courts since the F.B. Ali case, despite a recommendation to do so within two years. He asserted that the military courts, if allowed to try civilians, would constitute a parallel judicial system, undermining the constitutional framework.

During the hearing, Justice Mandokhail asked if the judiciary's separation from the executive under Article 175(3) required a declaration by parliament. In response, the counsel said there was no need for a parliamentary declaration as the words of the constitution were clear.

On the other hand, Justice Madar remarked how SC in some previous cases through majority decisions had ruled that military courts did not fall under Article 175(3).

Since Mr Khan completed his arguments, defence ministry counsel Khawaja Haris Ahmed will begin his rebuttal and present a counter perspective.

Remittances jump 40pc in February

Continued from Page 1

to reach only $30bn by the end of FY25.

Remittances by country

The inflows noted a record increase from the United Arab Emirates during July-February as it rose to $4.857bn with a growth of 55.7pc. Similarly, the highest remittances came from Saudi Arabia, increasing by 34.6pc to $5.895bn during the period.

The inflows from the United Kingdom and the United States were $3.565bn and $2.402bn, respectively.

Interestingly, remittances from European Union countries — at $2.829bn — surpassed inflows from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations — $2.396bn — during the eight months.

In February, the remittances inflows were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia ($744.4 million), the United Arab Emirates ($652.2m), the United Kingdom ($501.8m), and the United States ($309.4m).

In an effort to increase remittance inflows, the government is pushing for more overseas employment opportunities for Pakistani workers.

However, high unemployment rates in Pakistan have already driven hundreds of thousands of youth to seek jobs abroad annually, contributing to the record surge in remittances.

Coalition Iftar

Continued from Page 1

Nawaz, who attended the joint sitting of parliament on Monday, expressed ignorance of any grievances the PPP may have with her government.

When approached by reporters in the corridors of Parliament House and asked about the PPP's reservations, she said: "Nobody has complained to me about this so far."

Intra-party elections

In a separate development, the PPP chairman has constituted a board to hold intra-party elections.

According to a statement issued by the PPP's media wing, Fauzia Habib has been appointed as convener of the Election Board, while Amir Fida Paracha and Syed Sikandar Haider Bokhari will be its members.

Mr Bhutto Zardari has directed the Election Board to hold the intra-party elections in five weeks. He constituted the body in terms of the party's constitution and framework of provisions of the Elections Act, 2017.

The board is required to announce the elections schedule, invite nomination papers and hold elections at the federal level.

Govt to stop

Continued from Page 1

monitoring of import conditions will be implemented within the next two weeks.

The ministry says it remains dedicated to strengthen the country's agricultural economy and enhance its global export potential.

Methyl bromide is a broad spectrum fumigant used in several countries for combating soil-borne pests as well as in post-harvest, pre-shipment and quarantine treatments. Despite its biological effectiveness, the fumigant has been identified as one of the major ozone depleting substance, and its phase-out is needed in all those countries where it is still used.

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DAWN

OPINION

Maulana's message

EVER since the rapid rise of global religiously inspired militancy over two decades ago, Muslim governments and ulema have tried to build counter-narratives using religious arguments to checkmate terrorists. On a recent visit to the Darul Uloom Haqqania to condole the deaths of Maulana Hamidul Haq Haqqani and others in a suicide bombing, cleric and politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman also deployed faith-based arguments to denounce those behind the violence. To his credit, the JUI-F chief was quite bold in his rejection of militancy, saying that killing Muslims was not jihad but terrorism. He pulled no punches, describing those involved in acts of violence as "murderers ... criminals". As Pakistan confronts a fresh wave of terrorist violence, few political or religious leaders are willingly to so openly slam the fanatical forces involved in bloodshed by misinterpreting religious precepts. In that sense, Maulana Fazl's efforts deserve kudos.

However, it will take more than zealous speeches and fatwas to turn the tide against religiously inspired militancy. Firstly, we have to acknowledge our own mistakes, which have enabled the terrorist threat to grow in lethality and reach. For decades, the state itself promoted jihadi groups, until a U-turn was made post-9/11. Moreover, most clerics themselves were all for using religious fighters in the battlefields of Afghanistan and held Kashmir. Many of the terrorists that today threaten Pakistan were either directly involved in, or inspired by, those conflicts. It should be remembered that the Haqqania madrassah itself was considered a 'jihad university' for mentoring many of the leaders that would go on to form the Afghan Taliban. The problem now is that most jihadi fighters and ideologues refuse to end their 'struggle' on the advice of the state or mainstream clerics. In fact, *takfiri* groups look upon Muslim governments and moderate clerics as 'apostates'. So while Maulana Fazl's words may have an effect on young madrassah students or those sitting on the fence, they will do little to dissuade hardened fighters. Plus, attempts have been made in the past, such as the Paigham-i-Pakistan fatwa in 2018, as well as Gen Musharraf's 'enlightened moderation' scheme, to use religious arguments against militants, with limited results.

Without doubt, it is important for influential clerics to speak with one voice against terrorism. But a lot more is required to truly defeat the monster of militancy. This includes kinetic action, as well as deradicalisation efforts. It must also be said that the mushroom growth of seminaries — with little to no oversight by the state — also aids extremism and contributes to militancy. The road to a more moderate and peaceful Pakistan is a long one, but it is essential that the state and the ulema play their part in pointing the nation in the right direction.

President's speech

PRESIDENT Asif Zardari, addressing Monday's joint session of parliament to mark the start of a new parliamentary year, ticked off a standard list of all the things one expected to hear on the occasion. There was the usual concern about health and education, the welfare of Pakistan's young population, and growing incidents of terrorism. He also dutifully extolled the government's economic successes. There was the standard lip service to good governance, strengthening democracy, restoring public confidence and establishing the rule of law that is expected in all parliamentary speeches. The president took care to thank Pakistan's foreign partners for their support and reaffirmed Islamabad's diplomatic commitments, and also did not forget to give due consideration to CPEC and its centrality to Pakistan's interests. All in all, the speech was as usual as they come. To his credit, Mr Zardari also offered some subtle and not-so-subtle criticism of the government's shortcomings and placed on record the PPP's disagreement with the six new canals planned on the Indus, urging the rulers to revisit policies that were placing a strain on the federation and come up with "viable, sustainable solutions".

The speech may not be remembered so much for its substance as for the accompanying spectacle. The opposition, too, stayed true to custom, disrupting the proceedings with rowdy catcalls and sloganeering against ruling parties and in favour of jailed former PM Imran Khan. So raucous was the protest that it was often difficult to make sense of Mr Zardari's words. One was struck by how closely the image of the president sombrely reciting Pakistan's challenges while chaos unfolded around him resembled the state of the wider country. It has often seemed as if all of our present challenges have been eclipsed by a political dispute that has taken up the entirety of the nation's attention. The president seemed cognisant of this reality. "Think of the unity and consensus our country so desperately needs," he urged the elected representatives present. "Democracy needs give and take, and what better place to work on collective goals than this parliament?" he asked. He may as well have been speaking to the walls: at that moment, our elected representatives were too busy hurling invectives at each other. Good speeches alone cannot make things better. The country needs more than words; it also needs commitment and action.

Indian takeover

BY the time the Champions Trophy final ended, the only indicators that the tournament had been hosted by Pakistan were the branding inside the stadium and the golden embroidery on the white jackets worn by winners India. Sunday's title match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium was all about India; its triumph capping its takeover of the tournament from Pakistan. Rohit Sharma and his men had won unbeaten, without setting foot in the country that was supposed to host it. But while they did showcase their prowess as arguably the world's best limited-overs side, their glory will be overshadowed by the politicking that preceded it. India had refused to play in Pakistan and the International Cricket Council bowed to its demand. India played all their games in Dubai whilst the other teams travelled across Pakistan and then to the UAE to play against the Indians. India had a permanent home base and, as it transpired, it seemed they — with former Board of Control for Cricket in India secretary Jay Shah now ICC president — were the organisers of the Dubai leg. So much so that in the final, the presence of PCB officials was limited to tournament director Sumair Ahmed. Even he was not there at the presentation ceremony.

The balance of power is in India's favour but they also have the winners to take them to glory. They made a home away from home and used it to their full advantage. In contrast, Pakistan could not even benefit from home conditions. Their tournament was over in five days after losses to vanquished finalists New Zealand and India in their opening two matches. Unlike the two finalists, they looked under-prepared and the debatable quality of the personnel was also laid bare. It was catastrophic. Returning Pakistan to the top of the world game will be an arduous challenge. But for now, that is India's place — it has the team and the influence to hold on to it.

BY ARIFA NOOR

Comment in chains

If even opinion is unacceptable, where does this leave us as a people?

IN the midst of the Trump thank you, the rains, and many new ministers, the apologies crept up on us, quietly, taking us all by surprise. No one was really expecting them, though we were all aware of renewed pressure and stricter guidelines. For those who don't make a living from the press and hence don't follow what happens in the industry, let me explain that in recent days, apologies were offered with regard to two talk shows. In one, the host apologised for remarks made by guests in recent programmes and in another, the apology offered was for the commentary by the talk show host — intro, commentary, *khabrein*, whatever one calls it, but it's what kick-starts the programme and lays out what the ensuing discussion will focus on.

The weather is changing not only in the capital but also in the studios.

In these difficult times, where the press surely is under attack, to use a cliché, these apologies struck a nerve. Not because journalists can't be held responsible and not because mistakes can't be corrected and acknowledged but because of what the apologies were for. They were offered for opinion.

After all, for months now we have been told that the source of all evil in Pakistan is #fake-news as social media allows people to make up stuff, facts and events. And these lies and mis-truths are what is causing discontent in society along with the defamation of 'good' people. And that these mistruths can only be stopped by bans and strait-jacketing social media where the 'lies' run amok.

But if the problem was incorrect facts then why are apologies now being offered for opinion? And if even opinion is unacceptable, where does this leave us as a people?

After all, common, as *The Guardian* says, is free and it has been freely available and shared in Pakistan for decades. Even during martial laws, opinion always had more space than hard-core reporting. This is why among the big names that emerged in journalism from the Zia years were Ardeshir Cowasjee and Irfan Husain; their opinions catapulted them to fame.

But in this age of Pakistani politics, even opinion it seems is far too much for those who lord it over this country — opinions of not just the journalists but also guests on talk shows. However, the burden falls on journalists only, who do far more than apologise for their views as well as of others. The past week there were hushed whispers about some anchors being taken off air. Some, we were told, just didn't get the ratings, others were not a good fit, and still others left of their own accord. Perhaps these reasons were as reliable as they were earlier when journalists were removed from air during the PTI days. After all, why should anyone assume that only the ire of someone powerful is the reason for the removal of journalists? Not back then and not now.

But the whingers and apologies do lead to a simple question. If a set-up has so much going for it (as we are always being told) why this level of nervousness? The judiciary is now tamed; most coverage is managed via WhatsApp messages; the opposition is hopelessly divided. Even the new American administration is now happy with Pakistan. Why then do a few comments cause so much offence?

One fears that this nervousness or laying down of the parameters afresh (which might cause less offence) is because of that infamous lack of *bayania* (narrative) at the other (the government's) end, which is why perhaps even opinion that expresses scepticism or criticism of the present state of affairs stings more than it should. But if those who make the rules did some introspection, they might realise this failure is theirs more than the journalists'.

Partly this is due to the credibility crisis of mainstream media, which, too, has been created by the state. The heavy-handed censorship, the limited reporting and even the efforts to ensure one-sided commentary has convinced many that mainstream television channels no longer provide the correct picture. The people of Pakistan have mostly stopped listening and they have stopped being convinced.

On top of this, the state's choice of people for TV screens also faces a crisis of credibility, and not just because so many of them are new to the job. More importantly, it seems that most of them are compelled to provide such a one-sided account that they are criticised for behaving more as messengers than journalists. Still others are seen to have vested interests. It is as if there is little value in cultivating credibility and trust. And this is a major reason why there is constant talk of the failure of PML-N to build a *bayania* (the lack of one is not just a crisis for the ruling party).

But this is not to say that credibility alone can address this problem. There is a limit to the 'stories' that can be sold through the media if they bear little resemblance to reality. This is as true of the claim of inflation having been defeated as the notion that this government is a democratic one, when protests by political parties or students or just ordinary citizens are met with unwarranted violence and arrests. No one is going to believe that they are living in the proverbial land of honey and milk if they can witness police raids in the house next door.

The pressures on the media to present a better picture remind me of a proverb about a mirror and an image but in this season of apologies, it is best not to repeat it here. Suffice it to say that these past couple of weeks, the old Hindi film, *Amar Akbar Anthony*, has been playing in my head; in what is now an iconic scene, an inebriated and badly beaten up Amitabh Bachchan places a bandage on the mirror as he checks out his bruises in the reflection. We all laughed because we knew the bandage was not going to help. ■

The writer is a journalist.

BY JAWED NAQVI

India's left-right centenary

COMMUNIST parties in India are quibbling over the characteristics of fascism to see if Antonio Gramsci's views on the scourge from his Italian experience are relevant to the challenge of vacating the threat in the country. The debate comes at a time for the communist movement as it marks 100 years of its transformation into an organised Communist Party of India (CPI) in the leather and textiles working class hub of Kanpur in 1925.

Not entirely by coincidence, the seeds of India's organised fascist movement also sprouted the same year with the founding of the Hindu revanchist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Its political branch, the BJP, is ruling India for a third consecutive five-year term under the dubious leadership of Narendra Modi. The RSS was inspired by both Mussolini and Hitler who its leaders had described as the model for dealing with India's minorities. It's thus the centenary year of India's left-right battles, though tragically for the left, the journey also witnessed moments of self-harming collusion with the right.

In the first general elections in 1952, communists became the main opposition to Nehru's Congress. Since then, they have had their highs and lows. In the recent polls, they were reduced to the margins, not far from being rendered negligible in the electoral fray that shores up Indian democracy. Their vote share against Nehru's 50 per cent in India's first elections was 3.29pc, but they had 16 seats over the next opposition group, the socialists, who won 12. By a quirk of India's electoral system, though the socialists had fewer seats than the communists, they had a higher vote percentage of 10.59pc. In the 2024 elections, three communist parties won two seats each, none in West Bengal, with a joint national vote share of an embarrassing 2pc.

On their day, the British beat Indian communists and jailed their leaders, most notably following the infamous Meerut conspiracy case when its Hindu, Sikh and Muslim leaders were charged with plotting to overthrow British rule. The Hindu right at the time had become apologists for colonialism. Arun Shourie in a new book on V.D. Savarkar, author of the Hindutva doctrine, describes Savarkar's numerous apologies to the British from his jail, offering to work for them if released. Hindutva's hatred of Gandhi was not less than that of Nehru. On his part, Nehru instinctively assessed Savarkar's Hindutva and its kindred spirit, the RSS, as a graver challenge to secular India than the communists.

The colonial experience spurred communist partisans to launch a gallant but eventually botched liberation war in 1946 in the province of Telangana, part of the Nizam's feudal territory. Many poets, writers and actors cut their teeth in the romance of the peasant struggle against feudalism. The CPI spawned a cultural renaissance of progressive theatre, cinema and literature in the movement. The Telangana uprising ended tamely in 1951, and the party split in the 1960s in keeping with a familiar communist habit.

> It's the centenary year of India's left-right battles, though the journey also witnessed moments of the left's self-harming collusion with the right.

Impelled by the Telangana fiasco, the focus of communist leaders gravitated to electoral politics. It resulted in the world's first elected communist government in Kerala. Since then, most communist leaders have embraced the provinces of Bengal and Kerala as their hub for struggle, where electoral success was more readily attainable.

When a political contingency offered communists a chance to rule the country, not just their two provinces, and have their leader Jyoti Basu as prime minister following inconclusive elections in 1996, the party developed cold feet. An Urdu verse aptly describes their terror: "*Hub gharaab dil ko ashaq milay ki khushi ke maare ye dar gaya! Kabhi rare se hare ke ji hain ki to hamare chehra utar gaya*" (Courting adversity and fear of failure! I was pulverised by the prospect of happier tidings.) Basu would describe the party's refusal to accept the challenge as a historic blunder.

A desirable quest for the increasingly marginalised communist parties at the current juncture, to the ordinary Indian's mind, should be to help re-establish the secular democracy the nation had set out to be. In seeking this goal, the communists would be required to work, kicking or screaming, with willing bourgeois allies. Naturally, the more radical ideologues would for their own legitimate reasons see this as an embarrassment if not an outright betrayal of their elusive revolution. Do they have a better plan?

The current discussion on fascism arose from the reluctance of the Communist Party of India (Marxist, CPI-M) to accept that the country is already in the throes of the scourge under Modi's regime. Instead, ahead of its party congress in April, it speaks of features of neo-fascism as stalking the country — features.

The CPI-M has lost power in the tribal state of Tripura to the BJP, West Bengal to Mamta Banerjee with room for the BJP to grow stronger. It is tenuously holding on to power in Kerala where its challenger, Rahul Gandhi's Congress expects to win the state polls in mid-2026. Gandhi is working hard to defeat the twin challenges of BJP's oligarchic rule and against its polarising hostility towards Sikhs, Muslims and Christians and less open support for assaulting Dalits.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), a smaller but more militant offshoot of India's communist struggles, posits that the country is likely facing full-blown fascism, and that it is time to collectively mint a strategy to combat and defeat it. Being equidistant from the BJP and the Congress was once the CPI-M's convenient stand. It allowed the BJP's vertical rise to power. How long would the CPI-M continue to fight INDIA allies in West Bengal and Kerala and hope at the same time to join an opposition campaign to defeat fascism, or by whatever name it chooses to call the challenge? A hundred years of communist movement in India should have given the party all the time it ever needed to learn how not to score self-goals. ■

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OPINION

BY QURAT UL AIN SIDDIQUI

Trump vs Canada

THE polite shrugs are gone. So are the diplomatic nods and the hopeful optimism that a little patience might set things right. Across Canada, the mood has shifted from mild frustration to something more visceral: exhaustion, resolve, and a begrudging acknowledgment that under Donald Trump, the neighbour to the south is no longer a reliable trade partner, and may not be dependable in much else.

Trump's trade war has hit Canada hard. Once a trusted ally, it now finds itself viewed as an economic adversary. In a fast pivot run, Washington imposed 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian goods under the dubious pretext of 'national security'. The decision, later partially walked back, has left Ottawa scrambling to decipher shifting exemptions, snapback deadlines, and looming levies that threaten to disrupt supply chains. For a moment, a temporary carve-out under the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement offered some relief to potash — where tariffs were lowered from 25pc to 10pc — benefiting both nations, especially the US farm sector. Yet steel and aluminum tariffs will return on March 12, and an April 2 deadline for broader measures hangs overhead. As manufacturers and exporters brace for impact, the reprieve is fragile at best, and unpredictability has become the new normal in an already turbulent global trade environment.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau dismissed Trump's tariffs as "a very dumb thing to do," but the sentiment across Canada runs deeper. What began as scepticism about America's reliability as a trading partner has hardened into firm resolve, reshaping public and political attitudes in ways that could permanently alter bilateral ties. Ottawa quickly retaliated, imposing its own tariffs on US goods to stake its claim in a dispute it neither launched nor sought.

Meanwhile, consumers scrutinise barcodes at the grocery store, avoiding American products in favour of 'Buy Canadian' campaigns. Yet the consequences are real and immediate. Canada's economy is tightly intertwined with America's, and for many manufacturers and small businesses, the fallout is already unfolding, with damage that may take years to mend. Steel and aluminum exports — 50pc of which head south — are especially vulnerable, forcing companies to re-evaluate supply chains, renegotiate contracts, and, in some cases, consider scaling back production and staff cuts. Factories are reorganising and workers bracing for turmoil. Increasingly, it seems that Canada will have to rely less on its closest neighbour and more on diverse global partnerships.

The most significant shift isn't just about economic policy or logistics; it's about a change in attitude. For decades, Canada and America could disagree, even slap tariffs on each other now and then, while a bedrock of trust remained. That may not be the case anymore and gone is the assumption that the US will always act in good faith. This new rift reveals deeper fractures that perhaps cannot be papered over with a handshake agreement down the road. Canada now questions not only the health of its economic ties with the US but the very nature of their relationship. Where Canadians once believed it was always beneficial to be so deeply linked with America, many now wonder if that dependency has become a liability. The '51st state' rhetoric, floated by Trump and some advisers, landed like a slap in the face. To a country fiercely proud of its sovereignty, the suggestion isn't just ludicrous; it's insulting.

This isn't to say Canada is throwing in the towel on trade with the US. But with the era of unblinking reliance over, it has started to look elsewhere. Ottawa is doubling down on deals with Europe and the Pacific. Businesses are diversifying supply chains. The sense of complacency — that Canada could always count on a fair deal from the US — is gone. The country isn't just reacting to a trade war; it's recalibrating its entire economic strategy. And yet, despite the frustration, despite the uncertainty, Canada remains Canada. There are no fiery nationalist rallies, no chest-thumping declarations of severed ties. Instead, there's a quiet but unmistakable shift — a move towards economic self-preservation rooted in pragmatism rather than anger. The realisation is sinking in: the US isn't the partner it once was, and that means Canada can't be the neighbour it once was.

> Canada will have to rely less on its closest neighbour.

The country is adjusting, not retreating. Businesses are working towards future-proofing their supply chains, exploring new markets, and investing in trade relationships that don't hinge on the whims of Washington. And while spurred on by circumstances, the current shift in Ottawa's trade strategy is an intentional, deliberate recalibration that'll also help ensure it won't be caught off guard again. ■

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BY MOHAMMAD ALI BABAKHEL

Reforming CJS

POST-colonial societies interpret the criminal justice system narrowly; developed democracies are more flexible. Traditionally, CJS consists of police, prosecution and prison. In modern states, community policing, restorative justice, NGOs, donors, and civil society are gaining more prominence within CJS. In Pakistan, the police, prosecution, prisons, probation and parole systems are CJS components, mainly under provincial jurisdiction. Post-devolution, CJS reform has seen isolated initiatives — some (such as Police Order 2002) have seen reversals and amendments.

In colonial societies, victims are often caught between criminals and CJS. Before deep reforms, obstacles must be identified. Articles 10-A and 37 guarantee the right to a fair trial, due process, and inexpensive justice. Point 20 of the National Action Plan and 12 of the revised NAP aim to revamp CJS, but need coordination. In *Rule of Law Index 2024*, out of 142 states, we rank 129th — 98th in criminal justice, 129th in civil justice, and 140th in order and security.

False/exaggerated FIRs and witness non-cooperation burden CJS. Usually, investigators follow the FIR version, but this does not facilitate the judges; instead it creates ambiguity. Investigators must be trained to proceed based not only on complaints' content and witnesses' version but also technical evidence, forensic support, and law and procedure. Corruption, lack of will, dysfunctional complaint authorities, weak coordination, etc, obstruct reforms.

Almost all components operate in isolation. Prosecution was once part of police organisation. There were calls for separating prosecution from police. It was expected to improve the quality of justice and public service delivery. It is time to assess the impact of separation of prosecution on correction and public service delivery as well as of operations and investigation.

The idea of criminal justice coordinating councils in the 1970s lacked structural guidelines and a proper hierarchy. Under Article 109 of Police Order 2002, a seven-member district Criminal Justice Coordination Committee was envisioned to improve coordination and trust in CJS. The CJCC is headed by a district and sessions judge and meant to improve investigation quality and conviction rates. Sometimes, it intrudes into administrative dynamics; so it is inevitable that CJCC be restricted to its mandate. In districts where anti-terrorism courts operate, ATC judges should be associated with CJCCs to improve investigation and prosecution for better conviction rates in terrorism cases. Outdated laws like the CrPC and CPC hamper CJS, and despite amendments are not in step with changing legal and societal developments.

Some cultural norms and attitudes, such as carrying arms and making offences compoundable, create obstacles. Resource constraints limit the CJS capacity to respond. Fewer finances for technology, training, and infrastructure undermines CJS, especially with militants and criminals equipped with the latest arms and gadgets. The Law and Justice Commission report (July-December 2023) said there were 2.6 million pending court cases — 82 per cent in district courts, and the remaining in the upper judiciary. This erodes public trust. Inadequate training and resources hamper investigation and prosecution. Corruption and external influence compromise CJS integrity.

Lack of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms means overburdened courts. KP created dispute resolution councils, which have been key to reducing crimes and the CJS burden. Peace is vital for results but is not possible without a public-friendly CJS. Sadly, instead of introspection, CJS actors often shift the blame to others, making reform difficult. Police Order 2002 provides for public safety commissions, oversight bodies, and complaint authorities. The KP Police Act 2017 introduced the idea of an 'implementation commission'. However, public oversight remains dysfunctional. To enhance awareness of legislation, online citizen-police academies can improve outreach.

> Almost all CJS components operate in isolation.

CJS actors should realise that the system is financed by taxpayers, without whose satisfaction the trust deficit will continue. Increased financing for it will improve the quality of public service and justice. Financing police stations has been neglected for too long. A separate budget for KP police stations is the right step. Improved finances and resources at the police station level will reduce corrupt practices and enhance public service delivery and transparency. Like other institutions, CJS components indulge in self-praise and often manipulate statistics. CJS needs to realise the importance of an integrated outlook based on a diagnostic approach focusing on justice and prioritising victims' satisfaction. ■

The writer is author of Pakistan: In Between Extremism and Peace.
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FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1975 | Fifty years ago

Kashmir's future

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said here today [March 10] Pakistan wanted to pursue the Kashmir issue on the basis of the Simla Agreement under which India was legally bound to discuss the future of the state with Pakistan. The Prime Minister told a ... Press conference that he had written to the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, protesting against her recent agreement with Sheikh Abdullah in Kashmir and explaining to her that ... the Simla accord, under which both Pakistan and India had agreed not to alter the situation in Kashmir unilaterally, provided a framework for its settlement which envisaged negotiations between the two countries.

However, he said his Government retained its option to return to the [UN] with the Kashmir dispute if it is found to be ... worthwhile. In the first place, he added, Pakistan had never excluded this option even under the Simla Agreement. Secondly, now when India had violated the Simla Agreement it had been made more relevant for Pakistan to return to the world organisation. ... [Agencies add,] the Indira-Abdullah deal, he pointed out, was a negation of the July 1972 Simla Agreement. — Correspondent

1950 | Seventy-five years ago

Genesis of Bharat riots

DACCA: The East Pakistan Premier, Mr Nurul Amin, said here today [March 10] that the communal disturbances in East Pakistan were the direct result of "continuous and widespread disturbances in West Bengal and Assam". In a 5,500-word statement read in his absence ... Mr Nurul Amin made a "factual survey" of the communal incidents which have recently taken place in Calcutta, other parts of West Bengal and in Assam and the developments that have followed in this Province.

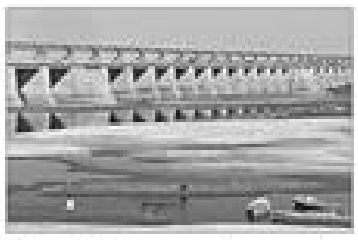
He emphasised that until the recent disturbances in Dacca and certain parts of East Pakistan, the whole of the Province had enjoyed an "unparalleled record of communal peace and harmony ever since partition".

Tracing the origin of the communal disturbances ... Mr Nurul Amin recalled the activities of the so-called Council for the Protection of Minorities and the Hindu Mahasabha whose leaders had made inflammatory speeches repudiating the partition of India and advocating the forcible annexation of Pakistan to restore Akhand Bharat; and the campaign of deliberate vilification of Pakistan in general, and East Pakistan in particular, which started towards the end of December last....

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@dawn.com

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



Sindh water issue in a different light

TAKING a historical perspective of issues does improve understanding, and there is every reason to apply the same approach while analysing the ongoing opposition by Sindh to the project entailing Cholistan canals.

In Sindh's recorded history, the first struggle over agricultural land appeared in the form of Shah Inayat movement. He was murdered on Jan 7, 1718, through a joint effort by the Mughal governor and local landlords.

The fundamental slogan of the movement was *Jo Boye Wohi Khaye'* (The one who sows shall reap). Due to this reason, Sibte Hassan referred to him as 'the first socialist Sufi of Sindh'. Even today, Shah Inayat is largely remembered as a hero by nationalist and socialist circles across Sindh.

After the construction of the Sukkur Barrage in 1932, when newly cultivated lands were allocated to non-local individuals, G.M. Syed, Jethmal Parsram, Jamshed Mehta and Gopal Gokhale had convened a meeting in Tando Jam, laying the foundation of the Sindh Hari Association, which later evolved into the Sindh Hari Committee.

Although the committee has lost its former prominence, it is due to its continuous struggle that today, all political forces in Sindh, whether right-wing, left-wing or centrist, at least acknowledge the importance of farmers and agricultural issues.

After the formation of Pakistan, the first serious rift between Sindh and the central government/Punjab occurred in 1979 when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was executed in Rawalpindi. However, at the time, Sindh's nationalists and left-wing groups were not particularly disheartened, as they were already resentful of state repression against them during Bhutto's tenure.

A few years after Bhutto's execution, the plan to construct the Kalabagh Dam on the Indus River was introduced with Punjab's support. Sindh strongly opposed this, culminating in a protest at Kamo Shahed, a border point between Sindh and Punjab, in 1997.

The demonstration was led by Benazir Bhutto and was attended by all nationalist and left-wing leaders and activists from Sindh. I believe that this protest ultimately led to the shelving of the Kalabagh Dam project.

Recently, there has been much discussion about the construction of Cholistan canals, with the army chief and Punjab chief minister attending a ceremony in this regard.

As a student of political history, I see that from the movement in 1718 till the shelving of the Kalabagh Dam in 1997, the state was never as weak as it is today.

Additionally, in all the historical instances, certain segments of the local population sided with the state because they were not directly affected by the issues raised by those movements. However, this is not the case with the project involving Cholistan canals. Interesting. Right?

Adam Khoja
Karachi

Prolonged delay

THE completion of the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project (NJHP) faced prolonged delays, and its operation is currently suspended due to structural damages detected in the tunnels and other components.

Investigations are underway to determine the causes and responsibility for these issues. However, rather than focusing solely on assigning the blame, the priority should be the swift repair and rehabilitation of this $5-billion project.

Each day NJHP remains non-operational, it results in significant financial losses for Pakistan, making it imperative to expedite restoration efforts.

Every hydropower project comes with a unique design and construction challenges, and unforeseen operational issues are not uncommon. For instance, in 1978, the Tarbela Dam encountered severe complications, including the collapse of power tunnel intakes and the malfunctioning of stilling basins and outlet control structures of the irrigation tunnels.

However, through the collective efforts of all the stakeholders, the dam was successfully commissioned in 1976. Today, nearly 50 years later, Tarbela remains the world's largest dam of its kind, and continues to be the backbone of Pakistan's economy.

Similarly, the timely as well as cost-effective restoration of NJHP requires the collaboration of all the relevant consultants and contractors. There is no doubt at all that their deep familiarity with the project and access to extensive construction data make their expertise indispensable in developing and implementing effective and long-term remedial solutions. This is a vital element.

Muhammad Akram Khan
Lahore

Education woes

THE use of unfair means in board exams has been a persistent issue for years, with students often resorting to unethical practices, such as copying, to obtain good grades. This naturally happens because the existing mechanism facilitates such 'arrangements'.

Those who check the answer scripts also tend to take a careless approach to the task. In some cases, they distribute answer sheets to their known associates, asking them to simply mark answers with a tick and assign random scores.

This year, there has been a shift. After the Board of Intermediate Education Karachi (BIEK), its counterpart in Hyderabad also took an initiative to set things right.

However, the change has brought its own set of challenges. Due to careless checking, many students received lower marks than what they deserved. Among them were students hoping to seek admission to universities or sit the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT). For them, the drop in marks has created a significant obstacle.

With fewer spots available at universities and increasing competition, securing a place in higher education has become more challenging than ever. The authorities should enforce stricter regulations at exam centres, completely eliminate cheating, and make the process of paper-checking better.

It is time for the system to uphold all the values that encourage genuine learning, and ensure a fair chance for every student without any discrimination.

Hamid Ali
Hyderabad

Animals' misery

ON a recent visit to the Karachi zoological gardens, I was disturbed to see the misery being faced by the caged animals. The lion, lioness, white lion, Syrian bear and the chimpanzees were clearly traumatised, and looked rather psychotic. They were pacing the confined spaces they had been housed in, while the visitors were climbing the railings and taking selfies. In doing so, they were shouting at these poor creatures almost constantly.

Given their misery, we must send these animals to the Safari Park or back into their natural habitat. We should turn this huge and wonderful space into a forest garden that could be the lungs of that area and provide clean and a healthy public space.

Moreover, the lanes inside the zoo were in a dilapidated condition, and there were beggars just about everywhere. Something needs to be done in that regard as well.

Speaking at forums and advocating for making the environment better should not just be talk. Someone must do something to change things in the city.

Kermin S. Parakh
Karachi

Wrong claim

THIS is with reference to the editorial 'Broken metropolis' (Jan 12), which stated that in 2023-24, Karachi's large tax office collected a staggering amount of Rs2,522 billion in taxes, which worked out to be 30.74 per cent of the total tax collected in the year.

Despite this unambiguous data, the metropolis is a picture of neglect, suffering chronic infrastructural decay and a lack of basic amenities. As such, these miseries continue to add to the woes of the people.

To that must be added potholed roads, inadequate transport with exacerbating congestion, over-priced energy, natural gas shortages, persistent loadshedding, and shortage of potable piped water.

Indeed, the list is definite by not exhaustive, and the problems highlighted happen to be the responsibility of the provincial government, which grabs a massive chunk of the national revenue under the National Finance Commission (NFC) awards, leaving the federal government with no option but to go on a borrowing spree.

On the same day the said editorial appeared (Jan 12), there was a report titled: "Bilawal slams 'discriminatory attitude' of Centre towards Sindh". While speaking at the opening ceremony of a segment of the Malir Expressway — since renamed the Shaheed-e-Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — the chairman of the ruling party in Sindh praised the enduring contribution of his party and three generations of his family to the development of the city.

As things stand today, there are not many signs validating the claim of three generations' contributions to the city. Had there been any such sign, it would have been visible to the public.

S.K.H. Hashmi
Karachi

▶ **A TALENTED SOUL:** Zunaira Qayum Baloch is a young, talented and hard-working girl of Hub in Balochistan who has represented Pakistan at national and international platforms. She has been appointed as the Youth Advocate for Climate Action and Girls Empowerment by United Pakistan after her writeup about how floods affect girls' education in Hub was acknowledged in 2023. Her story proves that the girls of Balochistan are extremely talented. All they need is support and opportunity. We must encourage and support our girls so they may enjoy their progress.
Zaroof Ahmed
Turbat

▶ **DISSATISFIED CUSTOMER:** This is with reference to the letter 'Banking woes' (March 1) which complained about the writer's visits to the bank and closure of his account due to negative balance. As such, from the contents of the letter, it appears that the bank was justified in calling the customer in person for recovering the overdrawn amount, and then closing the account. However, anyone with a complaint may get in touch with the Customer Complaint Management Service of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), mentioning the name of bank and its branch as well as account particulars. The relevant website is: https://sunsai.sbp.org.pk.
K.M. Shafi
Karachi

▶ **DANGEROUS SIGNAGE:** The placement of a directional signage on a busy footpath at the Fatima Jinnah Road in Karachi is highly inappropriate. It has been installed in a hazardous manner that can injure someone, especially at night or in conditions of low visibility. If the intention behind erecting it was to guide people towards the Lilly Bridge, it should have been placed along the roadside in a more visible and suitable manner. Its current location does not serve the purpose at all. It is time for the authorities concerned to take immediate action to remove this obstruction, and install an appropriate signage at a more effective location.
K.B.J.
Karachi

External Ombudsman

Veteran journalist Mohammad 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.
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Two CTD officials martyred in Kohat attack

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Two officials of the Counter-Terrorism Department were martyred in an attack near Tanda Dam in Kohat district on Monday, the police said.

They said CTD personnel, assistant sub-inspector Mustafa and head constable Zahid, were on their way to Kohat city when they were attacked at around 9am.

"Militant outfit Hafiz Gul Bahadur group claimed responsibility for the attack," a police official said.

When contacted, Kohat district police officer Dr Zahid told Dawn that both the CTD personnel had left their Bash village for the city when they came under attack. He said a case had been registered.

Meanwhile, two persons, including a policeman, were killed when unidentified assailants opened fire on them in Takhoo area of Lowi Mamond tehsil of Bajaur district on Monday evening. Police officials said constable Shahid Khan and a civilian, Amanullah, were on way home in Takhoo area when they were targeted just before Iftar.

Shahid died on the spot, while Amanullah sustained critical injuries, Israr Khan, public relations officer of the district police, said while quoting officials of Lowi Mamond police station.

He said the wounded man was rushed to the Lakhokozo Hospital, whereafter he was shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital Khar, owing to his critical condition.

However, he succumbed to his injuries in the hospital's emergency ward. No one claimed responsibility for the incident.

Jamaat activist shot dead in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: A Jamaat-i-Islami leader and former nazim was killed by unknown persons in the jurisdiction of Chamkani police station here on Monday.

The police said Haji Hamaed Gul was killed when he was on his way to attend a jirga along with his friend, Shahid, in Budhni area on Sunday.

They added Shahid was injured in the attack and was shifted to a hospital.

The police said that the motive behind the killing was still unknown. However, a case was registered. — Bureau Report

Villagers using plastic bags to store gas amid outages

Admin claims arrests over illegal sale of large 'balloons'

By Mohammad Ashfaq

A GAS-filled plastic bag installed outside a house on the outskirts of Peshawar. — Dawn

PESHAWAR: People in rural areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's central and southern districts are endangering their and others' lives by using large plastic bags to store natural gas for cooking during gas outages.

The gas storage 'facility' is a local innovation, with three parts, including a small electric suction pump, a plastic bag and a plastic pipe. Once filled with natural gas, the plastic bag inflates into an oversized balloon.

The bag's size depends on the family's needs, with joint families using large ones and others smaller.

A small valve is attached to one end of the bag with the help of a rubber pipe, while the other is tied. The bag is later hung to the wall. The plastic bag is connected with the cooking stove by a plastic pipe.

In most households, the balloon is placed on the rooftop under a shed for protection from rain, storm and sunlight. Some families place it on the veranda.

"Gas storage in plastic bags has made our lives somewhat easy amid gas cuts," Asif Khan of Musazai village, which stands on the outskirts of the provincial capital.

Unaware of the dangers posed by storing cooking gas in the plastic bag, he insisted gas storage balloons provided them with relief from even gas outages of 20 hours a day.

He said the gas stored in the plastic bag was sufficient to cook sufficient food for the entire day, but it couldn't be used to heat the rooms in winters due to limited storage capacity.

Shehzad Gul of Dir Colony said in the current fasting month of Ramazan, his house got natural gas from the public utility once a day.

He said gas supply began at around 2am for two hours before being suspended when people started preparing for sehri meal.

Mr Gul said that those not asleep at the time of gas supply filled plastic bags, while others had to use LPG to prepare pre-dawn food in Ramazan.

He said in months other than Ramazan, people got up early in the morning to turn the small suction pump on to fill the plastic bag with cooking gas from the main supply line for the home.

"Those who are late won't be able to have gas as almost all consumers have got plastic bags to fill in those two hours," he said.

Mohammad Bilal, another user of plastic bags from Cultural village, said the prolonged gas outages had made their lives miserable.

"In the absence of natural gas, we use firewood and LPG that are very costly. We get little financial relief by storing the cooking gas in the plastic bag during gas cuts," he said.

A sanitary fittings shop's owner told *Dawn* that it was very easy to make the gas storage balloon as only a large plastic bag and a valve was required.

He said prior to the ban, he used to sell these bags openly.

"Despite ban, we are secretly selling gas bags to prevent a crackdown by police and district administration," he said.

He said gas bags weren't purpose-built but were a little thicker than the normal plastic bags.

When contacted, SNGPL general manager Waqas Shinwari said that it was a very dangerous and illegal practice to store cooking gas in plastic bags, with several accidents of damage to public life and property being reported over a period of time.

"Several children were recently wounded in the Teri area of Karak district due to the explosion of a plastic gas bag," he said.

He said storing natural gas in large plastic bags was common in the areas where people were involved in gas theft.

Mr Shinwari said for the prevention of the hazardous practice and protection of lives, his department had repeatedly written letters to the district administrations for banning the sale of tools used to gas bags.

"Besides its dangerous use, a lot of gas is also wasted during the filling of plastic bags," he said.

An official of district administration claimed many shopkeepers had been arrested for selling plastic bags used for filling cooking gas.

He said the use of such bags was banned as it was an illegal act and could harm the users.

FIA arrests man in Mansehra over 'sacrilegious' message

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: The Federal Investigation Agency's Cyber Crime Wing has arrested a man for hacking a diagnostic centre's computer system and posting a 'sacrilegious' message on its display panel to cause unrest.

The arrest was disclosed by head of operations at the Islamabad Diagnostic Centre Mohammad Zubair Awan in a news conference here on Monday.

He said that information about the detainee, including his whereabouts, was kept confidential due to the ongoing FIA investigation into the sensitive issue.

Mr Awan said the hacker posted the offensive message on the large NDC installed at the centre's entrance, with the help of his mobile phone, prompting the IT section to switch off the screen and report the matter to FIA.

Accompanied by manager (operations) Shahzad Ahmad and supervisor (operations) Hamad Iqbal, he commended the local media for "acting responsibly by refraining from reporting the incident without verification."

"Had the conspirators succeeded in their malicious act, the act would have caused public outrage in the holy month of Ramazan, with people taking to the streets against our centre known for high-quality services," he said.

SEARCH OPERATION: Police on Monday claimed to have seized a large cache of illegal weapons and ammunition in the mountainous areas of Mansehra district.

"We recovered unlicensed arms along with a large quantity of ammunition during a search and strike operation launched against outlaws across the district," DPO Shafiullah Khan Gandapur told reporters here.

He said the police were utilising all available resources to ensure people's security, with the strike and search operations across all 37 police stations in the district being part of those efforts.

"We want to ensure that no strangers rent a house without security clearance by police in Mansehra, Oghi, Balakot, Darband and Baffa-Pakhal tehsils in line with the National Action Plan," he said.

The DPO said that female constables were also part of the operation.

He urged residents to support police by reporting any suspicious individuals or activities in the district, saying names of informants will be kept confidential.

Court rejects plea of women varsity employees for regularisation of service

Petition was filed jointly by more than 50 contractual staffers of the university

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) has rejected a petition filed by more than 50 contractual employees of Women University Swabi, seeking regularisation of their services.

The petition was filed by faculty and administrative staffers of the university through Advocate Tanveer Ahmed Mughal. Barrister Syed Saad Ali Shah represented the university.

A two-member bench of PHC comprising senior puisne judge Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah in its detailed judgement stated that petitioners had also applied for their appointment pursuant to the recruitment process and made participation to compete, wherein some of them passed the test as well, so on that score too their petition was liable to be dismissed.

"The learned counsel for the petitioners failed to make a case for the indulgence of this court. Hence, the instant writ petition having been not maintainable as well as meritless stands dismissed," the bench ruled.

The bench reaffirmed the principle that contractual appointments did not confer an automatic right to permanent absorption unless explicitly provided under law.

The petitioners contended that they had been serving the university for an extended period on sanctioned posts and, therefore, deserved to be regularised. However, the court found that their initial appointments had been made on a contract basis without undergoing an open and competitive selection process, as required by law.

The bench observed that the petitioners failed to establish any statutory entitlement to regularisation and their claims could not override the university's obligation to ensure merit-based hiring.

Representing the university, Barrister Syed Saad Ali Shah argued that public sector appointments must adhere to due process, transparency and open competition, as mandated by law.

The university maintained that granting regularisation without following a lawful recruitment process would set a precedent contrary to established legal principles and rulings of Supreme Court.

The bench also pointed out wherever a citizen sought relief in constitutional jurisdiction, he must point to a right statutory and constitutional, which vested in him and had denied in violation of law.

It said that the statutes, terms and conditions of the appointment order of the petitioners and the law in general were silent on the matter of regularisation of a contractual or fixed pay employee.

The ruling also highlighted the fact that some petitioners had already participated in fresh recruitment processes advertised by the university, further weakening their claim to regularisation without competition.

The ruling is expected to serve as a precedent for other public sector institutions facing similar legal challenges regarding regularisation of employees.

Police ordered to beef up security of Peshawar markets

PESHAWAR: Police officials have been directed to beef up security of markets in the provincial metropolis during the last days of Ramazan and on Eidul Fitr.

The directives were issued during a special meeting held at Malik Saad Shaheed Police Lines with Chief Capital Police Officer (CCPO) Peshawar Qasim Ali Khan in the chair. The meeting was meant to ensure security of densely populated markets during the last days of Ramazan and on Eidul Fitr.

During the meeting, the overall security and traffic arrangements of the city were reviewed. The meeting decided to conduct mock exercises and take practical steps to deal with any untoward incident in a better manner.

The CCPO directed police officials to conduct a fresh security audit of all sensitive and important places, places of worship and markets and prepare a security and traffic plan in light of the recommendations.

He said that the process of snap checking should be further intensified at special checkpoints and all entry and exit routes throughout the district. He directed officials to take special care during Iftar and Sehr times.

The CCPO said that a close watch should be kept on habitual criminals released from jail. He said that legal action should be further intensified against tenants residing illegally in the city.

He also directed police officials to make special security arrangements for their posts at night in the suburbs and utilise existing resources.

He reviewed security and traffic arrangements of commercial centres and densely populated markets and directed to further improve security and traffic arrangements. He instructed police officials to stay in touch with all administrative institutions including leaders of different schools of thought, business community and all sects. The meeting was attended by SSP Masood Ahmed, chief traffic officer Haroon Rashid Khan, SSP Noor Jamal, SP Hamaadullah and officers from other units.

Qasim Ali Khan said that police were utilising all resources to protect the lives and properties of citizens and maintain peace in the city. — APP

TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited for the following:

Tender No.	Description	Closing Date/ Time
PO(GEN/PT/302989/25	Pre-qualification of pharmacy services - Islamabad office	27 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.
PO(GEN/PT/302997/25	Pre-qualification of pharmacy services - Manzalai Field	27 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.
PO(GEN/PT/302992/25	Pre-qualification of pharmacy services - Hala Field	27 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.
PO(GEN/PT/302995/25	Pre-qualification of pharmacy services - Gambat Field	27 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.
PO(GEN/PT/302994/25	Pre-qualification of pharmacy services - Adhi Field	27 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.
PO(GEN/PT/302993/25	Pre-qualification of pharmacy services - Kandhkot Field	27 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.
PO(GEN/PT/302998/25	Supply of AC motors & electrical items	27 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.
PO(GEN/PT/303112/25	Supply of UPS cards	27 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.
PO(GEN/PT/303114/25	Supply of paver tiles and Kerb stones	27 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.
PO(O&M/PT/303117/25	Supply of miscellaneous valves	27 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.
PO(O&M/PT/303118/25	Supply of miscellaneous spares for gas turbine	27 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.

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

Extension in Bid Closing & Opening Dates

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

Tender No.	Description	Published On	Revised Closing Date/ Time
PO(D&CE/PT/299453/25	Call out agreement for blowout contingency & specialized well control services for wells in PPL operated areas	23 Jan, 2025	26 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.
PO(GEN/PT/293114/24	Pre-qualification of manufacturers or their authorized representative for supply of OPC & sulphate cement	17 Dec, 2024	27 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.
PO(D&CE/PT/300703/25	Completion brine services on call out basis	30 Jan, 2025	18 Mar, 2025 1030 hrs.

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

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

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

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Pakistan Petroleum Limited

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نمبر شمار	آسامی کا نام	تعداد	تنخواہ	تفصیل	مدت
1	[illegible]	1	12	[illegible]	[illegible] 2025 تک
2	[illegible]	3	9	[illegible]	
3	[illegible]	1	7	[illegible]	
4	[illegible]	1	9	[illegible]	
5	[illegible]	4	4	[illegible]	
6	[illegible]	6	1	[illegible]	

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PESHAWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Request for Proposal (RFP) for the works below are hereby invited under KPPRA 27, from enlisted consultancy firms with sufficient experience in the relevant field. The RFP documents can be collected from the office of the undersigned or downloaded from the PDA website at www.pda.kp.gov.pk.

S. no.	Name of work	Estimated Cost Rs.
1.	Feasibility & allied studies, Detail Engineering Design for construction of underpasses on Ring Road at Pishtakhara Chowk, Jamrud Chowk, Dilazak Chowk, and Custom Chowk (Bara Road), Peshawar, ADP No.[illegible] (2024-25)"	33.50 million
2.	Hiring Consultancy Services for Feasibility Studies, Interventions Proposals, Detailed Engineering Design, and Traffic Management Plan at Iqra Chowk, Peshawar University Front, and Industrial Estate (Karkhana Market) intersection up to Northern Bypass on GT/Jamrud Road, Peshawar. (Own source)	33.02 million

The eligible Engineering consultancy firms are required to study and understand the RFP and submit their proposal for the work in separate sealed envelopes i.e one envelope containing "Technical Proposals" along with filled RFP documents of the firm, clearly marked as "Technical Proposal" accompanied with respective bidding documents fee of Rs. 5000/- (if downloaded from the Website), while the second envelope containing Financial proposals/bid price, clearly marked as "Financial Proposal". Both Technical and Financial proposals/ Bids will be placed in a single sealed envelope and addressed & sent to the undersigned through Registered/Courier Service or Pakistan Post. Proposals received by hand, not Registered/ Courier Service, and must reach the office of the undersigned on or before 27th March 2025 at 11:00 Hours. The proposals received late, will not be entertained. The "Technical Proposals" submitted by consultancy firms will be evaluated based on the established evaluation criteria outlined in the RFP, which specifies the required documents for submission.

Information/Data/Documents

1. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant code and its renewal of the current year. 2. List of professional staff/expertise employed with the firm category wise along with the CV. 3. List of similar works completed by the firm during the last 05 years with cost & cost of consultancy services, date of start & completion. 4. List of similar works in hand with total cost and cost of consultancy services, date of start and expected completion. 5. List of qualified personnel/staff to be deputed to this project along with their CVs. 6. Registration certificate from income tax authority (NTN). Income tax certificate 7. Fresh affidavit on stamp paper (in original) stating that the firm is not blacklisted and regarding non-involvement in any arbitration/litigation. 8. Any other documents or information necessary for the project. 9. Incomplete applications will not be entertained. 10. Other terms & conditions as well as, evaluation criteria and T.O.R. can be seen in the RFP documents.

Deputy Director (Roads-II),
Directorate of Roads Peshawar Development Authority
PDA House, Block-1, 1st Floor, Phase-V,
Hayatabad, Peshawar, Ph: 091-9217208

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Interest rate status quo displeases businesses

FPCCI favours reduction of 500bps in policy rate

By Aamir Shahzad Khan

KARACHI: Most owners of big factories hailed the State Bank's cautious approach to keep the interest rate unchanged at 12 per cent on Monday, but the bulk of the business community was up in arms against the central bank for not bringing down the policy rate by 500 basis points even though inflation was as low as 1.5pc last month.

Abdul Aleem, Secretary General of the Overseas Investors Chambers of Commerce and Industry (OICCI), said: "I am satisfied that SBP made a very sound decision by not surrendering to pressure for rate cut. The economy needs sustainable steps to overcome challenges and improve investors' confidence."

Ehsan Malik, the CEO of the Pakistan Business Council (PBC), said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the SBP had opted to follow a cautious approach by maintaining the policy rate at 12pc.

"With core inflation sticky at 7.8pc, pressure building on the external account due to rising imports and weak financial flows, along with declining forex reserves, are all valid reasons for this cautionary stance," he said. "Economic stability is still fragile and a risk-averse approach is justified."

Disappointment

Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), said the entire business and trade community was disappointed with the monetary policy as the central bank continues to base its decision on a heavy premium vis-à-vis core inflation. "The SBP keps the policy rate at 12pc even though inflation was at 1.5pc last month, reflecting a premium of 1,050 basis points vis-à-vis core inflation."

The FPCCI had called for an immediate and single-stroke rate cut of 500bps to rationalise the monetary policy and align it with the vision of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for revving up economic growth and exports.

Ahmed Azim Alvi, who heads the SITE Association of Industry, termed the unchanged policy rate disappointing, saying the State Bank had ignored persistent appeals by the business community to bring down the interest rate to single digits. He urged the central bank to gradually reduce the policy rate and bring it to single digit so that loans can be accessed at lower rates.

Ejaz Ahmed Sheikh, acting president of the Karangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), said keeping the interest rate unchanged was no catalyst for economic growth and had dampened the industry's expectations. "This decision is a letdown for the business community and could further retard the economy," he said.

Sheikh Umer Rehan, the Chairman of Pakistan Yarnspun Manufacturers Association, stressed that cuts in interest rate were needed to stabilise the economy. "Keeping the rate unchanged will only exert pressure on the industrial sector," he added.

Salim Vali Muhammad, Chairman of the Pakistan Chemicals & Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA), said keeping interest rates unchanged was "not in keeping with the ground reality".

Pakistan's gender pay gap among highest in the world: ILO

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has one of the largest gender pay gaps (GPG) globally, with women earning significantly less than men across most sectors, according to a report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The report, released on Monday, says that the majority of the pay gap in Pakistan is not due to differences in skills, education or labour market characteristics but is instead largely unexplained, suggesting the presence of gender-based discrimination.

The report highlights that Pakistan's GPG remains higher than that of many other South Asian countries.

In Sri Lanka, the GPG based on hourly wages stands at 22pc. In Nepal, it is 18pc. In Bangladesh, the pay gap is actually reversed (-5pc), meaning women, on average, earn slightly more than men.

In Pakistan, the GPG is estimated at 25pc when using hourly wages and 30pc when considering monthly wages, meaning women earn between Rs500 and Rs750 for every Rs1,000 earned by men.

While the gender pay gap in Pakistan remains high, the report notes that it has decreased over the years. In 2018, the GPG was 33pc, indicating gradual improvement.

The report also finds that the GPG varies significantly across different segments of the labour market.

In the formal sector, the GPG is close to zero, meaning wages are nearly equal when employment laws are enforced. In informal and household sectors, the pay gap exceeds 40pc, indicating severe wage disparities in jobs without regulatory oversight. In the public sector, the gap is also relatively low, suggesting that strict labour regulations help reduce wage inequality.

GPG is a measurable indicator of inequality between women and men. Most governments have legislated to guarantee equality of treatment between men and women in remuneration. The ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) is one of the most highly ratified conventions.

US DOLLAR BUYING Rs279.28 SELLING Rs281.49	EURO BUYING Rs300.10 SELLING Rs305.20
GBP BUYING Rs360.06 SELLING Rs363.80	UAE DIRHAM BUYING Rs76.12 SELLING Rs76.70
KSA RIYAL BUYING Rs74.49 SELLING Rs75.00	GOLD TOLA Rs305,000 10 GMS Rs262,345

Insurance leaders seek income tax credit restoration

Aurangzeb assures CEOs their proposals will be considered

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: The chief executive officers of Pakistan's leading insurance companies urged Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday to restore and reinstate income tax credits for insurance to support the sector.

The delegation presented to the finance minister and his team key proposals and suggestions to boost the insurance sector's growth and productivity.

The meeting at the finance division was also attended by senior government officers.

The CEOs' delegation called reforming capital gains and dividend taxations and sought minimum turnover tax exemptions. They also advocated for centralised insurance taxation to ensure consistent treatment and eliminate double taxation at the provincial level.

An official announcement issued after the meeting said the finance minister assured the CEOs that the government would carefully consider their proposals, particularly regarding taxation and policy measures necessary for the future growth of the industry.

Mr Aurangzeb highlighted that the consultative process for the upcoming federal budget had been deliberately advanced this year, adding that over 90 per cent of the process had already been completed, with recommendations, proposals and suggestions received from various stakeholders, including the insurance sector.

The minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting the insurance sector, recognising its potential for significant private sector investment. He noted that the government seeks to diversify beyond the banking sector for lending purposes, urging the insurance industry to step up and meet the growing demand.

This includes expanding the sector by focusing on innovation, enhancing productivity and driving further growth.

The minister assured the delegation that the government would continue to work closely with industry leaders and stakeholders to ensure long-term prosperity of the insurance sector, which is a vital component of Pakistan's economic landscape.

The discussion focused on the growth of the insurance sector and its contributions to the national economy, with a particular emphasis on its impact on the health system, investments in Pakistan Investment Bonds, capital markets and long-term investment opportunities.

The delegation's presentation also highlighted the current statistics of the industry, which boasts assets worth Rs2.900 trillion, alongside 20,000 direct and 254,000 indirect employments. The sector's contributions were underscored, with Rs613 billion in gross written premium and Rs373bn in claims paid to date.

The finance minister emphasised that a team of experts at the Federal Board of Revenue is diligently reviewing each proposal submitted by different sectors, ensuring that the impact on the economy and revenue is thoroughly evaluated. This process aims to develop realistic and actionable policy interventions that will foster the growth of the industry and critical sectors of the economy, added the announcement.

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb meets CEOs of leading insurance companies to discuss the sector's growth and policy measures for its development.—APP

Govt to import raw sugar to 'stabilise prices'

By Ahmad Fraz Khan

LAHORE: Barely a few weeks after exporting half a million tonnes of sugar, the federal government on Monday decided to import raw sugar to "stabilise prices" in the country.

According to an official statement, the import of raw sugar (Shakkar) would help bring down prices in the country and help increase future production, as it could be refined and converted into sugar locally.

Interestingly, the export permission was granted after the industry promised to keep domestic prices between Rs145 and Rs150 per kilogram. However, prices have increased to over Rs180 per kg in the last 10 days.

According to market observers, this kind of price surge during the crushing season is not only unprecedented, but also highlights the government's lack of effectiveness and the industry's credibility.

The industry has chosen to capitalise on the situation, making huge profits just weeks after promising not to do so. On the government's part, it either appears unwilling or unable to hold the industry accountable or take administrative action against the defaulters, they observed.

"This is the circular motion we continuously travel in when it comes to governance, especially in protecting the public interest," says Muhammad Amin, an irritated consumer.

According to analysts, the government's decision to import raw sugar to control domestic prices is an absurd eyewash for two reasons: the time lag involved in importing and the nature of the problem itself. Importing is a time-consuming process that could take the next 10 to 15 weeks, even if done on an emergency basis. By that time, prices will have already increased, and the industry will have made billions of rupees, achieving exactly what it wanted.

Secondly, the root cause of the problem is administrative, not a supply issue. The government has failed to make the industry honour its commitment.

"How can an import, when ever it arrives, solve an issue that is purely administrative? Sugar is not in short supply; the country is in the middle of the crushing season. Increasing supply won't address the underlying problem," Mr Amin wondered.

"With this import decision, the government only looks helpless, if not downright stupid, trying to deflect its failure onto the market," insisted Ghulam Abbas, a trader from Lahore.

According to him, it's a wrong decision to allow exports in the first place, as the permission was poorly informed, to say the least. With the import decision, which is equally ill-informed and aimed at deflecting the blame, the government will not only compound its mistakes but will also be guilty of prescribing the wrong solution a second time in one crushing season, he regretted.

Oil falls on Trump tariff uncertainty

LONDON: Oil prices were down 1pc on Monday as uncertainty about US tariffs and rising output from OPEC+ producers pressured the market, although potential sanctions on Iranian crude exports limited losses.

Brent crude was down 71 cents, or 1pc, at $69.45 a barrel by 1800 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude lost 65 cents to $66.39, also shedding 1pc. Last week marked WTI's seventh consecutive weekly decline, the longest losing streak since November 2023, while Brent fell for a third consecutive week.

US President Donald Trump's protectionist policies have roiled markets across the world, with Trump imposing and then delaying tariffs on its biggest oil suppliers Canada and Mexico while also raising duties on Chinese goods. China and Canada have responded with tariffs of their own.

"This market is on rosterbooks and there's a lot to be processing as we move forward," said John Kilduff, partner with Again Capital in New York.

Investors view uncertainty over US tariffs as a negative, leading to a possible economic slowdown that could curtail oil demand. The benchmark S&P 500, which crude prices often follow, has fallen more than 8pc from its February high amid concern about tariffs.

Possible sanctions against Iran and Russia could provide support in the short term, said PVM analyst Tamas Varga. "Looking at the bigger picture, lingering uncertainties will likely make any oil rally brief," Varga said.

Oil rebounded from six-month lows on Friday after Trump said the United States would intensify sanctions on Russia if it fails to reach a ceasefire deal with Ukraine.—Reuters

PRA notice to Fauji Cement set aside

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has set aside a show-cause notice issued by the Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) to Fauji Cement Company Limited, ruling that the notice was issued without proper legal backing.

Justice Jawad Hassan delivered the verdict in response to a writ petition challenging the legality of the notice, which was dated Sept 6, 2024, and issued under Section 52 of the Punjab Sales Tax on Services Act, 2012.

The petitioner, represented by Hafiz Muhammad Idrees and other legal counsels, argued that the PRA had incorrectly invoked Section 52, which deals with tax recovery, whereas the correct provision for such notice should have been Section 14, which governs withholding agents.

During the proceedings, the court examined the difference between Section 52, which pertains to recovering unpaid taxes, and Section 14, which outlines special procedures for tax withholding.

The judgement cited legal precedent from the case *Rahat Cafe, Rawalpindi vs Government of Punjab*, where the LHC ruled that tax liabilities must be assessed following due legal process.

Justice Hassan ruled that the PRA failed to fulfil mandatory legal prerequisites before issuing the notice under Section 52(1), making it legally invalid.

The court also referred to previous judgements, including *Refutex Commodities (Private) Ltd. vs. Federation of Pakistan*, and *Chenab Flour and General Mills vs. Federation of Pakistan*, which established legal principles regarding the issuance of show-cause notices.

Highlighting the constitutional principles of fair trial and due process under Article 10-A, the court ruled that any action affecting the rights of citizens must be carried out in strict accordance with the law. It further stated that PRA should have proceeded under Sections 14 and 14A of the Act instead of invoking Section 52 directly. The judgement directed the PRA's additional commissioner in Rawalpindi to treat the petition as a representation by the company and reconsider the matter within four weeks, ensuring due legal process and a proper hearing.

Firm issued notice over 'fake documents'

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice to a private firm which manufactures batteries, for allegedly submitting fake documents in a tax fraud case.

IHC Justice Babar Sattar issued the notice on the complaint of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The firm is the manufacturer of two battery brands. Initially, the firm had filed a petition in the IHC following a search operation conducted by the FBR at its offices. The case was heard by Justice Mangal Hassan Aurangzeb.

However, on the request of the company's counsel, Justice Aurangzeb referred the matter to the chief justice, who transferred the petition to Justice Sattar, who was hearing an identical matter.

After initial hearing in the petition against FBR's search operation, Justice Sattar sought CCTV footage and warned the senior echelon of the FBR of consequences, if they failed to prove the bona fide. The FBR accused the petitioner of submitting false transportation receipts known as "biltiss," to mislead the court and substantiate a non-existent business transaction involving the transport of 17 million kilogrammes of lead.

The board pointed out that the company had submitted two volumes of transportation receipts to prove the transportation of lead from Karachi to Hattar.

However, a preliminary investigation by FBR revealed that the documents were entirely fake.

An investigation revealed that the transport company that supposedly issued the biltiss does not exist at the address provided on documents. The shop, located in Karachi, had been closed for years.

The alleged owner of the transport company also denied any involvement in the transaction.

Stocks close lower amid lack of triggers

By Fahma S. Attarwala

KARACHI: The KSE-100 Index closed Monday's trading session slightly lower, shedding 42.35 points, or 0.04 per cent, as investors remained cautious amid a lack of clear market triggers. The stock market remained range-bound, with sentiment largely dictated by stock-specific activity.

The Pakistan Stock Exchange continued its consolidation phase as concerns raised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over the circular debt issue triggered a correction in exploration and production (E&P) stocks, explained Chase Securities CEO Ali Nawaz.

Last week, the government announced that it is negotiating a Rs1.25 trillion loan with commercial banks to address its energy sector debt. However, the IMF has not granted its approval for this plan, adding to investor uncertainty. The lack of a green signal from the IMF has kept market participants cautious, particularly in sectors sensitive to policy shifts.

Meanwhile, there were varying expectations regarding a potential rate cut, ranging from 50 basis points to 100bps, down to the possibility of no rate cut. With the SBP ultimately deciding against a cut, the market will likely react with mild negativity, said Topline Securities CEO Muhammad Sohail. However, he added that ongoing negotiations with the IMF and the status of the long-standing circular debt resolution remain critical market triggers that could drive sentiment in the coming sessions.

Currently, in a note before the monetary policy announcement, Arif Habib Ltd said that if the stock market index moves above 115,000 points, it's a positive sign for the rest of the week. This suggests that the market has strength and could continue rising, possibly reaching 116,000 points in the coming days.

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Unilever Foods	378.76	Rafhan Maize	92.96	Power Cement	24.82
PIA Holding Co®	68.25	Nestle Pakistan	74.35	Fauji Cement	22.19
JDW Sugar Mills	55.00	Indus Motor	16.54	Maple Leaf Cement	19.75
Service Industries	51.11	Pakistan State Oil	14.25	The Bank of Punjab	19.55
Master International	29.40	Pak Paper Products	11.14	Sui Southern Gas	17.95

(Shares traded in rupees) * Volume in millions of traded shares

INDICATORS	Monday	Previous		Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points)	116,204.34	116,246.70	▼	42.36
KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Points)	35,347.19	35,456.81	▼	109.62
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	14,085.431	14,125.061	▼	39.629
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	29.704	37.842	▼	7.137

ACTIVITY	
Total listed	532
Active	435
Gainers	194
Losers	170

PARTICIPANTS	
Foreign	▼ $0.68m
Companies	▼ $1.0m
Banks	▲ $0.52m
Mutual Funds	▼ $2.36m
Individuals	▲ $1.41m

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Syrian leader says killings of Alawis threaten unity, vows justice

DAMASCUS: Syria's interim President Ahmed Sharaa said on Monday that mass killings of members of ousted president Bashar Al Assad's minority sect were a threat to his mission to unite the country, promising to punish those responsible, including his own allies.

In an interview held after hundreds died in four days of clashes between members of the Alawi sect and Syria's new authorities, Sharaa said pro-Assad groups, "backed by foreigners", were to blame for the bloodshed. But he acknowledged that revenge killings had followed.

"Syria is a state of law. The law will take its course on all," he said from the Damascus presidential palace, where Assad resided until Sharaa's forces toppled him on Dec 8, forcing the ousted ruler to flee to Moscow.

"We fought to defend the oppressed, and we won't accept that any blood be shed unjustly, or goes without punishment or accountability, even among those closest to us," the new Syrian ruler said.

In a wide-ranging interview, Sharaa also said his government had had no contacts with the United States since President Donald Trump took office. He repeated pleas for Washington to lift sanctions imposed in the Assad era.

He also held out the prospect of restoring relations with Moscow, Assad's backer throughout the war, which is trying to retain two major military bases in Syria.

He rejected criticism from Israel, which has captured territory in southern Syria since Assad was toppled. And he said he aimed to resolve differences with Kurds, including by meeting the head of a Kurdish-led group long backed by Washington.

'Opportunity for revenge'

While he blamed the outbreak of violence in recent days on a former military unit loyal to Assad's brother and an unspecified foreign power, he acknowledged that in response "many parties entered the Syrian coast and many violations occurred".

"It became an opportunity for revenge" for years of pent-up grievances, he said, although he said the situation had since been largely contained.

Sharaa said 200 members of the security forces had been killed in the unrest, while declining to give the overall death toll pending an investigation.

After years in the field at the helm of a guerilla movement that broke off from Al Qaeda, the 42-year-old son of an Arab nationalist was soft-spoken. His voice sometimes barely registered above a whisper during the interview, held after midnight on Monday.

"To be honest, my chest tightens in this palace. I'm astonished by how much evil against society emanated from every corner," Sharaa said.

The unrest of recent days, the bloodiest since Assad was ousted, was his biggest setback as he seeks international legitimacy, to fully lift US and other Western sanctions and assert his rule over a country fractured by 14 years of conflict.

His forces rode into the capital pledging to rule for all of Syria's communities — Sunnis, Alawis, Druze, Christians, Shias, Kurds and Armenians — while trying to assuage domestic and foreign concern over his Islamist background.—Reuters

SELMA (Alabama, US): Masons march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge during commemorations of the 60th anniversary of 'Bloody Sunday'. The day recalls events of March 7, 1965, when a group of peaceful demonstrators marching for African Americans' voting rights were brutally beaten by police.—AFP

Container ship hits US military fuel tanker off UK coast

Vessel releases hydrocarbon fuel into the ocean

LONDON: A tanker carrying jet fuel for the US military was struck by a container ship off northeast England on Monday, igniting a blaze and multiple explosions and forcing both crews to abandon ship.

The tanker, which has the potential to carry tens of thousands of tons of jet fuel, was at anchor when the smaller container ship struck it at speed, rupturing its cargo tank and releasing fuel into the sea. Two maritime security sources said there was no indication of any malicious activity or other actors involved in the incident.

Local officials said 32 casualties had been met by ambulances but by mid-afternoon only one remained in hospital. But the crash could risk environmental damage. Martin Slater, director of operations at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, said East Yorkshire's coast was home to protected and significant colonies of seabirds including puffins and gannets, with many offshore on the sea ahead of the nesting season.

A Greenpeace spokesperson said: "The magnitude of any impact will depend on a number of factors, including the amount and type of oil carried by the tanker, the fuel carried by both ships, and how much of that, if any, has entered the water. "Sea and weather conditions will also be important in determining how any spill behaves."

Jet-A1 fuel

The tanker, the Stena Immaculate, operated by US logistics group Crowley, was carrying Jet-A1 fuel when it was struck by the Portuguese-flagged cargo ship Solong while anchored near Hull, Crowley wrote on X. The Stena tanker is part of a US government programme designed to supply the armed forces with fuel when required.

A US military spokesperson said it had been on a short-term charter to the US Navy's Military Sealift Command on Monday. Emergency teams sent a helicopter, fixed-wing aircraft, lifeboats and nearby vessels with firefighting capability to the incident on Monday morning.

"A fire occurred as a result of the allision and fuel was reported released," Crowley said. An allision refers to a collision where one vessel is stationary. One insurance specialist said the pollution risk, as a products tanker, was less than if it were a crude carrier. "A lot depends really on cargo carried, how many tanks were breached and how bad the fire is," the source said.

Mark Sephton, professor of Organic Geochemistry at Imperial College London, added that the relatively small hydrocarbons of jet fuel could be degraded by bacteria more quickly than larger molecules. "The fact that we are moving into warmer temperatures will also speed up biodegradation rates," he said.

The incident occurred in a busy stretch of waterway, with traffic running from the ports along Britain's northeast coast to the Netherlands and Germany, shipping industry sources said.—Reuters

80pc of scrapped AID schemes didn't benefit US, says Rubio

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration has cancelled more than 80 per cent of all the programmes at US Agency for International Development following a six-week review, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Monday.

"The 5,200 contracts that are now cancelled spent tens of billions of dollars in ways that did not serve, (and in some cases even harmed), the core national interests of the United States," Rubio said in an X post that he sent from his personal account. He then pinned it on his timeline.

The remaining approximately 1,000 programmes, he said, would now be administered "more effectively" under the State Department and in consultation with Congress. US President Donald Trump returned to office on Jan 20 and immediately ordered a 90-day pause on foreign aid pending a review of whether the programmes align with his "America First" foreign policy.

The order, and ensuing stop work orders, threw USAID into turmoil, halting the agency's operations around the world, jeopardizing the delivery of life-saving food and medical aid and throwing global humanitarian relief efforts into chaos. The administration said it provided waivers for life-saving aid, but humanitarian workers around the world said the funding remained shut.

Thousands of staff were put on leave or fired and contractors terminated. The majority of those put on leave are not expected to be reinstated.

The top US diplomat also thanked the staffers of the so-called Department of Government Efficiency led by billionaire Elon Musk, who has been conducting an unprecedented scaling down of the US federal government. "Thank you to DOGE and our hardworking staff who worked very long hours to achieve this overdue and historic reform," Rubio said.—Reuters

North Korea fires missiles as South begins drills with US

SEOUL: North Korea fired "multiple unidentified ballistic missiles" on Monday, South Korea's military said, the same day Seoul and Washington began a major annual joint military drill known as Freedom Shield.

"Our military has detected at around 13:50 multiple unidentified ballistic missiles fired from Hwanghae province into the West Sea," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, referring to the body of water also known as the Yellow Sea.

"Our military will bolster surveillance and maintain a full readiness posture under close cooperation with the United States," the JCS added.

The United States stations tens of thousands of US soldiers in South Korea, and the allies regularly stage joint drills, which they describe as defensive in nature. But such exercises infuriate Pyongyang, which regards them as rehearsals for invasion and routinely responds with weapons tests of its own.

Earlier Monday, the nuclear-armed North slammed the drills as a "provocative act", warning of the danger of sparking war with "an accidental single shot".—AFP

Greenland holds parliamentary election amid renewed US interest

GREENLAND, a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark, will hold a parliamentary election on March 11 with independence a key campaign theme after US President Donald Trump said he wants control over the world's biggest island. Greenland became a formal territory of the Kingdom of Denmark in 1953, with Copenhagen controlling foreign affairs, defence and monetary policy. It has had the right to hold a referendum on independence since 2009 and some locals see the election as a chance to secede.

What's at stake?

Polls show that a majority of Greenlanders favour political and economic independence from its former colonial ruler. However, views differ on the timing and the potential impact on living standards, with Denmark contributing just under $1 billion annually to the local economy. The island has a rich but largely untapped supply of resources, including ample rare earth minerals.

Trump sees Greenland's strategic location as the shortest route from Europe to North America as vital for the US ballistic missile warning system.

Who can vote?

Out of Greenland's 57,000 citizens, around 40,500 are eligible to vote, according to Greenland's Domestic Affairs Ministry. Around 27,000 people voted in the last general election in 2021. There are 31 seats in Greenland's parliament, Inatsisartut, and 16 seats are needed for a majority.

What parties are running?

Inuit Ataqatigiit Greenland's ruling party, the left-leaning socialist Inuit Ataqatigiit (IA), led by Prime Minister Mute Egede, advocates for an economically and politically independent Greenland, but has not yet proposed a plan to achieve this.

IA opposes mining for uranium and other radioactive materials due to risks to the environment. The party currently holds 11 seats in Greenland's parliament and is represented in Denmark's parliament by Aaja Chemnitz, who holds one of Greenland's two seats in the Danish Folketing.

Siumut, social democratic association, led by Erik Jensen, supports a gradual succession from Denmark. It has previously suggested holding a referendum in the coming four years, but has recently backtracked on this. Siumut currently holds 10 seats in Greenland's parliament.

Naleraq, left-wing, led by Pele Broberg, is the largest opposition party and strongly advocates for a swift transition to full independence. Naleraq has said that becoming a sovereign state will spur new business opportunities for Greenland and wants to develop opportunities for industries such as fishing, which accounts for more than 95 per cent of exports. It has also said it wants to pursue a defence agreement with the US and could choose a so-called "free association", under which Greenland would receive US support and protection in return for military rights, without becoming a US territory.

Demokraatit, Social liberals, led by Greenland's Minister of Industry and Raw Minerals Jens Frederik Nielsen, envisions an independent Greenland with a free market economy. However, it cautions against premature action to safeguard the people and economy from a potential decline in living standards. Demokraatit currently holds three seats in parliament.

Atassut, the centre-right conservative party, led by Aqqalu Jeremiassen, advocates for unity with the Danish realm and opposes a transition to independence without a clear plan.

According to Atassut, Greenland is not yet ready for independence. The party currently has two parliamentary representatives. Qulleq, newly-formed left-wing party, led by Karl Ingemann, advocates for rapid independence and wants full control of the island's resources, which it says could alleviate social and economic suffering among Greenlanders.—Reuters

LONDON: Activists of Republic, an anti-monarchy group, hold a protest outside Westminster Abbey as members of the royal family attend the annual Commonwealth Day service ceremony, on Monday.—AFP

PARIS: A woman walks past a musical artwork, created by Yaacov Agam, at the Museum of Modern Art. The museum closed its doors on Monday for the next five years of renovation work.—Reuters

KALIKI (Indonesia): Villagers take part in a ritual during the year's first rice harvest, on Sunday.—AFP

NEWSMAKERS

Anti-apartheid playwright Athol Fugard is no more

Monitoring Desk

ATHOL Fugard, the apartheid-defying dramatist widely acclaimed as one of South Africa's greatest playwrights, has died aged 92, *BBC News* reported.

The son of an Afrikaner mother, he was best known for his politically charged plays challenging the racist regime.

Paying tribute to Fugard, South Africa's Arts and Culture Minister Gayton McKenzie hailed him as "a fearless storyteller who laid bare the harsh realities of apartheid through his plays".

"We were cursed with apartheid, but blessed with great artists who shone a light on its impact and helped to guide us out of it. We owe a huge debt to this late, wonderful man," McKenzie added.

Fugard wrote more than 30 plays in a career that spanned 70 years, making his mark with *The Blood Knot* in 1961.

It was the first play in South Africa with a black and white actor — Fugard himself — performing in a front of a multiracial audience, before the apartheid regime introduced laws prohibiting mixed casts and audiences.

The Blood Knot catapulted Fugard onto the international stage — with the play shown in the US, and adapted for British television.

The apartheid regime later confiscated his passport, but it strengthened Fugard's resolve to keep breaking racial barriers and exposing the injustices of apartheid.

He went on to work with the Serpent Players, a group of black actors, and performed in black townships, despite harassment from the apartheid regime's security forces.

Fugard's celebrated plays included *Boesman and Lena*, which looked at the difficult circumstances of a mixed-race couple. Having premiered in 1969, it was made into a film in 2000 starring Danny Glover and Angela Bassett.

His novel, *Tsotsi*, was also made into a film, winning the 2006 Oscar for best foreign language movie.

Other well-known plays by him include *Sizwe Bansi is Dead* and *The Island*, which he co-wrote with the actors John Kani and Winston Ntshona, in a powerful condemnation of life on Robben Island, where anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela was imprisoned.

THB Oct 15, 2014, file photo shows Athol Fugard after receiving a medal from Prince Hitachi during an awards ceremony in Tokyo.—AFP

ALOTENANGO (Guatemala): A view of Fuego, the most active volcano in Central America, taken at a distance of 65 kilometres from Guatemala City, on Monday. Nearly a thousand people were evacuated following the eruption.—AFP

SCHOENEFELD: Members of the German trade union Verdi demonstrate at the Berlin-Brandenburg Airport, on Monday. Major disruptions loom at German airports including a total shutdown of flights, after a services union announced strike action for better pay for ground personnel.—AFP

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Zelensky, Rubio arrive in Jeddah for Russia truce talks

Trump says US has 'just about' ended pause on Ukraine intel sharing

JEDDAH/KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and chief US diplomat Marco Rubio arrived in Saudi Arabia ahead of ceasefire talks on Monday as Ukraine's proposal for a partial truce raised hopes of a breakthrough after three years of war.

Zelensky, embroiled in a public row with US President Donald Trump last month, touched down in Jeddah as Rubio cautiously welcomed the idea of an aerial and naval ceasefire. Tuesday's talks between Ukrainian officials and Rubio's US team will be the first between the two sides since the White House blow-up, when Zelensky left without signing a minerals deal demanded by Trump.

Washington has since suspended military aid to Ukraine as well as intelligence sharing and access to satellite imagery. "We do have a proposal for a ceasefire in the sky and ceasefire at sea," a Ukrainian official said on Monday. "Because these are the ceasefire options that are easy to install and to monitor, and it's possible to start with them."

Rubio indicated the idea had promise. "I'm not saying that alone is enough, but it's the kind of concession you would need to see in order to end the conflict," he told reporters. "You've not going to get a ceasefire and an end to this war unless both sides make concessions."

Rubio added that he hoped to "resolve" the suspension of military aid that is threatening to hamper Ukraine's campaign. "I think the notion of the pause in aid, broadly, is something I hope we can resolve. Obviously, what happens tomorrow will be key to that," he said.

Zelensky was expected to meet the de facto Saudi ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman later before his officials sit down with the US side on Tuesday.

Britain's *Financial Times* newspaper, citing a source briefed on preparations for the talks, said Kyiv's offer of a partial ceasefire was aimed at convincing Washington to resume military aid and intelligence-sharing. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer told Trump in a call on Monday that he hoped the talks would lead to the US resuming military aid to Ukraine, Downing Street said.

Before his departure for Jeddah, Zelensky said Ukraine wanted peace, insisting Russia was the sole reason that the war was carrying on. "Ukraine has been seeking peace since the very first second of the war, and we have always said that the only reason that the war is continuing is because of Russia," he wrote on social media.

US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff said Washington wanted to use the talks "to get down a framework for a peace agreement and an initial ceasefire as well". In Jeddah, several Ukrainian and Saudi flags flew on a main roundabout near the airport and on thoroughfares.

As well as Rubio, Mike Waltz, Trump's national security adviser, has also confirmed his participation. Zelensky said his negotiators will include Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga and Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, his chief of staff Andriy Yermak and Pavlo Palisa, a military commander and Yermak's deputy.

JEDDAH: (Left) Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky is being welcomed by the deputy governor of Makkah region, Prince Saud bin Mishal bin Abdulaziz, upon his arrival on Monday for talks between Ukrainian, Saudi and US officials. (Right) US Secretary of State Marco Rubio greets well-wishers upon arrival at King Abdulaziz International Airport.—Agencies

Suspension of intelligence sharing ban

Trump said on Sunday that the United States had "just about" ended a suspension of intelligence sharing with Ukraine. Asked if he would consider ending the suspension, Trump said, "We just about have. We just about have."

CIA Director John Ratcliffe said on Wednesday the US had halted intelligence sharing with Ukraine, piling pressure on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to cooperate with Trump in convening peace talks with Russia. The suspension, which could cost lives by hurting Ukraine's ability to defend itself against Russian missile strikes, followed a halt to US military aid to Kyiv.

Zelenskiy and Trump had been slated to sign the minerals accord — which would give the US access to certain mineral resources in Ukraine — before Zelenskiy's White House visit erupted into a clash between the two leaders, after which it was not signed. Trump said he thought Ukraine would sign the minerals agreement, which Ukraine wants to contain a US security guarantee.

"They will sign the minerals deal but I want them to want peace... They haven't shown it to extent they should," he said. Trump also said his administration was looking at a variety of things with respect to tariffs on Russia and that administration officials are not concerned about military exercises involving Russia, China and Iran.—Agencies

Palestinian detained for leading anti-Israel rallies at US varsity

President Trump says Mahmoud Khalil's arrest is a first, with 'many more to come'

NEW YORK: Immigration officers have arrested a leader of the protests at Columbia University against Israel's conflict in Gaza, authorities said on Sunday, after US President Donald Trump vowed to deport foreign pro-Palestinian student demonstrators.

Mahmoud Khalil, one of the most prominent faces of the university's protest movement that erupted in response to Israel's conduct of the conflict, was arrested on Sunday, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said on X. The agency said the action was taken "in support of President Trump's executive orders prohibiting anti-Semitism, and in coordination with the Department of State."

Trump said that the detention of Mahmoud Khalil is "the first arrest of many to come." "We know there are more students at Columbia and other Universities across the Country who have engaged in pro-terrorism, anti-Semitic, anti-American activity, and the Trump Administration will not tolerate it," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.Trump threatened in his post further action against other campus protesters, some of whom he alleged without evidence to be "paid agitators." "We will find, apprehend, and deport these terrorist sympathizers from our country — never to return again," he wrote.

The Student Workers of Columbia Union said in a statement that Khalil had been detained on Saturday, describing him as "a Palestinian recent Columbia graduate and lead negotiator for last spring's Gaza solidarity encampment."

US campuses including Columbia's in New York were rocked by student protests against Israel's conflict in Gaza following the Oct 7, 2023 Hamas attack. The demonstrations ignited accusations of anti-Semitism. Protests, some of which turned violent and saw campus buildings occupied and lectures disrupted, pitted students protesting Israel's conduct against pro-Israel campaigners, many of whom were Jewish.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio wrote on X that "we will be revoking the visas and/or green cards of Hamas supporters in America so they can be deported." Khalil, who remains in immigration enforcement detention, held permanent residency at the time of his arrest prompting thousands of people to sign a petition calling for his release, the union statement added.

"We are also aware of multiple reports of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents accessing or attempting to access Columbia campus buildings on Friday and Saturday, including undergraduate dorms," the union said. Columbia did not directly address Khalil's arrest in response to inquiries, but in a statement said "there have been reports of ICE in the streets around campus."

"Columbia has and will continue to follow the law. Consistent with our longstanding practice and the practice of cities and institutions throughout the country, law enforcement must have a judicial warrant to enter non-public University areas, including University buildings," Columbia said. In its post on X, the DHS said Khalil "led activities aligned to Hamas, a designated terrorist organization," without further details.

Trump railed against the student protest movement linked to the conflict in Gaza, and vowed to deport foreign students who had demonstrated. He also threatened to cut off federal funding for institutions that he said were not doing enough to combat anti-Semitism.

His administration announced Friday it was cutting $400 million in federal grants to Columbia University, accusing it of failing to protect Jewish students from harassment.—AFP

Israeli team heads to Qatar for talks on Gaza ceasefire

JERUSALEM: Israel's negotiating team left for Qatar on Monday for talks aimed at extending the fragile Gaza ceasefire after the authorities cut the Palestinian territory's electricity supply to ramp up pressure on Hamas.

Ahead of the negotiations, Israel disconnected the only power line to a water desalination plant in Gaza, a move Hamas denounced as "cheap and unacceptable blackmail". The first phase of the truce deal expired on March 1 with no agreement on subsequent stages that should secure a lasting end to the Israel-Hamas conflict.

There are differences over how to proceed — Hamas wants immediate negotiations on the next phase, but Israel prefers extending phase one. Hamas accused Israel of reneging on the ceasefire deal, saying in a statement on Monday that Israel "refuses to commence the second phase, exposing its intentions of evasion and stalling".

An Israeli official familiar with the negotiations said the country's team had left for Doha. Media reports said the delegation was led by a top official from the domestic security agency Shin Bet.

'Long-term truce'

Hamas has repeatedly demanded that the second phase of the truce — brokered by Qatar, Egypt and the United States — include a comprehensive prisoner exchange, a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, a permanent ceasefire and the reopening of border crossings to end the blockade.

Spokesman Hazem Qassem said that Hamas wanted the mediators to ensure Israel "complies with the agreement... and proceeds with the second phase according to the agreed-upon terms".

Former US president Joe Biden had outlined a second phase involving prisoners release and the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Gaza.—AFP

UK Labour MP to quit over assault

LONDON: A lawmaker suspended from Britain's ruling Labour party for punching a man in the street announced on Monday that he will resign as an MP, paving the way for the first electoral test of Keir Starmer's premiership.

Mike Amesbury, who received a 10-week suspended jail sentence last month after admitting repeatedly punching the man during a late-night altercation in October, told the BBC he will "step aside at the earliest opportunity".

His resignation from the northwest English seat of Runcorn and Helsby will trigger the first by-election since Labour swept to power in July last year. The party has since slumped in the polls.

Amesbury has sat as an independent since Labour suspended him after the *Mail Online* published a video showing the assault on 85-year-old Paul Fellows in the town of Frodsham, southeast of Liverpool, shortly before 3am on October 26.

A court heard Fellows had complained to Amesbury about a bridge closure. The MP apologised to the victim and his family after pleading guilty to assault in January.—AFP

PML-N govt's 'unilateralism putting strain'

Continued from Page 1

expand tax net—not by overburdening those who already contribute, but by ensuring that every eligible taxpayer participates in nation-building.

He said Pakistan should also diversify its exports, focusing on value-added goods and services. "To explore new markets and build a competitive export-oriented economy, we need to make our IT industry the key driver of economic growth," he added.

The president said the sustained support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) was equally important and said young people should be encouraged to enter the business world through SME-focused programmes, skill development initiatives, and accessible loan schemes.

Economic hardship

President Zardari said the working and the salaried classes were facing serious economic hardships.

"Our citizens are burdened by inflation, high prices of essential items, and rising energy costs. As we approach the next budget, I urge this parliament and the government to provide real relief to the people," he added. He said the government should take measures in the forthcoming budget to increase salaries and pensions, reduce income taxes on salaried classes and lower energy costs, which would help reduce the financial burden on them.

The country needed a strong and efficient transport infrastructure, road networks, and modernised railways, he said, adding that Gilgit-Baltistan and Balochistan required special attention in terms of connectivity and development. He said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar Port must be fully realised so that Pakistan could serve as a gateway for international trade, linking Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East.

He also said it was essential to empower women by enhancing their representation in various sectors, adding that the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) remained a crucial lifeline for millions of families.

Terrorism

The president said the parliament needed to play a role in rebuilding a consensus to tackle extremist ideologies. "We must unite to ensure that challenges don't gather more momentum, because already thousands of our security forces have sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism, and we cannot allow resurgence again. I want to assure you that we are committed to eradicating this menace with the support of our nation and brave armed forces," he added.

On the foreign front, the president called for enhancing cooperation with friendly regional countries in the areas of trade, economy, and cultural exchanges. The president stressed the need for learning from Chinese leadership and getting the benefits of CPEC.

He also appreciated the support of trusted friends — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkiye, and others—who have stood by Pakistan in times of economic challenges. The president reaffirmed unwavering moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri and Palestinian people and call upon the international community to take action.

Climate change

In his address, the president said Pakistan was one of the countries most impacted by climate change, adding that the focus should be on restoring biodiversity, adaptive strategies on the food and water security nexus, and the preservation of ecosystems.

"We must invest in the promotion of renewable energy and electric vehicles. We must also focus on recharging our wetlands and rivers, so they emerge pollution-free and become once again the lifeline for livelihoods and rich marine ecosystems. The mangroves of Sindh stand as a shining example of what can be achieved through conservation efforts," he added.

He said federal and provincial governments should strengthen the agriculture sector, ensure sustainable water management, and bring coordination and agency to the urgent task of managing the growing threats of climate change. "We must work toward innovative solutions such as bringing water from Tajikistan to Balochistan, upgrading irrigation systems, and utilising new technologies to conserve and distribute water," he added.

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TENDER NO. PROC/2024-25/586, Dated: 10-03-2025

INVITATION OF BIDS THROUGH E-PADS

Under the Single Stage Two Envelope procurement method, as defined in PPRA Rules 36(b) 2004 (as amended), bids are invited through the online E-PADS platform. Firms registered with the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) under relevant codes, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), and the Sindh Revenue Board (SRB) Tax Authorities are eligible to submit bids for the following works, in accordance with the detailed Bills of Quantities (BOQs) and specifications provided in the tender documents.

S.No	Nature of work	Tender fee	Bid Security	Date of Purchase	Date & time of Submission of bids	Date & time of opening	Estimated Cost Millions
01	Construction of Boundary Wall & Main gate (Re-Tender)	Rs.5000/-	2%	12-03-2025 To 27-03-2025	28-03-2025 upto 10:30 AM	28-03-2025 @ 11:00 AM	247.790
02	Construction of Academic Block (Re-Tender)	Rs.5000/-	2%	12-03-2025 To 27-03-2025			715.225
03	Construction of Common Facilities (Re-Tender)	Rs.5000/-	2%	12-03-2025 To 27-03-2025			346.699
04	Construction of Administration Block (Re-Tender)	Rs.5000/-	2%	12-03-2025 To 27-03-2025			222.825
05	Construction of Student Hostels (Boys & Girls) (Re-Tender)	Rs.5000/-	2%	12-03-2025 To 27-03-2025			622.571
06	Construction of Faculty & Staff Housing (Re-Tender)	Rs.5000/-	2%	12-03-2025 To 27-03-2025			520.906
07	Construction Of Bachelor Faculty Hostel & Guest House (Re-Tender)	Rs.5000/-	2%	12-03-2025 To 27-03-2025			150.141
08	Construction Of Road, Footpath & Parking Shed (Re-Tender)	Rs.5000/-	2%	12-03-2025 To 27-03-2025			399.253
09	Construction Of External Development (Re-Tender)	Rs.5000/-	2%	12-03-2025 To 27-03-2025			437.954

Prospective bidders can obtain the bidding documents online from **https://portal.epecure.gov.pk/#/tenders/Epadtenders** by paying a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 5,000/-** payable to the **Hyderabad Institute for Technology & Management Sciences.**

Bidders are required to submit both their technical and financial bids electronically via the E-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (E-PADS) using the upload function. The technical bid submission must be accompanied by a scanned copy of the tender fee, amounting to **Rs. 5,000/-**. Similarly, the financial bid submission must be accompanied by a scanned copy of the bid security. Furthermore, the original sealed tender fee and bid security documents are to be delivered in separate envelopes to the office of the Project Coordinator, HITMS, on the designated submission date and time, and before the scheduled opening time.

All bids must be submitted electronically through the E-PADS system; no alternative submission methods will be accepted. The technical bids submitted via E-PADS will be opened in the office of the Project Coordinator, HITMS, in the presence of the Procurement Committee and authorized representatives of participating firms who wish to attend. The financial bids of only those firms that have been deemed technically qualified will be opened at a subsequent date and time, which will be communicated to the qualified firms via E-PADS and a separate notification issued by the procurement agency. The technical evaluation criteria are specified in the tender document.

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The procuring agency shall not be held liable for any online errors occurring during the submission or opening of bids, nor for technical issues experienced by bidders. Bidders encountering such problems must submit a written application detailing the issues during the relevant timeframe.

The procuring agency reserves the right to reject any bid, in accordance with the relevant provisions of **PPRA Rules-33, 2004** (as amended), and may cancel the bidding process at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal, as stipulated in rule-33 of said rules.

For further information, please contact 022-3823752

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Senate panel alarmed over law, order in three provinces

Highlights increasing crime ratio in ICT and fake calls received by senators

By Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: A Senate panel on Monday expressed alarm over the deteriorating law and order situation in Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

As the Senate Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control met here with Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman in the chair, some senators voicing concern over law and order situation suggested that the relevant authorities of the provinces be summoned by the committee.

Interior Secretary Mohammad Khurram Agha assured support for conducting meetings in the provinces. Senator Shahadat Awan of PPP, however, stressed that law and order was a devolved subject and it was not the job of the committee to oversee matters related to the provinces.

He, however, noted that the federal government can take up the matter with the provinces.

Senator Rehman said that people have lost their loved ones at the hands of this menace and still "we are reminded of the 18th Amendment when the issue was highlighted in the committee".

He reiterated that the committee would have a detailed discussion on the issue as the lives of millions of people are at stake and the issue has now become a national issue.

The committee highlighted the increasing crime ratio in ICT and fake calls received by senators.

ICT Inspector General Syed Nasir Ali Rizvi apprised the committee that the gang involved in fake calls had been arrested, and it was found during the investigation that the accused used True Caller and Eycon to make such calls. The committee appreciated the efforts of the IG in tackling the matter efficiently.

Furthermore, the committee unanimously passed two bills — the Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Senator Mohsin Aziz, the mover of the Pakistan Penal Code Bill, stated that the bill aims to increase penalties for rape offenders with the intent of rooting out this menace from society.

However, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that the Criminal Laws Bill aimed to prevent the heinous crime of Necrophilia and proposed severe punishment for the offence.

Additionally, the committee discussed several other bills moved by the senators. The committee deferred these bills owing to the interior and law divisions' delayed and opaque response. The bills included the Control of Narcotics Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2024, moved by Senator Mohsin Aziz.

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was moved by Senator Fawzia Arshad, the Societies Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2025, by Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar on behalf of Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, the Shamilat Land Protection Bill, 2024, by Senator Pahwasha Muhammad Zai Khan, the Price Control and Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding (Amendment) Bill, 2024, by Senator Mohsin Aziz and the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2024, by Senator Pahwasha Muhammad Zai Khan.

The committee was also briefed on the workings of the Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts.

Officials informed the committee that the GB Scouts had been primarily tasked with the protection of Diamer-Bhasha Dam and Chinese nationals working on the dam. However, in addition to these tasks, GB Scouts engage with the youth and make necessary endeavours for the provision of health and education to the residents.

The committee acknowledged the efforts of the GB Scouts in maintaining law and order and extended support to their future initiatives. While discussing the unprecedented increase in drugs use in academic institutions, the ANF DG highlighted the efforts of the force in uprooting this menace.

He said provinces' coordination is incumbent in making institutions drug free. The chairman of the committee acknowledged the efforts of ANF DG and extended committee's support in controlling this menace.

Israel's halt to food, aid deliveries worsens conditions in Gaza

CAIRO: Israel's suspension of goods entering Gaza is taking a toll on the Palestinian enclave, with some bakeries closing and food prices rising, while a cut in the electricity supply could deprive people of clean water, Palestinian officials said.

The suspension, which Israel said was aimed at pressuring Hamas in ceasefire talks, applies to food, medicine and fuel imports.

The UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA said the decision to halt humanitarian aid threatens the lives of civilians exhausted by 17 months of "brutal" war. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people were dependent on aid, it said.

Hamas describes the measure as "collective punishment" and insisted it will not be pushed into making concessions at the discussions.

Abdel-Nasser Al-Ajrami, head of the Gaza bakers' union, told *Reuters* that six out of the 22 bakeries still able to operate in the enclave had already shut after they ran out of cooking gas.

"The remaining bakeries may close down in a week or so should they run out of diesel or flour, unless the crossing is reopened to allow the goods to flow," he said.

A WORKER turns a valve at the Southern Gaza Desalination plant, which stopped working after Israel cut off electricity supply to the Gaza Strip.—AFP

"The 22 bakeries were not enough to meet the needs of the people, with six of them shutting down now, that would increase the demand for bread and worsen the condition," he added.

Israel already cut power supply to Gaza at the war's start but this move would affect a wastewater treatment plant presently supplied with power, according to the Israeli electricity company.

The Palestinian Water Authority said the decision suspended operations at a water desalination plant that produced 18,000 cubic meters of water per day for the population in central and southern areas of Gaza Strip.

Mohammad Thaher, the spokesperson of the Gaza power distribution plant, told *Reuters* that the decision will deprive people in those areas of clean and healthy water.

"The decision is catastrophic, municipalities now will be obliged to let sewage water stream into the sea, which may result in environmental and health risks that go beyond the boundaries of Gaza," Thaher said.

He said there was not enough fuel to operate stand-by generators in desalination and sewage plants.—Reuters

Syria ends operation after mass killings

Sharaa says country will not face civil war again

LATAKIA: Syria's new authorities announced on Monday the end of an operation against loyalists of deposed president Bashar al-Assad, after nearly 1,000 civilians were killed in the worst violence since his overthrow.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor reported the mass killings of at least 973 civilians since Thursday, the overwhelming majority of them members of the Alawi minority executed by security forces or allied groups.

The fighting in the coastal heartland of the Alawi minority to which the ousted president belongs has threatened to throw into chaos the country's fragile transition after decades of the Assad clan's iron-fisted rule.

The authorities on Monday ended their sweeping "military operation" against security threats and "regime remnants" in Latakia and Tartus provinces on the Mediterranean coast, defence ministry spokesman Hassan Abdel Ghani said in a statement on official news agency SANA.

The announcement came after interim president Ahmed al-Sharaa, whose group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) led the offensive that toppled Assad on December 8, said the country would not be dragged into civil war again.

"Syria... will not allow any foreign powers or domestic parties to drag it into chaos or civil war," Sharaa said in a speech posted by SANA.

He also vowed to "hold accountable, firmly and without leniency, anyone who was involved in the bloodshed of civilians... or who overstepped the powers of the state".

In Jableh in Latakia province, a resident spoke to *AFP* in tears, requesting anonymity for safety concerns and saying they were being terrorised by armed groups who had taken control of the town.

"More than 50 people from among my family and friends have been killed. They gathered bodies with bulldozers and buried them in mass graves."

In some areas, residents began tentatively venturing out but many were still afraid to leave home after dark and complained of a lack of basic supplies. "Today the situation in Latakia is a little calmer, people are out and about after five days of anxiety and extreme fear," said Farah, a 22-year-old university student who gave only her first name.

But with the situation still "very tense", she said that "after six o'clock, you do not see anyone in the street... the neighbourhood turns into a ghost town."

Clashes broke out on Thursday after gunmen loyal to the deposed president attacked Syria's new security forces.—AFP

Users report issues in accessing X across Pakistan, other countries

Musk sees 'massive cyberattack' behind disruptions

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Users across Pakistan reported issues in accessing social media platform X on Monday, according to an outage-tracking website, as platform owner Elon Musk claimed a "massive cyberattack" was under way against the service, *Dawn.com* reported.

It bears mentioning that X remains officially banned in Pakistan for access and use.

Downdetector.com, the outage-tracking website, showed that 65 reports were received about X from users in Pakistan at 3:02pm, indicating "possible problems" with the service. This surged to 109 reports at 9:12pm.

The reports about disruption of access were received from Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi.

Meanwhile, the tracker said X was also facing intermittent outages in the United States, restricting thousands of users from accessing the social media platform.

The number of outage reports rose to around 26,579 after falling briefly, user-submitted data on the outage-tracking website showed. The number was as high as 40,000 earlier in the day.

More than 10,800 X users in the UK also reported the outage earlier in the day, according to the website.

Musk said the disruption was the result of a cyberattack.

"There was (still is) a massive cyberattack against X. We get attacked every day, but this was done with a lot of resources. Either a large, coordinated group and/or a country is involved," Musk said in a post on the platform, adding that an investigation was under way.

Internet tracking monitor NetBlocks also reported at 7:17pm that X was experiencing intermittent outages, adding that the incident was not related to country-level internet disruptions or filtering.

Mark Carney — from banker to Canada's next premier

Liberal Party chief presents himself as bulwark against Trump's trade onslaught; paints Poilievre as US leader's 'acolyte'

By Qurat ul ain Siddiqui

TORONTO: The political speculation that once consumed Ottawa's highest echelons has been laid to rest with resolute clarity. Mark Carney, the economist-turned champion of climate capitalism, is now leader of the Liberal Party — and soon, will be Canada's 24th prime minister.

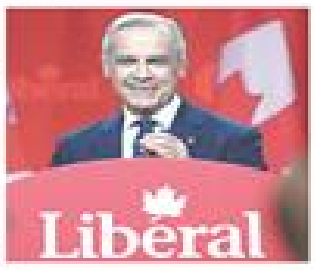
His coronation, sealed with 85.9 per cent of the party's weighted vote, was less a contest than a foregone conclusion. Chrystia Freeland and other contenders trailed distantly, eclipsed by the scale of a decisive victory.

But this is no ceremonial transition. It's a strategic pivot — driven by urgency, geopolitical uncertainty, and a party's resolve to reclaim its footing.

Carney's ascent is a condemnation Trudeaumism is exhausted. After nearly a decade in power, the Liberals' poll numbers cratered under inflation, housing crises, and voter fatigue.

Freeland's abrupt resignation as finance minister in December signalled the mutiny within. Enter Carney, the anti-Poilievre, bilingual with a globalist sheen and a Goldman Sachs pedigree forged during his 13 years at the investment giant.

To urban progressives, he's the UN's special envoy on climate action and finance, architect of global green investment frameworks. To Bay Street, the steady hand who, as the Bank of Canada governor during the 2008 financial crisis, stabilised the country's banking system while much of the world collapsed. His tenure saw Canada avoid the worst of the recession through aggressive liquidity measures and regulatory foresight, a legacy now touted as proof he can navigate looming storms.



MARK Carney

To a nation rattled by Donald Trump's threats, Carney is the statesman Canada craves — a figure whose Rolodex spans central bankers, EU commissioners, and BlackRock CEOs, honed during his tenure as Bank of England governor, where he steered the UK through Brexit's economic chaos.

His victory speech on Sunday night was equal parts unity and ultimatum. Flanked by Liberal loyalists in a cavernous Ottawa convention centre, he framed his mandate as a bulwark against Trump's trade brinkmanship and Pierre Poilievre, the Conservative leader he painted as a Trump acolyte.

"A person who worships at the altar of Donald Trump will kneel before him, not stand up to him," Carney asserted, tempering his typically measured tone with rare sharpness.

Trudeau's darker tone

Outgoing PM Justin Trudeau, in his valedictory address, struck a darker tone. "Democracy is not a given. Freedom is not a given. Even Canada is not a given. None of these happen by accident. None of them will continue without effort," he warned, hours after Trump paused tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum — a reprieve expiring on Wednesday, Carney's firstticking clock.

Polls suggest the Liberals' gamble is working. Since Trudeau's resignation, party fortunes have rebounded, with 42pc of Canadians viewing Carney as the best foil to Trump, compared to Poilievre's 34pc. The threat of American economic conquest has, ironically, revived Canadian patriotism — and Carney, the ultimate insider-outsider, is the accidental beneficiary.

Yet Carney's triumph is fraught with peril. He inherits a party fraying at the edges: despite 296,000 members registering with the party during the leadership race, only 151,899 ended up casting ballots in the election. His lack of a House of Commons seat, a first since John Turner's ill-fated 1984 tenure, leaves him governing on borrowed time. Poilievre, ever the populist, has already branded him Trudeau's economic adviser — a relic of the status quo.

Carney's next move is existential. Govern briefly with a minority, or trigger an election. The latter risks a Mulroney-redux collapse; the former, a death by a thousand confidence votes. Poilievre, ever kinetic, is already framing the contest as Trudeau 2.0 vs. the People, mocking Carney as the architect of sky-high taxes and unaffordable homes.

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SPORT

Arteta left fuming after draw all but ends Arsenal's title hopes

MANCHESTER: Mikel Arteta's 200th Premier League game was not one to savour for the Spaniard as any lingering hope of a title challenge was extinguished at Old Trafford.

Arsenal boss Arteta was visibly agitated after his team could only salvage a 1-1 draw with United on Sunday and now sit 15 points adrift of Liverpool.

Arteta, who stomped away from a post-game television interview, rued the fact that Declan Rice's secondhalf strike was their only goal against a struggling United side that are languishing in 14th place in the table.

"Very frustrating we haven't won with the dominance and the chances we had in the first half. We gave the ball away out of nothing. Gave a foul away. We had them in the second half, you could feel they were really fatigued," Arteta said.

"It was the threat in the final 25 metres to make something happen. They didn't want to play. You come here and you want to win the game. Today, it is frustration."

United captain Bruno Fernandes put the hosts ahead with a superb free-kick in first half stoppage-time.

Rice's clinical finish from just inside the United area handed Arsenal level in the 74th minute but Mikel Arteta's second-placed side couldn't find a winner.

Arsenal have not won their last three league games, amid a run of just four wins in their last nine league games since New Year's Day.

The loss of Kai Havertz, Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Jesus and Gabriel Martinelli to injury has played a massive part in Arsenal's demise.

Finishing second to Pep Guardiola's Manchester City juggernaut in the last two seasons was supposed to be the building block towards title glory.

Yet, even in an off year for the defending champions, Arsenal have proven unable to capitalise. —Agencies

MANCHESTER: Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya makes a save during the Premier League match against Manchester United at Old Trafford.—Reuters

Real capitalise as Atletico stumble in title race

MADRID: Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Junior were both on target for Real Madrid as they beat Rayo Vallecano 2-1 on Sunday to pull level with leaders Barcelona at the top of the table in the battle to retain their La Liga crown.

Only one point separates Spain's three biggest clubs in one of the closest title races in recent years with Barcelona heading the pack on 57 points, ahead of second-placed Real on goal difference with Atletico Madrid in third on 56 points after a 2-1 loss at Getafe earlier on Sunday.

Barca, who will face Atletico next Sunday, have a game in hand after their match against Osasuna on Saturday was postponed due to the sudden death of their team doctor.

Carlo Ancelotti's Real produced a solid, if not spectacular, performance to get the better of their local rivals, ahead of the huge Champions League derby clash against Atletico beckoning on Wednesday.

"Vinicius and Mbappe scored two spectacular goals, and they had chances for the third," said Ancelotti. "The first half was very good, when you get to the 70th, 75th minute with a 2-1 lead, you have to do one thing well, which is to defend it, so you don't have problems.

"The team is looking fine and players look fresh, considering the calendar. If we play on Wednesday like we did in the first half today, we have a good chance of going through."

The Italian coach brought Jude Bellingham back into the starting line-up after suspension, but left Thibaut Courtois and Antonio Rudiger out entirely because of a knee issue and illness respectively.

The duo are expected to return to face Atletico in the last 16 second leg, where they hold a 2-1 lead.

Real were still the better side and dominated proceedings from early on at their Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

They got a two-goal lead with quickfire strikes, as French superstar Mbappe finished a counter in the 30th minute and Vinicius extended their advantage with a fine individual goal four minutes later. The winger produced two stepovers to keep Andrei Ratiu guessing before finishing lethally.

Rayo reduced the deficit in added time before the break with a tremendous shot from the edge of the area by Pedro Diaz, which hit the crossbar before bouncing over the goalline and then out again, with the VAR awarding the goal after it was not given by the referee.

Real did just enough to manage their lead after the break against a Rayo side that fought hard and created good chances but lacked firepower to pose a real threat to the La Liga champions.

Atletico seemed on course for a narrow win against Getafe until Angel Correa's red card left them exposed in the final stages.

Diego Simeone's side would have gone top with a victory and Alexander Sorloth struck from the penalty spot after 75 minutes.

However, Atletico forward Correa was sent off and Getafe midfielder Mauro Arambarri scored two late goals to match victory for the hosts.

Arambarri stroked home a rebound from close-range in the 88th minute and two minutes into added time he deflected Diego Rico's shot past goalkeeper Jan Oblak and into the net.

"The match didn't offer anything, it wasn't a good match to watch and a really bad performance," Simeone told DAZN. "I don't think it was a matter of attitude, the mental side was OK, but it wasn't a good game by us today.

"Nothing happened in the match. It was a tight game, we had the chance to manage the end better, but it can happen, it's football... It happens... Congratulations to the opponent and let's be calm and accept it... Let's move forward."

Athletic Bilbao, fourth, were held to a 1-1 draw by Mallorca and are seven points behind Atletico. —Agencies

Lyon boost CL bid with win at Nice

PARIS: Olympique Lyonnais kept themselves in the running for Champions League football next season with a 2-0 win at Nice on Sunday that denied their opponents the chance to go second in Ligue 1.

Substitutes Rayan Cherki and Ernest Nuamah scored for Lyon, who were playing their first game without coach Paulo Fonseca after he received a nine-month ban for an angry altercation with a referee.

The win sent Lyon back up to sixth and within four points of Nice in the final automatic Champions League spot. Lyon are only two points off Monaco in fourth.

Nice could have gone above Olympique de Marseille with a victory but instead their four-match winning run and their unbeaten home record this season ended.

Felix Lemarechal struck the only goal as Strasbourg won 1-0 at Nantes to remain two points behind Lyon. Liam Rosenior's team have triumphed in four of their past five games, keeping clean sheets in all of them.

Abdallah Sima and Romain Faivre scored as Brest won 2-0 against Angers to stay in the race for Europe next season.

Reims slumped to a sixth straight loss as their winless run stretched to 14 matches with a 2-0 home defeat by Auxerre.

They are just a point above the bottom three after Le Havre and Saint-Etienne drew 1-1 in their relegation battle.—AFP

Frankfurt lose to Union

BERLIN: Hugo Ekitike had a stoppage time penalty saved as Eintracht Frankfurt's Bundesliga slide continued in a surprise 2-1 home loss against lowly Union Berlin on Sunday.

Frankfurt gave up a one-goal lead to trail 2-1 against the relegation-threatened visitors, but VAR spotted a handball from Danilho Doekhi late in time added on, bringing Ekitike to the spot.

Union goalkeeper Frederik Ronnow got his hand to the low shot however, his third penalty save this season, to end his side's three-game losing run and keep them six points above the relegation zone with nine rounds remaining.

Frankfurt dropped to fourth after their third successive Bundesliga defeat.

Michy Batshuayi scored with Frankfurt's first opportunity in the 13th minute but the visitors equalised on 62 minutes later when Leopold Querfeld headed in from Christopher Trimmel's corner.

South Korean forward Jeong Woo-yeong scored what proved to be the winner in the 78th — seven minutes after going on as a substitute.

Last-placed Heidenheim came from a goal down to draw at Hoffenheim 1-1 in Sunday's late match.

The draw took Hoffenheim level with Union, but ahead on goal difference, while Heidenheim remain six points from safety.—Agencies

Napoli win refreshes title hopes as Atalanta thrash Juve

ROME: Napoli breathed fresh life into their Serie A title hopes on Sunday with a 2-1 victory over Fiorentina that ended a five-match winless run, while Atalanta routed Juventus 4-0 to stay in the hunt.

Romelu Lukaku netted from a rebound to give Napoli the lead on 26 minutes and Giacomo Raspadori doubled that on the hour with a low shot into the far corner before Albert Gudmundsson pulled a goal back for Fiorentina.

NAPLES: Napoli's Giacomo Raspadori (second R) celebrates with team-mates and coach Antonio Conte after scoring during the Serie A match against Fiorentina at the Diego Armando Maradona Stadium.—AFP

Antonio Conte's Napoli climbed back to within a point of leaders Inter Milan, who came from two goals down to beat bottom side Monza 3-2 on Saturday.

"We deserved the victory," said Conte. "We could have been a bit more efficient with our chances and managed the final part of the game with less anxiety because let's not forget that we dropped many points around the 90th minute in the last five games."

Napoli, who won the title two years ago, were top at the end of January but have been playing catch-up with Inter after picking up just four points in five matches before beating Fiorentina at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona.

Atalanta hammered Juventus 4-0 in Turin to stay within three points of Inter and snap the hosts' five-game winning streak. It was just a second defeat of the season for Thiago Motta's side.

Mateo Retegui notched his league-leading 22nd goal of the season from the penalty spot after a handball by Weston McKennie just before the half-hour mark and Marten de Roon pounced on a rebound off Juve defender Lloyd Kelly to add a second right after the break for Atalanta.

Davide Zappacosta steered in a third for Gian Piero Gasperini's rampant side, scoring from close-range after a brilliant back-heel pass from Sead Kolasinac, before Ademola Lookman's deflected strike completed a thumping victory.

"It was an unimaginable result for many, but it was the perfect performance from us," Gasperini told DAZN, suggesting an unlikely tilt at the Scudetto for the traditionally small, provincial club was not beyond them. "People need to dream. We must never stop them dreaming. We may say it's impossible, but if you believe enough, things can become possible."

Fourth-placed Juventus are now nine points adrift of Inter and could be overtaken by Lazio. Motta said the defeat signalled the end of any outside title chances for his team.

"We are sad, we are disappointed, but at the same time this talk of the Scudetto that you dragged us into will no longer be talked about," he said.

AS Roma continued their resurgence under Claudio Ranieri as Matias Soule's goal after only 22 seconds was enough to secure a 1-0 win at Empoli for their fifth successive league victory.

Roma are unbeaten in 12 games in Serie A since mid-December, rising from just above the relegation places into contention for Europe next season. They are four points behind Bologna in sixth, which offers a spot in the UEFA Conference League.—Agencies

Veterans' inclusions in National T20 Cup squads raises eyebrows

LAHORE: Amid Pakistan cricket's ongoing decline — evidenced by the national team's dismal performances in the last three International Cricket Council events, including two World Cups and the Champions Trophy — the Pakistan Cricket Board appears reluctant to adopt a fresh approach.

Instead of prioritising young talent in the upcoming National T20 Cup, scheduled to begin this month, the PCB included veteran players Shoaib Malik (41), Wahab Riaz (39), and Sarfraz Ahmed (37) in the squads for Stallion, Karachi, and Lahore, respectively despite the trio serving as those sides' mentors.

The inclusion of these senior players drew widespread criticism, leading to the withdrawal of Wahab and Sarfraz from their respective teams on Monday. However, Shoaib Malik remains part of the Stallion squad.

Wahab, a former left-arm pacer, has held multiple roles within the PCB since 2021. Currently serving as head of the board's five-member mentorship panel, he oversees a group featuring Pakistan cricket stalwarts such as Waqar Younis, Misbah-ul-Haq, Saqlain Mushtaq, Sarfraz, and Shoaib. These mentors, each managing one of the "Champions" teams, are reportedly earning substantial monthly salaries.

Initially appointed as chief selector by then-PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf on an ad-hoc basis, Wahab was later retained by current chairman Mohsin Naqvi. He was subsequently appointed as a member of the national selection committee and given the dual role of senior team manager for the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup. Now, as head of the mentorship program, he was initially listed to play in the National T20 Cup before opting out.

The Lahore Regional Cricket Association has replaced Wahab with Ahmad Bashir, according to an official.

Meanwhile, Stallion's head coach Mansoor Amjad confirmed Shoaib's retention, explaining that the decision aligns with a strategy of "infield mentoring" — a move aimed at helping young players learn from experienced cricketers during matches.

"Shoaib Malik is included in the Stallion team as part of an infield mentoring strategy, which has never been implemented before. It is expected to benefit young players," Mansoor said.

A PCB spokesperson defended the selection, stating that under the mentors' contracts, they are required to serve 224 days annually, with the remaining days available for playing or media engagements. He added that if a regional team chose to include a mentor as a player, the board had no objections.

Notably, several PCB mentors also serve as television analysts, frequently critiquing the national team's performances. The ethical dilemma of mentors — tasked with developing Pakistan's cricketing future — simultaneously assessing the same team on TV raises questions about potential conflicts of interest.

Meanwhile, the cash-strapped PCB has drastically reduced match fees for National T20 Cup players, slashing payments from Rs100,000 per match to Rs10,000 for those in the playing XI and Rs5,000 for reserves.

Significant financial resources have been allocated to stadium renovations, including work at Gaddafi Stadium, National Stadium, Karachi, and the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

However, outstanding payments from last season remain due to players and umpires. Additionally, the PCB has yet to implement an annual pension increase for former Test cricketers, as mandated by board policy.—Mohammad Yaqoob

APELDOORN (Netherlands): Tony van Diepen of the Netherlands crosses the line to win the men's 4x400m relay final of the European Athletics Indoor Championships at Omnisport Apeldoorn on Sunday.—Reuters

Ruvina, Muneeb reach cross-country final

TURIN: Pakistani athletes made a strong impression on the second day of the 12th Special Olympics World Winter Games, with several notable performances on Monday.

Ruvina Qurban and Muneeb ur Rehman led the charge, qualifying for the final round of the cross-country 100-metre race after impressive showings in the divisional round. The pair will compete in the 50m divisional race on Tuesday, with the finals of the 100-metre event scheduled for March 15.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's snowshoeing athlete Ali Raza secured a commendable second place in the Unified Sports Experience Relay Race, where he was paired with other unified and special athletes.—Agencies

Swiatek, Medvedev sprint into Indian Wells fourth round

INDIAN WELLS: Defending champion Iga Swiatek edged closer to an unprecedented third Indian Wells WTA title on Sunday, overwhelming Dayana Yastremska 6-0, 6-2 to reach the fourth round.

Swiatek's 65-minute victory set the tone on a day that saw Daniil Medvedev spend just 10 minutes on court before ailing opponent Alex Michelsen retired.

Swiatek, the world number two from Poland, was in full control against hard-hitting Ukrainian Yastremska, swinging freely as she won the first 10 games.

She converted six of her 11 break chances and didn't face a break point herself. It was all but over by the time Yastremska got on the board by winning her last two service games.

"It's always hard to finish a match like that," Swiatek said. "But I'm happy that I got my intensity up the last game and closed it with confidence."

Swiatek next faces Czech Karolina Muchova, who trailed 3-5 in the first set but won 10 of the next 11 games to beat compatriot Katerina Siniakova 7-5, 6-1.

Russian 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva and 2021 Indian Wells champion Elena Rybakina joined Swiatek in dishing out bagels as they lined up a fourth-round clash.

Andreeva, who triumphed in Dubai last month to become the youngest ever winner of a WTA 1000 event, needed 63 minutes to beat Denmark's Clara Tauson 6-3, 6-0 in a rematch of the Dubai final.

Rybakina downed Britain's Katie Boulter 6-0, 7-5.

Fourth seed Jessica Pegula of the United States, fresh off her first WTA title of the year in Austin, was another quick winner, putting away China's Wang Xinyu 6-2, 6-1 in just 62 minutes.

Pegula next faces Ukraine's Elina Svitolina, a 6-2, 6-4 winner over Danielle Collins.

Medvedev headlined the men's lineup in the combined ATP Masters and WTA 1000 event, but he was barely under way when 20-year-old Michelsen retired because of illness after dropping the first two games.

"Food poisoning or something like this, these things happen," said Medvedev, who was headed to the practice courts to line up for a fourth-round clash with 10th-seeded American Tommy Paul.

Paul beat Britain's 2021 Indian Wells winner Cameron Norrie, now ranked 77th in the world, 6-3, 7-5.

Eighth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas, coming off his first title in almost a year in Dubai, beat Matteo Berrettini 6-3, 6-3 in a rematch of their Dubai quarter-final last week.

Tsitsipas dropped just eight points on his serve as he wrong-footed the Italian with a variety of athletic shots, breaking him three times on the way to victory in 68 minutes.

After months in the doldrums Tsitsipas said he was relishing a new mental approach to the games.

"I just feel like I want to get out there on the court and be a gladiator, and that's how I approach every single match I get to play," he said.

Tallon Griekspoor, the world No. 43 from the Netherlands who shocked world number two and top seed Alexander Zverev in the second round, backed up his big win with a 7-6(7/1), 6-3 victory over France's 29th seed Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard.

Griekspoor needed an hour and 16 minutes to secure the win, but in a season in which dropping the first set has become an alarming habit that was fast enough.

"It feels nice to win a match in under one and a half hour," he said.

Griekspoor next faces Japanese qualifier Yosuke Watanuki, who hit 47 winners in his 6-4, 7-6(8/6) upset of 16th-seeded American Frances Tiafoe.

Ranked 149th in the world after missing more than six months last season with left knee tendinitis, Watanuki is the lowest-ranked player to reach the fourth round since 88th-ranked Tommy Haas in 2004.—AFP

DENMARK'S Holger Rune celebrates after his victory over Ugo Humbert of France at the BNP Paribas Open.—Reuters

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Bittersweet for Black Caps after another final loss

DUBAI: Skipper Mitchell Santner was proud of the way New Zealand went about their Champions Trophy campaign but was left with a bittersweet feeling after the Black Caps once again ended up on the losing side in a major global tournament.

New Zealand went down to India by four wickets in the title-decider in Dubai on Sunday, suffering a fourth loss in four short-format global finals over the last decade.

"It's starting to add up a bit now," Santner told reporters after the final. "But if you make finals, you're coming up against another pretty good team who's also playing some good cricket.

"I was proud with the way we fought tonight. I think we pride ourselves on not giving up, and I don't think we did...

"I guess it's bittersweet. You always want to win one of these, and I don't know how many more chances we'll get, but this one was up there for us.

"I think we were playing some good cricket leading into this, and we thought we were a real sniff today, but I guess we just got beaten by a good team."

New Zealand suffered a blow before the final when pace spearhead Matt Henry was ruled out with a shoulder injury he picked up during the semi-final against South Africa.

That followed a freak injury to Rachin Ravindra, who was on Sunday named Player of the Tournament, that ruled the all-rounder out of New Zealand's opener.

The Black Caps players have, however, resolutely refused to engage in the debate over India's perceived advantage at having been based in Dubai throughout their campaign and Santner was not about to start complaining about adversity after the final.

"It's never going to go perfectly in these tournaments," the spin bowler said. "And you could take it back to a few different things but I think we didn't really complain about anything. We just kind of got on with it. That's how we like to operate."

New Zealand won three of five matches during the Champions Trophy, losing only to India twice, and most gratifying for Santner was the way the whole team contributed.

"I'm incredibly proud of this group the way we've gone about it throughout this tournament," said the 33-year-old, who was captaining his country for the first time at a major global event. "We had a mix of experienced players, but a few younger players in the squad.

"It's been an easy one to captain, different guys stepping up at different times throughout the tournament, which has been outstanding. And we came up against a very good team today."—Reuters

Sharma heads off retirement rumours

DUBAI: India captain Rohit Sharma has no plans to quit the 50-overs format anytime soon, the opener said after guiding the team to the Champions Trophy title in Dubai.

Sharma got Twenty20 Internationals immediately after leading India to their second 20-overs World Cup title in West Indies last year.

Speculation was rife that the opener, who turns 38 next month, might do likewise after India beat New Zealand in the 50-overs final on Sunday.

Though not asked about retirement plans, Sharma headed off speculation by ending his post-match press conference saying,

"One more thing, I'm not going to retire from this format, just to make sure that no rumours are spread moving forward."

Sunday's win marked India's second successive title in a global tournament organised by the International Cricket Council.

Under Sharma, India have lost just one match — the final of the home 50-overs World Cup in 2023 to Australia — in their last three ICC events.

Like in the T20 World Cup last year, India were unbeaten throughout the tournament and Rohit saved his best for the final when he smashed a match-winning 76 in a low-scoring contest.

"I know how important it is to score runs in the powerplay, because we saw in all five games that after 10 overs, it becomes very difficult (to score) when the field spreads and spinners come in," India's Test and One-day international captain said. "It becomes a little tough because the pitch is already slow and we're batting second."

Sharma, who scored a record five hundreds in a single ODI World Cup in 2019 — even though India crashed out in the semi-finals — said team success gave him more joy than personal milestones.

"I contributed a lot in the 2019 World Cup, but we didn't win. It wasn't fun.

"Even if you score 30-40 runs and win the match, you get more satisfaction and happiness."—Reuters

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool players attend a practice session at the AXA Training Centre on Monday.—Reuter's

Liverpool, Barca protecting slim leads in Champions League

LONDON: Liverpool and Barcelona have one-goal leads to protect going into the second leg of the Champions League round of 16 on Tuesday.

Liverpool beat Paris St Germain knowing they were fortunate to match a 1-0 win in France while Barca also only have a 1-0 advantage over Benfica.

Some other teams are feeling a lot more comfortable — with Bayern Munich having beaten Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 and Inter holding a 2-0 advantage over Feyenoord going into Tuesday's second leg.

Liverpool escaped the Parc des Princes with a victory last week despite being battered by the French champions, who came up against an inspired Alisson Becker in the Liverpool goal.

Never before have Liverpool won the first leg of a European tie away and let the lead slip at Anfield. However, captain Virgil van Dijk is expecting a tough test from PSG.

"It will be tough on Tuesday and you will all see. I think anyone who before our game over there expected it to be a dominating performance from us I don't think they really looked at PSG throughout the season," he said.

"We were prepared very well, obviously we could have done better in some ways, but we know that on Tuesday it is going to be as tough, maybe even tougher, because they will have to come and win."

It's not just Liverpool who have their eye on lifting a trio of trophies this season.

Barca are in the semi-finals of the Spanish Cup and fighting it out at the top of the La Liga table.

Coach Hansi Flick said his team will face Benfica playing for club doctor Carlos Minaro, who died on Saturday.

Barca's La Liga match on Saturday against Osasuna was postponed 20 minutes before kick-off after the 53-year-old doctor died that afternoon.

Barca beat Benfica 5-4 in Lisbon in the group stage and then again with 10 men for most of the game last week after Pau Cubarsi was sent off.

However Flick said his squad would not take progress to the quarter-finals as a given, with Benfica beating Juventus on the road in the group stage and thrashing Atletico Madrid at home.

"None of us thinks that it's done, and this is the important thing," Flick said during a short press conference on Monday.

"Their away matches in the Champions League, they are doing really great, they won a lot of matches away. So we have to think about that and take care."

Inter, who won the treble in 2010 under Jose Mourinho, lead Serie A and will face AC Milan in the Italian Cup semi-finals with coach Simone Inzaghi saying his side must welcome the challenge of navigating through a packed fixture list and take pride in being successful on multiple fronts.

Inter's struggles with injuries in recent weeks worsened on Monday when the Italian club confirmed that Piotr Zielinski had strained a muscle in his right leg, with reports saying the midfielder could be sidelined for up to two months.

Italian media also said Inter's leading scorer Lautaro Martinez and defender Stefan de Vrij could be rested against Feyenoord in preparation for the Serie A clash with third-placed Atalanta on Sunday.

"The schedule should not be a problem but an incentive. We have to be proud of what we're doing; these guys find the energy," Inzaghi told reporters on Monday.

"In this period we had some players missing, which limited us in terms of rotation. We've played a lot of games. It's a fact but we're proud of what we're doing and we have to continue. It's a lot of work, but we're proud to do it."

Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso, meanwhile, believes his team can pull off an "epic" comeback against Bayern despite losing midfielder Florian Wirtz to injury.

"The first thing we have to do is to believe, and for the fans to also believe from the first second that we can do it," Alonso, who helped Liverpool fight back from 3-0 down against AC Milan at half-time to level at 3-3 and force extra time, in the 2005 Champions League final, told a press conference on Monday.

"It is a game of another dimension. We must play with heart, passion and brain. We have a chance and have to fight until the end.

"But with a big situation you can also achieve something epic. [Wirtz's injury] could also be a boost, to say we fight for the big game but also for Flo.

"The team is convinced we can do it for many reasons but one is that we are in a position where we have nothing to lose. 100 percent of Bayern fans believe they will go through."—Agencies

Brook withdraws from IPL to 'recharge' and focus on England

NEW DELHI: England batsman Harry Brook on Monday pulled out of the Indian Premier League, saying he needed "to recharge" and focus on international cricket.

The 26-year-old, who is regarded as a front-runner to replace Jos Buttler as England white-ball captain, was signed to Delhi Capitals for the new IPL season beginning later this month.

"I have made the very difficult decision to pull out of the upcoming IPL," Brook, who plays Tests, ODIs and T20s for England, wrote on social media. "I apologise unreservedly to the Delhi Capitals and their supporters."

Free-scoring batsman Brook also withdrew from his contract with the Delhi side last season after the death of his grandmother.

He now faces a possible two-year suspension under rules designed to prevent late pullouts from the money-spinning T20 league by overseas players.

Exceptions can be made, mostly for injuries.

"I love cricket. Ever since I was a young boy I have dreamt of playing for my country and I am extremely thankful to have the opportunity to play the game I love at this level," Brook added.

England play five Tests against India from June during their home summer this year, followed by an Ashes tour to Australia starting in November.

Either side of the India Tests, England host white-ball series against each of the West Indies, South Africa and Ireland plus a one-off Test against Zimbabwe in May.

"It is a really important time for England cricket and I want to fully commit to preparing for the upcoming series," said Brook.

"In order to do this I need time to recharge after the busiest period in my career to date."

Buttler resigned as white-ball captain after England's dismal group-stage exit at the Champions Trophy, where they failed to win a match.

"I know not everyone will understand, and I don't expect them to, but I have to do what I believe is right and playing for my country remains my priority and focus," said Brook. "I remain hugely grateful for the opportunities I have been given and the support I receive."—AFP

DUBAI: Indian captain Rohit Sharma poses with the ICC Champions Trophy on Monday.—courtesy ICC

When you leave, you want to leave Indian team in better place: Kohli

DUBAI: Star batter Virat Kohli said on Sunday his job is not just to win ICC trophies but also ensure that Indian cricket is at a better place when he walks into the sunset, as the team won a third Champions Trophy title with a four-wicket victory over New Zealand, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

"When you leave, you want to leave the team in a better place. I feel we've a squad that's ready to take on the world for the next eight years," an ecstatic Kohli said after the end of the final.

While Kohli was out for one in the final, his match-winning hundred against Pakistan and a composed half-century against Australia in the semi-final went a long way in India's title triumph.

"It's been amazing, we wanted to bounce back after a tough Australian tour, and wanted to win a big tournament, so to win the Champions Trophy is amazing," Kohli told broadcasters.

He then explained that as one of the senior-most players in the team, he also has to focus on grooming the Next-Gen.

"So much talent in the dressing room, they're trying to take their game further and we're just happy to be of help (role of the seniors), sharing our experience and that's what makes this Indian team so strong."

He loved that the final went the distance as India completed a chase of 252 with six balls to spare.

"These are the things you want to play [for titles], playing under pressure and putting your hand up."

He was happy that the title win was a fantastic team effort.

"The whole team, everyone has put their hands up sometimes or other [during the course of the tournament], everyone has put up impactful performances, we've been part of an amazing team, the amount of work we've done in the practice sessions, it feels great [to win].

"Shubman [Gill] has been outstanding, Shreyas [Iyer] has played some top knocks, KL [Rahul] has finished games and Hardik [Pandya] has been superb with the bat."

Graceful in triumph, Kohli didn't forget to praise the New Zealand side for the fight that they have put up.

"We've always been in awe with what they can do, the limited number of players in the talent pool, but they just execute plans so well, they keep playing the kind of cricket that keeps them very much in the game.

"They're always been attacking and supportive of the bowlers. Credit to them, easily the best fielding unit, sad to see a very good friend of mine to be on the losing side [as Kane Williamson].

"But they're always so good and they keep doing the basics well. That's what makes them such a competitive unit," Kohli concluded.—Agencies

Geopolitics and lack of buzz blight Champions Trophy's return

DUBAI: Geopolitical reality, lack of buzz in host nation Pakistan and mediocre cricket in general mean Champions Trophy's much-anticipated return to the calendar did not go according to plan for the governing International Cricket Council (ICC).

The One-day international (ODI) tournament served as an ICC fundraiser but offered no assurance about the future of a format battling for relevance in a cricket landscape ruled by Twenty20 leagues either.

Financial engine India's participation, a key factor behind the commercial success of any cricket tournament, was in doubt after Pakistan bagged the hosting rights for the first ICC event in the country since 1996.

The Indian board (BCCI) stuck to their policy of not touring Pakistan because of the strained political ties between the bitter neighbours, who play each other only in ICC events.

Like for the 2023 Asia Cup in Pakistan, a "hybrid model" was agreed on under which India were allowed to play their matches in Dubai to salvage a tournament, which had been discontinued after the 2017 edition.

Under the agreement running until 2027, Pakistan will play in a neutral venue for any ICC event, like next year's Twenty20 World Cup, scheduled in India.

Reigning T20 world champions India beat New Zealand in Sunday's final to prove their credentials as a white-ball behemoth.

India have lost just one match — the final of the ODI World Cup in 2023 — in their last three ICC events and probably did not require what many called an "unfair advantage" of playing all their matches in Dubai.

"I feel sorry for India's cricketers," award-winning cricket writer Nicholas Brookes told Reuters. "They are an outstanding team in my mind, streets ahead of their competition regardless of conditions, and one of the greatest white-ball sides the game has seen.

"This tournament should have been their victory lap, but their brilliance has been somewhat overshadowed by constant questions about unfair advantages."

Allowing India to play all their matches in Dubai robbed Pakistan of the honour of hosting the final and disrupted the schedule of the knockout matches.

South Africa were made to take a farcical 18-hour trip to Dubai in anticipation of a semi-final against India before flying back to Pakistan to face New Zealand.

"BENDING OVER BACKWARDS"

The whole affair made the ICC, currently headed by former BCCI secretary Jay Shah, look weak in front of the world's richest cricket board.

The scheduling also favoured India, who had a week's rest between their last two group matches, while Afghanistan played twice in three days.

"That looks like the ICC putting finances ahead of fairness," said Brookes, whose "An Island's Eleven" charts the history of Sri Lankan cricket and won the Wisden Book Of The Year award in 2023.

"Some people will naturally think that the governing body is bending over backwards to accommodate India."

Defending champions Pakistan looked under-prepared for the tournament, both on and off the field. Eleventh-hour facelift to stadiums in Karachi and Lahore, sparse crowd and three washouts damped the spirit among the locals.

Adding to their woes, Mohammed Rizwan and his men finished bottom of Group 'A' after a winless campaign that included a defeat by arch-rivals India.

An injury-ravaged Australia fielded a second string pace attack with Steve Smith, who quit ODIs after their semi-final exit, leading them in the absence of regular skipper Pat Cummins.

New Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra bagged the player-of-the-tournament prize, while fellow Black Cap Glenn Phillips redefined fielding with gravity-defying catches and India's Virat Kohli proved he is not a spent force yet but the cricket was largely mediocre.

Afghanistan could not make the last four but impressed on their Champions Trophy debut while former champions England are searching for a new captain after their winless campaign prompted Jos Buttler to step down.—Reuters

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DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Tuesday, March 11, 2025

KARACHI

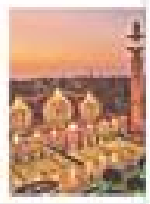
Sunset	06:39 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:44 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	21°C
Maximum	36°C
Humidity	37%
Outlook	Partly Cloudy

KARACHI RAMAZAN TIMING

FOR HANAFIA	FOR JAFRIA
Iftar (today) 6:40pm	Iftar (today) 6:52pm
Sahr (Tomorrow) 5:26am	Sahr (Tomorrow) 5:23am



150 shops gutted in fire triggered by gas cylinder explosion

By Our Staff Reporter

FLAMES and smoke rise from timber shops, which caught fire in the Gulshan-i-Maymar area, on Monday. — PPI

KARACHI: A huge fire triggered by a cylinder explosion in an eatery on Monday afternoon destroyed 150 shops of a timber market on Superhighway, officials said.

They said that the fire rapidly spread from the restaurant to the nearby timber shops and engulfed the whole market near Maymar Mor.

No one was hurt in the incident.

Rescue 1122 official Hassan Khan told *Dawn* that a gas cylinder exploded in the kitchen of the 'Chakar Hotel', which erupted in flames that engulfed a nearby gas filling shop.

The blaze spread quickly to the bushes and woods stacked outside shops dealing in timber, and it engulfed the whole market in no time.

The official said that eight fire tenders reached the scene and managed to control the blaze after hectic efforts lasting for several hours.

He said they received information about the fire at around 12:20pm. He said initially they sent two fire tenders and one ambulance. Later, realising the gravity of the problem, four more fire tenders along with two water bowsers and four ambulances reached the spot and took part in the fire fighting efforts.

The official said the blaze was controlled at 5:15pm. However, cooling work continued till late in the evening.

He said that the exact financial losses could not be determined immediately, but estimated that they would run into millions of rupees. Meanwhile, the Edhi Foundation said that the family of six girls killed in a roof collapse incident in Afghan Camp collected their bodies for burial on Monday.

Prosecution seeks 'thorough' probe in cases linked to Mustafa murder

- IO told to interrogate friends of suspect and victim present at Armaghan's house on New Year's Eve
- Prosecutor calls for investigations into role of prime suspect's father

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: The prosecution in the Mustafa Amir murder case has called for a thorough investigation into illicit weapons, communication devices, laptops, etc, found from prime suspect Armaghan Qureshi's DHA home, saying the recovered items could be linked to terror financing, money laundering and drug trafficking.

In a letter to the investigating officer (IO) of the case, Muhammad Ali, Special Public Prosecutor Zulfiqar Ali Arain asked him to expand the scope of his investigations in other cases connected to the Mustafa murder case and advised him to interrogate friends of the suspect and victim who were present at Armaghan's house on New Year's Eve.

He issued preliminary guidelines to the IO and instructed him to submit a daily progress report.

The letter called for an investigation into the role of Armaghan's father, Kamran Asghar Qureshi as the police had recovered illegal weapons, walkie-talkie sets, laptops, digital lockers, two identity cards on a person under different names and other items after an encounter at his residence in DHA on Feb 8.

The prosecutor highlighted that these alleged recoveries could be linked to terror financing, terrorism, money laundering, illegal businesses, drug trafficking, immoral activities, etc.

He also apprehended that there might be a link between the suspect and banned organisations.

The prosecutor advised the IO to collect documentary evidence regarding a ransom call received on Jan 25 by the family of deceased Mustafa Amir.

He suggested him to send all the recovered items to department concerned for a forensic analysis.

Prosecutor Arain advised the IO to take photographs of all relevant locations, including the crime scene, and obtain CCTV footage and establish a chain of events by using the collected evidence.

The IO was told to collect statements of prosecution witnesses and legal heirs of the deceased, while mentioning the motive behind the murder.

He also mentioned that the suspects' friends, as well as the deceased's friends who were present at Armaghan's house six days before the incident i.e. on Dec 31, 2024 should also be interrogated.

The IO was also asked to check the bank records, mobile data, travel history and business details of all persons, including the suspects and deceased, connected with the investigations of the murder and connected cases.

The prosecutor advised him to coordinate with the head of DHA security, the owner of the DHA house from where Armaghan was arrested, and local intelligence officers from the Gizri and Darakshan police stations to determine what actions regarding alleged unlawful activities committed in the rented residential facility.

Armaghan is currently on police remand. The IO is set to produce him before an anti-terrorism court on Tuesday (today) after expiration of his remand. His accomplice, Shiraz, was already sent to prison on judicial remand by the same court on the previous hearing.

Prior to his arrest in the Mustafa Amir murder case, Armaghan was booked in at least seven cases. However, four new cases were registered against him in 2025 including kidnapping for ransom, possession of illicit weapons and assault on police personnel.

Sindh takes over operational control of BRT Green, Orange lines

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The operational control of two Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) services, Green and Orange lines, has officially been handed over to the Sindh government on Monday.

A ceremony was held at the Operational Command and Control Center in the Garden area, where chief executive of the Pakistan Infrastructure Development Company Limited (PIDCL) Waseem Bajwa transferred the operational control of the Green and Orange Line bus services to Sindh Transport Secretary Asad Zaman.

The event was also attended by Kamal Dayo, the managing director of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority and other senior officials of the Green and Orange Line BRT services.

"The transfer of the Green and Orange Line bus services to the Sindh government is a significant step toward further organising the public transport network," said Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon in a statement. "It is the Sindh government's commitment to undertake all possible measures to enhance and maintain these bus services to provide the best travel facilities for citizens."

He said that the government was working to improve the performance of these services through modern technology and routine maintenance.

The minister further stated that an efficient and integrated urban transport system is being developed in Karachi, with future plans to integrate the BRT lines with other public transportation systems.

Three 'robbers' shot dead by citizens in Karachi

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Three suspected robbers were shot dead by citizens in two separate incidents in the metropolis on Monday, police said.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said two suspected muggers were gunned down by a citizen near the Matric Board Office.

Area SHO Amjad Kiani said that the citizen, Danish, was talking with his friend outside his home when muggers arrived there, snatched a cell phone, cash and other valuables from one of them. As they were fleeing, Danish took out a pistol from his car and asked his friend to ride his bike to chase the suspects.

They approached them from behind and Danish opened fire on them. The suspects suffered critical wounds and died on the spot.

Police surgeon Summaiya Syed said that the suspects were shot in the chest.

The SHO said the both killed suspects had a past criminal record and they were released from jail on bail around four days ago.

In another incident, a suspected robber was gunned down by a citizen in F.B. Industrial Area.

Area SHO Shahid Baloch said that an unidentified robber was gunned down by the firing of the citizen during a robbery in Block 22 near Shafiq Mor.

Meanwhile, a suspected robber was shot at and injured by the firing of a citizen during a robbery near Shahbaz Commercial, DHA, the Gizri police said.

PTI accuses Karachi police of 'raiding' its city headquarters

Police deny allegation; say a bailiff conducted legal proceedings at Insaf House over a tenancy dispute

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: The opposition Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) on Monday accused the Karachi police of "storming" its city headquarters, "stealing" all the belongings inside and sealing many of the rooms in the building.

The police, however, rejected the raid allegations and said only legal proceeding were carried out at Insaf House by a bailiff in relation to the party's tenancy dispute.

The party leaders said that the move from the law enforcement agency came as a surprise because no prior notification was given by the authorities. They also accused the police officials of "misbehaving with the workers" who reached the headquarters and tried to put some resistance.

PTI-Karachi president Raja Azhar came up with strong reaction against the "police raid", calling it the "worst form of martial law."

"A heavy police force stormed the Insaf House, broke the locks and entered the rooms. Why did they raid our office? We have consistently been saying that the Sindh government should stop these illegal actions," he added.

He said that the PTI is the largest political party and no one can harass its workers in this manner. "Insaf House is our political home, and any illegal raid by the police on it will be considered an attack on us," he added.

Videos and images shared by the party showed empty rooms of the building after the alleged raid while seals were found on entrance of its several rooms.

PTI spokesperson Faonia Siddiqi claimed that the raiding police party also took away computers and all other stuff of the party's media cell set up inside the Insaf House.

Police deny raid allegation

However, the police rejected the PTI allegations.

A statement issued by the office of the Karachi police chief said there was no raid carried out.

It said that a police mobile accompanied a bailiff, who carried out legal proceedings at Insaf House in a tenancy dispute on the order of the senior civil judge-South. "The police mobile was present solely for the bailiff's security," the statement said.

However, the PTI called the police claim "ridiculous" and said there's no tenancy dispute.

"The PTI is in talks with the owner of the building to buy the property for quite some time. But the matter went into back burner after the political crisis emerged and party came under state restrictions. However, the talks are still going through the defined legal ways and it is a sheer lie that the party is in some kind of tenancy dispute with the owner," Ms Siddiqi added.

Second phase of anti-polio campaign begins in 59 high-risk UCs

Around 560,000 children will be vaccinated during ongoing drive that continues till 16th

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The second phase of the Fractional Inactivated Polio Vaccine (fIPV) and Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) campaign kicked off in the 59 high-risk union committees in the metropolis on Monday.

The drive will target approximately 560,000 children under the age of five.

Around 11,000 frontline workers and supervisors have been deployed for the campaign, which will conclude on March 16.

According to Sindh Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) officials, the drive is part of intensified efforts to combat polio, following the confirmation of a polio case from district Thatta. The case is the fourth reported from Sindh this year and the sixth nationwide, reinforcing the need for urgent vaccination efforts.

Pakistan recorded 74 polio cases in 2024, including 23 from Sindh, highlighting the ongoing risk to unvaccinated children.

"The presence of polio in Sindh is a stark reminder that the virus is still circulating. Every child must receive polio drops in every campaign to stop transmission and protect their future," said Sindh EOC Coordinator Irshad Ali Sodhar.

The fIPV and OPV combination in this campaign would provide an added immunity boost, a crucial element in fighting polio, he added.

According to officials, polio continues to be detected in environmental samples across Karachi, indicating the importance of boosting immunity and preventing further virus transmission.

They urged parents to open their doors to vaccinators and ensure their children receive polio drops to prevent lifelong paralysis.

Polio, they said, was a paralysing disease with no cure, and multiple doses of OPV along with routine immunisation were essential to ensure protection.

The Polio Programme has been implementing a rigorous vaccination schedule, reaching over 45 million children nationwide in February 2025. Additionally, a fIPV-OPV campaign in Quetta division and Karachi between February 20-28 vaccinated around 900,000 children, further strengthening immunity.

A targeted vaccination drive was also conducted in 104 UCs bordering Afghanistan or hosting Afghan refugee populations, vaccinating over 600,000 children to reduce the risk of cross-border and internal virus transmission.

Frontline workers, supported by health officials, local authorities, religious leaders, and law enforcement agencies, would be conducting door-to-door vaccinations during the campaign.

The first phase was launched last month targeting over 500,000 children in 27 high-risk union councils.

As country's largest and most densely populated city, Karachi remains one of the most critical areas for polio eradication due to continuous virus detection in environmental samples and high numbers of refusals.

The provincial data showed that Sindh has reported 42,999 refusal cases this year and Karachi's share stands at 41,875. The number of refusals in remaining Sindh districts stands at a mere 1,124.

With over 97 per cent share in refusal cases, Karachi remains a crucial battleground in the fight against polio and high-risk UCs are currently under intensive government efforts to enhance vaccine acceptance and strengthen community trust in the public health initiative.

A HEALTH worker administers the polio vaccine to a child with the help of a jet injector in the Gulbahar area, on Monday. — Dawn

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PRAYER

Fajr	5.28
Zuhar	12.42
Asr	5.03
Maghreb	6.40
Isha	7.58

Starting time in Karachi

REFLECTIONS

"SOMETIMES YOUR PRAYERS ARE TURNED DOWN, AND THIS IS ALSO IN YOUR INTEREST; BECAUSE YOU OFTEN, UNKNOWINGLY, ASK FOR THINGS THAT ARE REALLY HARMFUL TO YOU."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

7104/427

Notices issued on students' petition against ban on entry in Dawood University

By Ishaq Tarmoli

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday issued notices to the provincial authorities on a petition filed by the students of Dawood University of Engineering & Technology (DUET) against the show-cause notices issued them for holding Holi celebration event on the varsity premises.

The SHC also directed the DUET administration to allow the petitioners to reply to the show-cause notices through any mode, including the university portal, but not limited to it.

Citing the university and boards department secretary, vice chancellor, registrar, secretary syndicate and other officials of the varsity as respondents, six students of the DUET through their counsel have petitioned the SHC and submitted that they, along with other students, had organised a cultural activity, 'Colors Day', in solidarity with Hindu students/ Friends of the university on the occasion of their religious festival 'Holi', which was held peacefully without any violence.

Petitioners Waseem Ahmed Jamali, Muhammad Tahir, Arshad Hussain, Samoor Hussain, Sahil Kumar and Om Kumar also submitted that the Hindu students, including the petitioners, had filed proper applications to the authorities concerned for permission to hold the event, but they were not answered.

They contended that the university administration falsely claimed that there was violence during the event and lodged an FIR which was currently pending adjudication before a court and the petitioners had obtained bail.

Thereafter, the petitioners maintained that they received show-cause notices on Feb 21 through which their entry in the varsity was banned and subsequently, second show-cause notices were also sent to them despite responding the earlier notices and the administration had blocked the university portal.

The lawyer for petitioners, Faizullah Mallano, argued that as the case was pending before the trial court, the university administration had maliciously harassed and threatened the students and on Feb 27, the varsity's syndicate decided to suspend/ rusticate the petitioners.

He also asserted that academic journey of the petitioners had been adversely affected due to the administration's personal animosity and the impugned show-cause notices were issued without providing an opportunity to the petitioners to be heard, violating the principles of natural justice by restricting their entry to the university.

The counsel further contended that the impugned actions on the part of the varsity were made in violation of the petitioners' fundamental rights as guaranteed under Articles 4, 9, 18, 25, and 37 of the Constitution, which ensured the right to due process, personal security, equal treatment and education.

He argued that the environment of respondent university posed a serious threat to the petitioners' safety as the hostile conduct of the administration created an environment incompatible with the requirements of a fair and conducive educational setting as well as it failed to encourage the faith harmony among students on the university premises.

The petitioners asked the SHC to declare the show-cause notices and meeting minutes issued by the director students affair and syndicate of DUET as illegal and void ab initio (to be treated as invalid from the outset).

They also sought directives for the university administration to immediately restore the petitioners and restrain the respondents from taking any coercive action against the students as well as to process and approve the semester registration process of the petitioners through online portal, considering the safety of the petitioners, and to ensure safe and conducive academic environment for the petitioners free from harassment, discrimination and victimisation.

After a preliminary hearing, a two-judge bench headed by Justice Muhammad Iqbal Kalhoro in its order said: "Notice to the respondents as well as learned AG Sindh for 30.04.2025. Meanwhile, petitioners may be allowed to reply their show-cause notices through any mode, including but not limited to portal, which may be opened for online registration."

Young man killed over 'honour'

KARACHI: A young man was shot dead in the name of so-called honour in Brishad Town on Monday afternoon.

Area SHO Javed Akhtar said that Naimat Ullah Jan, 25, had married a woman in his native village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa around 10 days ago on their free will.

He said he brought his wife here and was staying at the residence of his maternal uncle near X-10 bus stand. However, the woman's brothers traced him and shot him dead.

The suspects also took away their widowed sister.

The body was shifted to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi for medico-legal formalities.

'Woman killed by husband'

A young woman was killed, allegedly by her husband, in Orangi Town, on Monday.

Iqbal Market police said that 25-year-old Dua was stabbed and killed by her husband, Arsalan, inside their home in Sector 11 ½. The police attributed family dispute as probable motive of the murder but did not elaborate.

The suspect managed to escape. The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for a post-mortem examination. -Staff Reporter

Community-driven incentives boost child health in rural areas, study finds

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A local study recently published in an international journal highlights how community-driven incentives in rural areas can significantly increase breastfeeding, immunisation, and oral rehydration rates — three critical factors directly linked to child mortality in Pakistan.

Published in *The Lancet Global Health*, the study was conducted by researchers from Aga Khan University's Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD).

It presents a transformative model for addressing preventable illnesses such as childhood diarrhoea and pneumonia, which remain leading causes of death among children under five in the country.

The study examined the impact of two interventions: community mobilisation alone and mobilisation combined with collective, conditional, non-cash incentives. It involved 48 clusters across Tando Muhammad Khan in Sindh.

The findings revealed significant improvements in child health indicators in incentivised communities. Compared to the control groups, these improvements included an 80 per cent higher breastfeeding rate, a 50pc increase in the use of oral rehydration treatments, a 30pc improvement in cleanliness habits and a 30pc higher immunisation rate.

Dr Jai K. Das, assistant director at IGHD and lead author of the study, explained: "The study shows that when communities are actively engaged, empowered and take charge of setting their own priorities, it leads to extraordinary results. The ability to choose non-cash rewards, such as water pumps or sanitation facilities, fostered a sense of ownership and accountability, driving sustainable behavioural changes."

In Pakistan, the poorest populations are disproportionately affected by substantial discrepancies in access to essential health services. Less than one-third of rural households have access to adequate sanitation, while the nation's immunisation rate remains at 66pc.

The study's innovative approach — conditional, collective, community-based incentives — not only improved health behaviours but also encouraged communities to co-invest in long-term solutions.

The findings showed that communities are more likely to invest when they are empowered to decide on incentives. This was evident from the fact that contributions — including labor, land and supplies — resulted in a cost-sharing rate 16pc above the 25pc target.

In addition to promoting sustainability and ownership, these community-driven incentives also had multiple positive effects, such as better health outcomes, increased community well-being and improved sanitation.

Dr Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, founding director of IGHD, emphasised the broader implications of the trial: "This trial demonstrates the potential of community-driven solutions in achieving scalable health improvements. It is a model that can be adapted in other low- and middle-income countries to address inequities and save lives."

Dr Jai K. Das further highlighted the model's broader applicability, stating: "For a country like Pakistan, this approach could also be tested for other health challenges, such as malnutrition and polio vaccine hesitancy. Additionally, this strategy ensures transparency in fund utilisation at the micro level, making it a viable option for broader adoption."

Govt urged to officially observe Al-Quds Day

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The International Palestine Conference, organised by the Palestine Foundation Pakistan (PLF) on Monday, demanded that the government officially observe the last Friday of Ramazan — Jumatul-Wida — as Al-Quds Day to express solidarity with the people of Palestine.

The conference also urged the public to continue boycotting Israeli products.

A large number of prominent political figures, diplomats, scholars and intellectuals attended the conference, which was held at a local hotel.

The conference was addressed by Hamas leader Dr Naji Sheri, senior leader Jamaat-e-Islami Liaquat Baloch, Hassan Nasrian, Consul General of Iran, Harman Hardianta, Consul General of Malaysia, Dr Maher Mughal, Consul General of Iraq and a Russian diplomat, as well as Senator Saleem Zia, senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Pakistan Peoples Party leader and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh, Engineer Taimur Ali, Deputy Parliamentary Leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan, Sindh Assembly, Talha Ahmed, Member of Sindh Assembly, Adil Askari, President of the Majlis-e-Wahdat Muslimeen Sindh, Allama Baqir Zaidi and others.

Dr Sheri thanked Pakistan and its people for supporting the Palestinian cause. He expressed hope that one day Al-Aqsa Mosque would be free, allowing Muslims from around the world to pray there together.

JI leader Liaquat Baloch emphasised that no unilateral decision regarding the future of Palestine and Kashmir would be acceptable without the inclusion of the people of these regions.

He recalled that Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah always supported the Palestinian people and declared the existence of Israel illegitimate. He added that any compromise on the Palestinian cause would be tantamount to treason.

Sabir Abu Maryam of the PLF thanked the participants and vowed to continue supporting the Palestinian cause through all democratic and legal forums. He also called for unity within the Islamic world to build strong and effective resistance against the Zionist campaign.

Workers congratulate Kamal

KARACHI: A delegation of the All Pakistan NPT Workers Union has called on Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan leader Syed Mustafa Kamal and congratulated him on becoming the federal minister.

The delegation comprising CBA chairman Tanveer Ali Shakil, president Farhan Ahmed and general secretary Salman Mahmood expressed the hope that Mr Kamal would take revolutionary steps to provide the public with the best healthcare facilities. — Staff Reporter

BEFORE: MR. MUHAMMAD AHSAN KHAN DURRANI (JUDGE)
IN THE BANKING COURT-IV, AT KARACHI
Block-46/A, Pakistan Secretariat, Saddar, Karachi
Execution No. 15 of 2023
(Suit No. 85 of 2021)

UNITED BANK LIMITED
Having its Registered Office at 6th Floor, State Life Building No.1, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi. And presently Address at 5th Floor Cin Bakhsh, I.I. Chundrigar Road Karachi .....Decree Holder
Versus
SHAIKH ASIF SOHAIL S/o SHAIKH SERAZAD RASHEED
R/o House No.A-501, Sector 5, Gulshan-e-Maymar, Karachi.
Working Address Kanwal-e-Ashiyan, Shop No. A-17, Junaid Plaza Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Near Chundrigar, Karachi .....Judgment Debtor
No.

The above-named Judgment Debtor

WHEREAS the accompanying application Under Section 51 (a) read with Section 151 CPC has been filed by learned advocate for the Decree Holder for declaring the CNIC of Judgment Debtor namely SHAIKH ASIF SOHAIL S/o SHAIKH SERAZAD RASHEED holding CNIC No 42101-5278271-9 before this Court in the above matter.

AND WHEREAS after hearing the said application this Court has been please to order for issuance of notice. You are hereby directed to appear before this Court on 21-04-2025 at 9:00 A.M in person or through your pleader to file objections on the said application, otherwise the matter would be decided in your absence in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 4-03-2025

BY ORDER
READER,
BANKING COURT-IV KARACHI

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IT is informed that I have lost my original file of My Car Toyota Land Cruiser Prado Jeep Chassis No. TRJ150-0079405 Per S.S. Viking Emerald IGM No. 243/25 04-2021. If Anyone found please return it to ETO Office Civic Center, Adamjee. Raja Khan S/o Saeed Ahmed Khan. (10272B16235)
NOTICE is hereby given that under mentioned shares certificate(s) of Pakistan Petroleum Limited have been lost by Chipa Muhammad Saeed Folio No. BA00000 holding CNIC No. 42301-1152316-5 bearing Certificates Number(s) is / are given below. Certificate No. 1884B Distinctive No. From. 1884B Held Distinctive No. To. 1884B37795. No. of Shares 239 Total No. of Shares: 239. Any Person who has found them or knows about their presence or has any claim on above Shares should notify in writing about this / their claim to FAMCO Share Registration Services (Pvt) Ltd. B-17 near Hotel Faran, F/8 C.H.S. Block 6, near Nursery, Shahrah-e-Faisal Road, Karachi within 7 days of this notice, otherwise duplicate certificate(s) will be issued. (10272B16236)

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NOTICE TO PUBLIC
KARACHI
CORRIGENDUM on published in the daily Dawn newspaper 07-03-2025, NO-106/3724813. Public Notice. Correct the Ghulam Hussain Soomro wife also passed away please read and write Ali-ashfaq legal heirs. (10082B0B8B)
GENERAL public is hereby informed that (late) Mr. Nisar Ahmed son of Abdul Aziz, holding CNIC No. 42201-0409099-9, was the lawful owner of Residential Plot No. 08, Block-B, admeasuring 600 square yards, situated at Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar Memorial Co-operative Housing Society Limited, Karachi (hereinafter referred to as the "said property"), who expired on 22.01.2008, in Karachi leaving behind the following legal heirs: (01) Mr. Shahid Nisar son of Nisar Ahmed, holding CNIC No. 42000-0470599-9; (02) Mrs. Shafia Shaukat wife of Shaukat Rashid, holding CNIC No. 42201-1550914-0; (03) Mr. Hamid Nisar son of Nisar Ahmed, holding CNIC No. 42000-0470022-1; (04) Mrs. Samina Gohar wife of Gohar Rashid, holding CNIC No. 42201-4700239-0; (05) Mst. Aliya Zahid widow of Zahid Nisar, holding CNIC No. 42000-0409079-4; (06) Mr. Noorman Zahid son of Zahid Nisar, CNIC No. 42000-0409092-3; (07) Mrs. Saira Amjad wife of Amjad Ullah Iqbal, holding CNIC No. 42301-3230011-0; (08) Mrs. Aisha Yousuf wife of Yousuf Zaffar Pun, holding CNIC No. 42000-2036021-4; and (09) Mrs. Maryam Mubeen wife of Mubeen Tabassum, holding CNIC No. 42000-2140071-4. That the Honorable High Court of Sindh at Karachi by virtue of vide letter of Administration dated 16.03.2022 and amended letter of Administration dated 23.09.2008, has appointed (01) Mr. Shahid Nisar son of Nisar Ahmed, Muslim adult holding CNIC No. 42000-0470599-9 as Administrator in SMA No. 171 of 2016. That, the aforementioned legal heirs have approached Mirzaina Muhammad Ali Jauhar Memorial Co-operative Housing Society Limited, Karachi (hereinafter referred to as the "Society") and Ministry of Housing & Works, Government of Pakistan, Karachi / Islamabad for the transfer / mutation of the said property in our name. Any Person(s), Organizations, Agency, Financial Institutions or Department, having any objection or claim of any nature whatsoever, over the transfer of the said property should notify in writing to the undersigned, and (i) Honorary Secretary of the Society, having Office at Plot No. 64-31-B Mian Muhammad Shah Road, Karachi; (ii) Section Officer Ground Rent Section (GRS), Ministry of Housing Works, Government of Pakistan, having Office at Block 3-B, 2nd floor Pakistan Secretariat Saddar, Karachi; and (iii) Section Officer, (S-V), Ministry of Housing & Works, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad having Office at Block B, Ground Floor Pakistan Secretariat, Islamabad, with documentary evidence within seven days from the date of this publication, failing which no claim or objection whatsoever shall be entertained treated as null and void and the transfer / mutation formalities in respect of the said property in the name of the aforementioned legal heirs. We hereby further notify that the said property is purely a Residential House and is not privately Sub-divided / Mutated. The construction or use of the said property for any of the following purposes is expressly disallowed: Townhouses, Multi-storied Buildings, Flat sales, Office Places, Clinics, Hospitals, Shopping Arcades, Supermarkets, Commercial Plazas, Showrooms, Restaurants, Hotels, Schools, Wedding Lawns, Halls, Cinema Halls, Cineplexes, Security Companies, or any other Non-Residential purpose. In the event of any unauthorized Private Sub-division or Mutation, the allotment order, mutation letter, or sub-lease for the said property shall automatically stand cancelled. The undertaking for the same has already been submitted by us. MUHAMMAD SHAHMEER MEMON (Advocate High Courts) Office Suite # 104, on 01st floor Suri Sun Plaza, Plot No. (B-104), C.P & Berar Co-operative Housing Society Block 7 & 8, Iqbal Bagh Wafi Road near Saylani Chowk, old Dohraji Colony, Karachi-74600. Cell No. (+92)300-8204434, & (+92)304-2156512, (+92)311-8204434. PTCL No. (+92)21-34434204. (10102B0B0B0)
IT is notified for the information of the general public that our Client have contracted to purchase Plot No. 08 with constructed ground + 1 Storeyed Bungalow Person, measuring 600 sq. yards, situated at Army Officers Housing Scheme Part-II, Survey No. 40-A, near National Stadium, Faisal Cantonment, Karachi from Mrs. Anita Akber W/o Muhammad Akber Khan, CNIC No. 42000-0436044-8, free from all claims, dues and encumbrances. Any Person / Bank, Authority having any claims / objections over the above referred property, should inform within seven days from the date hereof under registered A/D cover to Military Estate Office, Karachi Circle, 202-B, Sarwar Shaheed Road, Karachi and Sub-Registrar, Shah Faisal Town, Karachi, failing which all claims, rights / titles shall be deemed to have been waived and registration of sale deed thereafter mutation / transfer will be effected in respect of the said property in favour of our client, Muhammad Umar Farooq (Advocate) / Umar Farooq Associates, 4, Dashiyan Centre, Plot No. B-33, main University Road, Block 12-A, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi Phone 0321-8900053. (10102B0B0C)
IT is notified to all general public that our client has entered into contract to purchase leasehold Residential Plot of Land Bearing No. 21/102, (constructed ground + first floor only), measuring 600 sq. yards, situated in Block 21B, Al Ilaan Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., Karachi from (1) Ahmed Imtiaz S/o Imtiaz Ahmed (Late), CNIC # 42001-0818257-5, (2) Mrs. Mahesh Fayyaz W/o Muhammad Fayyaz & D/o Imtiaz Ahmed (Late), CNIC # 42001-0478389-0, (3) Mst. Momina Imtiaz W/o Imtiaz Ahmed (Late), CNIC # 42201-0597380-8 self & attorney (a) Haseeb Ahmed S/o Imtiaz Ahmed (Late), (b) Mrs. Mahnoor Imtiaz W/o Muhammad Ahmed & D/o Imtiaz Ahmed (Late), free from encumbrance. Any Person / Authority / Bank having any claim / objection should notify to the Sub-Registrar-II, Gulshan-e-Iqbal Town, Karachi with documentary evidence within seven days of this publication. Otherwise the transaction of sale deed will be completed in favour of our client, Shaikh Abdul Malik Law Associates Office 304, Third Floor, Al-Rauf Tower (Block-I, Shahid Yar Jang C.H.S. Alamgir Road, Karachi. Tel 34948094, 34948016. (10102B0B0D)
OUR client has contracted to purchase brand new double storey with basement 1000 sq yards Bungalow Number 100, 10th Street, Phase II-A, DHA Karachi from Mr Shahzad Rahim Baya S/o Abdul Rahim Baya holding CNIC No # 42201-0832876-7 free from all dues, claims, disputes litigation, lien & encumbrances of whatsoever nature. Any Person Authority Financial Institution Bank having any objection(s) should notify to Sub Registrar 1 Clifton Town Karachi and up with documentary evidence through registered A/D within 7 days from the date hereof failing which any claim/ objection shall be deemed to have been waived and will not entertain and process of sale deed shall be completed in favour of the client. Abdul Rauf Tabani TABANI REAL ESTATE. 0336-2517088. (10102B0B0E)
OUR client has contracted to purchase Flat No. 5, 3rd Floor, Plot No. 25-C, Rahat Commercial Lane No. 06, Phase VI, DHA Karachi measuring 900 square feet, from Muhammad Shafaaq S/o Ghulam Rasool CNIC No. 42201-0432769-9 R/o Karachi free from all claims, objections, encumbrances. Any Person, Bank, Authority having any objection whatsoever should notify to us and Sub-Registrar I, DHA Clifton Town Karachi, within seven days of this publication. AREEBMAN ASSOCIATES 0321-8200686. (10102B0B0G)
OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 3860-1, Street 37 Phase VIII DHA Karachi measuring 1000 yard from Muhammad Salman, son of Muhammad Saleem CNIC No. 42000-0947261 free from all claims and objections whatsoever. Any Person, Bank or Authority having claim or objection should notify Director transfer & records, PCDHA Karachi, and us within seven (07) days along with documentary evidence, failing which all claims shall be deemed to have been waived and the transaction will be completed in favour of our client. Chopra Law Associates, Office No. 207, 2nd Floor, Hamilton Court, G 1, Block 7 near Teen Talwar Clifton Karachi Cell: 0300-7400497. (10102B0B0H)
OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 88, Beach Avenue Phase VII-D, DHA Karachi measuring 500 yards from Mr. Farhan Iqbal S/o Shaikh Iqbal Akhtar CNIC No. 3420249847361, R/o Lahore. 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. NADAF ESTATE Abid Anwar 0307-6686766 Office No. 1, 1st Floor (01-C), Bukhari Lane 8 / 11 (Corner) Phase VI, DHA Karachi. (10102B0B0I)

COURT NOTICE
KARACHI
IN the Court of Zahid Ali Khan Civil Judge - IX, Peshawar. Suit no 260/9 Next date of hearing 19-03-2025 Case title, Mst. Zeenat v/s Tasleem etc. Notice to (1) Mst. Fehmia Wadood R/o 19 Park Road University Town Peshawar (2) Ali Wadood R/o 8202 Reggio st nun bind park 89211 kansas USA. (Respondents): The above respondents are directed to appear before this Court at 9:00 am 19-03-2025 either personally or through attorney or counsel, in failure an ex-parte proceeding will be initiated against respondents. Given under my hand and seal of the Court. (10082B0B0B0)

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Coast Guard officer wounded in encounter with 'drug peddlers'

By Ghulam Hussain Khuwaja

THATTA: A Pakistan Coast Guard (PCG) officer sustained a critical bullet wound in an encounter with suspected drug peddlers during a hot pursuit in Sajawal district late Sunday night.

PCG officials said on Monday that their team signaled a mini truck to stop on a tip-off about a narcotics consignment being transported through it. They said a suspicious car was also plying parallel to the truck. Defying the signal to stop, drivers of the vehicles accelerated the speed making the PCG team to chase them. The occupants of the two vehicles opened fire at the chasing team along the Jati-Chhachh Jahan Khan road near Hashim Katiyar village within Sajawal district.

The PCG team returned the fire and in the ensuing gun battle, one officer suffered a bullet wound. The suspects managed to make their escape good along with the suspected drug consignment.

The injured officer was rushed to a nearby hospital, where his condition was reported to be critical.

The local police collected evidence from the crime scene and registered a case against unknown suspects.

A joint investigation by the PCG and police into the incident was started.

Cop killed during robbery

DADU: A large gang of heavily armed highwaymen shot dead a police constable and wounded two other men when they put up resistance to the violent outlaws at Dhamrah Wah on Indus Highway in the jurisdiction of Thariri Mohabbat police station, 10 kilometres from Mehar town, on Monday.

When the dacoits beat up women after they reacted to their violent snatching of ornaments, some male passengers tried to stop them, which triggered the dacoits and they opened fire at them, killing the police constable and injuring two others, who were travelling in a Dadu-Larkana coach.

The victims were identified as Ghulam Abbas Mangal, the policeman, a resident of Jhal Magsi town, coach passenger Khalid Pahoja, and a car driver Misri Khan Jatoi. The injured and the bodies were brought to Mehar taluka hospital by passengers.

Back to Mehar town, Ms Shahzadi Brohi told local media persons, that when she resisted the robbers snatching off their bangles and rings they beat her up with rifle butts, kicks and fists.

She said that they carried out the robbery for three hours but no police patrol reached there during that time.

Relatives of the deceased constable and the robbed passengers placed the body on the highway after receiving it from Mehar taluka hospital in protest against the robbery. Jamshoro SSP Siddiq Zaffar Chhaya later persuaded them to end the protest.—Correspondent

Another heritage building in Hyderabad partially demolished

By Mohammad Hussain Khan

THE second floor of the 1938 heritage structure undergoing demolition in Hyderabad, on Monday.—Photo by Umair Ali

HYDERABAD: Another heritage property — an 87-year-old building carrying a plaque 'Hiranand Bhurumal Malwani Mansion (1938)' — located in the middle of Hyderabad city, is being demolished.

The initial demolition process was reportedly started a couple of days back.

The ground+two building is located next to another heritage site, known as Bhurumal Gangumal Building, along Fatima Jinnah Road in the Gari Khata area. According to an official document, the Hiranand Mansion was notified as a heritage site in August 2021.

The building's inclusion in the heritage sites' list was recommended in 2018 by Abdul Haq Bhanbhro, the son of historian late Atta Mohammad Bhanbhro. It was written in the proforma sheet for culture department that "a rectangular building having different style of structure in which Corinthian orders are attracted and the recessed jewelry style on the façade is also seen; the parapet wall is also decorated".

A recent visit to the site revealed that the second floor of building is undergoing demolition. A man, Mr Tarmam, present at the site on Sunday evening told this reporter that "the repair work had become necessary".

Rukun Ul Din Qureshi, the focal person of culture department for Hyderabad was also visiting the building on Sunday evening. He confirmed that the "building (No. 1280) is a heritage property vide serial No. 63 in the list prepared by the department". According to him, the department had not received any application from its owner, nor has the provincial office sent necessary permission for such activity. "From our side, it is an illegal activity which may. Following Sunday's visit to the site by this reporter, a former SSP of Hyderabad and sitting Director of the Excise and Taxation in the city, Mohammad Ali Baloch, approached *Dawn* over phone to explain that his maternal uncle, who lives in Hong Kong, actually owns this property.

Mr Baloch claimed that his uncle had actually received a letter from the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) declaring that a "portion is dangerous thus requires demolition".

He said that the SBCA had insisted that if his uncle did not get it demolished, then it (the SBCA) would do the same by itself.

Mr Baloch also argued that "the upper portion is not a heritage property because it was raised only 40 years back".

He insisted that the mansion is not a heritage site; the property No.1280 is separate one which is adjacent to his uncle's building. In this regard, he shared an official letter issued on June 13, 2023 to Javed Saeed, owner of the 1280 property.

The letter pertained to property No. 1280/3 and declares that it does not exist in the list of protected heritage sites.

Peeh Mangi, speaking to *Dawn* on Monday from Karachi over phone, explained that the property Nos. 1280 and 1280/3 did create some confusion. She said such mistake would be rectified in the culture department's updated list of heritage properties.

"But it is clear that the property where demolition is taking place is a heritage property," she said.

Paramedics protest 'sale' of hospital waste

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: A group of paramedics staged a token hunger strike against administration of Liaquat University Hospital, Hyderabad, on Monday accusing it of selling away infected hazardous hospital waste instead of disposing of it in incinerator.

President of the paramedical staff association, Asif Ansari, general secretary Ravi Tantlani and four others, who led the protest, demanded AMS Dr Faizan Memon be transferred and inquiry be launched against the hospital's vendor, Al Farooq, said a press release issued by the association.

The protesters said that the hazardous waste was being sold as the hospital's incinerator was not working. Action should be taken against those involved in its sale and the dysfunctional incinerator should be repaired, they said.

Mr Ravi said that inquiry should be conducted into the sale of hospital waste and demanded that daily wage earners and contract employees should be paid salaries as per minimum wage fixed by the government.

He alleged that when he protested he was asked to submit proof and he was implicated in an inquiry conducted by Dr Munir Ahmed Shaikh. But the inquiry report had not yet been finalised and shared with him, he said.

He said that he had been transferred from LUH to DG Sindh Health. They were being victimised by LUH administration for raising voice for paramedics, he said.

The AMS, Dr Faizan Memon, alleged that Ravi, Asif Ansari and Abdul Ghaffar Rind, president of the association, were transferred after they were found involved in theft of medicine, financial irregularities in pathology laboratory, manipulation in computerised record of lab and blackmailing.

He alleged that Ravi was a BS-1 sanitary worker and was himself involved in the sale of the hospital waste. He allowed the hospital's janitorial staff to proceed on leave without permission and then forced the hospital vendor, Al Farooq Company to pay them salaries, he said.

Memon said that Ravi pocketed salary of absentee staff and to pacify them he was transferred by Sindh secretary health to DG office.

He said that Dr Munir Shaikh's inquiry found Ravi and Abdul Ghaffar Rind responsible for wrongdoing. He shared a copy of the inquiry which said Faizan Memon acted within his jurisdiction to enforce discipline and address irregularities.

The report said that Ravi and Ghaffar failed to uphold their professional responsibilities and committed misconduct. "They could not provide any authentic evidence against alleged charge of corruption in sale tore No.56 and illegal hospital waste sale," the officers concluded in the report.

He explained that since the incinerator was installed in LUH city branch environmental department had objected to its use. Therefore, the infected waste was brought to Jamshoro and non-infected waste was handed over to Sindh government's Solid Waste Management Board, he said.

"I myself caught Asif Ansari stealing hospital medicines when he was holding post of store in-charge. Later, it was revealed Ansari was involved in such theft and thus surrendered to health secretariat.

"Now they are blackmailing us and demanding that they will end the protest if they are kept at the same positions," said the AMS.

Two trailers catch fire on highway

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Two trailers laden with cotton and sugar caught fire near Baodero, Matiari district, on National Highway in the wee hours of Monday. Luckily, no one was hurt in the incident.

According to Rescue 1122 spokesman, Dilbar Halepota, the drivers had parked the two trailers by the roadside and went to have adhi when the long vehicles suddenly caught fire, which also engulfed an oil tanker parked nearly.

He said the fire was extinguished soon afterwards and oil tanker was saved but sacks of cotton and sugar were massively damaged. Cause of fire could not be known immediately, neither any loss of life was reported, he said.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

MRS. SHAMIM N.D. KHAN

Prof. N.D. Khan
Khalid Jawed Khan
Tariq Jawed Khan
& Family

BARSI

Sadly missed and fondly remembered by his family and friends.
Please recite Dua-e-Maghfirat for
Mr. Tahir Mehmood Sheikh,
who left this worldly abode for a better place 16 years ago.

Mrs Tahir
Mr & Mrs Arghan Tahir
Mr & Mrs Ghufran Tahir
Mr & Mrs Aman Shah
Mariam Tahir & Hasnain Mehboob

BEFORE MR. MUHAMMAD AHSAN KHAN DURRANI (JUDGE)
IN THE BANKING COURT NO. IV, AT KARACHI
Block-48/A, Pakistan Secretariat, Saddar, Karachi

SUIT NO. 105 OF 2001
Execution No. 60 of 2010

Askari Commercial Bank Limited.....DECREE HOLDER
VERSUS
Mahmood Trading etc. etc.....JUDGMENT DEBTOR

THE ABOVE NAMED JUDGMENT DEBTORS.

WHEREAS the accompanying application Under Section 51 read with Section 151 CPC has been filed by learned advocate for the Decree Holder for declaring the CNIC of Judgment Debtor namely ... as false in respect of which evidence needs to be recorded.

"Hence notice to JJD are needs."

You are hereby given notice to appear in person or through your pleader before this Court on 17th day of March, 2025 to submit your answer on the said application in case of failure the matter will be decided in your absence according to law.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 06th day of March 2025.

BY ORDER
READER
BANKING COURT-IV, KARACHI

BEFORE: MR.MUHAMMAD AHSAN KHAN DURRANI (JUDGE)
IN THE BANKING COURT-IV, AT KARACHI
Block-48/A, Pakistan Secretariat, Saddar, Karachi
Execution No. 17 of 2021
(Suit No. 26 of 2021)

UNITED BANK LIMITED
Having its Registered Office at 8th Floor, State Life Building No.1, I.I.Chundrigar Road, Karachi And Presently Address at 5th Floor DB Branch, I.I. Chundrigar Road Karachi.....Decree Holder
Versus
NASEEM AHMED KHAN S/o SALEEM AHMED KHAN
R/o House No. 1270/A-1, Street No.33, Phase VI, DHA, Khayaban-e-Muhafiz, Karachi. Working Address Gold Adaption (Offices), 4th Floor Sindh Court Building Karachi.....Judgment Debtor
Vs.
The above-named Judgment Debtor

WHEREAS the accompanying application Under Section 51 read with Section 151 CPC has been filed by learned advocate for the Decree Holder for declaring the CNIC of Judgment Debtor namely NASEEM AHMED KHAN S/o SALEEM AHMED KHAN holding CNIC No 42201-8745006-5 before this Court in the above matter

AND WHEREAS after hearing the said application this Court has been pleased to order for issuance of notice. You are hereby directed to appear before this Court on 21-04-2025 at 9:00 A.M in person or through your pleader to file objections on the said application, otherwise the matter would be decided in your absence in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 6-03-2025.

BY ORDER
READER,
BANKING COURT-IV KARACHI

BEFORE: MR.MUHAMMAD AHSAN KHAN DURRANI (JUDGE)
IN THE BANKING COURT-IV, AT KARACHI
Block-48/A, Pakistan Secretariat, Saddar, Karachi
Execution No. 14 of 2021
(Suit No. 24 of 2021)

UNITED BANK LIMITED
Having its Registered Office at 8th Floor, State Life Building No.1, I.I.Chundrigar Road, Karachi And presently Address at 5th Floor DB Branch, I.I. Chundrigar Road Karachi.....Decree Holder
Versus
JAHANDEB RAFIQ S/o RAFIQ ISLAM,
R/o 90, Ayesha Terrace, Block-15 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi.
Working Address: Van Guard Metro
Suit No.308, 3rd Floor, Business & Finance, I.I. Chundrigar ROAD KARACHI.....Judgment Debtor
Vs.
The above-named Judgment Debtor

WHEREAS the accompanying application Under Section 51 read with Section 151 CPC has been filed by learned advocate for the Decree Holder for declaring the CNIC of Judgment Debtor namely JAHANDEB RAFIQ S/o RAFIQ ISLAM holding CNIC No 42201-0404291-1 before this Court in the above matter.

AND WHEREAS after hearing the said application this Court has been pleased to order for issuance of notice. You are hereby directed to appear before this Court on 21-04-2025 at 9:00 A.M in person or through your pleader to file objections on the said application, otherwise the matter would be decided in your absence in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 4-03-2025.

BY ORDER
READER,
BANKING COURT-IV KARACHI

BEFORE: MR. MUHAMMAD AHSAN KHAN (DURRANI (JUDGE))
IN THE BANKING COURT-IV, AT KARACHI
BLOCK-48/A PAKISTAN SECRETARIAT, SADDAR, KARACHI
Suit No. 24 of 2021

National Bank of Pakistan, having its Registered Office at NBP Building I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi and Branch known as NBP Main Branch Karachi through its Duly Authorized Attorney Mr. Ajaz Ali Khaskheli Son of Bashir Ahmed.....Plaintiff
Versus
1. M/S Universal Foods Through its Partners
2. Abdul Karim Bin Abdul Karim CNIC: 42201-0387141-9
3. Hamid Karim Bin Abdul Karim CNIC: 42201-0387179-7
4. Sumaira Karim W/o Abdul Karim CNIC: 42201-7669867-0
Residential Address of Defendants No. 2 to 4:
1. House No. 11171, Street 16, Off Khayaban-e-Muhafiz, Phase VI, D.H.A Karachi
2. House No. 387, Khayaban-e-Tariq, Phase VI, DHA, Karachi
3. House No. 24-B, Main Fountain, Street No. 8, Block-14, Gulshan-e-Iqbal Karachi
Business Address of Defendants No. 1 to 4:
1. Office No. 16-16, 16th Floor Kashif Centre, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi
2. Suite No. 406, Madina City Mall, Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi.
5. M/S Sunjay Food Foods (Pvt) Limited
Through its Chief Executive
1. Office at Plot No. 341, 342 & 343 Main National Highway, Landhi Karachi
2. Office No. 16-16, 16th Floor, Kashif Centre, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi
3. Suite No. 406, Madina City Mall, Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi.....Defendant
Vs.
The above-named Defendant

WHEREAS the above-named Plaintiff has instituted a Suit against you Under Section 9 (1) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001 (XLVI of 2001) for Recovery of Rs 86,008,833.61 ALONG WITH COST OF FUNDS AND COSTS OF SUIT. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave from this Court within 30 (thirty) days from the date of first service hereof to defend the Suit, in default of your doing so, the allegations of fact in the plaint shall be deemed to be admitted and this Court may pass a Decree in favor of the Plaintiff on the basis thereof.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application in the form or written statement containing a summary of substantial questions of law as well as facts in respect of which evidence needs to be recorded.

Returnable by 15th day of April 2025 at 9:00am before the Banking Court-IV at Karachi.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 4th of March 2025.

By Order
READER
BANKING COURT-IV KARACHI

BEFORE: MR.MUHAMMAD AHSAN KHAN DURRANI (JUDGE)
IN THE BANKING COURT-IV, AT KARACHI
Block-48/A, Pakistan Secretariat, Saddar, Karachi
Suit No. 27 of 2020

NATIONAL BANK OF PAKISTAN
Having its Registered Office at NBP Building I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi And Branch known as NBP Main Branch Karachi through its Duly Authorized Attorney Mr. Ajaz Ali Khaskheli Son of Bashir Ahmed.....Plaintiff
Versus
M/S HAMID & COMPANY Through its Proprietor Sumiya Karim Through Her Legal Heirs
i. Abdul Karim Husband of Sumiya Karim CNIC No. 42201-0387141-9
ii. Hamid Karim S/o Sumiya Karim, CNIC No. 42201-0387179-7
iii. Sumaira Karim Daughter of Sumiya Karim CNIC No. 42201-7669867-0
Defendants Are Follows:
i. House No. 11171, Street 16, Off Khayaban-e-Muhafiz, Phase VI DHA Karachi
ii. House No. 387, Khayaban-e-Tariq, Phase VI, DHA, Karachi
iii. Flat No. 204-A, Hurmat City Block-17, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi
iv. Office No. 16-16, 16th Floor Kashif Centre, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi
v. Suite No. 406, Madina City Mall Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi.....Defendant
Vs.
The above-named Defendant

WHEREAS the above-named Plaintiff has instituted a Suit against you Under Section 9 (1) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001 (XLVI of 2001) for Recovery of Rs 86,008,833.61 ALONG WITH COST OF FUNDS AND COSTS OF SUIT. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave from this Court within 30 (thirty) days from the date of first service hereof to defend the Suit, in default of your doing so, the allegations of fact in the plaint shall be deemed to be admitted and this Court may pass a Decree in favor of the Plaintiff on the basis thereof.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application in the form or written statement containing a summary of substantial questions of law as well as facts in respect of which evidence needs to be recorded.

Returnable by 15th day of April 2025 at 9:00am before the Banking Court-IV at Karachi.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 4th of MARCH 2025.

BY ORDER
READER,
BANKING COURT-IV KARACHI

LIAQUAT UNIVERSITY
of Medical & Health Sciences, Jamshoro, Sindh Pakistan
URL: www.lumhs.edu.pk
Telephone # +92-22-9213350, Fax: +92-22-9213330
Email: controller@lumhs.edu.pk
"Say No to Corruption"

No. LUMHS/PSS/2026 Dated: 07-03-2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences Jamshoro invites bids electronically through **EPADS** on **"Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure"** from well reputed Firms/Companies registered with Government Sales Tax, Income Tax and Sindh Revenue Board (Whichever is applicable) to carry out the following Procurement for OHO Hospital Cadiz & Various Departments of LUMHS, Jamshoro.

S. No.	Services Description	From To	Submission Through EPADS	Opening Through EPADS	Tender fee (Non-refund able)
1	Procurement of IT Equipment for Department of Information Technology, LUMHS Jamshoro	17-03-2025 to 07-04-2025	08-04-2025 up to 10:30am	08-04-2025 11:00 am	Rs. 5000/-
2	Procurement of Digital Fundus Camera Non-Mydriatic for LUMHS Ophthalmic Research Diagnostic Lab Institute of Ophthalmology LUMHS Jamshoro	17-03-2025 to 07-04-2025	08-04-2025 up to 11:00am	08-04-2025 11:30 am	Rs. 5000/-
3	Procurement of Lab Equipment for Institute of Biomedical Engineering & Technology, LUMHS Jamshoro	17-03-2025 to 07-04-2025	08-04-2025 up to 11:30am	08-04-2025 12:00 pm	Rs. 5000/-
4	Procurement of Fully Automatic Chemistry Analyzer for DHQ Hospital Badin	17-03-2025 to 07-04-2025	08-04-2025 up to 12:00pm	08-04-2025 12:30 pm	Rs. 5000/-

Bidding documents can be obtained and shall be submitted through EPADS as per above mentioned schedule details are mentioned in the tender/bidding documents. Bidding documents containing detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from SPPRA website i.e. EPADS (https://portal.eprocure.gov.pk/LUMHS) website i.e. www.lumhs.edu.pk. Bid Security @ 5% of Bid Cost in the shape of pay order/demand draft (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) in favour of Vice Chancellor, LUMHS, Jamshoro.

The Procuring Agency may reject any bid subject to relevant provision of SPP rules 2010 and may cancel the bidding process at any time prior of acceptance of bid or proposal as per SPPRA rules (Amended) Up-to date).

Chairman,
Central Purchase Committee
LUMHS Jamshoro

INF-KPIY: 797/25

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK A4998

						9		
	6	5	2				4	
3		9		8			2	1
				7		3		
7		2		5	9			
							1	
						6		
			5	3	4		7	8
4		8	7		1		9	2

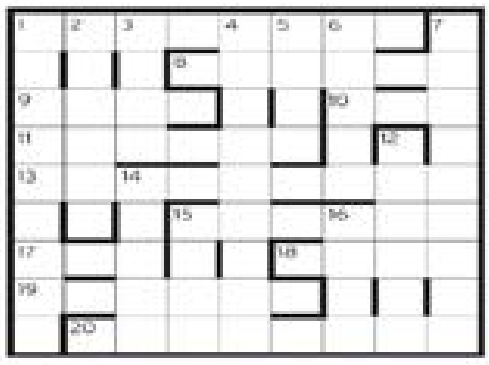
TRICKY B4998

					9			
	9	6	4	8	5			
4					1	5		
9	5			2		6		
			9					
2		7						4
					6			3
	1	8		7				9
							2	8

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Rimmeister (C) PZZL.com

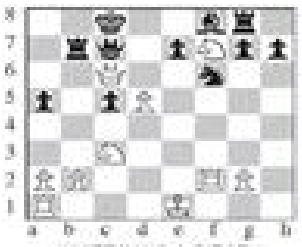
CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Another name for a termite (3,3)
8 Turkish capital (8)
9 Moderate running pace (4)
10 Annoy (3)
11 Maintain a firm grasp (4,2)
13 Veiled or masked (9)
15 _ Capote, author (8)
17 _ Lovelace, computing pioneer (3)
18 Cipher (4)
19 Complain (8)
20 Those who slumber (8)

DOWN
1 Removes or takes away (9)
2 Courageous (8)
3 Object of worship (4)
4 Spur on (9)
5 Similar (to) (4)
6 Tacks (5)
7 Sands knee (anag.) (9)
12 Person in charge (8)
14 Creature with a shell (5)
15 Sound quality (4)
16 Relocate (4)

CHESS



WHITE WINS A PIECE
HINT: OR CHECKMATE.

Solution: 1. Rxb6! axb6 2. Qxb8+ Qxb8 3. Qxb8 mate

TARGET

E	G	U
M	B	N
R	I	N

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 15:
Very good 22:
Excellent 29 (or more).

Solution tomorrow

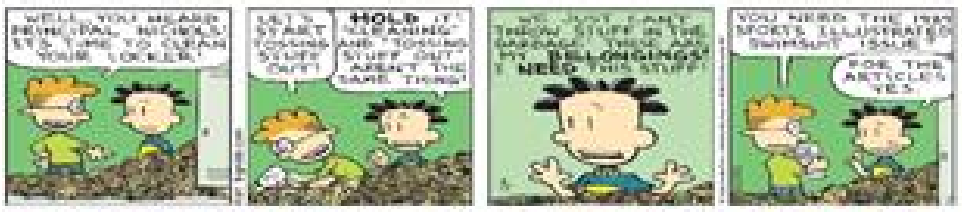
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

INTERMENT

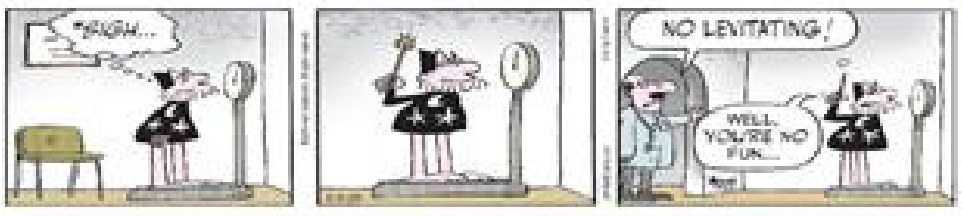
eminent emir emit emitter enmine INTERMENT item meet mere merit mete metier metter metre mien mine miner mint mire mite mitre mitt mitten nemit nimie teem term termite time timer tine

THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE



THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



BABY BLUES

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Islamabad	Rawalpindi	Kashmir	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	06:34pm	06:15pm	06:38pm	06:00pm	06:20pm	06:43pm
Sunrise	06:38am	06:20am	06:44am	06:15am	06:26am	06:42am

Three Day Forecast

	Today Min	Today Max	Today Outlook	Humidity %	Tomorrow Min	Tomorrow Max	Tomorrow Outlook	Day After Min	Day After Max	Day After Outlook
Faisalabad	17	30	Cloudy	67	19	32	Partly Cloudy	17	30	Partly Cloudy
Hyderabad	19	30	Partly Cloudy	17	23	40	Mostly Sunny	22	39	Sunny
Islamabad	15	26	Cloudy	71	14	25	Mostly Cloudy	13	25	Th-Storms
Lahore	17	30	Cloudy	53	17	31	Partly Cloudy	16	29	Partly Cloudy
Multan	18	29	Cloudy	64	19	32	Cloudy	19	32	Mostly Sunny
Peshawar	15	26	Cloudy	79	15	26	Partly Cloudy	14	25	Partly Cloudy
Quetta	11	23	Cloudy	36	9	21	Partly Cloudy	8	18	Partly Cloudy

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, [illegible]
CPLC	1122, [illegible]
Fire Brigade	16, [illegible]
Bomb Disposal	[illegible]
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	[illegible]
PCAA Flight Inquiry	[illegible]
	[illegible], 114

HOSPITALS

Aga Khan Hospital	[illegible]
Liaquat National	[illegible]
Memon Medical	[illegible]
Ziauddin Hospital	[illegible]
Kidney Centre Institute	[illegible]
Sindh City Hospital	[illegible]
Kidney Centre Institute	[illegible]
Kamran e Hayat	[illegible]
Usman Memorial	[illegible]

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, [illegible]
Chhipa	1020
SIUH's Rescue	1122
St.John	[illegible]
Red Crescent	[illegible]

BLOOD BANK

Fabad	[illegible]
Rosabi	[illegible]
PKR (Civil)	[illegible]

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Davis

▼ TODAY'S WORD
CIRCUMLUNAR
(CIRCUMLUNAR: sir-kum-LOO-nar: Revolving about or surrounding the moon.)

Average mark 34 words
Time limit 50 minutes

Can you find 47 or more words in CIRCUMLUNAR?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — MEANTIME

maim	mien	name
main	mine	neat
mane	mine	tame
mate	mint	team
matinee	nite	teen
mean	eaten	teem
meanie	emit	time
meant	enate	tine
meat	enema	tines
meet	enter	tinam
meine	entine	tinnate
nieta	ente	tiam
nuite	entil	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that require four letters by the addition of "s," such as "hate" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS
Conducted
Organs
Endings
Flag
Hem
Whenever
Say
Pets
Italian
Unique
Groceries.

DOWN
Confusing
Oral
Danger
Underline
Ton
Edges
Dismissers
Repair
Water
True
Age.

METRO EVENTS

WOMEN'S DAY

An award to celebrate International Women's Day is being held at the Zia Mohyeddin Theatre, National Academy of Performing Arts, at 3:30pm.

SESSION

A session on 'Dua-i-Qunoot' by Ustadha Farheen Sajjad, is being held at Al-Emaan Institute, DHA campus, 45-C, 15th Commercial Lane, Phase 2 Ext., DHA, at 10noon.

EXHIBITIONS

Mapping the Invisible, an exhibition of artworks by seven artists, is underaway at Aan Art Space & Museum. The show will remain open till May, daily from 10noon to 7pm and 3pm to 7pm on Fridays.

A solo show by Jovita Alvares is underaway at Canvas Gallery. The show, *Bled Dos Last Night I Dreamed I Touched You... Today It Dissipates*, will remain open till March 13, daily from 11am to 5pm, excluding Sundays.

An exhibition of artworks by Ghulam Hussain (Guddu) opens at Sanat Initiative Gallery at 6pm. *Tilled Minds (Ikmen Z-O ja dialogue with Piet Mondrian)*, it will remain open till March 27.

HOROSCOPE

By Georges Nicole

ARIES | March 21-April 19

**** Parents should be vigilant today. This could be an accident-prone day for your kids. Keep your eyes open, know where they are at all times. Meanwhile, this is a good day to discuss how to smooth over past difficulties. These talks will be polite, careful and productive. Tonight: Conversations.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

*** Your home routine might change today because small appliances could break down. Perhaps a minor breakage will occur. Someone unexpected could knock on the door. Be smart and stock the fridge. Family discussions might catch you off guard. However, quiet research will pay off. Tonight: Research.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** This is an excellent day for a warm discussion with a friend, a member of a group or an organization. You'll be well spoken and others will want to hear what you have to say. Meanwhile, pay attention to everything you do today, because this is an accident-prone day for you. Be alert. Tonight: Talk to friends.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

*** Unexpected but pleasant news from parents, bosses, teachers or authority figures might come your way today. (Hope for a miracle.) However, keep an eye on your money and your possessions to protect them from something unexpected. Tonight: Share ideas.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

**** You'll enjoy study of any kind today. A meeting with someone who is different or from another culture could trigger a romance. Travel for pleasure will appeal to you. Explore opportunities in medicine, the law and publishing. Your urge to be spontaneous will take you in new directions! Tonight: Travel plans.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

*** You couldn't pick a better day for financial discussions about inheritances or how to divide or share something. You will come out laughing all the way to the bank. This is also a passionate, sexy, affectionate day. Nevertheless, your restless energy might take you in an unexpected direction. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

**** Discussions with partners and close friends will be warm and mutually receptive today. You might talk to someone younger or someone in the arts. In fact, either a friend will surprise you or you could meet an unusual character today. Be open for anything. Tonight: Listen.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** This is a playful day! However, bosses, parents and people in authority might throw you a curveball. (Do not trifle in the affairs of dragons, for you are crunchy and taste good with ketchup.) Discussions with co-workers and health workers will be warm and rewarding. Enjoy fun with a pet. Tonight: Work together.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** This is a creative day! Even though your focus is on home and family, accept invitations to socialize, because you'll enjoy schmoozing with others. Meanwhile, travel plans might suddenly change. They might be canceled or delayed, or perhaps you'll travel when you didn't expect to do so. Tonight: Socialize!

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

*** Make friends with your bank account today. Something unexpected could impact your finances, or anything to do with inheritances, insurance issues or shared property. Know what's going on, because you snooze, you lose. However, family discussions will be warm and happy today. Tonight: Entertain.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

*** Your communication skills are excellent today, which is why you'll enjoy schmoozing with others. In fact, you will especially appreciate the beauty of your daily surroundings. Meanwhile, a partner or close friend might surprise you. Stay focused on your money and assets. Tonight: Learn.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

*** Your work routine might be interrupted today, and pet owners should be vigilant. Meanwhile, financial discussions will go well. In fact, respect your moneymaking ideas, especially if you're resurrecting an idea from the past. You might buy something you've been wanting to get. Tonight: Check your money and belongings.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Eliminating the risk element

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 5 3
♥ 7 2
♦ K Q 10 9 3
♣ A Q 4

WEST
♠ 10 8 4 2
♥ A 10 8 5 4
♦ 6 5
♣ J 2

EAST
♠ K Q
♥ J 9 3
♦ J 7 4 2
♣ 10 9 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A J 7 4
♥ K Q 6
♦ A 8
♣ K 8 6 5

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — five of hearts.

Declarer occasionally adopts a line of play designed specifically to prevent a particular defender from gaining the lead. One reason might be that the opponent in question has good tricks that he can cash. Another reason might be to protect a holding that is vulnerable to attack if led by one defender rather than the other.

Today's deal presented declarer with the latter type of situation, and he came through with flying colors. After winning East's jack of hearts with the king at trick one, South could count eight certain winners — three diamonds, three clubs, a heart and a spade. He had excellent chances for a ninth trick if the jack of diamonds fell under the A-K-Q, or if the opposing clubs were divided 3-3.

But before staking the outcome on either of these possibilities, South pondered what might happen if both suits divided unfavorably. He realized he could overcome J-x-x-x of diamonds in the West hand simply by conceding a trick to West's jack on the fourth round of the suit. But if East had J-x-x-x and was given a trick with the jack, a heart return could sink the contract.

It was at this point that it dawned on South that he had a sure way to make nine tricks. So at trick two he led a club to the queen, returned the diamond three and finessed the eight! When the eight held, he cashed the ace, crossed to the ace of clubs and cashed three more diamonds to finish with 10 tricks.

The great advantage of South's method of play was that it assured a favorable outcome regardless of which opponent had the jack of diamonds or how the suit was divided. Even if the finesse of the eight had lost to West, whatever return West made would leave South with at least nine certain winners.

Tomorrow: Hands makes waste.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A4997

8	4	7	5	6	3	9	2	1
3	1	6	7	2	8	5	4	9
9	2	5	9	1	4	3	6	7
1	8	9	3	7	2	6	5	4
6	3	4	8	5	9	7	1	2
7	5	2	6	4	1	8	9	3
2	7	3	1	9	6	4	8	5
4	6	8	2	8	7	1	3	9
5	9	1	4	3	5	2	7	6

Tricky — B4997

1	6	9	7	4	8	3	2	5
2	8	4	9	3	1	6	5	7
3	5	7	2	5	6	1	4	9
6	2	3	4	7	9	5	1	8
7	9	1	8	2	5	4	3	4
8	4	5	1	6	3	7	9	2
4	7	6	5	1	2	8	6	3
9	1	2	3	8	7	4	6	5
5	3	8	6	9	4	2	7	1

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DAWN

METRO North

ISLAMABAD Tuesday, March 11, 2025

ISLAMABAD

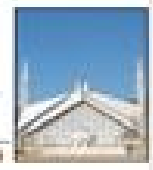
Sunset	06:13pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:20am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	15°C
Maximum	25°C
Outlook	Mostly Cloudy

ISLAMABAD RAMAZAN TIMING

RAWALPINDI	ISLAMABAD
Iftar (today) 6:13pm	Iftar (today) 6:23pm
Sahr (Tomorrow) 4:59am	Sahr (Tomorrow) 4:49am



BARBED wires have been placed at Islamabad's D-Chowk as security was stepped up during the joint session of the parliament which was addressed by President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

CDA plans to remove all mulberry trees from capital

Chairman told over 10,000 mulberry trees to be chopped down in Shakarparian; thousands of indigenous trees to be planted

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to launch a campaign to remove mulberry trees in the federal capital, replacing them with thousands of native plants.

This decision was made in a meeting held at the CDA headquarters, with Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa in the chair.

The meeting was also attended by environmental expert Rizwan Malik, environmental experts from the Raku team, and senior officers from CDA's Environment Wing.

It is relevant to note that pollen allergy, attributed to mulberry, affects a large number of people in Islamabad, particularly during the spring season, when the concentration of pollen in the air remains high.

Pollen is a fine powder produced by trees, grasses, and weeds and is an essential part of the reproductive process of these plants.

Islamabad has thousands of paper mulberry trees, and there was never any serious attempt made to remove them except for in F-9 Park last year.

The civic agency had made several plans to launch an operation but could not translate it into reality.

"Starting operation against the pollen tree is a good initiative, but there is a need to keep an eye on CDA's environment officials to ensure that only paper mulberry trees are removed and no other tree is chopped down," suggested an official.

ISLAMABAD has thousands of paper mulberry trees, and there was never any serious attempt made to remove them except for in F-9 Park last year. — File photo

Earlier, the meeting was told that approximately 10,000 paper mulberry plants will be removed from the Shakarparian area, and 50,000 trees will be planted in their place.

Similarly, around 1,000 paper mulberry plants will be removed from the slopes along the drains and roads, and 80,000 local trees will be planted.

It was also reported that in other sectors of Islamabad, a total of 10,000 paper mulberry plants will be removed and replaced with 50,000 new plants.

The meeting also mentioned that this year's plantation campaign would involve the private and corporate sectors as well.

According to a statement issued after the meeting, Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa stated that no effort would be spared in the removal of paper mulberry trees from Islamabad.

He said local plants, such as logan, guava, fig, apricot, peepal, native mulberry, and other types of plants, needed to be planted.

The statement added that over 5,000 small and large mulberry trees were removed from F-9 last year and "around 50,000 new trees were planted".

The meeting was informed that approximately 50,000 'environment-friendly plants' will be planted during the spring season.

Chairman Randhawa directed that the remaining paper mulberry trees be removed on a priority basis to address the pollen allergy.

He also instructed that a list of plants and trees suitable for the local climate be displayed on the CDA website to raise public awareness.

He also directed that during this spring, the removal of paper mulberry trees should be ensured, and fruit-bearing, shade-providing, and flowering trees should be planted.

He also stressed that students, teachers, and staff from both private and public educational institutions should be included to make the plantation campaign a success.

Mr Randhawa stated that for plantation in the Margalla Hills, spraying and seed dropping should be done via helicopter.

He also instructed that private housing societies be directed to promote the plantation campaign. Additionally, he suggested that plant stalls be set up at the low-price markets established under the Ramazan Relief Package.

Scuffle breaks out at IGP office

By Munawar Azeem

ISLAMABAD: A senior police officer and an official engaged in physical confrontation on the premises of the Centre Police Office, which houses the offices of the Islamabad police chief and the DIG Headquarters.

Police officials told Dawn the quarrel started after an assistant inspector general (AIG) slapped his subordinate, an assistant sub-inspector, in his office. Officials claimed that the AIG had summoned the ASI to his office and allegedly verbally abused him despite the latter's request not to use expletives.

However, the ASI lost his cool and responded to his superior officer in the same tone, prompting the AIG to slap the junior official. The ASI hit back, leading to a scuffle inside the office. During the altercation, the AIG also lost his glasses. After hearing the commotion, the staff present inside the building rushed to the AIG office to break up the fight.

After the scuffle came to the notice of the police chief, the IGP ordered an inquiry to investigate the incident. IGP Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said he ordered a high-powered inquiry into the incident. The committee will include DIG Headquarters, the Islamabad Safe City's director general, and the AIG Legal. The inquiry will establish who started the physical confrontation and what was the reason that led to it.

Police insiders claimed that many senior and supervisory officers are used to humiliating their subordinates, and such incidents are hardly surprising.

In December 2022, a physical confrontation also occurred between a senior superintendent of police working as an ASG with the capital police and personnel of Eagle Squad when the security personnel intercepted and stopped a vehicle on suspicion. After the vehicle was pulled over, a man disembarked, reportedly under the influence of alcohol at that time, and started misbehaving with the police officials. He introduced himself as a senior police officer, but when the Eagle Squad officials asked him to show his identification, the officer got into a physical altercation. The two personnel, however, beat him up.

Eventually, he was rescued by the DIG and SSP operations who arrived at the scene after a phone call. The Eagle officials were subsequently booked in a misconduct case at the Shalimar police station and imprisoned. However, they were discharged by judicial Magistrate Riffat Mahmood Khan due to lack of evidence.

Wasa MD orders removal of dengue breeding sites

RAWALPINDI: As the dengue drive launched in the garrison city, Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) on Monday asked its officials to ensure special cleaning of all the agency institutions including the head office and all field offices to check the breeding of dengue mosquito larvae.

This was stated by Wasa Managing Director Rawalpindi Mohammad Saleem Ashraf while presiding over a special meeting to review the arrangements for the prevention of dengue virus.

The meeting was attended by water supplydirector Azizullah Khan and other relevant officials. Wasa Managing Director Mohammad Saleem Ashraf emphasized on cleaning tube wells, mini filtration plants, valve chambers and sewer lines to eliminate the dengue mosquito larvae.

He said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has directed to take proactive and timely steps to control dengue this year.

He said that this time special steps are being taken to control dengue in advance so that its losses can be avoided at the peak of the dengue season. He said Wasa is an important institution that can play its role in preventing dengue. Wasa's primary responsibilities include drainage of standing water, effective monitoring of dengue and identification of dengue hot spots.

He directed all field officers and staff to ensure immediate drainage of stagnant water and resolve all such complaints immediately. He asked the Water Supply directorto conduct effective monitoring by visiting field offices and take strict action against negligent officers and staff.

Mr Ashraf has appealed to the public that controlling the breeding of mosquitoes is very important to make the campaign against dengue successful. The public should support Wasa Rawalpindi and the Punjab government in this campaign. Dengue can be controlled only with the joint efforts of all stakeholders. — Asmir Yasin

Candidate caught cheating in SSC exam

RAWALPINDI: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Rawalpindi on Monday caught a student cheating in matriculation annual examination 2025 in Kamra Attock.

According to BISE spokesman Arslan Cheema, in response to an information, a board team raided Government Boys High School PAC Kamra Attock, where a private candidate was caught cheating. An unfair means case has been registered against him and sent to the disciplinary branch.

He said that BISE Rawalpindi Chairman Mohammad Adnan Khan visited Government High School Kot Sarang Talagang, Government College Talagang, Government Associate College Talagang, Government High School Bilalabad Talagang, Government High School Akwal Talagang, Government Higher Secondary School Latifwal Chakwal, Government Boys Higher Secondary School Bhagwal and Government Associate College for Girls Bhagwal examination centres.

The BISE chairman said reforms are being introduced to further improve the examination system.

During the visit, he checked the seating plan of the candidates, lighting arrangements and the attendance of the invigilator staff. Issuing instructions to the examination staff, he said officials should perform their duty as a national duty. He said that all examination centres are being monitored effectively and comprehensively. — Staff Reporter

Nadra launches Pakistan's first dematerialised ID card

By Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: The National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) on Monday launched Pakistan's first dematerialised ID card as it commemorated 25 years of excellence in legal identity management and national database integration.

The national identity document will now be integrated as a feature into the Pak ID mobile application, which means that citizens will no longer need to carry physical ID cards.

Moreover, digital verification systems will soon be implemented to facilitate authentication for various services under the World Bank-funded Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP). A pilot project for this fully digital identity will be launched on August 14, 2025.

A ceremony was held at the Nadra headquarters to mark the silver jubilee of the authority.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent congratulatory messages, appreciating Nadra's remarkable achievements. A commemorative coin issued by the State Bank of Pakistan and a special postage stamp by Pakistan Post were unveiled to mark the historic milestone.

President Zardari lauded the authority's role in providing a legal and unique identity to citizens, reinforcing the social contract between the state and its people while transforming public service delivery. He urged Nadra to accelerate its efforts to utilise emerging technologies to improve efficiency and uphold the highest standards of integrity, accessibility and citizen satisfaction.

Prime Minister Sharif recognised Nadra's pivotal role in empowering citizens. He highlighted its global standing in serving the third-largest demographic segment in the world. Acknowledging its achievements in data integration and AI modeling, the prime minister underscored the significance of digital solutions in driving economic growth and promoting inclusivity.

Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi commended the launch of the dematerialised ID as a step towards digital identity.

In his message, he highlighted Nadra's extensive network, ensuring identity services are available even in the remotest areas of Pakistan as well as for overseas Pakistanis. He also acknowledged Nadra's crucial contributions to governance and law enforcement, reinforcing national security and public administration.

Nadra's founding chairman retired Maj Gen Zahid Ehsan was the chief guest at the silver jubilee ceremony.

In his address, he shared a brief reflection on the organisation's early days, highlighting its rapid progress in achieving the vision it was founded upon. He said the institution continues to set new milestones in its development, demonstrating its commitment to innovation and excellence.

Previous chairmen, board members, special secretary interior, chief statistician (PBS), DG immigration and passport and Nadra officials also attended the ceremony.

The event also featured the screening of a documentary film and a book launch chronicling Nadra's 25-year journey.

FOUNDING Nadra chairman retired Maj Gen Zahid Ehsan unveils Pakistan's first dematerialised ID card during a ceremony in Islamabad on Monday. Nadra Chairman Lt Gen Muhammad Munir Ahsar and other officials are also present on the occasion. — APP

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PRAYER

Fajr	05:07
Zuhar	12:22
Asr	04:32
Maghreb	06:13
Isha	07:36

Starting time in Islamabad

REFLECTIONS

"SOMETIMES YOUR PRAYERS ARE TURNED DOWN, AND THIS IS ALSO IN YOUR INTEREST; BECAUSE YOU OFTEN, UNKNOWINGLY, ASK FOR THINGS THAT ARE REALLY HARMFUL TO YOU."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

TIAN/627

Swiss embassy hosts ceremony to honour women rock climbers

By Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD: The Swiss embassy hosted an award ceremony on Monday to honour the achievements of women rock climbers, coinciding with International Women's Day.

Welcoming members of the Adventure Club of Pakistan, Swiss Ambassador Georg Steiner expressed admiration for the determination and skill demonstrated by young women in the challenging sport of rock climbing.

"We are delighted to recognise these remarkable climbers. On this special occasion, we hope to encourage them to keep pushing forward," he said, adding that he was impressed by the passion for mountaineering in Pakistan. The climbing competitions took place in February, but the award ceremony was delayed to align with International Women's Day, celebrated globally on March 8.

The event was held at the Swiss envoy's residence, where several speakers highlighted the importance of women's participation in sports.

Dr Shahreen Zahid, vice president of the Adventure Club, noted the significance of the event, recalling that Pakistan's first-ever women's climbing competition was organised in 2007 in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation.

The competition has since grown, marking its 19th season in 2025.

"We are grateful to all participating teams, institutions, clubs and individuals who contributed to its success," she said.

President of the Adventure Club Tahir Imran Khan extended gratitude to the Swiss embassy for recognising the sport and supporting its promotion in Pakistan.

Among the distinguished climbers honoured was Dr Aliza Sana, a dentist by profession, who began climbing in 2008 and became the first woman to win a gold medal in the national climbing championship. "Climbing means empowerment and freedom," she remarked.

Igra Jilani, an international athlete who has represented Pakistan in the Asian Games in China and the Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia, impressed the audience with her remarkable ability to speed climb a 60-foot wall in just 22 seconds.

"My aim was to represent Pakistan. I did not initially plan to become a climber, but the thrill of the sport kept me going. I aim to compete further and bring more recognition to Pakistan," she said, calling for greater state support to promote climbing and mountaineering.

The event underscored the growing interest in adventure sports among Pakistani women and the need for increased recognition and support for their achievements.

Anti-encroachment team attacked, 16 booked

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: Police on Monday booked 16 suspects, including four identified and 12 unidentified persons, for trashing the cantonment board officials and ransacking their official vehicle during an anti-encroachment drive against car bazaar on G.T. Road in the limits of Wah Saddar police station.

The enforcement inspector, Dilawar Khan, while lodging first investigation report (FIR), stated that he was removing encroachments during an anti-encroachment drive in the car bazaar, when as many as 16 people equipped with different weapons, attacked the anti-encroachment team and beat them.

He said the suspects also ransacked the official vehicle and blocked G.T. Road.

Tributes paid to Kashmiri leader Khurshid Hassan Khurshid

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir's (AJK) top leadership on Monday paid glowing tributes to towering Kashmiri leader Khurshid Hassan Khurshid on the eve of his 37th death anniversary, acknowledging his unwavering commitment to democratic values, public rights and the Kashmir cause.

President Barrister Sultan Mahmood, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq and Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar unanimously stressed upon the young generation to acquaint themselves with the ideology of the principled statesman and contributions and follow in his footsteps for the betterment of the Kashmiri people.

Mr Khurshid, commonly known as K.H. Khurshid, served as the private secretary to the founder of the nation, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, during the epoch-making period of the Pakistan Movement.

He played a pivotal role in the political evolution of AJK. In the late 1950s, he became the first elected president of Azad Kashmir after introducing the basic democracy system in the region.

Tragically, he lost his life in a road accident on G.T. Road while traveling on public transport from Gujranwala to Lahore on March 11, 1988. At the time, he was serving as the Leader of the Opposition in the AJK Legislative Assembly.

Describing Mr Khurshid as a selfless national leader who played a crucial role in the Pakistan Movement, President Mahmood said: "He introduced the Kashmiri people to their democratic and constitutional rights and worked relentlessly for their realisation. Under his leadership, democratic institutions flourished in Azad Kashmir, and the people secured their fundamental rights."

Prime Minister Haq echoed similar sentiments, calling Mr Khurshid an exemplary leader who consistently upheld democratic values.

Highlighting the veteran leader's unwavering stance in defending public rights against all pressures, he said Mr Khurshid played a crucial role in raising political awareness among the Kashmiri people and encouraging them to assert their fundamental rights.

"He was an honest and dedicated politician whose simplicity and integrity serve as a remarkable example in today's era," Mr Haq added.

Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar described Mr Khurshid as a symbol of Kashmiri identity and national dignity, highlighting his lifelong struggle for the right to self-determination. — Tariq Naqash

Fire damages Danyor bridge in Gilgit-Baltistan

GILGIT: Fire damaged 30pc portion of historical wooden bridge in Danyor on Monday night, police and residents of the area told *Dawn*.

The wooden bridge is one of the oldest makeshift suspension bridges, which connects Danyor to Karolas in Gilgit. Danyor suspension bridge is a 510-foot-long bridge connecting a 10-metre-long tunnel with a Buddhist rock. Currently the bridge closed for traffic, but pedestrians can cross the bridge.

The bridge was constructed over Hunza Nagar river in 1960, in 2017, GB government recognised its cultural heritage, which has the potential to attract tourists.

Rescue 1122 said At around 10pm, a fire broke out on the wooden bridge and subsequently started spreading. The intensity of the fire was so high that flames started spreading rapidly.

Personnel of Rescue 1122 immediately reached the spot along with firefighting vehicles and started extinguishing the fire and brought the fire under control after two hours.

Local volunteers also rushed to the area to take part in rescue operation.

According to source after hectic efforts , they controlled the fire for 30 percent of the bridge was damaged. The cause of fire remained unknown. Meanwhile, residents of Danyor staged a protest at Danyor chowk against the incident and demanded fair investigation into the incident. — Jamil Nagri

Iftar Dastarkhwan in Islamabad serves underprivileged

ISLAMABAD: As the holy month of Ramazan continues, a free 'Iftar Dastarkhwan' has been set up in the federal capital, offering meals to hundreds of underprivileged individuals daily, including labourers, daily-wage workers and the homeless.

Sponsored by local philanthropists and organisations, the initiative aimed to support those in need, fostering a spirit of generosity and communal well-being during Ramazan.

Atiq Afridi, founder of a leading youth-led volunteer organisation, said his team had been organising the Ramazan Meherban Iftar Dastarkhwan for the last nine years.

"The response had been incredible. Local and international students from leading universities are actively participating as volunteers," he said proudly.

He said the Dastarkhwan served approximately 400 to 500 people daily.

"Labourers, bike riders, taxi drivers, and others rely on this initiative to break their fast," he explained.

The menu included dates, bananas, pakoras, samosas, chicken qorma, naan, roti, halwa, and occasionally zarda, ensuring a fulfilling meal for all.

"Funding for the initiative comes from his circle of friends and well-wishers," he added. He said feeding the needy was considered as 'Sadqa Jariya' in Islam.

"I urge everyone to contribute to this noble cause. These people are part of our society and look to us for support," he remarked.

Fatima, a dedicated volunteer for the past 10 years, expressed her fulfilment in being part of the initiative.

"I feel immense satisfaction in serving others. I will continue to contribute to humanitarian efforts in the future," she said.

Ocean Law, a student at Bahria University, said, "It's heartwarming to be part of this initiative. The kindness and generosity of the people here are inspiring."

She pledged to remain engaged in volunteer work.

Kaleem, a daily-wage labourer, expressed his gratitude. "I am the sole breadwinner for my family. This Dastarkhwan helps me save money for other necessities. It's truly a relief in these tough times," he said.

A philanthropist involved in the initiative highlighted the growing number of attendees, underscoring the impact of such charitable efforts.

"It's a great relief for the needy, and we are committed to continuing this service," he affirmed. — APP

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
COMMUNICATION & WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING

SINGLE STAGE TWO ENVELOPE

The C&W Mega Projects (South-II) DI Khan Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites electronic bids from the eligible Firms/Contractors in accordance with KAPPRA Procurement Rules 2014, amended upto 15.09.2021 on **SINGLE STAGE TWO ENVELOPE** procedure for the following works:

Sr	Name of Work	Required Category of PEC / Code	Bid Security i/c Stamp Duty Rs	Tender Fee @ 0.01%	Period of Completion	Last date & time of submission of Technical & Financial Bids	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid
1	Construction of Judicial Complex District Miranshah	C-1 & above	Rs 2,150,000/-	Rs 47,000/-	As per Work Order	18-4-2025 at 12:00 PM	After evaluation of Technical Bid

1- Bid solicitation documents and instructions to Bidders can be obtained from the office on any working day or downloaded from C&W web site **(www.cwd.gkp.pk)** before the submission date/time **2-** The bidders should submit their E-bids as per KPPRA Notification No. S.R.O (14)/Vol. 1-24/2021-22/0058-71 dated 10.05.2022 with following conditions. i. The contractors quoting their bids upto a limit of 10% below Engineers Estimate shall submit bid security 2% only of Engineer Estimate. ii. The contractors quoting their bids more than 10% below upto 20% below on Engineers Estimate shall submit alongwith their bids 8% Additional Security of Engineer's Estimated Cost in addition to 2% bid security. If the bid is not accompanied with the required amount of additional security then it will be considered as non-responsive and the 2% bid security shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the second lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly. iii. Similarly, a contractor quoting bid more than 20% below shall submit with his bid an additional security on Engineer's Estimated Cost equal to the differential amount of submitted bid and Engineers Estimate alongwith detailed rate analysis. In case of more than 20% below bids, if the bid is not accompanied by the detailed rate analysis and/or required amount of additional security, then the said bid shall be considered as non-responsive. All the securities submitted alongwith such non- responsive bid shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly. iv. In case detailed rate analysis submitted with the bids is in view of the Procuring Entity, not convincing, the Head of the Procuring Entity may declare such bid as non- responsive without any forfeiture of bid securities and record reasons thereof. v. The Procuring Entity may offer the contract to next lowest bidder after due diligence in the context of financial difference between such two bids or may advertise procurement opportunity afresh. vi. After commencements of work by the successful bidder, the procuring entity may replace the Additional Security with a bank guarantee of the same amount from the scheduled bank, if the already deposited security is not in the form of bank guarantee. vii. the Additional Security shall be released to the contractor in four installments ie 1st installation of 25% to be released upon completion of 25% of the project, 2nd installment of 25% to be released upon completion of 50% of the project, 3rd installment of 25% to be released upon completion of 75% of the project and the 4th installment of 25% to be released after 100% completion of the project. 3 Complete Detail of Bid Security in shape of CDR ie. Bank Name, CDR Number(s) and Date(s) must be submitted electronically alongwith E-bid on the E-bidding System. **4-** All bidders are required to be registered with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority under Finance Act 2013 No. XXII of 2013. **5-** All the bidding will be through E-bidding system. Technical bid should be in sealed envelopes clearly marked **"TECHNICAL BID"** technical bids shall be submitted through courier before closing time. **6-** Technical evaluation will be carried out on the basis of (General experience, Personal Capability, Equipment Capabilities & Financial Soundness, Auditor Report (last 3-years) etc) proper marking criteria as approved by competent Authority. Failing to fulfil passing criteria shall be considered as fail leading to disqualification of the bidder. **7-** A copy of the technical proposal in the required format is mandatory and to be uploaded as a part of E-Bid before submitting Financial Bid **8-** Legible Scanned copy of bid security shall be submitted electronically alongwith the bid on E-bidding system. **9-** No pay order and Bank Draft will be acceptable except call deposit of scheduled Bank otherwise the bid will be declared as non-responsive. **10-** Venue of bids opening is office of the Executive Engineer C&W Division Miranshah at North Waziristan.

INFO(P)991/25

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
C&W Mega Projects (South-II) at DIKhan

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR
MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION BANNU

WALK – IN – INTERVIEW

Walk-in-Interview will be held for appointment to the following post on (contract Basis) at Medical Teaching Institution Bannu. Those who fulfill the required criteria may appear for Interview before the selection committee on dated 14/03/2025 (Friday) at 10:30am Auditorium/Library Hall of Khalifa Gul Nawaz Teaching Hospital Bannu MTI Bannu.

S. No	Nomenclature of Post	Gender	Age	Qualification/Experience
1	NEPHROLOGY Consultant - 01 No	Male/ Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC.
2	NEPHROLOGY Specialist Registrar- 01 No	Male/ Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC.
3	NEPHROLOGY Trainee Registrar- 01 No	Male/ Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC. c) FCPS part -II training completed.
4	ORTHOPEDICS Specialist Registrar- 03 Nos	Male/ Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC.
5	GYNAE/OBS Consultant - 03 Nos	Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC. c) 1 (One) year relevant experience after Post graduation.
6	ANESTHESIA Consultant- 03 Nos	Male/ Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC. c) MCPS/Diploma in Anesthesia from University/Institute registered/recognized with PM&DC/PMC.
7	RADIOLOGY Consultant-3 Nos	Male/ Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC. c) DMRD/MCPS from University/Institute registered/recognized with PM&DC/PMC.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Interested candidates are required to bring original documents, CNIC, etc; along with attested copies of CNIC, educational (All degree/diploma/detail marks certificate) and experience certificates etc, for interview.
- The candidates must have Domicile of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Merged Areas (Formerly FATA).
- Other terms and conditions of MTI Act, 2015 will be implemented after selection.
- Written statement or judicial stamp paper will be taken from selected candidates that they will not approach to any office or court for regularization of their service.
- No TA/DA will be admissible.

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COURT NOTICE

ISLAMABAD

IN the Islamabad High Court Islamabad Case No. W.P 1426/2023 Title as Muhammad Siddique Vs Ministry of Overseas Pakistan and Human Resource. Publication against Respondent No.8 (S. M Ali Mullaq Officiating Deputy Director General (HR) Head Office, EOBI House, 100/B/1, Block-2, PECHS Nursery, Karachi. 9. Ahmed Haseeb Deputy Director/Regional Office, EOBI House, 583/B-3/ VII, Police Lines Road, Sahiwal. 10. Muhammad Farooq Tahir/Director, Office of the Director General (Ops) North, EOBI House, 37-L, Gulberg III Lahore. 11. Mansib Ali Officiating Deputy Director General B&C-II Office of B&C-II, EOBI House 37-L, Gulberg III, Lahore. 12. Imtiaz Sadiq Director/Regional Head, Regional Office Kamalabad C-31, Block NO. 6 Federal B-Area Karachi.13. Mubashir Rasool Director/Regional Head EOBI House, (Former Kohinor House) Maraiba Road, Link Gulshan Street, Model Town, Sialkot. 14. Ali Anwar Jamali, Director/Regional Head, Korangi Karachi, EOBI House, 4-A, Sector 23, Korangi Industrial Area, Karachi 15. M. Suhaib Qureshi, Director/Regional Head, EOBI House, 304-307 B, Gulgasht Colony, Multan. 16. Rahiba Mahmood, Director/Regional Head, EOBI House, Plot NO.51, Sector B-1, 3RD Floor, Phase V, Hayatabad, Peshawar. 17. Nasir Mahmood Arif, Deputy Director/Regional Head, Arashad (Central) EOBI House, 125-A, Sheikh Colony, Jhang Road, Faisalabad. 18. Zia Ur Rehman, Director/Regional Head, Mangamandi EOBI House, Haji Park, near Gujar Phatak, By Pass, Multan Road, Mangamandi.19. Nasiruddin, Director/Regional Head, Karachi City Region, EOBI House, EOBI Shopping Mall (Ex-Awami Markaz) Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi. 20. Naveed Fayyaz, Deputy Director/Regional Head, Bin Qasim, Plot No.5/423, Darakshan Society, Main National Highway, Malir, Karachi. 21. Asad Murtaza, Deputy Director/Regional Head, Karachi Korangi, EOBI House, Bungalow No.2, Al Faisal Park, Sultan Colony, University Road, Gergodha, 22. Muhammad Kamil Malik, Deputy Director/Deputy Regional Head Rawalpindi, 111-A, 1/12, 1st floor, Nazim Abad No.1, Karachi. 23. Kashif Zia, Deputy Director/Regional Head, Gujranwala, EOBI House, Main GT Road, Gujranwala. 24. Abdul Majeed Mughal, Assistant Director/Welfare, Benefits, Regional Office West Wharf, EOBI Shopping Mall, 3rd Floor (Ex-Awami Markaz), Main Shahrah-e-Faisal Karachi. 25. Khalid Shah, Deputy Director/Regional Head, Abbottabad, EOBI Regional office, Amir Aazam Shaheed Road, Jhangi, Abbottabad. 26. Zaheer Ud Din Tahir, Deputy Director/Regional Head, Mardan, EOBI House, A-204, Shakti Mahour Town, Mardan. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the above mentioned respondents cannot be served in the ordinary way. It is, therefore, proclaimed under Order 5, Rule 20 CPC if the said respondents will / Shall not appear personally or through duly authorized agent or pleader in the Court at 08:30 am on 28-04-2025, the proceeding will be taken as parte. No arguments of any nature shall be entertained thereafter. This notice is being issued duly signed and stamp by this office on 04-03-2025. Assistant Registrar (Writ). (2341277755)

RAWALPINDI

IN the Court of Sajjad Khan Addl. Civil Judge District Rawalpindi. Suit for Recovery of Rs 231,130/ Sui Northern Gas versus Mr / Mrs. Sultaya Wali Ali Resident of House No. 87 Wasiqiqa-1 Tehsil and District Rawalpindi. You are inform to attend the Court personal through counsel or attorney on 13-03-2025 at 8 am to avoid ex-parte proceedings. (2341277717)

KARAK

IN the Court of Abdul Majid Addl Civil Judge -II, Karak. Suit No.131/1 Institution 07-02-2024 Next date of hearing 10-04-2025. Case Title Muneeben Vs Abdur Rashed Notice to No.(7) Shakir R/o Barghast Kalan Tehsil Lachi District Kohat. In the above titled suit the service of above defendants are not possible through ordinary means. Therefore, you defendants are informed through this publication that on 10-04-2025 at 8:00 am you has / have to appear before this Court either personally or through attorney or through counsel to pursue the suit noted above, otherwise Exparte proceedings will be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. (2604291181)

BAJAUR

IN the Court of Shahab Fahim Civil Judge II, District Bajaur at Civil Colony Khar Bajaur. Suit No. 11/1 Nasim Year 2024 Next date of hearing 17-04-2025. Case Title Muhammad Akbar Vs Khan Muhammad Khan etc. Notice to No.(10) Muhammad Jamila (70) Faizal Subhan (12) Faizal Hayat (13) Tauseef sons of Mehmood Jan R/o Alma Tehsil Utmankhel (Here Mst Shama (3 Qamar bibi (Late) C/o Muhammad Anwar Khan (Late) (15) Shah Muhammad (16) Jafar Hussain (20) Muhammad Jamil sons of Faiz Talab son (Here Gharib Bibi (Late) C/o Malak Muhammad Umar Khan Baba (Late R/o Bandaga Tehsil Utmankhel District Bajaur. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants cannot be served in the ordinary way. It is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will / shall not appear personally or through duly authorized agent or pleader in the Court at 8:00 am dated 17-04-2025 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. (2604291182)

MANSEHRA

IN the Court of Kiran Naz, Additional District Judge II Mansehra Suit No. 147/14 Date of Institution 28.05.2024. Nature of Appeal Mst Naveeda Waheed etc Versus Raza Ayoub etc. To, Ishtiaq Ayoub, Samina Ayoub, Shafiqa Ayoub, Farah Ayoub, Mughal Ayoub, Salma Ayoub daughters of Muhammad Ayoub Resident of Mohallah Jabbar Tehsil and district Mansehra KPK, Presently Abroad England and Dubai (respondents). It is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in the Court at 08:30 am on 22.03.2025 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. (2341277718)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

PESHAWAR

PUBLIC Notice Mr. Rooh ul Amin Khan S/o Murtaqi Khan R/o Village Ali Baig Pir Tanu Jabba Tehsil & District Nowshehra, is the owner of Plot No 308, Sector DMC measuring 10 marla at Bagi Model Town Peshawar. He has been issue a Duplicate Ownership paper Plot No 308/DMC (Now) dated 21-4-2021 of the said plot. Now the intends to transfer the said plot. Therefore, if any bank, department, firm or individual have any objection on the transfer, he should contact the undersigned with written proof within 15 days. Otherwise, the plot shall be transferred and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Officer (Transfer), Bagi Model Town Peshawar. cell no.0300-5925420. (2604291170)

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TO PURCHASE

ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD park Road Federal Government Employees Housing Margalla Orchard, Park Enclave, & Margalla Enclave. All Size plots are required. Contact Bajwa Estate. 0304-9186333 / 051-2111888. (2757279447)

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Minister calls for urgent action to address Pakistan's growing health crisis

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Monday stressed the urgent need for comprehensive action to tackle Pakistan's rising health challenges.

He was chairing a project steering committee meeting on the Prime Minister's Programme for the Prevention and Control of Diabetes Mellitus.

The meeting was attended by Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal, Health Secretary Nadeem Mahbub, member of the Social Sector Planning Commission, member of Development Communications Planning Commission, chief health planning ministry and senior officials from relevant departments.

During the meeting, the health department briefed the committee on the objectives of the Prime Minister's Programme for the Prevention and Control of Diabetes Mellitus. The department explained that the program aims to strengthen the provision of essential health services, including diabetes-related services, across all provinces, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

The program aims to reach over 70 per cent of the targeted population in various districts for preventive diabetes services through primary healthcare facilities, lady health workers, and population-level interventions.

Minister for Planning, Ahsan Iqbal, emphasised the urgent need for comprehensive action to tackle the rising health challenges in Pakistan, particularly in light of alarming statistics related to diabetes, hepatitis, polio, and stunting. He highlighted that Pakistan ranked third globally for diabetes, first for hepatitis, and was among the leading countries in terms of polio and stunting.

"I am confident that through coordinated efforts, we can address these pressing health challenges effectively," said Ahsan Iqbal. "Over the past sixteen months, work has already started on this project to address the country's growing health concerns. Health indicators across various sectors are in decline, and immediate measures are essential to reverse this trend."

He stressed the need for stronger coordination with provincial governments to ensure that disease prevention and health interventions are carried out effectively. He emphasised the importance of allocating a significant portion of the national budget to health to address these challenges adequately.

Ahsan Iqbal also welcomed the new health minister, Mustafa Kamal, and expressed optimism regarding his leadership. He expressed confidence that Kamal would bring about significant improvements in the health sector.

"I believe that under Minister Kamal's leadership, we will see positive changes in the health sector," Mr Iqbal said.

Mustafa Kamal, in his remarks, echoed the need for strong coordination with provincial governments to address the country's health challenges. "Effective cooperation with the provinces is our top priority in tackling these health issues," he said.

He, on his first day as health minister, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve in the vital health sector. "It is an honour to serve in this critical field and contribute to improving the nation's health outcomes," he said.

Delivery of financial aid under Ramazan package still not complete

RAWALPINDI: Nine days into the holy month, the Rawalpindi divisional administration has failed to complete the delivery of financial aid to deserving people under the Nigahban Ramazan Package of the Punjab government.

According to official figures, a total of 274,987 people had been registered under the Punjab Socioeconomic Registry (PSER) for the financial aid worth Rs10,000 each in six districts of the division - Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Murree and Talagang.

However, so far, 202,500 people have received the financial aid. There is slow funding from Lahore which affected the delivery system of pay orders to the deserving people.

A senior official of the finance department told *Dawn* that the government had allocated funds for the programme but the system was now so it took time to deliver the pay orders to the deserving persons.

However, he said, all beneficiaries would get the financial aid by next week.

On the other hand, Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Amir Khattak chaired a meeting to review progress on delivering of the pay orders. He directed that separate record should be maintained for the pay orders which were returned undelivered. He asked the teams to try to trace the beneficiaries through their mobile numbers if their addresses were not mentioned properly.

Mr Khattak instructed all officials and staff to fulfill their duties honestly and vigilantly so that the deserving people could get the financial benefit in a timely manner. — Aamir Yasin

DARK clouds hang over Islamabad as the city received intermittent rain throughout the day on Monday. — White Star

SC recognises women's role in rule of law, access to justice

Chief justice says increasing presence of women in judiciary shows gender equity and progressive, liberal democracy in Pakistan

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi on Monday said his institution recognises and rejoices the invaluable contributions made by women in law in general and women judges in particular in upholding the rule of law and ensuring access to justice.

In a statement in connection with the International Women's Day, he said the increasing presence of women in the judicial profession marks not only gender equity but also exhibits that Pakistan was a progressive and liberal democracy acknowledging the potential of its citizens and endeavouring to harness the potential.

It strengthens public confidence in the legal system and fosters meaningful inclusivity, fairness and a broader perspective in decision making. Their resilience, integrity, and dedication to justice have not only enriched our jurisprudence but have also set inspiring precedents for future generations, the statement said.

"As we mark this occasion, we proudly acknowledge the progress made in promoting gender equality within the justice sector while energising us to do still more. The judiciary remains steadfast in its resolve to create an enabling environment where women legal professionals can thrive, contribute, and lead without barriers.

"Let us continue to work towards a justice system that reflects diversity and strength of our society, ensuring that access to justice is not just a promise but a stark reality for all," the CJP said.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Monday signed MoUs with the Lahore University of Management Sciences (Lums) and Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI) to enhance judicial efficiency, transparency and technological advancement.

The MoUs were signed by SC Registrar Mohammad Salim Khan, Professor Dr Tariq Jadoon on behalf of Lums and Professor Dr Mohammad Hanif from GIKI in the presence the CJP at the Supreme Court.

This collaboration aims to develop a litigant-feedback scorecard to assess public satisfaction with court services and improve transparency. It also focuses on enhancing citizen engagement by adopting modern communication tools, ensuring greater accessibility for litigants and the general public.

The MoUs will also strengthen IT capacity within SC through specialised training programmes in collaboration with the Federal Judicial Academy, covering key areas such as Agile methodology, cybersecurity, data analytics and emerging technologies. A comprehensive assessment will identify existing skill gaps and targeted training programmes will equip SCP's IT team to handle new technologies and infrastructure effectively.

Additionally, the partnership will establish a central repository of IT best practices, troubleshooting guides and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to streamline digital operations within the SCP.

Annual perception surveys will be conducted to evaluate public and stakeholder views on judicial efficiency and transparency with the findings serving as a foundation for judicial reforms.

The MoUs also include provisions for SCP to receive expert support in strategic hiring, including job announcements, shortlisting, and candidate evaluation to ensure the appointment of top-tier professionals.

Speaking on the occasion, the CJP emphasised the significance of the collaboration in modernising the judicial system and stated, "This partnership with Lums and GIKI marks a pivotal step toward integrating technology-driven solutions for an efficient, transparent and people-centric judiciary."

Professor Jadoon and Professor Hanif reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the apex court in the transformative journey, highlighting the importance of academic collaboration in advancing judicial processes and governance.

The MoUs will remain in effect until 2027 with the possibility of extension based on mutual agreement.

Meanwhile, a delegation comprising representatives from the High Court Bar Association of Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur, along with the District Bar Association Sargodha met the CJP who emphasised the indispensable role of the bar in the judicial system.

He reiterated that the dispensation of justice was a collaborative effort, requiring the cooperation of the legal fraternity. He assured the delegation that legal practitioners had been actively engaged in decision-making processes, including representation on a provincial basis in the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan. Additionally, a dedicated slot has been allocated for bar councils to contribute their insights and expertise.

Pakistan makes progress in gender equity amid legal, cultural barriers: experts

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a conference on Monday said Pakistan had made progress in meeting gender equity and women empowerment goals amid persisting structural, legal and cultural barriers.

They urged accelerated efforts in gender-responsive budgeting, stronger law enforcement and active community engagement to ensure that the commitments made under Beijing+30 and SDG-5 translate into tangible improvements in women's lives.

The conference 'Rights, equality, empowerment: through Beijing+30 in Pakistan: reflections, challenges and future directions' was organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) to mark International Women's Day.

In his opening remarks, Dr Shafqat Munir Ahmed, SDPI Deputy Executive Director said Pakistan had been an active participant in the Beijing+30 forum, striving to uphold women's rights and drive global commitments to gender equality.

He said patriarchal and structural mindsets remained major barriers, embedding a system that continued to sideline women.

Gender and women's expert, SDPI, Sadia Satti in her technical keynote analysed the nine progress on the key targets of SDG-5, which included ending discrimination, eliminating gender-based violence and abolishing harmful practices.

She pointed out that during the Covid pandemic and 2022 floods, women and children were 14 times more likely to die than men, and 69 per cent of girls dropped out of school in flood-affected areas.

Barira Hanif, member of the planning ministry and gender expert, shed light on Uraan Pakistan, a newly-launched initiative aimed at promoting equity and gender empowerment alongside economic development.

She said efforts were being made to mainstream gender in planning and development, particularly at the local community level.

Saman Ahsan from UN Women reflected on the Beijing Declaration, recalling that Pakistan was represented by a female prime minister when it was passed. Despite progress in legislative reforms and increased women's participation in politics, significant gaps remain in implementation and enforcement.

Legal expert Riffat Inam Butt, former secretary law and justice, underscored the importance of gender-disaggregated data to develop inclusive policies. She said only 8pc of the total workforce in the federal government comprised women, and media representation of women in leadership roles remained low.

Dr Farwaha Armughan, research fellow at SDPI, emphasised the urgency of shifting from gender-exploitative to comprehensive gender-transformative model.

Lone robber loots group of 10 friends

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A lone robber looted a group of 10 friends at gunpoint, besides kidnapping one of them for ransom, police said.

The incident took place in the area of Golra police station when Abdul Magnet was returning from Bodhar stops along with his nine friends after Iftar.

A gunman intercepted them when they reached mountains at Shah Allah Ditta and held them at gunpoint.

Later, the robber snatched five mobile phones and Rs5,600 cash from them and managed to escape.

While escaping, the gunman kidnapped one of them and asked them to arrange Rs100,000 ransom for his release.

Later the gunman took Tariq along with him.

Golra police have registered a case under section 392 and 365A of PPC.

In another incident, a culprit raped a transgender person and looted Rs1.7million from her in an area of F-11/1. A case has been registered at Shalimar police station in response to a complaint lodged by the transgender.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD
Highways Division Jehlum Valley
Azad Jammu & Kashmir

NOTICE FOR INVITING E-BIDDING

(Under Single Stage-Single Envelope E-Bidding System)

"Highways Division Jehlum Valley" Communication & Works, Govt. of Azad Jammu & Kashmir invites Electronic Bids in accordance with AJK PPRA Rules 39(a) as per Single Stage-Single Envelope Bidding Procedure from the eligible Firms/Contractors licensed by the Pakistan Engineering Council and having enlistment in C&W Govt AJK for FY 2024-25 in appropriate category as mentioned against each work in column 5 below with Specialization Code CE-01 for the following works. Bidders desirous to bid as Joint Venture must get prior approval from the Employer for bidding as joint venture.

Sr. #	Name of Work	Technical Sanction No. and Date	Estimated Cost (Million)	Contractor/ Firm Category	Bid Security (Rupees) 2% to 5%	Schedule of E-Bid Submission/ Opening	Completion Period
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	Remaining Work) Construction, Metalling, Improvement, Reconditioning & Black Topping , of Link Road Pano Pindi Main Road Saimia to Mughal Mohalla Length 1-Km (Phase-IIIB), L.A 28 District Jhelum Valley	10047/28/30 14-02-2025	10.608	C-II & Above	0.410	20-03-2025 11:30 AM	12 Months

1. The newly registered bidders are directed to get username and login details from IT Section, Office of The Chief Engineer Highway (North) Block H, DHQ Muzaffarabad. Bidders/Firms that are already electronically registered with the Department can use already provided username & password.
2. Bidding Documents and Instructions to Bidders can be downloaded from their dashboard.
3. Interested bidders who have submitted their Electronic Bid(s) upto due date & time mentioned in column 7 above, will be opened as per schedule and at the same time the comparative statement will be visible to the Bidders or their nominated representatives & Bid Opening Committee.
4. The interested bidders shall upload scanned copy of Bank Receipt showing proof of deposit of Bid Security in the Divisional Joint Accounts #s:
   i. N.B.P Hattian Bala PK41NBPA0573000370298080
   ii. M.C.B Hattian Bala 0999-1329 81002418
   iii. Bank of AJK Hattian Bala 034-11265001
   along with their relevant documents on its Dashboard.
5. Performance security is fixed as 5% of bid price. However Any Contractor/Firm, who quotes its rates below than 10% of Engineering Estimates, shall submit additional Performance security equal to 5% of its bid price in the light of clause#39 of AJK-PPRA Rules. The Contractor/Firm shall submit this performance security in form of CDR or unconditional on demand bank guarantee from scheduled bank of Pakistan having its branches in AJK or Bank of AJK as amount mentioned in Letter of Acceptance.
6. The bid securities of unsuccessful bidders will be returned through Divisional Cheque upon award of the contract to the successful bidder(s) or on the expiry of validity of bid, whichever is earlier.
7. Electronic Bidding shall be done on **percentage (Above/Below/At par) Basis**. Only Two digits after the decimal point shall be considered for evaluation purposes.
8. Blacklisted Firms/Contractors/Companies/Suppliers/Distributors are not allowed to participate in the bidding process. The interested bidders shall furnish an affidavit/certificate that they are neither blacklisted nor involved in conflict with Govt. anywhere in territory of the state of AJK or federally administrated areas/all provinces of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
9. Hard copy of Original Bank Receipt along with Bidding Documents (uploaded by Highways Division Jehlum Valley) duly signed & stamped by the Contractor/Firm must be submitted in the relevant office of the Executive Engineer Highways Division Jehlum Valley within 48 hours after opening of bid through E-Bidding system.
10. The interested bidders shall upload only Letter of Bid of the Firm/Contractor, other documents required for qualification/responsiveness as per Bid Data Sheet and BDG on E-Bidding Dashboard. The remaining data/particulars shall be submitted in shape of hard copy along with uploaded pages within 48 hours after opening of their bid(s). Otherwise such bidder/bidders will be declared as disqualified.
11. In E-Bidding System, the software supports only PDF file Format for Technical Profile uploading option, therefore interested bidders shall upload their Technical Profile in PDF file format only.
12. Any Bidder(s) who provides incorrect information or does not submit hard copies of complete bidding documents including documents uploaded on its dashboard shall stand disqualified and shall be banned for two years for participation in any type of bidding procedure.
13. The competent authority reserves the right to reject all or any bids under the Clause 33 of AJK PPRA Rules.

Note: This Notice is also available on following websites:
i) https://ajkppra.gov.pk/ ii) https://cwd.ajk.gov.pk

(Zeeshan Mumtaz)
Executive Engineer PWD Highways Division Jehlum Valley | Ph#05822-922648

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DAWN

METRO Central

LAHORE Tuesday, March 11, 2025

LAHORE

Sunset	06:08 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:15 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	17.0°C
Maximum	31.0°C
Outlook	Cloudy

AQI

Maximum (Yesterday)	223

LAHORE RAMAZAN TIMING

FOR LAHORE	FOR JAFRIA
Iftar (today) 6:08pm	Iftar (today) 6:18pm
Sahar (sunrise) 4:54am	Sahar (sunrise) 4:46am

PEOPLE buy clothes at a cloth market for Eidul Fitr. — APP

DCs get dominance over elected representatives under new LG law

Legal experts say law breaches Article 140-A for ignoring empowerment of elected heads; Lahore doesn't have provincial capital status

By Amjad Mahmood

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly on Monday passed the Local Government Bill 2025, giving the local government effectively under bureaucratic control by making deputy commissioners heads of district authorities of devolved departments and district coordination forum.

According to legal experts like Mobeen Qazi, the new law is a breach of the Article 140-A of the Constitution, which specifically requires that each province shall devolve administrative, financial and political powers and authority to the elected representatives of the local governments, as empowerment of the elected heads of the local government has been ignored in it.

The elected heads and/or chairpersons have rather been given under the control of deputy commissioners as there is no DISTRICT level local government, whose head could be appointed as the chairperson of the district authorities. The elected chairpersons will be members of the district authorities to be led by the DCs.

Unlike the earlier laws, it denies special status to Lahore as the provincial capital as well as other big cities may also be demarcated as more than one town corporation in the district.

There will be no more directly elected chairman/vice-chairman even in the union council.

There will be municipal corporation for an integrated urban area in a district, having population above 200,000; municipal committee for an integrated urban area in a district having population above 25,000; and tehsil council comprising rural area of a tehsil and urban area not classified above.

A local government shall consist of head, deputy mayor or vice chairperson, as the case may be; members of town corporation and municipal corporation will be chairpersons of all UCs in its local area.

A union council shall consist of nine general members and four members on reserved seats – one woman member, one peasant in a rural UC or one worker in urban UC, one youth, and one non-Muslim member.

Chairperson and vice-chairperson of a union council shall be from amongst the members of UC.

A tehsil council shall consist of a chairperson and two vice-chairpersons, chairpersons of all UCs in its local area as ex-officio members; and reserved members.

A town corporation shall consist of a mayor and two deputy mayors; chairpersons of all UCs in its local area as its ex-officio members, and reserved members.

The municipal corporation shall consist of mayor and two deputy mayors, chairpersons of all UCs in its local area as its ex-officio members; and reserved members.

The reserved seats of the above categories shall comprise 34 per cent women, 5pc non-Muslim, 5pc peasant or worker, 2pc technocrat, 1pc youth and disabled each.

A municipal committee shall consist of chairperson and vice-chairperson; and ex-officio members and members on reserved seats, which will vary from five to 13 in respect of the number of union councils in it.

The government may, through a notification, devolve following 10 district level office of the government departments to

Continued on Page 14

ACE arrests P&D Board official over graft

LAHORE: The Punjab Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) on Monday arrested Assistant Chief (Industries) Planning and Development Board Ahmed Mufakhur Rehman, after he was held guilty of taking bribe in an initial inquiry conducted by P&D Board Secretary Dr Asif Tufail.

Setting an example of self-accountability, the P&D Board got its own assistant chief arrested on the basis of "solid and undeniable evidence of corruption", a board spokesman said.

It is learnt that Mufakhur Rehman was blamed for taking bribe to get some development schemes included in the Annual Development Programme (ADP). It is alleged that the assistant chief took Rs1.5-million bribe from a citizen assuring that the specific development schemes would be included in the ADP. However, he remained unsuccessful owing to the strong and transparent scrutiny system of the P&D Board, Punjab.

As the specific schemes did not reflect in the ADP projects, it is learnt, the person, who allegedly gave the bribe, reached the board offices and lodged a complaint along with evidence.

Getting information about this act, P&D Board Secretary Dr Asif Tufail conducted an initial inquiry and found the allegations of bribery true. Eventually, the secretary asked the ACE to arrest the assistant chief (industries). The ACE took the assistant chief in custody from office in the late afternoon, registered a case and launched further investigations.

Punjab Senior Minister Maryyum Aurangzeb appreciated P&D Board Chairman Barrister Nabeel Awan and Secretary Dr Asif Tufail for inquiring and taking a prompt action against its own officer while showing zero tolerance to corruption. — **Mansoor Malik**

PTI again moves LHC for rally at Minar-i-Pakistan

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) has once again approached the Lahore High Court seeking permission to hold a public gathering at Minar-i-Pakistan on March 22.

The petition, filed by PTI-Punjab Vice President Akmal Khan Bari through Advocate Latif Khosa, highlighted that despite the court order, the Punjab home secretary did not decide on the petitioner's request for the gathering.

It pointed out that the court had previously directed the petitioner to avail the first remedy by approaching the grievance redress commissioner. It said the petitioner submitted an application to the chief secretary to avail the remedy but the application was decided by the authority.

The petition stated that no intimation or notice had been received by the petitioner till date from the authority regarding deciding or any hearing of the application.

It has pleaded that the PTI intends to organise a peaceful rally but the authorities have been delaying the grant of permission.

The petitioner asked the court to direct the government to allow the gathering at Minar-i-Pakistan on March 22.

Justice Farooq Haider had, on Feb 24, sustained an office's objection to the PTI's petition seeking permission for a public gathering with a direction to the petitioner to approach the grievance redress commissioner of the government. — **Staff Reporter**

Two Ahmadis among nine booked in 'murder case'

By Ejaz Mahmood

BAHAWALNAGAR: Dabranwala police booked nine people, including seven men who were stated to be members of the Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat and two members of the Ahmadiyya community, on charge of torturing a Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) activist to death during a scuffle at Chak 166 Murad.

The FIR registered with the Dabranwala police on Sunday said the Ahmadiyya community had turned their place of worship into a mosque and discussion on the matter had been going on for the last two years between the TLP district leadership and the community members.

There was a Khatm-i-Nabowwat conference at the village around two months earlier which also caused tension between the two communities and the conference organisers had registered a complaint with the police station.

During Ramazan, a confrontation took place between the TLP and the Ahmadiyya community members over offering Tarawooh prayers at their place of worship. In this context, Zakariyaa, a TLP activist, attempted to mediate between the two sides by inviting them to the house of one Amjad Nasser, another member of the party, on March 8.

Meanwhile, the FIA alleged that seven persons who were workers at the farm of Ahmadiyya community members entered the house of Amjad and gave him a severe beating and he died on the way to hospital. Police booked nine people, including two Ahmadis on whose farms the seven people were employed and launched investigations.

On the other hand, while reporting anonymity, a member of the Ahmadiyya

Continued on Page 14

Another patient dies of drug reaction at Mayo

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: Drug reaction claimed the life of another patient at the Chest Surgery Unit of the Mayo Hospital on Monday, creating panic among 14 other patients as the condition of most of them was stated to be serious.

The incident took place late on Sunday when the staff administered injection to more than 16 patients and they collapsed soon after taking it.

According to the preliminary reports, a young girl who had also got the shot breathed her last within two hours after the injection was administered to her and other patients at 7pm on Sunday.

On Monday, another patient, Doulat Khan (28) who was brought from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also died of the severe complications due to the same allegedly faulty injectable drug.

Newly appointed Chief Executive Officer CEO Prof Haroon Hamid confirmed the drug reaction had claimed lives of two patients so far while the condition of some others was serious. He said the ward's female staff had injected the drug to 16 patients in the ward on Sunday. It seems the fault was not in the drug rather a solution that was added to it before injecting it to the patients.

However, a three-member committee constituted soon after the incident is investigating the drug reaction case.

A senior pharmacist, Noor Mehar, said the staff of the ward concerned ignored the warning and the precautions before administering drugs to patients.

As per the health advisory issued particularly for the said drug, he said, it was suggested that the solutions containing

Continued on Page 14

Azma defends CM for sacking Mayo Hospital MS

Yasmin slams 'humiliation'

By Zulqernain Tahir & Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has complained of "undue media trial" of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz over the sacking of the Mayo Hospital medical superintendent, saying that any negligence by the administration at health facilities will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

On the other hand, incarcerated former health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said the chief minister's derogatory attitude and public humiliation of senior medical teachers should be condemned at all forums.

During a visit to the hospital on Thursday last, Ms Nawaz had ordered the removal of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Asghar Nazman and Medical Superintendent Prof Dr Faisal Masood on complaints of some patients regarding the non-availability of medicines, besides poor treatment and sanitation conditions at the major healthcare facility.

A video showing the chief minister snubbing Prof Masood went viral, drawing criticism for her "public humiliation" of a senior doctor, with some suggesting she should empower and task the health minister with improving service delivery at public hospitals in the province instead of indulging in "political stunts."

It has transpired that the MS had already tendered his resignation following Rs1.5bn pending liabilities of the institute, while Health Minister Khwaja Salman Rafique and the secretary allegedly knew about the issue very well.

Ms Bokhari told a presser on Monday that Ms Nawaz was the first CM to personally oversee public healthcare issues.

"Shortage of essential medicines in hospitals is unacceptable, and their administrations must ensure the effective use of government funds for public welfare. Hardworking and honest doctors are our pride, but negligence will not be tolerated," she said, adding that accountability was not limited to the CM alone but extended to all responsible officials. She said the sacking of Mayo Hospital's MS and the CEO was subjected to undue media trial.

"The CM questioned the MS regarding why patients were forced to purchase medicines from outside despite the Mayo Hospital having a budget of Rs1.3bn. Additionally, Rs150 million has been allocated for health insurance, yet patients continue to face difficulties, which reflects sheer negligence. The unavailability of essential medicines in hospitals is unacceptable," the minister explained.

Ms Bokhari said the Punjab government had increased the health budget by 500 per cent, and primary health centres had been made functional to ensure better medical services for the public.

Expressing concern over doctors' protests and strikes, she said such actions created hardships for the public and were unacceptable.

In an open letter from Kot Lakhpat Jail on Monday, Dr Yasmin Rashid stated that the Form-47 chief minister, Maryam Nawaz, had earlier penalised Nishtar Medical University, Multan, Vice-Chancellor Prof Mehnaz Khakwani for mismanagement of the hospital when, as a VC, she had no responsibility in managing the hospital. Now, she said, Ms Nawaz had humiliated Prof Masood for the non-availability of essential medicines and called for his termination.

The former health minister of PTI said the medicines were not available because the government had not paid the bills of Rs1.8 billion, which the professor had highlighted a number of times to the health department secretary and the minister.

Prof Masood had also informed the secretary and the minister that the vendors were refusing to supply medicine to the hospital because of the outstanding bills. He had sent in his resignation from his post on Feb 12.

Addressing the chief minister, Dr Rashid stated, "Madam, you are not being properly briefed by your bureaucrats and letting you keep on making blunders in the health department."

Ms Rashid stated that there was a non-availability of medicines in all the teaching hospitals of Punjab due to non-payment of bills, especially in Lahore, while the chief minister was going around publishing a 60-page supplement of her government's achievements.

"Madam, if you had not dropped out of medical college and had completed your studies, you would have known the hard work a student puts in to become a doctor, then a specialist and finally a teacher," said Dr Rashid, who herself is a professor of obstetrics and gynaecology.

A student needed to score more than 90 per cent marks in FSc and entrance exams, she added.

"Everyone does not have a father who can bag them a seat in Army Medical College and then, as a prime minister, have you migrated to King Edward Medical College, which has the highest merit," she chided the chief minister.

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PRAYER

Fajr	4.56
Zuhr	1.00
Asr	4.28
Maghrib	6.08
Isha	7.29

Starting time in Lahore

REFLECTIONS

ÇÇ SOMETIMES YOUR PRAYERS ARE TURNED DOWN, AND THIS IS ALSO IN YOUR INTEREST; BECAUSE YOU OFTEN, UNKNOWINGLY, ASK FOR THINGS THAT ARE REALLY HARMFUL TO YOU.''

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)
(78AH-42?)

Another patient dies of drug...

Continued from Page 13

calcium gluconate and ceftriaxone should not be mixed with the drug in question because they could cause precipitation that could prove fatal.

Mr Mohsin declared it a blatant error that led to the unfortunate drug reaction and added that the Punjab government had already issued the alert following an advisory by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of America.

To a question, he alleged the antibiotic injection which caused a severe reaction to 16 patients and deaths of two of them had also been administered to many patients of other wards of the same hospital the same day.

However, no such reaction was reported in any other ward of the hospital, he said and added that this showed the standard guidelines issued for this particular medicine were blatantly ignored in the Chest Surgical Ward of the hospital only.

May 9 cases

ATC frames amended charges against Qureshi

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Monday framed amended charges against PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi and others in three more cases related to the May 9 riots, including the attack on Askari Tower.

ATC-I Judge Manzer Ali Gill conducted the hearing at Kot Lakhpat Jail, where the amended charges were formally presented in cases that also include the burning of Shadman police station and police vehicles near the Zaman Park residence of PTI's former chairman Imran Khan.

Qureshi, Yasmin Rashid, Ejaz Chaudhry, former governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema, and former minister Mian Mahmoodur Rashid were presented before the makeshift court established in the jail.

The accused who are out on bail, including fashion designer Khadija Shah, social media activist Sanam Javed, and ex-MNA Aliya Hamza, also appeared before the court.

Defence lawyers Barhan Moazam Malik and Rana Mudassir Umar represented the accused.

All the accused pleaded not guilty and decided to contest the charges against them.

The judge summoned prosecution witnesses for March 13.

Last week, the court had framed amended charges against PTI leaders in three other cases.

The prosecution had requested amendments to the charge sheet, which the court accepted.

The prosecution stated that the charges against the accused had been framed in a vague and complex manner, as multiple offences had been clubbed together under one head. It argued that any accused could later take undue advantage of this to secure acquittal in the cases.

Therefore, the prosecution requested that the charges be amended so that each offence is placed under a separate head in the interest of justice and fair play.

REPLY SOUGHT: The Lahore High Court on Monday sought a detailed reply and parawise comments from the Punjab government and the secretary of the local government department on a petition by Jamaat-i-Islami challenging the delay in local body elections in the province.

JI leader Zaid Salim Anwar, contended through his counsel that not conducting the LG polls violated the 18th Amendment and undermined the democratic system. He stated the inordinate delay in the local elections had been affecting development at the local level and the accountability process in the province.

He expressed regret that by not holding the local elections, the provincial government had failed to fulfill its constitutional obligation.

The JI leader asked the court to order the respondents to take immediate steps for conducting local government elections in Punjab and penalise the authorities failing to meet their constitutional obligations.

Justice Farooq Haider issued notices to the respondents for submission of their replies within a fortnight.

Nadia Jamil's talk on resilience and impact of women

By Shoaib Ahmed

LAHORE: A thought-provoking talk on 'The resilience and timeless impact of women' was held with actor, host, child protection activist and therapist Nadia Jamil as the guest speaker at the Lahore Fort.

The talk was organised by Aga Khan Cultural Services Pakistan (AKCSP).

Nadia shared with the audience her different life experiences, showing how passionately she cared for children as a child protection activist. She gave a brief reference to her childhood as well and how she did not grow up as a confident child. To her, life was not a bed of roses, it's not easy but one must rise to the challenges and stand confident amidst odds. She also shared her journey of socially relevant theatre and how Ajoka picked her and offered her roles in its plays. As an actor, she said, she was more than confident rather a lioness when it come to stage or television acting.

Nadia Jamil told the audience about her work with SOS and Edhi Foundation, saying that she found a great relief in social service, serving humanity was all about life and its reward was seeing the society blossom.

Mentioning TV plays, the famous TV star said her observation as an actor was that in most of the plays girls were shown dying to get married or they wanted to win over their rich bosses, but those topics were not the real issues of society and the drama makers needed to move forward from such subjects.

"To an actor, ego is the most useless and boring trait in one's personality and during my acting career I learnt a lot from the best actors such as Sania Saeed, Samiya Mumtaz and other talented artistes without any ego issues. We learnt a lot from each other as actors."

Nadia Jamil said as an actor she would never focus only on her character but the whole script and if the script was good, things could go smoothly.

"I am always interested in constructive criticism, because critics could bring betterment to one's personality."

Nadia held the young generation in high esteem, saying the young generation was too much into social media and social media had helped in breaking many walls. She said the present-day woman was far ahead than the previous generations and women were doing great in every field.

She underlined the need for a positive approach towards life, empathy and respect between men and women as it could lead to a healthy society.

She stressed that women should not be considered fragile and urged on women to bravely face the challenges of life.

Face detection technology to check cheating in matric exam

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab School Education Department (SED) has for the first time introduced face detection technology to check cheating in the annual matriculation exams for 2025.

Punjab Minister for School Education Rana Sikandar Hayat, alongside Chairman Task Force for Education Muzammil Mehmood, conducted surprise inspections of sensitive examination centres on Raiwind Road on Monday.

During their visit, Mr Hayat and Mr Mehmood reviewed arrangements, verified students' identities using a 3D barcode system, and gathered feedback from them on the examination process.

The minister commended the supervisory staff for their efforts to ensure smooth operations at these centres. "Raiwind Road examination centres were notorious for rampant cheating. Our measures have successfully curbed the cheating mafia by 90 percent, ensuring an unparalleled level of transparency in exams," said Mr Hayat.

He said the number of reported cheating cases had plummeted from 15-20 per day last year to just 2-3 cases this year.

The minister said the initiative aligns with Punjab chief minister's aim to bring a 100pc transparency in the examination system by next year.

The reforms included deploying special monitoring teams in districts like Daska, Wazirabad, Gujranwala, and Lahore.

The minister stated that the department was implementing exam reforms not seen in the past 77 years in the province, moving towards a fair and credible examination system.

Earlier, the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Lahore introduced QR-coded online roll number slips for the first time, further modernising the process under the supervision of BISE officials, including Chairman Muzamil Mahmood and Secretary Rizwan Nazir.

The QR code system enables easy access to personal data and slip verification, significantly reducing fraudulent activities in the examination process.

The secretary called it a "major step forward" in ensuring the examination's integrity.

He said 520 examination centres were accommodating 568,854 candidates this year, adding that reforms include an automated staff deployment system to prevent favouritism and malpractice. The new system automatically assigns duties to staff, ensuring impartiality and fairness, he added.

Controller of Examinations Zahid Mian said that these technological advancements were introduced to ensure a secure and efficient examination experience for all candidates.

The annual written matriculation examination started on March 4 and will conclude on March 24.

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COURT NOTICE

JARANWALA

(In the Court of Muhammad Mumtaz, Additional District Judge Jaranwala. Suit for declaration case title Muhammad Rashid Vs Sui Northern Gas etc. Notice to: Shahid son of Bagal Ali resident of Chak No. 370 is Johar Ali Garden tehsil Jaranwala district Faisalabad. Whereas service of defendant is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants be effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants are directed to appear in the Court in person or through counsel on 12-03-2025 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Given under my hand and the seal of this Court. Additional district Judge Jaranwala. (2576317275))

SIALKOT

(In the Court of Mr. Mansoor Waqar, ADJ Sialkot. Revision Against Munir Hussain Bhatti Vs Sajid Naz etc. Notice to: Sajid Naz C/o Iqbal Ahmad, R/o Rovee Road Rajar Mala Masjid, Mohalla Mubarik Pura, Sialkot. Whereas service of respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, services 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 24-03-2025 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (2516315768))

(In the Court of Mr. Muhammad Tahir Habeeb, Judge Family Court Sialkot. Suit for Recovery. Sana Muhammad Rizvi Vs Muhammad Faisal. Notice to Muhammad Faisal S/o Sadaqat Ali Resident Zahoorie Pir Tahsil and District Sialkot. Whereas service of respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, services of defendants / respondents be effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants / respondents are directed to appear in the Court in person or through counsel on 14-03-2025 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (2516315768))

MULTAN

(In the Court of Mr. Haider Ali Khan Additional District & Sessions Judge, Multan, Civil Appeal. Mst. Anwar Nafeed Vs Ishtiaq Hussain, etc. Mst. Anwar Nafeed alias Mrs. Anwar Nafeed Chaudhary D/o Late Dr. Ghulam Rasool, wife of Mr. Ishtiaq Chaudhary. Case Pagal Shah. Presently residing at 49 Fowey Avenue, Redbridge, London, IG4 5JT, United Kingdom, House No.231 Ghousia Ada, Sultan Ganj, City Lahore. Versus Irshad Hussain S/o Late Ghulam Rasool, Caste Pagal Shah, R/o Chak Kirney Wala, Ghazabad, Multan through his legal heirs. Kalsoom Khan (Widow), Hassan Khan, Ahsan Khan Sons of Irshad Hussain. All residents of Flat No 44, east Lake House London, NW-8, (EU England, United Kingdom. The respondents are informed through notice to attend this Court on 17-03-2025 at 09:00 am after this no excuse will be accepted. Giving under my hand and seal of Court. (2601327484)

(In the Court of Mr. Mumtaz Ahmad Additional District Judge, Multan. Civil Revision. Amir Nafeesha Qureshi vs Noman Mahmood, etc. Amir Mahmood Qureshi S/o Ghulam Mahmood Qureshi Presently Resident of America. Through Special Power of Attorney. Nasseer Ahmad Zia S/o Khan Mohammad, Caste Arain Resident of Street No.4, Mohallah Anum Road, Pamphur Road, Lahore. Versus Noman Mahmood S/o Ghulam Mahmood, Ayesha Masood Daughter of Ghulam Mahmood, Amna Salman daughter of Ghulam Mahmood, Ghulam Mustafa S/o Ghulam Mahmood. All Qureshi by Caste, Residents of House No.857, Block D, Faisal Town, Lahore. The respondents are informed through notice to attend this Court on 12-03-2025 at 09:00 am, after this no excuse will be accepted. Giving under my hand and seal of Court. (2601327484))

(In the Court of Mr. Rana Khalid Mahmood Guardian Judge, Multan. Guardian Application. Faiza Irshad vs M. Ahsan Ullah Gurani, etc. versus Muhammad Ahsan Ullah Gurani S/o Abdul Rafi Gurani Resident of House No.608, Street No.5, Mohallah Bhadada Colony, Suraj Miani Road, Multan. Presently Resident of Dubai, Al-Rumeiyah, Dubai. Government Workshop, Bachelor's Accommodation, Dubai. 00971526846867. The respondents are informed through notice to attend this Court on 17-03-2025 at 09:00 am after this no excuse will be accepted. Giving under my hand and seal of Court. (2601327484))

KHUSHAB

(In the Court of Mr. Kalle Jabbar, Learned Civil Judge 1 Class Khushab. Faiz Ahmad Vs Faqir Sulemah etc. Compilation contract allocation. Newspaper proclamation against defendants Faqir Sulemah D/o Muhammad Sulemah R/o Block No. 29 Jaurhabad Teh & Distt Khushab (present the Nagal Sd Cagbari 51003, Bandargah Italy. You all are directed to appear before the Court on 13/03/2025 at 9 o'clock otherwise ex-parte proceeding will be initiated against you. (2584324767))

SARGODHA

(In the Court of Muhammad Tariq Khan Jaura, Civil Judge 1st Class Sargodha. Suit for Declaration. Nasseem Akhtar Vs Khurram Shahzad etc. Notice against: Khurram Shahzad S/o Muhammad Malik R/o address Kalsar pur Zeeran Tehsil Bhera District Sargodha. Union Council Chak Saida Tehsil Bhera District Sargodha through Secretary Union Council, Deputy Director Local Government / Administrator Union Council Chak Saida Tehsil Bhera District Sargodha, Collector District Sargodha. 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 09:00 am on 12-3-2025 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. No arguments of any nature shall be entertained thereafter. Civil Judge 1st class Sargodha. (2575325564))

VEHARI

(In the Court of Syeda Banu Bukhari, Civil Judge (Class III) Vehari. Suit No. 75/Dir. Nimra Parveen etc Versus Muhammad Shafiq. Suit for recovery Maintenance Allowance, Dowry Articles. Notice to Muhammad Shafiq S/o Muhammad Shafi Caste Dafai R/o Old Bus stand Dutha Muhallah Chak No. 6-11-WB Tehsil and District Vehari. Presently residing in 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 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorised agent or pleader on 13-03-2025, at 09:00 am, then the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. No arguments of any nature shall be entertained thereafter. Civil Judge Class III Vehari. (2584326576))

JHELUM

(In the Court of Sajjad Salaam Civil Judge Jhelum Suit in favour of plaintiff against defendants regarding suit for specific performance of bay agreement dated 21.09.2021 prescribed of bay agreement dated 9.9.2021 Case title. Abid Bashir vs. Nasy Fatima etc. Against 1A- Mukhtar Ahmad Husband 1B- Sattar Ahmad 1C- Ahmad Raza 1D- Gulfraz Ahmad Sons 1E- Mazrat Kausar 1F- Rubina Parveen 1G- Rizwana Kausar 1H- Sania Javid 1I- Sadia Kausar 1J- Ayesha Bibi 1K- Farzana Kausar Daughters of Nasy Fatima (Deceased) Residence Faqpur Tehsil and District Jhelum (presently residing abroad) As there is not possible to call the defendant through Summons in the instant suit so through proclamation in Newspaper, you are directed to appear in the Court on 11.03.2025 at 9:00 am, otherwise ex-parte proceeding will be initiated. (2584325767)

(In the Court of Abad Ullah Alvani Civil Judge Jhelum. Suit for Dissolution of Marriage Basis of Khulah Case title Uroos Javed etc vs Mohammad Hussain Ali son of Liaquat Ali, resident of More, Kalyal Post Office Uhao Tehsil Sohawa District Jhelum. (Currently residing abroad) As there is not possible to call the defendant through Summons in the instant suit so through proclamation in Newspaper, you are directed to appear in the Court on 11.03.2025 at 09:00 am, otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated. (2584279192)

(In the Court of Shagufta Sabir, Civil Judge 1st Class Jhelum. Suit for Declaration title. Razia Begum Vs Chairman Nadra Islamabad through Nadra Office Jhelum etc Against: (1) Kalsoom Nawaz Daughter of Nawaz Khan Residence Street MB Primary School House No. 19 Dhok Mubalia Jhelum currently residing in UK As there is not 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 11.03.2025 at 09:00 am, otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated. (2584279192)

(In the Court of Shagufta Sabir, Civil Judge 1st Class Jhelum. Suit for Declaration etc title Masood Ahmad vs Muhammad Iqbal etc Against: 2- Muhammad Mukhtar 3- Mehar Hussain 5- Muhammad Magsood sons of Fazal Hussain 6A- Allah Ahmad 6B- Farooq Ahmad sons of Nisar Ahmad deceased son of Muhammad Sharif 7- Fayaz Hussain son 8- Saeeda Begum Daughter of Muhammad Sharif 11- Tariq Majeed 12- Khalid Majeed Sons of Muhammad Majeed and Zainab B 14- Tahira Majeed 15- Shahzad Naseem Akhtar Daughters of Zainab B 20A- Asad Mahmood Son of Rais Begum Deceased Widow of Muhammad Aslam 24- Kulsoom Ashraf Widow 25- Imran Ashraf Son 26- Sajeeqa 27- Farhat Daughter of Muhammad Ashraf 102- Nasir Magsood 103- Yasir Magsood sons of Muhammad Magsood, resident of Rathyan Tehsil and Jhelum District As there is not 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 24.03.2025 at 09:00 am, otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated. (2582793026)

(In the Court of Zaheer Abbas Chaudhry Civil Court Judge Pind Dadan Khan District Jhelum Suit for ejectment Titled Muhammad Sujat etc vs. Muhammad Suleman vs Mukhtar Ahmed son of Muhammad caste Awan resident of Bandra Tehsil Pind Dadan Khan District Jhelum present address Ahmad 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 22/03/2025 at 09:00 am in case of failure ex party proceedings shall be initiated against you. (2582793027)

Key suspect in Greece boat tragedy arrested

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: A notorious human trafficker of Sialkot, Usman Jajja, wanted as a key suspect in the December 2024 Greece boat capsize tragedy has been captured by the Federal Investigation Agency.

Director FIA Gujranwala Zone Abdul Qadir Qamar has constituted a six-member joint investigation team (JIT) being headed by the Gujrat assistant director whereas the other five members are from Gujranwala FIA circle.

The JIT has been assigned the task to conduct a detailed interrogation of Usman Jajja whereas FIA's legal team will assist the team.

The additional director FIA Gujranwala circle has been directed to submit weekly progress on the matter.

Usman Jajja had earlier escaped the arrest after being released from Sialkot district jail on bail following the boat tragedy as his brother and female member of the family were also charged with being involved in sending the victims of boat tragedy from Pasrur, Sambrial and Sialkot.

A senior FIA official told *Dawn* that proclaimed offender Usman Ali Jajja s/o Muhammad Yousaf r/o Mohrikay Jajja, Pasrur tehsil, has been arrested in at least 19 cases i.e., 1096/24, 1123/24, 1124/24, 1137/24, 1150/24, 1152/24, 1153/24, 1205/24, 1122/24, 1106/24, 1116/24, 9/25, 10/25, 40/25, 41/25, 42/25, 43/25, 44/25 & 45/25 registered u/s 17/22 EO 3/6 PSMA of FIA Gujranwala.

The suspect is a member of the notorious Khurram Jajja group which is involved in Greece boat incident 2024. The suspect in connivance with co-suspects extorted a huge amount of Rs19.3 million on the pretext of sending 19 emigrants to Italy for employment but sent them to Libya where emigrants were subjected to torture and forced to board on ship which capsized in Mediterranean Sea near Greece resulting in death of five victims.

Official sources said that the suspect had fled to Gilgit-Baltistan after being released from Sialkot jail as he was arrested by the police in a case of violent clash and the tragic incident of deaths in Greece boat capsize occurred when he was in jail.

They said the suspect was involved in sending some victims of the tragedy to Libya for further proceeding towards Italy.

Meanwhile, the FIA claimed to have arrested at least three more human traffickers from Narowal and Gujrat during the crackdown.

A spokesman for FIA said the human traffickers namely Naeem Abbas and Shafat bin Doon Muhammad of Sarkhatra tehsil Zafarwal, Narowal, have been arrested in case number 162/25 u/s 17/22 EO1979 3/6 PSMA of FIA Gujranwala circle.

The suspect, he said, had extorted a total amount Rs2.5 million for sending the complainant's relative to Spain for employment but did not honour the commitment.

Similarly, the human trafficker Shabbir Ahmad of Kang Chanan village of Gujrat has been arrested in case number 44/24 U/S 17/22 EO 1979 of PS FIA Gujrat.

The suspect extorted an amount of Rs1.3m from the complainant on the pretext of sending him to Spain, however, he took the complainant to Mauritania but he neither honoured his commitment nor returned the amount.

Two Ahmadis...

Continued from Page 13

community told *Dawn* that the FIR registered against them was fabricated and a conspiracy to suppress them. They claimed that no member of the community or the people working at their farmhouses whose names were in the FIR had either quarrelled with anyone or beat anybody.

Describing the TLP activist's death as natural, he stated that due to threats received by community members from the TLP activists over the last three days (before the death of the TLP activist) for offering prayers at their place of worship, police were deployed in the area and the people of the Ahmadiyya community were confined to their homes. However, despite knowing every detail, police registered a false case against them at the behest of the TLP.

He alleged that the TLP activists were harassing them for several years but despite complaints, the administration seemed to be reluctant to take action. He stated that the community was performing their religious rites inside closed premises, which was not a crime. He said that booking them in a false murder case for performing their rituals "was a violation of human rights and the country's Constitution, which allowed them to freely practice their faith".

He said that following the murder case, all members of the community were forced to leave the town and go into hiding for fear of being attacked by TLP activists and their lives were in danger.

Dawn received information from intelligence and police sources that the TLP activist's death was not a result of a fight between Ahmadiyya community and TLP members. They said the seven people who faced the charge of killing Amjad were members of the Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ) and there had been a confrontation between them and the TLP members a couple of days back.

Police spokesperson Zahid Rasool said the matter would be investigated on merit and that no innocent would be hurt.

DCs get dominance over elected...

Continued from Page 13

the local governments in a district: health (primary and preventive care); education (school education to the extent of primary education and school enrollment); social welfare; population control; sports; transport (local transport & traffic planning); civil defence; public health engineering; arts & culture; and tourism.

The devolved offices shall be administered, operated and managed at the district level, through the respective district authority established under the Act.

WALK IN INTERVIEW

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Two women among five held with Rs6.5m drugs

By Our Correspondent

NAROWAL: Police claimed to have arrested five suspects, including two women, for smuggling drugs worth Rs6.5 million from Peshawar, to be supplied to local dealers in Gujranwala, Narowal and Sialkot districts.

Sialkot District Police Officer Faisal Shahzad Sialkot told Dawn on Monday that on a tip-off that the suspects were smuggling drugs, a team led by Saddar Station House Officer Inspector Mian Abdul Razzaq traced the traffickers' gang with the help of human intelligence and advanced technology.

He said the team arrested the suspects identified as Saadia Bibi, Nazia Bibi, Kashif, Bilal and Yousif in a raid on Daska Road along with two kilograms of fine quality 'ice' and 10kg hashish.

Inspector Abdul Razzaq said the arrested suspects belonged to Peshawar, Sargodha and Sialkot.

He said that the drugs recovered from them are worth Rs6.5 million.

The DPO said that the suspect would smuggle drugs from Peshawar to Sialkot with the help of their female accomplice to avoid arrest.

He said the police have busted a large network of drug trafficking, and further investigations are underway.

The DPO has announced cash prizes and complimentary certificates for the investigation and raiding teams. He appealed to the citizens to immediately inform the police about any drug dealers through helpline 15.

TWO DIE: Two youths died and another was injured when a speeding motorcycle collided with a loaded trailer at Sheikhupura.

A spokesman for Rescue 1122, Sheikhupura, said in the collision in Raeena Town, Ferozwala, Mohammad Ismail (20), Faizan Ali (22) died on the spot, and Hasan Afzal (20) was seriously injured.

He said a team of rescuers provided first aid to the injured and shifted him to a hospital, along with bodies.

SIALKOT: A vendor displays shoes at his roadside set-up to attract customers. — APP

Fund's misappropriation Cricket official suspended

By Our Correspondent

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Dera District Cricket Association (DCA) Secretary Muhammad Amjad Hussain was suspended from job over allegations of misappropriating funds provided by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

According to an initial inquiry by PCB officials, complaints were received regarding financial irregularities in the PCB Inter Club Tournament and other cricketing events. The inquiry reportedly found that the bills for cricket balls submitted by Hussain were fraudulent and that written complaints against him were substantiated.

Following these findings, Abdullah Khurram Niazi, director of domestic cricket operations, issued an official suspension order. Hussain has been barred from overseeing DCA D.G. Khan's affairs until further notice, pending a full investigation.

The PCB has announced the formation of an inquiry committee to conduct a detailed investigation into the matter.

The decision has been communicated to the PCB chief operating officer and the senior general manager of domestic cricket operations for further action.

The PCB had appointed former Test cricketer Shahid Ahmed as a coach in Dera Ghazi Khan, but he resigned from the position. Since his resignation, the post of coach has remained vacant for the past year.

Acid attack on woman over marriage row

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: A young man along with his cousin allegedly threw acid on his mother-in-law at Jattanwala Chowk in the Gulshan Muhammad Abad locality of Faisalabad on Monday.

Complainant Farzana Arshad stated in her FIR, registered by Gulshan Muhammadabad police under Section 336-B, that her son-in-law, Muhammad Usman, had asked her to marry her daughter to his cousin Muhammad Haseeb. She and her husband rejected the proposal, after which Usman allegedly threatened to throw acid on her.

She added in the FIR that while she was on her way with her husband, suspects Usman and Haseeb threw acid on her, causing serious burn injuries.

She was shifted to the burn unit of Allied Hospital. A police spokesperson said Haseeb had been arrested, and raids were being conducted to arrest the main accused, Muhammad Usman.

Also, a man was injured after an LPG cylinder exploded in his kitchen in the Tilkiriwala area, Chak 272 JB, Faisalabad, on Monday. Reports said the blast occurred due to a gas leakage. Injured Irfan Javed, 42, was shifted to the burn unit of Allied Hospital.

STUDENTS: International students enrich the educational environment through cultural exchange, bringing diverse perspectives, promoting global networking, and contributing to economic and social uplift, said Dr Zulfiqar Ali, vice chancellor of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), while addressing international students at a meeting under the Office of Foreign Students Adviser on Monday.

He said students from China, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Canada, Malaysia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Togo, the UK and Iran are studying at the university under various scholarships. These include the German DAAD Scholarship, Allama Muhammad Iqbal Scholarship for Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, the OIC Scholarship for less-developed countries, DAFI, the German Academic Refugee Fund and self-funded programmes.

He said that when students from different countries come together, they gain opportunities to think from new perspectives, fostering globalisation. He said international partnerships had helped the UAF establish institutions, such as the Centre for Advanced Studies, the Chinese Confucius Centre, the Pak-Korea Nutrition Centre and the Seed Center at UAF, paving new paths for development.

PROBE: The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department secretary has ordered the Faisalabad director of health services to conduct an inquiry into allegations against health officials in Jhang district.

The inquiry officer has summoned the Jhang district health authority chief executive officer, DHQ hospital medical superintendent and other senior health officials to appear for the inquiry on March 13.

As per complaint, corruption was committed in the recruitment of class-IV employees.

RAPE: A six-year-old boy was allegedly raped in Chak 199 RB Gatiwala, Faisalabad, on Monday.

Reports said the suspect lured the child to a deserted place and sped him. Madina Town police have arrested the suspect.

RAID: The Kamalia administration raided the house of Allah Ditta in Kamal Colony on Monday and recovered 1,150 sacks of hoarded sugar stored in different rooms. Officials said intelligence agencies had detected the sugar hoarding, leading to the raid. The seized sugar, worth Rs9 million, was stored illegally.

The house has been sealed, and a case has been registered against the accused.

JI announces protest drive against crimes

GUJRAT: The Jamaat-i-Islami, Gujrat, announced a protest campaign against rising incidents of murder, robbery and theft, along with alleged corruption in development schemes in the district.

Gujrat JI emir Ansar Dhool, general secretary Umar Siddique, and city emir Raja Sajid Sharif claimed that 36 people, including eight women, had been murdered this year, while two newborns' bodies had been recovered.

They alleged that police had failed to trace the robbers who targeted the phone market along Rasulalai Road, where traders staged multiple protests against increasing lawlessness. Incidents of house thefts and road robberies were also on the rise.

Mr Dhool said seven people were gunned down near Dinga Town, and had police arrested the killers involved in earlier cases in Dinga Khurd village, the loss of these lives could have been prevented.

He blamed the politicisation of the police for the deteriorating law and order situation, urging law enforcers to act as public servants. — Correspondent

Medics protest proposed sell-off of health centres

By Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARGARH: A grand health alliance of doctors, nurses, and medical staff has launched protests against the Punjab government's decision to privatise health centres.

As part of their protest, they have announced a daily closure of OPD services from 10am onwards in government hospitals.

On Monday, the alliance held a major demonstration at DHQ Hospital, where a large number of doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff gathered, raising strong slogans in favour of their demands.

Addressing the protest, Pakistan Medical Association District President Dr Athar Kaleem, General Secretary Dr Mouthsam Zameer, Chairman Dr Yousaf Nasseem Laghari, Dr Maqbool Alam, Adnan Laghari, and other medical professionals declared that privatisation of health centres is unacceptable under any circumstances.

They announced that starting Tuesday, protests would expand to government hospitals across the district, with OPD services closing from 10 AM daily as a form of resistance against the government's decision.

The protesters accused the government of depriving citizens of their fundamental right to healthcare by handing over public health facilities to private entities. They warned that privatisation would exploit both patients and medical staff, making healthcare inaccessible for the poor.

The protesting medical staff issued a strong ultimatum, demanding that the government withdraw the privatisation decision immediately. They warned that if their demands were not met, they would intensify and expand their protest movement.

The demonstrators called for the withdrawal of the FBR's decision to install POS (Point of Sale) systems at doctors' clinics and the cancellation of illegal notices issued to doctors by the labor and excise departments.

One of the protesting doctors highlighted a major issue with privatisation, stating that under the new system, doctors would be restricted to treating only 32 patients per day as per the budget, whereas currently, each health centre caters to more than 100 patients daily.

He also raised concerns about the supply of non-certified medicines to privatised health centres, calling it an alarming development that could put patients' lives at risk.

The medical community has vowed to continue their protests until the government withdraws its decision and ensures that public healthcare remains accessible to all.

No clue to 'kidnapped' lawyer

By Our Correspondent

SAHIWAL: Police have no clue to the whereabouts of a lawyer who was allegedly kidnapped by unknown armed men while returning from an investigation proceeding held at Noor Shah police station on March 6.

As per the FIR No 205/25 registered by Noor Shah police under section 365 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), on the complaint of Muhammad Saleem, a cousin of the victim, advocate Rana Zafar Iqbal Chohan attended the investigation proceedings in a case at the same police station.

The complainant said that on his way back from the police station, Chohan was allegedly kidnapped by some armed men. He apprehended that the lawyer could be killed by the kidnappers to prevent him from pursuing the case registered under sections 447, 511 and 380 of the PPC.

The investigation officer of the kidnap case claimed the police are trying to locate the lawyer through his last GPS location.

ARRESTED: Police and revenue officials claimed to have arrested three men separately for their alleged fraudulent practices with regard to disbursement of Ramazan Negahbun Package amount meant for the deserving persons.

The suspects were arrested for defrauding beneficiaries of the package at 98/9-L, 45/12-L and 140/9-L villages in Chichawatni tehsil during the past 24 hours.

The action was taken following a number of complaints about fraudsters illegally extorting Rs100-Rs500 from the package beneficiaries. In the first incident, one Shahbaz Watto was caught red-handed by revenue officials for extorting Rs300 from each beneficiary.

In the second incident, a suspect was arrested for illegally selling fake forms of the package for Rs1,000 each to a man, Babar and a woman, Yasmeen, on the pretext of getting them financial assistance.

Similarly, a shopkeeper Rana Abdul Latif, was arrested for extorting Rs300 from each beneficiary of the package.

Dera Rahim and Okanwala police registered separate cases against the suspects under section 420 of the PPC.

SZMC results improve

By Our Correspondent

RAHIM YAR KHAN: The Shaikh Zayed Medical College (SZMC), Rahim Yar Khan, has achieved second position and once again showed its academic performance in the MBBS fourth professional annual examinations 2024 conducted by the University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore.

SZMC Principal Prof Dr Muhammad Salim Laghari told *Dawn* that results declared by the UHS on Monday showed Aimen Hassan had secured 901 marks and achieved second position across Punjab.

He said that the college's overall success rate stood at 97.10pc, which is close to overall pass percentage of 97.34 announced by the UHS.

Dr Laghari said the college had also got first position in the MBBS third professional exams. He praised the faculty, staff and students.

Traders hold protest rally as MC seals 15 shops

Level bribe allegations against officer

By Irfanul Haq

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Local traders held a rally at the GPO Chowk here on Monday following a clash erupting between shopkeepers and Municipal Committee (MC) staff when the latter started sealing shops in Jinnah Bazaar and its adjoining streets during an anti-encroachment operation.

The shopkeepers from different bazaars of the city gathered at the main intersection and protested against the MC and district administration.

Speaking to the traders, Anjuman Taajran city president Arman Asghar Chaudhry and chairman Haji Islam Noorani said that the administration did not take the traders on board with regard to the anti-encroachment campaign.

"They never gave us any policy or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for running the shops," the president claimed.

He alleged that on Monday the MC staff entered the bazaar and started using abusive language against the traders and pushing women customers out of the shops, before sealing 15 outlets.

The traders leaders alleged that the MC and administration staff demanded Rs100,000 to Rs200,000 from shopkeepers for allowing them to reopen the sealed shops.

They also alleged that the traders wanted to remove encroachments voluntarily but the officials launched the operation to mint money.

They claimed that they have proof of MC employees receiving bribes from shopkeepers.

They further alleged that Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Irfan Anwar sealed a dry fruit shop for seven days and got dry fruit worth Rs100,000 from the owner, and was demanding Rs600,000 more for de-sealing it.

The traders' leaders warned of shutting down the entire city and starting courting arrests to 60 persons if the MC administration did not stop the anti-encroachment operation.

District president of Anjuman Taajran, Abdul Raoof Bukhtar, told this correspondent that he and secretary general Anwaar Najm had requested the ADCG to postpone the anti-encroachment drive till after Eid, but he refused to accept their suggestion.

He said the shopkeepers who were earning their livelihood in the holy month of Ramazan were being treated unfairly by the administration.

When contacted, ADCG Irfan Anwar told Dawn that a massive anti-encroachment operation was launched on the directions of the Punjab government. During the operation, he said, all major bazaars and roads were cleared of permanent encroachments.

He said during the operation when the MC staff went to Jamia Qadria Bazaar, they found out that merchandise of traders was placed on the road in front of a number of shops.

He said when the staff took action against the shops, some miscreants resisted the operation and pelted them with stones and bricks, leaving a staffer, Imran, injured.

The ADCG said the bribe allegations levelled by traders against his driver and personal assistant would be probed. However, he said that the accused driver has not been working with him for the last two months, while the PA has also been removed from his position.

He said both the complainant and the accused have been called for a detailed probe on Tuesday (today).

The officer claimed that the allegations seemed to be a blackmailing tactic and aimed at saving the miscreants from legal action.

However, he said, law will take its due course against the hooligans who injured an MC staffer during the operation and any official found involved in corruption would be penalised after a thorough probe.

— Dawn

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DAWN

METRO North

PESHAWAR Tuesday, March 11, 2025

PESHAWAR

Sunset	06:20pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:26am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	15°C
Maximum	28°C
Outlook	Partly Cloudy

PESHAWAR RAMAZAN TIMING

PESHAWAR	PESHAWAR
Iftar (today)	Iftar (today)
6:19pm	6:29pm
Sahr (Tomorrow)	Sahr (Tomorrow)
5:04am	4:54am

VENDORS encroach GT Road near Jinnah Park, Peshawar, leaving little space for the motorists. — White Star

Villagers using plastic bags to store gas amid outages

Admin claims arrests over illegal sale of large 'balloons'

By Mohammad Ashfaq

A GAS-filled plastic bag installed outside a house on the outskirts of Peshawar. — Dawn

PESHAWAR: People in rural areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's central and southern districts are endangering their and others' lives by using large plastic bags to store natural gas for cooking during gas outages.

The gas storage 'facility' is a local innovation, with three parts, including a small electric suction pump, a plastic bag and a plastic pipe. Once filled with natural gas, the plastic bag inflates into an oversized balloon.

The bag's size depends on the family's needs, with joint families using large ones and others smaller.

A small valve is attached to one end of the bag with the help of a rubber pipe, while the other is tied. The bag is later hung to the wall. The plastic bag is connected with the cooking stove by a plastic pipe.

In most households, the balloon is placed on the rooftop under a shed for protection from rain, storm and sunlight. Some families place it on the veranda.

"Gas storage in plastic bags has made our lives somewhat easy amid gas cuts," Asif Khan of Musazai village, which stands on the outskirts of the provincial capital.

Unaware of the dangers posed by storing cooking gas in the plastic bag, he insisted gas storage balloons provided them with relief from even gas outages of 20 hours a day.

He said the gas stored in the plastic bag was sufficient to cook sufficient food for the entire day, but it couldn't be used to heat the rooms in winters due to limited storage capacity.

Shehzad Gul of Dir Colony said in the current fasting month of Ramazan, his house got natural gas from the public utility once a day.

He said gas supply began at around 2am for two hours before being suspended when people started preparing for sehri meal.

Mr Gul said that those not asleep at the time of gas supply filled plastic bags, while others had to use LPG to prepare pre-dawn food in Ramazan.

He said in months other than Ramazan, people got up early in the morning to turn the small suction pump on to fill the plastic bag with cooking gas from the main supply line for the house.

"Those who are late won't be able to have gas as almost all consumers have got plastic bags to fill in those two hours," he said.

Mohammad Bilal, another user of plastic bags from Gulnar village, said the prolonged gas outages had made their lives miserable.

"In the absence of natural gas, we use firewood and LPG that are very costly. We get little financial relief by storing the cooking gas in the plastic bag during gas cuts," he said.

A sanitary fittings shop's owner told *Dawn* that it was very easy to make the gas storage balloon as only a large plastic bag and a valve was required.

He said prior to the ban, he used to sell these bags openly.

"Despite ban, we are secretly selling gas bags to prevent a crackdown by police and district administration," he said.

He said gas bags weren't gorgeous-built but were a little thicker than the normal plastic bags.

When contacted, SNGPL general manager Waqas Shinwari said that it was a very dangerous and illegal practice to store cooking gas in plastic bags, with several accidents of damage to public life and property being reported over a period of time.

"Several children were recently wounded in the Tseri area of Karak district due to the explosion of a plastic gas bag," he said.

He said storing natural gas in large plastic bags was common in the areas where people were involved in gas theft.

Mr Shinwari said for the prevention of the hazardous practice and protection of lives, his department had repeatedly written letters to the district administrations for banning the sale of tools used in gas bags.

"Besides its dangerous use, a lot of gas is also wasted during the filling of plastic bags," he said.

An official of district administration claimed many shopkeepers had been arrested for selling plastic bags used for filling cooking gas.

He said the use of such bags was banned as it was an illegal act and could harm the users.

FIA arrests man in Mansehra over 'sacrilegious' message

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: The Federal Investigation Agency's Cyber Crime Wing has arrested a man for hacking a diagnostic centre's computer system and posting a 'sacrilegious' message on its display panel to cause unrest.

The arrest was disclosed by head of operations at the Islamabad Diagnostic Centre Mohammad Zubair Awan in a news conference here on Monday.

He said that information about the detainee, including his whereabouts, was kept confidential due to the ongoing FIA investigation into the sensitive issue.

Mr Awan said the hacker posted the offensive message on the large SDC, installed at the centre's entrance, with the help of his mobile phone, prompting the IT section to switch off the screen and report the matter to FIA.

Accompanied by manager (operations) Shahzad Ahmad and supervisor (operations) Hamad Iqbal, he commended the local media for "acting responsibly by refraining from reporting the incident without verification."

"Had the conspirators succeeded in their malicious act, the act would have caused public outrage in the holy month of Ramazan, with people taking to the streets against our centre known for high-quality services," he said.

SEARCH OPERATION: Police on Monday claimed to have seized a large cache of illegal weapons and ammunition in the mountainous areas of Mansehra district.

"We recovered unlicensed arms along with a large quantity of ammunition during a search and strike operation launched against outlaws across the district," DPO Shahzullah Khan Gandapur told reporters here.

He said the police were utilising all available resources to ensure people's security, with the strike and search operations across all 17 police stations in the district being part of those efforts.

"We want to ensure that no strangers rent a house without security clearance by police in Mansehra, Oghi, Balakot, Darband and Baffa-Pakhal tehsils in line with the National Action Plan," he said.

The DPO said that female constables were also part of the operation.

He urged residents to support police by reporting any suspicious individuals or activities in the district, saying names of informants will be kept confidential.

Two CTD officials martyred in Kohat attack

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Two officials of the Counter-Terrorism Department were martyred in an attack near Tanda Dam in Kohat district on Monday, the police said.

They said CTD personnel, assistant sub-inspector Mustafa and head constable Zahid, were on their way to Kohat city when they were attacked at around 9am.

"Militant outfit Hafiz Gul Bahadur group claimed responsibility for the attack," a police official said.

When contacted, Kohat district police officer Dr Zahid told *Dawn* that both the CTD personnel had left their Barh village for the city when they came under attack.

He said a case had been registered.

Meanwhile, two persons, including a policeman, were killed when unidentified assailants opened fire on them in Tarkhoo area of Lowi Mamond tehsil of Bajaur district on Monday evening.

Police officials said constable Shahid Khan and a civilian, Amanullah, were on way home in Tarkhoo area when they were targeted just before iftar.

Shahid died on the spot, while Amanullah sustained critical injuries. Israr Khan, public relations officer of the district police, said while quoting officials of Lowi Mamond police station.

He said the wounded man was rushed to the Larkhokozo Hospital, wherefrom he was shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, Khar, owing to his critical condition.

However, he succumbed to his injuries in the hospital's emergency ward.

No one claimed responsibility for the incident.

Five killed over petty dispute in Charsadda

CHARSADDA: Five people were killed and one was injured when rival groups exchanged fire just before iftar on Monday over a petty dispute in Ababakri locality here.

The incident occurred in the jurisdiction of Tarnab police station.

Residents said relatives of Zulfiqar alias Zulfi Advocate and sons of Khaista Gul exchanged hot words over a petty dispute of putting charpoy (cot) in front of a shop in Ababakri locality.

Afterwards, both the sides took arms and started firing on each other, and as a result, two brothers, Saddar Khan and Hazrat Ali, were killed, while Sulman suffered injuries from one side.

Zahid, Riaz Mohammad and Asim from the second group were also killed in the shootout. The bodies and the injured were shifted to DHQ Hospital, Charsadda.

The Tarnab police officials rushed to the site of the incident and collected evidence.

The police registered report and started investigation. — Correspondent

Jamaat activist shot dead in Peshawar

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A Jamaat-i-Islami leader and former nazim was killed by unknown persons in the jurisdiction of Chamkani police station here on Monday.

The police said Haji Hameed Gul was killed when he was on his way to attend a jirga along with his friend, Shahid, in Budhni area on Sunday. They added Shahid was injured in the attack and was shifted to a hospital.

The police said that the motive behind the killing was still unknown. However, a case was registered.

Court rejects plea of women varsity employees for regularisation of service

Petition was filed jointly by more than 50 contractual staffers of the university

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) has rejected a petition filed by more than 50 contractual employees of Women University Swabi, seeking regularisation of their services.

The petition was filed by faculty and administrative staffers of the university through Advocate Tanveer Ahmed Moghal. Barrister Syed Saad Ali Shah represented the university.

A two-member bench of PHC comprising senior puisne judge Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah in its detailed judgement stated that petitioners had also applied for their appointment pursuant to the recruitment process and made participation to compete, wherein some of them passed the test as well, so on that score too their petition was liable to be dismissed.

"The learned counsel for the petitioners failed to make a case for the indulgence of this court. Hence, the instant writ petition having been not maintainable as well as meritless stands dismissed," the bench ruled.

The bench reaffirmed the principle that contractual appointments did not confer an automatic right to permanent absorption unless explicitly provided under law.

The petitioners contended that they had been serving the university for an extended period on sanctioned posts and, therefore, deserved to be regularised. However, the court found that their initial appointments had been made on a contract basis without undergoing an open and competitive selection process, as required by law.

The bench observed that the petitioners failed to establish any statutory entitlement to regularisation and their claims could not override the university's obligation to ensure merit-based hiring.

Representing the university, Barrister Syed Saad Ali Shah argued that public sector appointments must adhere to due process, transparency and open competition, as mandated by law. The university maintained that granting regularisation without following a lawful recruitment process would set a precedent contrary to established legal principles and rulings of Supreme Court.

The bench also pointed out wherever a citizen sought relief in constitutional jurisdiction, he must point to a right statutory and constitutional, which vested in him and had denied in violation of law. It said that the statutes, terms and conditions of the appointment order of the petitioners and the law in general were silent on the matter of regularisation of a contractual or fixed pay employee.

The ruling also highlighted the fact that some petitioners had already participated in fresh recruitment processes advertised by the university, further weakening their claim to regularisation without competition.

The ruling is expected to serve as a precedent for other public sector institutions facing similar legal challenges regarding regularisation of employees.

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PRAYER

Fajr	05:09
Zuhar	12:27
Asr	04:38
Maghreb	06:20
Isha	07:43

Starting time in Peshawar

REFLECTIONS

"SOMETIMES YOUR PRAYERS ARE TURNED DOWN, AND THIS IS ALSO IN YOUR INTEREST; BECAUSE YOU OFTEN, UNKNOWINGLY, ASK FOR THINGS THAT ARE REALLY HARMFUL TO YOU."
— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

TIAN/627

CUSTOMERS purchase Kabuli Pulao from a vendor in Peshawar Saddar on Monday. — White Star

Rs70m okayed for new roads in Karak, says lawmaker

LAKKI MARWAT: The provincial government has allocated a huge chunk of funds for the construction of new roads in Karak district, claims District Development Advisory Committee chairman Khursheed Khattak.

Talking to reporters on Monday, he said the construction of roads both in urban and rural areas had been the longstanding demand of local people. He said that the provincial government would spend Rs70 million on construction of seven new roads in order to provide people with better communication facilities.

"The construction work on Chamkhel road, Tehsil Chowk to Children Hospital road, Tarri bypass to Shagai road, Ghundi Kalay to Indus Highway, Indus Highway to Zar Khan Kalay and Topi Kalay and Lada Karona to Inner Mor and Surki Lawaghar to Ingoratad road will begin as and when funds are released," he said.

He said that he along with provincial minister Muhammad Sajjad Barakwal and MNA Shahid Khattak convinced the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister to provide funds for roads.

The MPA said that a major chunk of funds would be spent on improving the existing road infrastructure in the district.

He said that the PTI lawmakers would fulfil all the promises they had made with the area people. — Correspondent

TikToker held for filming women while shopping

SWABI: The police arrested a TikToker on charges of making videos and photos of women and girls while they were shopping and then uploading them on his account.

The police said the women were shopping in the Raja Bazaar of Topi city when they were snapped.

They said neither the women and girls nor the traders were aware when the videos clips were made. However, they added uploading of videos and photos on the social media caused an uproar and traders lodged a complaint with the Topi city police station.

They identified the accused as Ali Syed, belonging to Shahidan area of Topi city.

Meanwhile, a campaign was launched on the social media, urging people to educate their women to be extra vigilant while shopping in bazaars.

Also on Monday, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, leaders of political parties and dignitaries on Monday visited the residence of former Jamaat-i-Islami senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan in Abul Khan village to offer condolences on the murder of his brother.

Shakeel Ahmad Khan, brother of Mushtaq Ahmad, was shot dead by his neighbour on Sunday.

Governor Kundi expressed sympathy with the bereaved family and offered Fateha for the departed soul.

Jamaat nazim emir Prof Muhammad Ibrahim also visited the residence of the bereaved family and offered Fateha for the departed soul. — Correspondent

Police ordered to beef up security of Peshawar markets

PESHAWAR: Police officials have been directed to beef up security of markets in the provincial metropolis during the last days of Ramazan and on Eidul Fitr.

The directives were issued during a special meeting held at Malik Saad Shaheed Police Lines with Chief Capital Police Officer (CCPO) Peshawar Qasim Ali Khan in the chair. The meeting was meant to ensure security of densely populated markets during the last days of Ramazan and on Eidul Fitr.

During the meeting, the overall security and traffic arrangements of the city were reviewed. The meeting decided to conduct mock exercises and take practical steps to deal with any untoward incident in a better manner.

The CCPO directed police officials to conduct a fresh security audit of all sensitive and important places, places of worship and markets and prepare a security and traffic plan in light of the recommendations.

He said that the process of snap checking should be further intensified at special checkpoints and all entry and exit routes throughout the district. He directed officials to take special care during Iftar and Sehr times.

The CCPO said that a close watch should be kept on habitual criminals released from jail. He said that legal action should be further intensified against tenants residing illegally in the city.

He also directed police officials to make special security arrangements for their posts at night in the suburbs and utilise existing resources.

He reviewed security and traffic arrangements of commercial centres and densely populated markets and directed to further improve security and traffic arrangements. He instructed police officials to stay in touch with all administrative institutions including leaders of different schools of thought, business community and all sects.

The meeting was attended by SSP Masood Ahmed, chief traffic officer Haroon Rashid Khan, SSP Noor Jamal, SP Hamoodullah and officers from other units.

Qasim Ali Khan said that police were utilising all resources to protect the lives and properties of citizens and maintain peace in the city. — APP

Child among three killed for honour in Mardan

MARDAN: Three persons including a woman and a child were shot dead in the name of honour in Thaja Barda area of Rustam tehsil here on Monday.

The victims were identified as Sher Aman, 56, his 25-year old daughter-in-law, and his one-year old grandson Rokhan.

His widow Nasoom registered FIR in Rustam police station and said that Abozar and Bakhtiyar armed with weapon entered their house in small hours and opened indiscriminate firing on them, killing her husband Sher Aman, her daughter-in-law and grandson Rokhan on the spot.

She told police that they were sleeping at the time of incident and all the family members woke up by firing and saw that the accused were fleeing the spot after killing the victims. The accused managed to escape the incident.

She said that it was an honour killing case as her daughter-in-law had contracted court marriage with her son Shahi Malik two years ago without the consent of her parents.

After registering FIR, Rustam police said that they were raiding different spots to arrest the alleged killers.

GAS LEAK: A fire broke out in a bakery here due to a gas leakage, leaving four people severely injured on Monday, reports APP.

Rescue 1122 officials said that the incident occurred in Nelat Chowk area, where a gas leak inside the bakery led to a sudden fire. As a result, four people sustained serious burn injuries.

Rescue 1122 firefighters and medical teams promptly arrived at the scene. They managed to control the fire in time and provided initial medical aid to the injured before transferring them to district headquarters hospital. Later, the victims were shifted to Burns Centre in Peshawar for further treatment. — Correspondent

PPP MPA seeks reopening of Torkham border

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Peoples' Party MPA Ahmed Kareem Kundi on Monday submitted a resolution with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly secretariat, demanding the immediate reopening of the Torkham border.

The resolution stated that both Pakistan and Afghanistan were brotherly Islamic countries and there was one of the longest borders in the world between the two countries, on which there were many entry points/corridors, of which the busiest was the Torkham border crossing.

The MPA stated in the resolution: "Unfortunately the border has been closed for all types of movement for the last 16 days, due to which the movement of people from both the sides, especially trade activities, have been suspended."

He said due to closure of the border the business community was facing irreparable losses of billions of rupees.

He demanded of the KP Assembly to recommend the federal government to take steps for the reopening of the border as soon as possible so that trade activities as well as movement between the two countries could be restored. — Bureau Report

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
COMMUNICATION & WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING

SINGLE STAGE TWO ENVELOPE

The C&W Mega Projects (South-II) DIKhan Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites electronic bids from the eligible Firms/Contractors in accordance with KAPPRA Procurement Rules 2014, amended upto 15.09.2021 on **SINGLE STAGE TWO ENVELOP** procedure for the following works:

Sr	Name of Work	Required Category of PEC / Code	Bid Security L/c Stamp Duty Rs	Tender Fee @ 0.01%	Period of Completion	Last date & time of submission of Technical & Financial Bids	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid
1	Construction of Judicial Complex District Miranshah	C-1 & above	Rs 2,115,0100/-	Rs 47,000/-	As per Work Order	10-4-2025 at 12:00 PM	After evaluation of Technical Bid

1- Bid solicitation documents and instructions to Bidders can be obtained from the office on any working day or downloaded from C&W web site **(www.cwd.gkp.pk)** before the submission date/time **2-** The bidders should submit their E-bids as per KPPRA Notification No. S.R.O (14)/Vol. 1-24/2021-22/0058-71 dated 10.05.2022 with following conditions. i. The contractors quoting their bids upto a limit of 10% below Engineers Estimate shall submit bid security 2% only of Engineer Estimate. ii. The contractors quoting their bids more than 10% below upto 20% below on Engineers Estimate shall submit alongwith their bids 8% Additional Security of Engineer's Estimated Cost in addition to 2% bid security. If the bid is not accompanied with the required amount of additional security then it will be considered as non-responsive and the 2% bid security shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the second lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly. iii. Similarly, a contractor quoting bid more than 20% below shall submit with his bid an additional security on Engineer's Estimated Cost equal to the differential amount of submitted bid and Engineers Estimate alongwith detailed rate analysis. In case of more than 20% below bids, if the bid is not accompanied by the detailed rate analysis and/or required amount of additional security, then the said bid shall be considered as non-responsive. All the securities submitted alongwith such non-responsive bid shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly. iv. In case detailed rate analysis submitted with the bids is in view of the Procuring Entity, not convincing, the Head of the Procuring Entity may declare such bid as non-responsive without any forfeiture of bid securities and record reasons thereof. v. The Procuring Entity may offer the contract to next lowest bidder after due diligence in the context of financial difference between such two bids or may advertise procurement opportunity afresh. vi. After commencements of work by the successful bidder, the procuring entity may replace the Additional Security with a bank guarantee of the same amount from the scheduled bank, if the already deposited security is not in the form of bank guarantee. vii. the Additional Security shall be released to the contractor in four installments 1st installation of 25% to be released upon completion of 25% of the project, 2nd installment of 25% to be released upon completion of 50% of the project, 3rd installment of 25% to be released upon completion of 75% of the project and the 4th installment of 25% to be released after 100% completion of the project. 3 Complete Detail of Bid Security in shape of CDR ie. Bank Name, CDR Number(s) and Date(s) must be submitted electronically alongwith E-bid on the E-bidding System. **4-** All bidders are required to be registered with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority under Finance Act 2013 No. XXII of 2013. **5-** All the bidding will be through E-bidding system. Technical bid should be in sealed envelopes clearly marked **"TECHNICAL BID"** technical bids shall be submitted through courier before closing time. **6-** Technical evaluation will be carried out on the basis of (General experience, Personal Capability, Equipment Capabilities & Financial Soundness, Auditor Report (last 3-years) etc) proper marking criteria as approved by competent Authority. Failing to fulfil passing criteria shall be considered as fail leading to disqualification of the bidder. **7-** A copy of the technical proposal in the required format is mandatory and to be uploaded as a part of E-Bid before submitting Financial Bid. **8-** Legible Scanned copy of bid security shall be submitted electronically alongwith the bid on E-bidding system. **9-** No pay order and Bank Draft will be acceptable except call deposit of scheduled Bank otherwise the bid will be declared as non-responsive. **10-** Venue of bids opening is office of the Executive Engineer C&W Division Miranshah at North Waziristan.

IMP(P)391/25

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
C&W Mega Projects (South-II) at DIKhan

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR
MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION BANNU

WALK – IN – INTERVIEW

Walk-in-Interview will be held for appointment to the following post on (contract Basis) at Medical Teaching Institution Bannu. Those who fulfill the required criteria may appear for interview before the selection committee on dated 14/03/2025 (Friday) at 10:30am Auditorium/Library Hall of Khalifa Gul Nawaz Teaching Hospital Bannu MTI Bannu.

S. No.	Nomenclature of Post	Gender	Age	Qualification/Experience
1	NEPHROLOGY Consultant - 01 No	Male/ Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC.
2	NEPHROLOGY Specialist Registrar- 01 No	Male/ Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC.
3	NEPHROLOGY Trainee Registrar- 01 No	Male/ Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC. c) FCPS part -II training completed.
4	ORTHOPEDICS Specialist Registrar- 03 Nos	Male/ Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC.
5	GYNAE/OBS Consultant - 03 Nos	Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC. c) 1 (One) year relevant experience after Post graduation.
6	ANESTHESIA Consultant- 03 Nos	Male/ Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC. c) MCPS/Diploma in Anesthesia from University/Institute registered/recognized with PM&DC/PMC.
7	RADIOLOGY Consultant-3 Nos	Male/ Female	45	a) MBBS or equivalent qualification from recognized university registered with PM&DC/PMC. b) FCPS, or equivalent qualification in respective subject, or other equivalent level - III qualification in the specialty approved by SRC and recognized/registered by PM&DC/PMC. c) DMRD/MCPS from University/Institute registered/recognized with PM&DC/PMC.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Interested candidates are required to bring original documents, CNIC, etc; along with attested copies of CNIC, educational (All degree/diploma/detail marks certificate) and experience certificates etc, for interview.
- The candidates must have Domicile of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Merged Areas (Formerly FATA).
- Other terms and conditions of MTI Act, 2015 will be implemented after selection.
- Written statement or judicial stamp paper will be taken from selected candidates that they will not approach to any office or court for regularization of their service.
- No TA/DA will be admissible.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR
MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION BANNU

ADVERTISER

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COURT NOTICE

ISLAMABAD

IN the Islamabad High Court Islamabad Case No. W.P 1426/2023 Title as Muhammad Siddique Vs Ministry of Overseas Pakistan and Human Resource. Publication against Respondent No.8 (S. M Ali Mullag Officiating Deputy Director General (HR) Head Office, EOBI House, 100/B-1, Block-2, PECHS Nursery, Karachi. 9. Ahmed Haseeb Deputy Director/Regional Office, EOBI House, 5453/B-3/ VII, Police Lines Road, Sahiwal. 10. Muhammad Farooq Tahir/Director, Office of the Director General (Ops) North, EOBI House, 37/L, Gulberg III Lahore. 11. Mansib Ali Officiating Deputy Director General B&C-II Office of B&C-II, EOBI House 51-L, Gulberg III, Lahore. 12. Imtiaz Sadiq Director/Regional Head, Regional Office Kamalabad C-31, Block NO. 6 Federal B-Area Karachi.13. Mubashir Rasool Director/Regional Head EOBI House, (Former Kokhar House) Mansha Road, Link Gulshan Street, Model Town, Sialkot. 14. Ali Anwar Jamali, Director/Regional Head, Korangi Karachi, EOBI House, 4-A, Sector 22, Korangi Industrial Area, Karachi 15. M. Sohaib Qureshi, Director/ Regional Head, EOBI House, 304-307 B, Gulzaib Colony, Multan. 16. Ashfaq Mahmood, Director/ Regional Head, EOBI House, Plot NO.51, Sector B-1, 3RD Floor, Phase V, Hayatabad, Peshawar. 17. Nasir Mehmood Arif, Deputy Director/Regional Head, Anarkali (Central) EOBI House, 120-A, Sheikh Colony, Jhang Road, Faisalabad. 20. Zia Ur Rehman, Director/Regional Head, Mangamandi EOBI House, Haji Park, near Gujar Phatak, By Pass, Multan Road, Mangamandi.21. Nasiruddin, Director/Regional Head, Karachi City Region, EOBI House, EOBI Shopping Mall (Ex-Akram Market) Sharah-e-Faisal, Karachi. 22. Naveed Fayyaz, Deputy Director/Regional Head, Bin Qasim, Plot No.S/423, Darakshan Society, Main National Highway, Malir, Karachi. 24. Asad Murtaza, Deputy Director/Regional Head, Karachi Korangi, EOBI House, Bungalow No.2, Al Faisal Park, Sultan Colony, University Road, Sargodha. 25. Muhammad Kamil Malik, Deputy Director/Deputy Regional Head Rawalpindi, 111-A, 1-12, 1st floor, Nazim Abad No.1, Karachi. 26. Kashif Zia, Deputy Director/Regional Head, Gujranwala, EOBI House, Main Grill Road, Gujranwala. 27. Abdul Majeed Mughal, Assistant Director/Welfare, Benefits, Regional Office West Wharf, EOBI Shopping Mall, 3rd Floor (Ex-Akram Market), Main Sharah-e-Faisal Karachi. 28. Khalid Shah, Deputy Director/Regional Head, Abbottabad, EOBI Regional office, Amir Aram Shaheed Road, Jhangi, Abbottabad. 29. Zaheer Ud Din Tahir, Deputy Director/ Regional Head, Mardan, EOBI House, A-204, Sheikh Mallouri Town, Mardan. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the above mentioned respondents cannot be served in the ordinary way. It is, therefore, proclaimed under Order 5, Rule 20 CPC if the said respondents will / Shall not appear personally or through duly authorized agent or pleader in the Court at 09:30 am on 28-04-2025, the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. No arguments of any nature shall be entertained thereafter. This notice is being issued duly signed and stamp by this office on 04-03-2025. Assistant Registrar (Writ). (3141277755)

RAWALPINDI

IN the Court of Sajjad Khan Additional District Judge Rawalpindi. Suit for Recovery of Rs 231,100/ Sui Northern Gas versus Mr / Mrs. Sultaya Wali Ali Resident of House No. 87 Wasiqiqa-1 Tehsil and District Rawalpindi. You are inform to attend the Court personal through counsel or attorney on 13-03-2025 at 8 am to avoid ex-parte proceedings. (3141277757)

KARAK

IN the Court of Abdul Majid Afridi Civil Judge -V, Karak. Suit No.131/1 Institution 07-02-2024 Next date of hearing 10-04-2025. Case Title: Muneeben Vs Abdur Rashed Notice in No.(7) Shakir R/o Barghast Kalan Tehsil Lachi District Kohat. In the above titled suit the service of above defendants are not possible through ordinary means. Therefore, you defendants are informed through this publication that on 10-04-2025 at 8:00 am you has / have to appear before this Court either personally or through attorney or through counsel to pursue the suit noted above, otherwise Exparte proceedings will be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. (3004291181)

DAJAUR

IN the Court of Shahab Fahim Civil Judge-II, District Bajaur at Civil Colony Khar Bajaur. Suit No. 11/1 Nasim Year 2024 Next date of hearing 17-04-2025. Case Title: Muhammad Akbar Vs Khan Muhammad Khan etc. Notice to No.(10) Muhammad Jamilur (11) Faizal Subhan (12) Faizal Hayan (13) Tauseef sons of Mehboob Jan R/o Adma Tehsil Utmankhel (Here Mst.Shama (3 Qamar bibi (Late) C/o Muhammad Anwar Khan (Late) (14) Shah Muhammad (15) Jafar Hussain (20) Muhammad Jamil sons of Faiz Talab son (Mera Dhaka Bibi (Late) C/o Malak Muhammad Umar Khan Baba (Late R/o Bandaga Tehsil Utmankhel District Bajaur. Witness in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants cannot be served in the ordinary way. It is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will / shall not appear personally or through duly authorized agent or pleader in the Court at 9:00 am dated 17-04-2025 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. (3004291182)

MANSEHRA

IN the Court of Kiran Naz, Additional District Judge II Mansehra Suit No. 147/14 Date of Institution 28.05.2024. Nature of Appeal Mst Naveeda Waheed etc Versus Raza Ayoub etc. To, Ishtiaq Ayoub, Samina Ayoub, Shafiqa Ayoub, Farah Ayoub, Mughal Ayoub, Salma Ayoub daughters of Muhammad Ayoub Resident of Mohallaha Jabbar Tehsil and district Mansehra KPK, Presently Abroad England and Dubai (respondents). It is, therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in the Court at 09:30 am on 22.03.2025 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. (3141277758)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

PESHAWAR

PUBLIC Notice Mr. Rooh ul Amin Khan S/o Murtaqi Khan R/o Village Ali Baig Pir Tariu Jabba Tehsil & District Nowshehra, is the owner of Plot No 308, Sector DMC measuring 10 marla at Baig Model Town Peshawar. He has been issue a Duplicate Ownership paper Plot No 308/DMC (Title) dated 21-4-2021 of the said plot. Now the intends to transfer the said plot. Therefore, if any bank, department, firm or individual have any objection on the transfer, he should contact the undersigned with written proof within 15 days. Otherwise, the plot shall be transferred and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Officer (Transfer), Baig Model Town Peshawar. cell no.0300-5925420. (3004291170)

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TO PURCHASE

ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD park Road Federal Government Employees Housing Margalla Orchard, Park Enclave, & Margalla Enclave. All Size plots are required. Contact Bajwa Estate. 0304-9186333 / 051-2111888. (3757279447)

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

Fresh spell of rain, snowfall turns weather chilly

Dawn Report

SWAT: A fresh wave of rain in the plains and snowfall on the mountains began on Tuesday after a week's break, further dropping temperatures in Swat and surrounding areas.

According to Meteorological Department, the new spell of snowfall started in high altitude regions including Kalam, Utror, Gabral, Marihan, Matkiyal, Behrain, Gabin Jabba, Jarogo, Malam Jabba and Sangar where mountains received moderate to heavy snow.

Meanwhile, rainfall was recorded in the plains with Madyan, Khwazakhela, Matta, Barikot, Kabal and Mingora experiencing persistent showers, intensifying the chill in the region. The residents of Mingora and other low-lying areas have once again turned to warm clothing, including jackets, to combat the cold weather conditions.

The fresh weather pattern is expected to continue for the next few days, with temperatures likely to remain low across both the plains and mountainous areas of Swat.

In Bajaur, five people suffered wounds when a motor-car they were travelling was overturned owing to rain on Monday.

According to a statement of Rescue 1122, the accident occurred on Bajaur-Peshawar Road in Nawagai area when the vehicle coming from Peshawar, suddenly overturned due to heavy rain.

It said that a team of rescuers along with a recovery vehicle immediately rushed to the site and recovered the car. The statement stated that condition of the wounded including the car driver, was stabled. They went to their respective localities after getting first aid in the nearby hospital.

Delivery of financial aid under Ramazan package still not complete

RAWALPINDI: Nine days into the holy month, the Rawalpindi divisional administration has failed to complete the delivery of financial aid to deserving people under the Nigahban Ramazan Package of the Punjab government.

According to official figures, a total of 274,987 people had been registered under the Punjab Socioeconomic Registry (PSER) for the financial aid worth Rs50,000 each in six districts of the division: Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Murree and Talagang.

However, so far, 202,500 people have received the financial aid. There is slow funding from Lahore which affected the delivery system of pay orders to the deserving people.

A senior official of the finance department told *Dawn* that the government had allocated funds for the programme but the system was new so it took time to deliver the pay orders to the deserving persons.

However, he said, all beneficiaries would get the financial aid by next week.

On the other hand, Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Amir Khattak chaired a meeting to review progress on delivering of the pay orders. He directed that separate record should be maintained for the pay orders which were returned undelivered. — Aamir Yasin

A BIKER covers himself with a plastic sheet during rain in Peshawar on Monday. — APP

CDA plans to remove all mulberry trees from Islamabad

Chairman told over 10,000 mulberry trees to be chopped down in Shakarparian; thousands of indigenous trees to be planted

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to launch a campaign to remove mulberry trees in the federal capital, replacing them with thousands of native plants.

This decision was made in a meeting held at the CDA headquarters, with Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa in the chair.

The meeting was also attended by environmental expert Rizwan Maldeal, environmental experts from the Rules team, and senior officers from CDA's Environment Wing.

It is relevant to note that pollen allergy, attributed to mulberry, affects a large number of people in Islamabad, particularly during the spring season, when the concentration of pollen in the air remains high. Pollen is a fine powder produced by trees, grasses, and weeds and is an essential part of the reproductive process of these plants.

Islamabad has thousands of paper mulberry trees, and there was never any serious attempt made to remove them except for in F-9 Park last year. The civic agency had made several plans to launch an operation but could not translate it into reality.

"Starting operation against the pollen tree is a good initiative, but there is a need to keep an eye on CDA's environment officials to ensure that only paper mulberry trees are removed and no other tree is chopped down," suggested an official.

Earlier, the meeting was told that approximately 10,000 paper mulberry plants will be removed from the Shakarparian area, and 50,000 trees will be planted in their place.

Similarly, around 1,000 paper mulberry plants will be removed from the slopes along the drains and roads, and 80,000 local trees will be planted.

It was also reported that in other sectors of Islamabad, a total of 10,000 paper mulberry plants will be removed and replaced with 50,000 new plants.

The meeting also mentioned that this year's plantation campaign would involve the private and corporate sectors as well.

According to a statement issued after the meeting, Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa stated that no effort would be spared in the removal of paper mulberry trees from Islamabad.

He said local plants, such as logan, guava, fig, apricot, peepal, native mulberry, and other types of plants, needed to be planted.

The statement added that over 5,000 small and large mulberry trees were removed from F-9 last year and "around 10,000 new trees were planted".

The meeting was informed that approximately 30,000 'environment-friendly plants' will be planted during the spring season.

Chairman Randhawa directed that the remaining paper mulberry trees be removed on a priority basis to address the pollen allergy.

He also instructed that a list of plants and trees suitable for the local climate be displayed on the CDA website to raise public awareness.

He also directed that during this spring, the removal of paper mulberry trees should be ensured, and fruit-bearing, shade-providing, and flowering trees should be planted.

He also stressed that students, teachers, and staff from both private and public educational institutions should be included to make the plantation campaign a success.

Mr Randhawa stated that for plantation in the Margalla Hills, spraying and seed dropping should be done via helicopter.

He also instructed that private housing societies be directed to promote the plantation campaign. Additionally, he suggested that plant stalls be set up at the low-price markets established under the Ramazan Relief Package.

Encroachments removed in Dera

By Our Correspondent

— Dawn

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: District administration launched a large-scale operation against encroachments to clear gateways for construction of flyovers in the city on Monday.

Several illegal structures were demolished during the operation, led by Assistant Commissioner Faalh Ishaq Abbasi. According to officials, flyovers are being constructed at various locations to ease the increasing traffic congestion in the city.

Traders and shopkeepers had been issued prior notices to remove encroachments voluntarily. However, after the deadline expired with no action taken, the administration initiated the operation.

Heavy machinery was deployed to demolish illegal structures while law enforcement agencies remained on-site to prevent any resistance. Officials said that the removal of encroachments was essential for completing development projects. They said that strict action would be taken against illegal occupants.

The operation was extended to key commercial areas including Tank Adda where several unauthorised shops and business establishments were torn down. Locals welcomed the initiative, hoping it will help to resolve traffic issues and accelerate development projects.

Officials said that the anti-encroachment drive would continue in the coming days, targeting other areas affected by illegal construction.

Building bonds: Iftar parties unite communities of all faiths

PESHAWAR: Rawandar Singh, a 42-year-old Sikh, is all smiles and exudes high spirit of sharing and compassion as he seeks solace in doling out dates and pakoras among fasting Muslims during Iftar on returning home from his shop in Hashtnagri area here.

Wearing the traditional turban, Rawandar has been distributing packets of dates and other edible items among the fasting Muslims in Hashtnagri Bazaar since 2012.

Rawandar's father, Avtab Singh started this noble practice and later passed this on to his son.

"I feel inner peace and satisfaction while doing the noble practice in the holy month of Ramazan."

"The soothing movement of distributing Iftar items, including dates, pakoras, jalebi and other food dishes are still alive as fresh as today when I keenly observe my late father Avtab Singh handing over packets of Iftar food to Muslim brothers all along from Hashtnagri to Mohallah Jogan Ramdas in interior city," Rawandar told this news agency, while distributing dates and pakoras among Muslims ahead of Iftar.

"I strongly believe in interfaith harmony, love and brotherhood. Distribution of food in Ramazan is our mark of respect and admiration for our fasting Muslim brothers and sisters, besides giving us inner peace and satisfaction," Rawandar, who is being helped by his son in doling out dates and pakoras, said.

Dawa Singh and his son, Tajinder Singh, who are associated with telecommunication business in Hashtnagri, said inviting people of different faiths in Iftar parties in Pakistan sends a strong message of love and brotherhood to world.

"Without winning hearts and minds, we cannot come closer to each other and cannot develop a society whose inhabitants enjoy equal rights and respect each other's faith," they said.

"Arranging Iftar parties and Ramazan camps for Muslims is not a new practice for us. Our forefathers did the same thing to express warmth, love and friendship to our Muslim brothers of Peshawar during Ramazan," they said, adding they were serving Iftar foods to dozens of fasting persons on daily basis, and vowed to continue to do so in remaining days of the holy month.

Roadside Iftar parties are seen at Qissa Khwani, University Road, Lady Reading Hospital, Takbir Jamat Cantonment, Tehkal, Spin Jamat and Ramadan, where philanthropists invite people of different faiths for joint Iftar parties in an environment of sharing, friendship and care.

The long sheets filled with food, dates, pakoras, jalebi snacks, fruits and sweet beverages get fully occupied by the passerby, labourers and other segments of the society irrespective of caste, colour and creed.

Haroon Sarbdiyal, a representative of Hindu community in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and a founding member of Pakistan Council of World Religions, said that all prophets and founders of all religions had promoted peace, forgiveness, patience, love and tolerance through their teachings, actions and deeds.

He said that misperceptions among followers of different faiths could be removed by enhancing interaction and dialogue among all religious communities.

"We need to promote acceptance instead of tolerance because the former is more effective in establishing durable peace, patience, and pluralism in a prosperous society," Sarbdiyal said.

He said that Ramazan was the month of tolerance and patience in which Hindu community has started arranging Iftar parties for their Muslim brothers in Sindh.

In Peshawar, he said a grand Iftar party would be arranged in last Ashra of Ramazan where leaders of all religions would be invited.

He suggested establishment of a common study centre for followers of all religions where they could interact and understand each other's religion.

Maulana Tayyab Qureshi, Chief Khateeb of KP, highly appreciated the minorities' goodwill gestures of arranging Iftar parties and Dastarkhwans for the fasting people. He said these noble practices brought Muslims and minorities closer besides increasing their understanding about each other's faiths. — APP

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD
Highways Division Jehlum Valley
Azad Jammu & Kashmir

NOTICE FOR INVITING E-BIDDING

(Under Single Stage-Single Envelope E-Bidding System)

"Highways Division Jehlum Valley" Communication & Works, Govt. of Azad Jammu & Kashmir invites Electronic Bids in accordance with AJK PPRA Rules 39(a) as per Single Stage-Single Envelope Bidding Procedure from the eligible Firms/Contractors licensed by the Pakistan Engineering Council and having endorsement in C&W Govt AJ&K for FY 2024-25 in appropriate category as mentioned against each work in column 5 below with Specialization Code CE-01 for the following works. Bidders desirous to bid as Joint Venture must get prior approval from the Employer for bidding as joint venture.

Sr #	Name of Work	Technical Sanction No and Date	Estimated Cost (Million)	Contractor/ Firm Category	Bid Security (Rupees) (1% to 5%)	Schedule of E-Bid Submission/ Opening	Completion Period
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	Remaining Work) Construction, Metalling, Improvement, Reconditioning & Black Topping of Link Road Pano Pindi Main Road Salma to Mughal Mohalla Length 1-Km (Phase-IIIB), L.A 25 District Jhelum Valley	100/ST/R3 14-03-2025	10.608	C-II & Above	0.410	25-03-2025 11:30 AM	12 Months

1. The newly registered bidders are directed to get username and login details from IT Section, Office of The Chief Engineer Highway (North) Block H, DHQ Muzaffarabad. Bidders/Firms that are already electronically registered with the Department can use already provided username & password.
2. Bidding Documents and Instructions to Bidders can be downloaded from their dashboard.
3. Interested bidders who have submitted their Electronic Bid(s) upto due date & time mentioned in column 7 above, will be opened as per schedule and at the same time the comparative statement will be visible to the Bidders or their nominated representatives & Bid Opening Committee.
4. The interested bidders shall upload scanned copy of Bank Receipt showing proof of deposit of Bid Security in the Divisional Joint Accounts #s:
   i. N.B.P Hattian Bala PK41NBPA0673000370298080
   ii. M.C.B Hattian Bala 0999-1329 81002418
   iii. Bank of AJK Hattian Bala 034-11265001
   along with their relevant documents on its Dashboard.
5. Performance security is fixed as 5% of bid price. However Any Contractor/Firm, who quotes its rates below than 10% of Engineering Estimates, shall submit additional Performance security equal to 5% of its bid price in the light of clause#39 of AJK-PPRA Rules. The Contractor/Firm shall submit this performance security in form of CDR or unconditional on demand bank guarantee from scheduled bank of Pakistan having its branches in AJK or Bank of AJK as amount mentioned in Letter of Acceptance.
6. The bid securities of unsuccessful bidders will be returned through Divisional Cheque upon award of the contract to the successful bidder(s) or on the expiry of validity of bid, whichever is earlier.
7. Electronic Bidding shall be done on **percentage (Above/Below/At par) Basis**. Only Two digits after the decimal point shall be considered for evaluation purposes.
8. Blacklisted Firms/Contractors/Companies/Suppliers/Distributors are not allowed to participate in the bidding process. The interested bidders shall furnish an affidavit/certificate that they are neither blacklisted nor involved in conflict with Govt. anywhere in territory of the state of AJK or federally administrated areas/all provinces of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
9. Hard copy of Original Bank Receipt along with Bidding Documents (uploaded by Highways Division Jehlum Valley) duly signed & stamped by the Contractor/Firm must be submitted in the relevant office of the Executive Engineer Highways Division Jehlum Valley within 48 hours after opening of bid through E-Bidding system.
10. The interested bidders shall upload only Letter of Bid of the Firm/Contractor, other documents required for qualification/responsiveness as per Bid Data Sheet and BDG on E-Bidding Dashboard. The remaining data/particulars shall be submitted in shape of hard copy along with uploaded pages within 48 hours after opening of their bid(s). Otherwise such bidder/bidders will be declared as disqualified.
11. In E-Bidding System, the software supports only PDF file Format for Technical Profile uploading option, therefore interested bidders shall upload their Technical Profile in PDF file format only.
12. Any Bidder(s) who provides incorrect information or does not submit hard copies of complete bidding documents including documents uploaded on its dashboard shall stand disqualified and shall be banned for two years for participation in any type of bidding procedure.
13. The competent authority reserves the right to reject all or any bids under the Clause 33 of AJK PPRA Rules.

Note: This Notice is also available on following websites:
i) https://ajkppra.gov.pk/ ii) https://cwd.ajk.gov.pk

(Zeeshan Mumtaz)
Executive Engineer PWD Highways Division Jehlum Valley | Ph#05822-922648

AJK No. 8000/3/2025

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